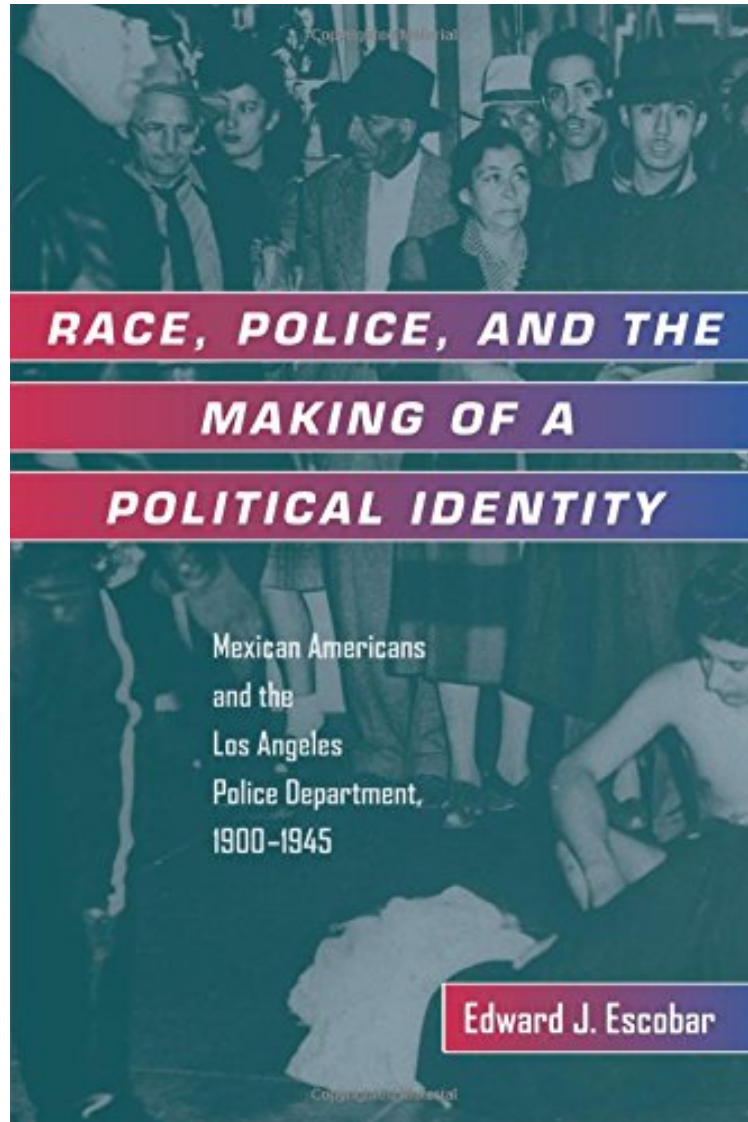


(Free and download) Race, Police, and the Making of a Political Identity: Mexican Americans and the Los Angeles Police Department, 1900-1945 (Latinos in American Society and Culture)

Race, Police, and the Making of a Political Identity: Mexican Americans and the Los Angeles Police Department, 1900-1945 (Latinos in American Society and Culture)

Edward J. Escobar

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Edward J. Escobar : Race, Police, and the Making of a Political Identity: Mexican Americans and the Los Angeles Police Department, 1900-1945 (Latinos in American Society and Culture) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Race, Police, and the Making of a Political Identity:

Mexican Americans and the Los Angeles Police Department, 1900-1945 (Latinos in American Society and Culture):

0 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Two StarsBy lilyait was great0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Stong historical contributions to understanding Identity.By EmanSome reviews seem to be over concentrating on the events which took place. This books real contribution is in explaining how the perceptions of a group of people are formed and justified in society. The title says much of this with "Making of a Political Identity." Escobar is brilliant in showing how a relationship of politics and power influenced martial forces and were used to instill a stigma upon a group/race. Escobar does not condone or excuse what criminal activity does take place but through his narrative shows well how politically such events can be utilized to exaggerate and unfairly label an entire demographic and how those perceptions can have a lasting impact. I would also suggest as companion readings to this Michelle Alexander's "The New Jim Crow" and "The Condemnation of Blackness" by Khalil Muhammad.8 of 11 people found the following review helpful. LAPD ScandalBy CustomerLos Angeles Police Officers accused of perjury, framing innocent persons, extorting from the Mexican community. These are not the 21st Century headlines on the Los Angeles Police (LAPD) Rampart scandal, but charges brought against LAPD officers Filipe Talamantes and Louis Thomas Rico in 1910, ninety years ago! This is just one of the subjects covered in Professor Escobar's study of the relationship between the LAPD and the Mexican-American community. Turn-of-the-century LAPD officers Talamantes and the Rico brothers figure prominently in the first part of the book. They were not only involved in extorting from their own community, but were responsible for railroading Mexican revolutionaries on imaginary charges, and played a role in the L.A. Times bombing investigation. The book continues with the suppression of labor organizing by the LAPD "Red" Squad, the early attempts to reign in police misconduct, and the growing racism institutionalized in the LAPD. The book culminates with the infamous "Zoot Suit" riots and their aftermath, in which the LAPD sat idly by while white sailors and soldiers beat and humiliated Mexican youths, and then had the victims arrested. Escobar supplements the dramatic stories of these conflicts with well-researched data and primary sources. Written before the current scandal broke into the news, this book provides an essential background and context to the history of the LAPD, and its relationship with so-called minority communities. This is the book to turn to for more background on the events featured in the movies "Zoot Suit" and "Mi Familia (My Family)." I found the similarities between the current scandal and the history laid out in this book to be chilling. What happened to Talamantes and the Rico brothers? Read the book to find out, and maybe you will gain a better understanding of the difficulty in controlling abuse within the LAPD today.

In June 1943, the city of Los Angeles was wrenched apart by the worst rioting it had seen to that point in the twentieth century. Incited by sensational newspaper stories and the growing public hysteria over allegations of widespread Mexican American juvenile crime, scores of American servicemen, joined by civilians and even police officers, roamed the streets of the city in search of young Mexican American men and boys wearing a distinctive style of dress called a Zoot Suit. Once found, the Zoot Suiters were stripped of their clothes, beaten, and left in the street. Over 600 Mexican American youths were arrested. The riots threw a harsh light upon the deteriorating relationship between the Los Angeles Mexican American community and the Los Angeles Police Department in the 1940s.In this study, Edward J. Escobar examines the history of the relationship between the Los Angeles Police Department and the Mexican American community from the turn of the century to the era of the Zoot Suit Riots. Escobar shows the changes in the way police viewed Mexican Americans, increasingly characterizing them as a criminal element, and the corresponding assumption on the part of Mexican Americans that the police were a threat to their community. The broader implications of this relationship are, as Escobar demonstrates, the significance of the role of the police in suppressing labor unrest, the growing connection between ideas about race and criminality, changing public perceptions about Mexican Americans, and the rise of Mexican American political activism.

"Escobar's book goes a long way toward answering the baffled cries of local editorial writers heard since the Rampart scandal broke." --LA WeeklyFrom the Back CoverIN JUNE 1943, THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES was wrenched by the worst rioting it had seen to that point in the twentieth century. Incited by sensational newspaper stories and public hysteria over allegations of widespread crime among Mexican American juveniles, scores of American servicemen, joined by civilians and even police officers, roamed the streets of the city in search of young Mexican Americans wearing zoot suits -- outlandish suits featuring baggy pants with narrow cuffs and knee-length jackets with wide lapels. Once found, zoot suiters were stripped of their clothes and beaten while police stood by. Only a handful of servicemen were arrested, but over six hundred Mexican American youths were incarcerated for disturbing the peace. The riots threw a harsh light on the deteriorating relationship between the city's Mexican American community and the Los Angeles Police Department.In this study, Edward J. Escobar examines the history of the LAPD and the Chicano community from the turn of the century, when the police first became a professional organization, to the era of the Zoot Suit riots. Escobar shows how police increasingly characterized Chicanos as a criminal element, and how the assumption of Mexican Americans that the police were deliberately targeting them grew. As Escobar demonstrates,

this troubled relationship prompted Mexican Americans to forge a new political identity, even as the LAPD used fear of minority crime to increase its autonomy. This combination of a politicized minority and an intransigent police force would eventually contribute to other uprisings in Los Angeles, including the 1965 Watts riots and the violence that erupted in 1992 following the acquittal of LAPD officers accused of beating Rodney King. About the Author Edward J. Escobar is Associate Professor in the Departments of Chicana and Chicano Studies and History at Arizona State University, and coeditor of *Forging a Community: The Latino Experience in Northwest Indiana, 1919-1975* (1987).