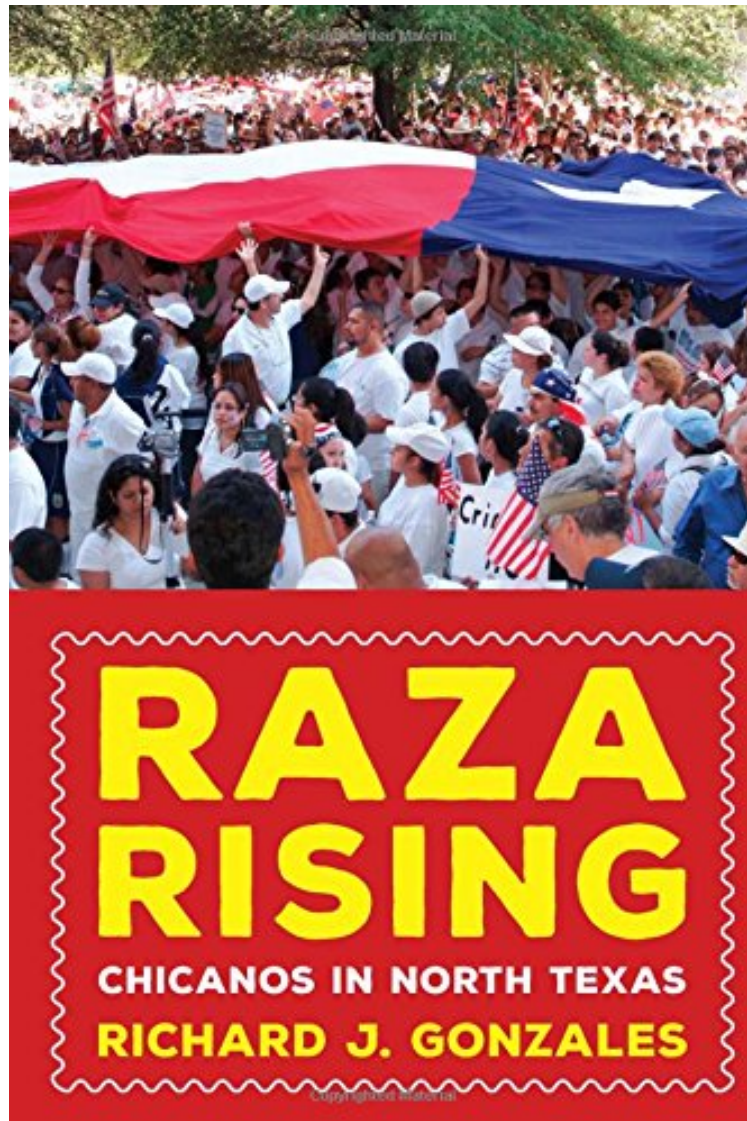


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Raza Rising: Chicanos in North Texas (Al Filo: Mexican American Studies Series)

Richard Gonzales

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Richard Gonzales : Raza Rising: Chicanos in North Texas (Al Filo: Mexican American Studies Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Raza Rising: Chicanos in North Texas (Al Filo: Mexican American Studies Series):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Mandatory reading for everyone who wishes to get a better understanding of what the increasing Hispanic population in the ...By JMenchacaMandatory reading for everyone who

wishes to get a better understanding of what the increasing Hispanic population in the United States has endured, is enduring, and will endure in their efforts to participate in mainstream United States. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Highly recommended. By Mark A. Nobles This is a much needed and important book. Highly recommended.

Based on articles written for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, author Richard J. Gonzales draws on his educational, inner-city and professional life experiences to weave eyewitness testimony into issues facing Chicanos, including economic, health, education, criminal justice, politics, immigration, and cultural issues. *Raza Rising* presents a personal recounting of a Chicano's struggle with and understanding of the socio-economic policies and historical actions that impact their ascendancy. *Raza Rising* offers first-hand observations, supported by well-documented scholarly research, of Chicano growth and subsequent struggles to participate fully in North Texas political and economic life. *Raza Rising* takes the reader to the organization of a Fort Worth immigration reform march, to the actual march with 20,000 people on Main Street on Palm Sunday, to a protest demonstration of the City of Farmers Branches attempt to prohibit renting to the undocumented immigrant, to the author's awakening in Chicago on the importance of learning, and to his poignant experience as a guest speaker in a Fort Worth public school classroom. Other observations offer insight on how Chicanos struggle with their ethnic identity and understanding of their history. In addition, the book highlights important historical and political events that illustrate Chicano attempts to overcome barriers to their rise. At a time when global economic competition threatens the United States' first world status, this country must nurture academic excellence for all its citizens. *Raza Rising* provides specific explanations for the Chicano educational lag and workable solutions to accelerate their political, economic and academic achievements. Prophetic state and national demographers have forecasted the steady increase in Chicano populations and decrease in white populations. *Raza Rising* offers students, instructors, policy makers, politicians and neighbors a deeper understanding of Chicanos, who in the near future will transition from minority to majority status in Texas.

Gonzales' account as a history is of great significance because he documents important events and views in the recent history of Mexicans in Dallas and Texas, and he does it with the authority of a first-hand observer. His keen understanding of the Mexican American history that he has lived gives the narrative a high level of originality. Emilio Zamora, author of *The World of the Mexican Worker in Texas* *Raza Rising* is clearly a passionate discussion of the many complex issues affecting the wellbeing of Chicanos in North Texas. It does not treat Chicanos in North Texas as isolated from the broader historical and political dynamics of the nation, but rather as directly affected by national movements and attitudes. Gonzales does an excellent job of connecting North Texas to the national scene. David Maldonado, Jr., author of *Crossing Guadalupe Street: Growing Up Hispanic and Protestant* Richard skillfully chronicles who we are, where we have been, and our continued struggles. Dr. Robert M. Munoz, President of the Hispanic Wellness Coalition. In *Raza Rising*, Richard J. Gonzales beautifully weaves together years of research and writing from his years as a columnist for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. The result is a panoramic portrait of a forgotten but hugely significant community, the Chicanos and Latinos of North Texas. Gonzales meticulously details the many challenges facing young Chicanos and Chicano families in the schools and in the larger region, moving beyond a deficit-based approach (of what Chicanos themselves lack) to also explore the role of white privilege and the dangerous consequences of many Texans' lack of cultural competency. *Raza Rising* also stays true to its title, examining the forgotten roots of the Chicano community in Texas, a story that spans from indigenous Mexico to recent Chicano heroes in the US. Finally, it demonstrates the significance of the Chicano movement and the post-2006 immigrant rights struggle as key sites in which Mexican-origin residents of North Texas are remaking the region in their image. *Raza Rising* reminds us gringos that it is past time to get to know and embrace this fast-growing community, because their future will also be our own. Dr. Max Krochmal, Director, Civil Rights in Black and Brown Oral History Project, Texas Christian University