

HISPANIC AMERICAN ALMANAC



Bryan Ryan and Nicolás Kanellos, Editors

*H*ISPANIC AMERICAN ALMANAC

Bryan Ryan and Nicolás Kanellos, *Editors*



An International Thomson Publishing Company



NEW YORK • LONDON • BONN • BOSTON • DETROIT • MADRID
MELBOURNE • MEXICO CITY • PARIS • SINGAPORE • TOKYO
TORONTO • WASHINGTON • ALBANY NY • BELMONT CA • CINCINNATI OH

HISPANIC AMERICAN ALMANAC

Bryan Ryan and Nicolás Kanellos, *Editors*

Staff

Sonia Benson, *U·X·L Associate Developmental Editor*

Carol DeKane Nagel, *U·X·L Developmental Editor*

Thomas L. Romig, *U·X·L Publisher*

Margaret A. Chamberlain, *Permissions Supervisor (Pictures)*

Mary Kelley, *Production Associate*

Evi Seoud, *Assistant Production Manager*

Mary Beth Trimper, *Production Director*

Mary Krzewinski, *Cover and Page Designer*

Cynthia Baldwin, *Art Director*

The Graphix Group, *Typesetter*

This publication is a creative work fully protected by all applicable copyright laws, as well as by misappropriation, trade secret, unfair competition, and other applicable laws. The editors of this work have added value to the underlying factual material herein through one or more of the following: unique and original selection, coordination, expression, arrangement, and classification of the information. All rights to this publication will be vigorously defended.

Copyright © 1995

U·X·L

An Imprint of Gale Research Inc.

All rights reserved, including the right of reproduction in whole or in part in any form.



This book is printed on acid-free paper that meets the minimum requirements of American National Standard for Information Sciences—Permanence Paper for Printed Library Materials, ANSI Z39.48-1984.

ISBN 0-8103-9823-0

Printed in the United States of America

Published simultaneously in the United Kingdom
by Gale Research International Limited
(An affiliated company of Gale Research Inc.)

I[®]T[™]P[™] is an imprint of Gale Research Inc.,
an International Thomson Publishing Company.
ITP logo is a trademark under license.

READER'S GUIDE

Hispanic American Almanac explores the history and culture of Hispanic America, a community of people in the United States whose ancestors—or they themselves—came from Spain or the Spanish-speaking countries of South and Central America, Mexico, Puerto Rico, or Cuba. The *Almanac* is organized into 14 subject chapters, including immigration, family and religion, jobs and education, literature, and sports. The volume contains more than 70 black-and-white photographs and maps, a glossary, and a cumulative subject index.

Related reference sources:

Hispanic American Biography profiles 100 Hispanic Americans, both living and deceased, prominent in their fields, ranging from civil rights to athletics, politics to literature, entertainment to science, religion to the military. A black-and-white portrait accompanies each entry, and the volumes conclude with an index listing all individuals by field of endeavor.

Hispanic American Chronology explores significant social, political, economic, cultural, and educational milestones in Hispanic American history. Arranged by year and then by month and day, the chronology spans from 1492 to modern times and contains more than 70 illustrations, extensive cross references, and a cumulative subject index.

Hispanic American Voices presents full or excerpted speeches, sermons, orations, poems, testimony, and other notable spoken works of Hispanic Americans. Each entry is accompanied by an introduction and boxes explaining terms and events to which the speech alludes. The volume contains pertinent black-and-white illustrations and a cumulative subject index.

Advisors

Special thanks are due for the invaluable comments and suggestions provided by U·X·L's Hispanic American books advisors:

Margarita Reichounia
Librarian, Bowen Branch
Detroit Public Library

Linda Garcia
Librarian, Southern Hills Middle School
Boulder, Colorado

Comments and Suggestions

We welcome your comments on *Hispanic American Almanac* as well as your suggestions for topics to be featured in future editions. Please write: Editors, *Hispanic American Almanac*, U·X·L, 835 Penobscot Bldg., Detroit, Michigan 48226-4094; call toll-free: 1-800-877-4253; or fax: 313-961-6348.

INTRODUCTION

Who Are the Hispanic Americans?

Hispanic Americans are people who live in the United States whose ancestors—or they themselves—came from Spain or the Spanish-speaking countries of South and Central America, Mexico, Puerto Rico, or Cuba. While the Spanish language is a unifying factor among Hispanics (even those who do not speak the language), they are a highly diverse group. Hispanics come from many different countries, and so have different histories, customs, and ways of speaking Spanish.

Several factors besides language unify the Hispanic American population as a distinctive community. One such factor is the origins of the group as a whole. The Hispanic American culture began with the European conquest of the New World. At that time, the Spanish intermarried with Native American and African American peoples. Hispanic American traditions, arts, language, and physical characteristics are products of the mixing of these three groups.

Another unifying factor is that many Hispanic Americans share the history—whether recent

or long ago—of immigrating to a new country. In the United States Hispanics have often established small communities within already established ones. In these smaller communities they can continue the traditions of their home countries and speak the Spanish language while working or going to school within the larger community.

A third factor is that the majority of Hispanic Americans are working-class citizens or are professionals who come from working-class backgrounds. Often facing exploitation and discrimination in the American workforce, Hispanic Americans have struggled together for equality on the job and in the schools of the United States.

The Rise of Hispanic Americans

In the last 25 years, Hispanic Americans have received an increasing amount of attention in the United States. This has happened for several reasons. First, the Hispanic population of the United States has been rapidly growing. In fact, the number of Hispanic Americans is increasing at a

much faster rate than the total population. Hispanics are expected to become the nation's largest minority group sometime early in the twenty-first century.

Hispanic immigration is a second reason for the increased attention given to this group. Although the United States is a nation of immigrants, many Americans worry about the size of the new immigrant population and its effects on society. From time to time throughout history, some Americans have focused these concerns on undocumented immigrants from Mexico. They have also become concerned about the political and social turmoil in Central America and the Caribbean that has forced many people to immigrate to the United States. The problems are complicated and solutions are difficult to find.

The bilingual-bicultural movement has also focused attention on Hispanic Americans. Programs that provide education and other services in Spanish as well as English put heavy demands on schools, local governments, and other social groups. Some Hispanic Americans have argued that bilingual programs are harmful to Hispanic Americans, since they do not prepare Spanish-

speaking people to fully participate in an English-speaking country. But many find the programs beneficial because they help Hispanic Americans to appreciate and to preserve time-honored traditions and a rich culture that are a central part of the American heritage.

Finally, the general American populace has become more aware of Hispanic Americans because they have earned more economic and political power. The large number of Hispanics concentrated in some areas of the United States gives them buying power. The dollars they spend influence businesses owned by non-Hispanics. The businesses they own influence local economies. Hispanics are also an important voting bloc. Hispanic votes now elect Hispanic Americans to political positions in states such as Florida, California, Texas, New Mexico, and New York. In other states, Hispanic votes greatly influence the election of non-Hispanics to office.

These issues and others are pushing Hispanic American concerns to the top of the American agenda. As the population of Hispanic Americans grows, so will its impact and influence on American society, business, and politics.

PICTURE CREDITS

The photographs and illustrations appearing in *Hispanic American Almanac* were received from the following sources:

Cover: From a 1939 photograph of New York's Teatro Hispano, **Arte Público Press**.

Courtesy of the U.S. Department of the Interior and the National Park Service: pp. 7, 39, 45, 47, 52; **Courtesy of Owen Seumtewa:** p. 13; **Arte Público Press:** pp. 17, 28, 33, 34, 37, 78, 81, 97, 100, 125, 133, 147, 148, 157, 159, 165, 163, 170, 171, 173, 174, 178, 187, 188, 189 (left and right), 191, 194, 198, 202, 203, 204; **The Bettmann Archive:** pp. 31, 42, 177; **The Granger Collection, New York:** pp. 36, 61, 180; **Courtesy of Bancroft Library, University of California:** pp. 46 (left and right); **Reuters/Bettmann:** p. 51; **AP/Wide World Photos:** pp. 54, 69, 74, 83, 84, 87, 91, 99, 105, 118, 137, 138, 150, 179; **Courtesy of the Arizona Historical Society Library:** pp. 56, 124, 126, 136, 199; **UPI/Bettmann:** pp. 64, 67, 70, 86, 113, 115; **From the *Daily World*, in The Jesús Colón Papers, Centro de Estudios Puertorriqueños, Hunter College, City University of New York (CUNY); Benigno Giboyeaux for the Estate of Jesús Colón and the Commu-**

nist Party of the United States of America: p. 95; **The Justo A. Martí Photographic Collection, Centro de Estudios Puertorriqueños, Hunter College, CUNY:** p. 107; **Texas Catholic Herald:** pp. 111, 114; **Library of Congress:** p. 129; **Courtesy of the Center for Southwest Research, General Library, University of New Mexico:** p. 155; **Courtesy of Special Collections, General Library, University of New Mexico:** p. 156; ©1990 by Georgia McInnis, courtesy of Arte Público Press: p. 161; **Photograph by M. L. Marinelli, courtesy of Chronicle Books:** p. 162; **The Jesús Colón Papers, Centro de Estudios Puertorriqueños, Hunter College, CUNY; Benigno Giboyeaux for the Estate of Jesús Colón and the Communist Party of the United States of America:** pp. 160, 164; **Courtesy of Dorthea Lynch Collection, George Mason University Library:** p. 172; **Courtesy of The Huntington Library, San Marino, California:** pp. 176, 200; ©Denver Art Museum 1994: p. 181; **Reproduced by permission of Eduardo Chavez:** p. 182.

WORDS TO KNOW

A

agriculture: the knowledge and practice of farming—raising plants and animals for food.

altar: a special table for religious things that serves as a place for prayer.

altarista: a contemporary Chicano artist, who expresses him- or herself by making altars.

Anglo: a person of English heritage. *Anglo* is also used to describe that person's culture.

autobiography: a true story that someone writes about her or his life.

Aztlán: the legendary homeland of the Toltecs and Aztecs. Chicanos identify this land of origin as the region of the American Southwest.

B

babalao: a spiritual healer, witch, or advisor in the santería religion.

ballad: a song that tells a story.

barrio: a Hispanic term meaning “neighborhood.”

bejareque: thatched huts used by the native peo-

ples of the Caribbean before the arrival of Columbus.

bilingual: the ability to speak two languages easily.

bilingual/bicultural education: programs in the United States in which the learning and teaching is conducted in both English and Spanish, and students learn about both Anglo and Hispanic cultures.

birthrate: the average number of children that each woman has.

bohíos: thatched-roof huts used by the Caribbean Indians.

botánica: a shop that sells herbs and folk medicines.

bracero: a day laborer; originally temporary Mexican farm and railroad workers brought to the Southwest to work under a special program.

C

cacique: the village chieftain in Caribbean tribes.

caló: the special language created and used by *pachucos* (young Mexican Americans from the 1940s and 1950s known for their special youth culture and the zoot suits they wore).

Catholicism: the beliefs and practices of the Christian church led by the Pope in the Vatican in Rome, Italy.

Celts: a people who lived in central and western Europe about 500 B.C. They rode horses and carried iron weapons. Their culture and languages still live in Ireland, Scotland, Wales, and parts of France and Spain.

census: the official counting and description of the population of a country.

charrerías: contests of Mexican cowboys that influenced the modern rodeo. Also called *charro fiestas*.

charro: a Mexican cowboy.

Chicano: a name for Mexican immigrants to the United States; the word comes from *Mechicano*, a Native American name for Mexico.

Chicano movement: a group of twentieth-century Mexican American writers and activists who celebrated their culture and historical background in their works.

chinampa: a man-made island or floating garden, developed by the natives of Mesoamerica to increase agricultural production.

chiripeo: the part-time odd jobs available at low wages to Puerto Ricans on the island.

cimarrones: runaway slaves.

citizenship: the rights and responsibilities of a person from a certain country.

civilization: a group of people, often living together in communities, who have laws, arts, and sciences.

code-switching: changes made by a bilingual person from one language to another in the same conversation or even the same sentence.

colonia: a small colony of Hispanics living in an American city.

colony: a group of people who leave their home country to live in another land controlled by their home country. The new land is also called a *colony*.

color barrier: the rule that kept African Americans, some Hispanic Americans, and other people of color from playing in American professional baseball. Jackie Robinson, an African American, broke through the *color barrier* on April 10, 1947.

compadrazgo: godparenthood.

compadres: co-parents or godparents.

concentration: a place where many people or things are brought together.

confianza: trust.

conjunto: a style of Hispanic music first made popular in Texas and northern Mexico, also called *música norteña*; the word *conjunto* also refers to the band that plays this music. The band is usually made up of a guitar, a base guitar, a drum, and an accordion.

conquest: taking over people or land by winning in war.

corrido: a Mexican ballad, or song that tells a story.

criollo: a person of Spanish or European ancestry born in the New World.

crónica: a local newspaper column that often makes fun of the people and customs of the area.

culture: the collection of customs of a group of people, including their lifestyle, language, food, religion, arts, and recreation.

D

discovery: finding new lands or new knowledge.

discrimination: treating people poorly because of their differences.

diversity: the differences that give variety to people or places.

E

education: learning and teaching.

employment: working at a job.

encomienda: an economic system in which a Spaniard in the New World was given land and a number of native slaves by Spain's king or queen, or one of their representatives.

entrepreneur: the person who takes responsibility for a business.

ex-voto: a gift presented to a saint as thanks for answering a prayer.

exile: a person who cannot return to her or his homeland for political or other reasons.

expedition: a journey for a special purpose, either exploration or conquest. The people and their transportation are also called an *expedition*.

exploration: the search for new lands or new knowledge.

extended family: a family that includes children, parents, and other relatives, such as grandparents, aunts, or uncles, usually living together in the same house.

F

la familia: a Hispanic term that usually means the extended family (children, their parents, grandparents, and other relatives), a very important part of Hispanic society.

feast: a large meal prepared to celebrate a special day.

fluent: able to speak a language easily, without hesitation.

folk ballad: a poem or song that tells a story. *Folk ballads* are usually based on the everyday lives of people.

folk plays: plays created and presented by common people, based on everyday lives.

folk religion: the beliefs and spiritual practices that grow out of the everyday lives of common people.

formal education: learning and teaching that takes place in a school. Informal education takes place at home or in the community.

frontier: the land farthest from the center of a country, usually where the fewest people live; sometimes used as another word for "border."

G

Germanic tribes: groups of people who came from several areas outside the Roman Empire in Europe and Asia. Many of these groups built their culture around war.

godparents: a man and woman who accept responsibility for helping parents raise a child. They usually accept the responsibility in a religious ceremony.

H

hacienda: a large ranch or farm based upon a system of farming introduced to Spain by the Romans.

hermandade: brotherhood.

Hispaniola: the island in the Caribbean Sea where Christopher Columbus established the first European settlement in the New World. Today, Haiti and the Dominican Republic share this island.

horsemanship: the skill of riding and taking care of horses.

hybrid: a combination of two or more things to make something new and different.

I

Iberian Peninsula: the European land mass surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean on the west and northwest and the Mediterranean Sea on the south and east. Spain and Portugal now occupy it.

immigrant: someone who moves to a new country from another country.

immigration: coming to live in a new country from another country.

income: the money that people make at their jobs.

independence: the freedom that a country or person wins from the control of another country or person.

indigenismo: a movement among Hispanics that celebrates the Native American origins of Hispanic culture.

industry: the work done by businesses and factories.

Islam: the religion, also called Muslim, started by Muhammad around the year 620 A.D. *Islam* is now the main religion in the Middle East and North Africa.

J

jíbaro: originally a Native American word for “highlander.” *Jíbaro* is a term Puerto Ricans use for rural mountain people, but it has also become a symbol of the national identity of Puerto Ricans.

K

kinship: the relationship a person has with his or her relatives.

kiva: a secret underground ceremonial chamber, especially as used in Pueblo culture for ceremonies and meetings.

L

labor force: the group of people working in a country or other place.

legacy: something left behind by ancestors for their descendants.

literacy: the ability to read and write.

M

macana: a wooden war club used by the Native Americans of the Caribbean.

marriage: the legal or religious union of a man and a woman as husband and wife.

media: newspapers, magazines, radio, television, films, and other sources of information and entertainment. The *mainstream media* are those whose audience includes all Americans. *Hispanic media* are directed at Americans who speak Spanish and who are interested in Hispanic culture.

Mesoamerica: “Meso” means middle, so this term means “middle America.” *Mesoamerica* is used to refer to the land of southern Mexico and Central America.

mestizo: a person of mixed Spanish and Native American ancestry.

migrant worker: a person who moves from one place to another following jobs.

migration: moving from one place to another.

milagrito: a small charm made of tin, silver, or gold used to represent a prayer for healing.

mission: the building used by monks and other religious people in frontier settlements to spread their religion.

mulatto: a person of mixed African and European or Native American ancestry.

mural: a large work of art painted onto a wall.

música norteña: a style of Hispanic music first made popular in Texas and northern Mexico (*also see conjunto*).

música tropical/moderna: the name given to a style of music that includes fast and slow dance songs and is now popular among Hispanic Americans.

N

Native Americans: people from the many different groups who already lived in North and South America when Columbus first arrived.

native language: the first language that a child learns, usually at home from her or his parents.

network: a group of radio or television stations that produces shows to broadcast to a large audience.

New World: a term used by Europeans for North and South America.

nitainos: principal advisors among the Arawak Indians, quite often in charge of the labor force.

norteño: northern; the people and culture of northern Mexico.

novel: a long story about fictional characters and events.

nuclear family: a family consisting of children and their parents living together in the same house.

Nuyorican: literally “New York-Rican”; a term used to distinguish Puerto Ricans born or raised in New York from those on the island.

Nuyorican literature: the novels, poetry, and other writings of Puerto Ricans who were born or raised in New York City.

O

oral tradition: storytelling using the spoken word.

orishas: African gods of the santería religion.

orquesta: orchestra; the word refers to a style of Mexican American music organized around a violin and also to the ensemble that plays it.

P

pachuco: a young Mexican American from the 1940s and 1950s who was a part of the special youth culture of that time. These young people were known for wearing *zoot suits* and speaking a special language called *caló*.

Paleolithic: the Old Stone Age, the earliest period of human development, which ended over 10,000 years ago.

patria chica: the home region in the home country.

patriotism: the love that a person has for her or his country.

pelado: a witty, humorous underdog character in Mexican popular theater.

pictographs: a type of writing that uses pictures to represent words or sounds.

pilgrimage: a journey to a religious place.

pillar: a support that is very important to holding up something.

piraguas: a narrow, high-prowed canoe perfected by the Caribbean Indians.

plantation: a large farm for growing certain crops, such as sugarcane and cotton.

playwright: a person who creates a play.

popular theater: the plays, musicals, and shows put on by theaters to attract the general public. *Popular theater* is concerned more with entertainment than art.

population: the whole group of people who live in a certain country or other place.

posada: a ceremony put on during the Christmas season in which a couple takes the roles of Joseph and Mary and goes door to door in their neighborhood asking for shelter. *Posada* is also a Spanish term for an inn.

poverty: poorness; not having enough money to live on.

pre-Columbian: before the arrival of Columbus in the New World.

presidio: the Spanish name for their frontier forts.

Protestantism: the beliefs and practices of many Christian churches not led by the Pope, including Baptists, Methodists, Presbyterians, and others.

R

Reconquest: the long war that Spaniards fought to take their land back from the Moors, a group of Muslims originally from North Africa.

refugee: a person who runs away from a dangerous place to find a safe place.

revista: a popular theater entertainment involving music and comedy.

revolutionary: a person who works or fights to change the government or kind of government of a country.

rodeo: a contest for cowboys in which they test their skill riding horses and roping cattle.

role: the part that a person plays in a play or movie, in the family, or in society.

Roman Empire: an important civilization that covered much of Europe during the first five centuries A.D. Its capital was the city of Rome, now in Italy.

S

salsa: a style of music that combines jazz and the rhythms of Cuban dance music, first made popular by Cubans of African heritage.

santería: a religious sect based on a mixture of African religions and Catholicism.

santero: in the Southwest, a sculptor of wooden saints; in the Caribbean, a worshipper of one of the gods of santería.

santo: a sculpture of a Catholic saint.

sculpture: the art of making statues and other figures out of stone, plaster, wood, or metals.

segregation: separating people in schools and other public places because of their race or culture.

settlement: a village, town, or city in a colony.

shrine: a place that is important for religious reasons.

skilled professional: someone who works at a job that requires special training or education.

slavery: a practice in which one person owns another and forces him or her to work without pay.

the Southwest: Arizona, New Mexico, and parts of California and Texas make up the Southwest of the United States.

standard English: the variety of English accepted as correct by most English speakers. It is usually the English heard on television and radio and seen in newspapers.

statehood: becoming or being a state in the United States.

stereotype: a common, but simplified and often untrue image of a person or group.

subsistence farming: growing just enough food to live on, with no extra food to trade or sell.

theater: the building where actors present plays. *Theater* is also used to refer to the plays and the business of putting on plays.

touring troupes: groups of actors that go from city to city to put on plays.

trade: buying and selling between people or countries.

treaty: an agreement between two or more countries to end a war, keep the peace, or build relations.

trust: the feeling that a person can depend on another person.

U

undocumented immigrant: a person who lives or works in a country who is not a citizen of that country and does not have permission to stay in the country.

unskilled worker: a person who works at a job that does not require special training or education.

V

vaquero: a cowboy.

Y

yerberías: shops selling medicinal plants, herbs, and potions.

yuca: a root used for food.

Z

zemíes: gods of the Arawak Indians. They are also small religious figures made of clay that represented these gods.

zoot suit: the outfit often worn by *pachucos* (young Mexican Americans from the 1940s and 1950s known for their special youth culture). The *zoot suit* included baggy pants and a wide-brimmed hat with feathers.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Reader's Guide	ix
Introduction	xi
Picture Credits	xiii
Words to Know	xv
1. A Historical Overview: Three Legacies	1
The Native American Legacy	2
Native American Cultures in Spanish America	3
The Spanish Legacy	14
The African Legacy	17
2 The Meeting of Two Worlds	23
Spanish Exploration and Conquest in North America	24
New Lands in the Caribbean	27
Spanish Expeditions to Florida and the American South	31
The Conquest of Mexico	39
Spanish Exploration of the American Southwest	41
Spanish Exploration of California	44
3 The First Hispanic Americans	49
Texas	50
The Southwest and California	55

TABLE OF CONTENTS

4 Mexican Immigration to the United States	59
Early Immigration to the United States	59
The Mexican Revolution and World War I	62
The México Lindo Generation	65
The Great Depression and World War II	66
5 Puerto Rican Immigration	71
Early Immigration to the United States	71
Forging a New Community	75
The Great Migration	76
6 Cuban and Other Hispanic Immigration	79
Early Cuban Immigration to the United States	79
Immigration from Fidel Castro's Cuba	82
Dominican Immigration	89
Central American Immigration	90
7 The Hispanic People: A Demographic Study	93
Hispanic Diversity	93
Hispanic Americans in a Non-Hispanic America	98
Comparing Hispanics to Non-Hispanics	100
8 The Pillars of Hispanic American Society: Family and Religion	103
The Hispanic Family	104
<i>La Familia</i> in the United States	108
The Religions of Hispanic Americans	109
Folk Religions among Hispanics	117
9 Hispanic Americans on the Job and at School	121
Hispanics on the Job	122
Current Issues in Hispanic Labor	127
Hispanic Americans in Business	130
Hispanic Americans in Politics	130
The Education of Hispanic Americans	131
The Education of Hispanics in the Twentieth Century	136

10 The Languages of Hispanic Americans	141
Varieties of Spanish	142
Mexican Spanish	143
Central American Spanish	145
Spanish of Caribbean Origin	146
Holding onto Spanish	147
Hispanics in English-Speaking America	148
11 Hispanic American Literature	153
The Colonial Period	154
Nineteenth-Century Hispanic American Literature	154
Early Twentieth-Century Hispanic American Literature	157
World War II to the Present	160
Mainstream Publishers of Spanish-Language Literature	164
12 Hispanic American Cultural Expression	167
Hispanic American Theater	168
Hispanic American Music	174
Mexican American Music	174
Caribbean Music	178
Recent Hispanic American Hybrids	178
Hispanic American Art	179
Twentieth-Century Hispanic American Painters	181
13 Hispanic Americans in the Media	185
Hispanics in the Mainstream Media	186
The Hispanic Media	191
14 Hispanic Americans in Sports	197
Rodeo	198
Baseball	199
Other Sports	204
Further Reading	205
Index	207