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Militarizing the Border: When Mexicans Became the Enemy

Miguel Antonio Levario

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#2322242 in Books Texas AM University Press 2012-09-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.40 x .90 x 6.00, 1.05 #File Name: 160344758X256 pages | File size: 63.Mb

Miguel Antonio Levario : Militarizing the Border: When Mexicans Became the Enemy before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Militarizing the Border: When Mexicans Became the Enemy:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Levario Graduate class review
By Nom de Plume Miguel Antonio Levario's *Militarizing the Border* examines the Texas border between El Paso and Ciudad Juarez and western Texas at the turn of the twentieth century. Using regional studies allows Levario to argue that the militarization of the border, first by loosely organized patrols and later by federal institutions, worsened the racial tensions between Anglos and Mexicans. Levario details the process of border militarization from 1895 to 1933. Social relations between Mexicans and Anglos as well as the political and social relationship between Mexico and the United States grew increasingly complicated with the introduction of immigration laws and restrictions. The establishment of border institutions began to change the dynamic social power structure and authority along the frontier. Racial tension manifested themselves in riots and killings presented in case studies throughout Levario's work. Levario uses a case study approach. He focused on El Paso and studied events, people, and institutions to demonstrate the increased racial tensions that arose from an increasingly militarized border. Levario's case studies include an historical look at the Texas Rangers and their changing role along the frontier. The rangers began to patrol the Mexican/U.S. border that changed the relationship of Mexican-origin Americans with Anglos. Another case looks at the U.S. Army along with vigilantes that challenged the coexistence of various racial groups. The National Guard in 1916 and the race riots that followed are other cases in the monograph. Levario concludes evaluating the creation and implementation of the Border Patrol as a permanent federal institution to maintain border integrity. Militarization of the border is a main theme as it affected the relationship between both the United States and Mexico and their people. This extended to the relationship the Mexican-origins community had with the rest of society and how these newly created institutions defined the border and were granted authority to enforce federal mandates. Though a transnational history, Levario did not consult Mexican archives. He focuses on Mexican-origin Americans and did not feel he needed to use Mexican sources to support his argument. This lack of sources does not weaken his argument but challenges his claim as a transnational study.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars
By Kindle Customer Excellent read with historical perspective. This book helped me understand the build-up to many of today's social conflicts.

As historian Miguel Antonio Levario explains in this timely book, current tensions and controversy over immigration and law enforcement issues centered on the US-Mexico border are only the latest evidence of a long-standing atmosphere of uncertainty and mistrust plaguing this region. *Militarizing the Border: When Mexicans Became the Enemy*, focusing on El Paso and its environs, examines the history of the relationship among law enforcement, military, civil, and political institutions, and local communities. In the years between 1895 and 1940, West Texas experienced intense militarization efforts by local, state, and federal authorities responding to both local and international circumstances. El Pasos Mexicanization in the early decades of the twentieth century contributed to strong racial tensions between the regions Anglo population and newly arrived Mexicans. Anglos and Mexicans alike turned to violence in order to deal with a racial situation rapidly spinning out of control. Highlighting a binational focus that sheds light on other US-Mexico border zones in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, *Militarizing the Border* establishes historical precedent for current border issues such as undocumented immigration, violence, and racial antagonism on both sides of the boundary line. This important evaluation of early US border militarization and its effect on racial and social relations among Anglos, Mexicans, and Mexican Americans will afford scholars, policymakers, and community leaders a better understanding of current policy . . . and its potential failure.

" . . . this book is needed . . excellent . . . will make an important contribution to the field . . . exhaustive research in local, state, and national archives . . . other books exist on the subject of racism and its roots, but this book covers different territory . . . unique features"--Arnoldo De Leon, professor of history, Angelo State University and co-author of *Beyond Texas Through Time*