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Spring 2019 10/11

The Chicano Movement Events, People, and Writings 1940 - Present



San Bernardino Valley College Library



Chicano Movement

Timeline

(Searchable terms are shown in **boldface**.)

- 1940s Latinos become largest proportional ethnic group to enlist during WWII
- 1941 The **Fair Employment Practices Act**, designed to eliminate employment discrimination, becomes law
- 1942 **Bracero Program** begins when U.S. labor shortage causes government to sign a deal with Mexico to import temporary workers (*braceros*) for agricultural work
- 1943 **Macario Garcia**, first Mexican national to earn the Congressional Medal of Honor, refused service at The Oasis Café in Texas
Violence against Mexican Americans in L.A. dubbed the **Zoot Suit Riots**
- 1944 **The Servicemen's Readjustment Act** passes, providing settlements for veterans, yet Mexican American vets have trouble receiving benefits
- 1948 The **American G.I. Forum** created by **Dr. Hector Garcia** to call attention to racial injustice against Mexican Americans
Fallen soldier Pvt. **Felix Z. Longoria** refused burial in Texas; then-Senator Lyndon Johnson arranges for burial at Arlington National Cemetery
- 1951 **The Mexican Farm Labor Agreement**, or **Bracero Program**, brings around 350,000 Mexican workers to U.S. annually until its end in 1964
- 1954 Supreme Court Case **Hernandez v. The State of Texas** recognizes inequality and racial discrimination against Latinos, the first Supreme Court case briefed and argued by Mexican-American attorneys.
Operation Wetback begins; between 1954-58, 3.8 million people of Mexican heritage deported
- 1956 **Henry B. Gonzalez** filibusters 10 segregationist bills, speaking for 36 hours straight; Senate abandons all but two
- 1960 Hector Garcia's "**Viva Kennedy**" campaign aids a Kennedy/Johnson victory
- 1962 **Cesar Chavez** and **Dolores Huerta** form National Farmworkers Association (now **United Farmworkers Assoc.**)
- 1963 After the Kennedy assassination, Lyndon Johnson passes legislation advocating desegregation and appoints more Mexican Americans to government positions than any other president before him
- 1964 **The Civil Rights Act** passes, prohibiting gender, creed, race, and ethnic background discrimination; affirmative action removes barriers in employment
The **Bracero Program** ends
- 1966 Mar. 16: The Senate Sub-Committee on Migratory Labor holds hearings after striking workers suffer physical and verbal abuses in the course of peaceful demonstrations during **Delano Grape Strike**
Mar. 17: Cesar Chavez and 100 farmworkers begin march to the San Joaquin Valley, gaining thousands of supporters along the way
Apr. 10: Marchers sight Sacramento; due to public sympathy and support and because of spring growing season, growers finally meet with union
The **Brown Berets**, militant group dedicated to Mexican Americans, founded by **David Sanchez**
- 1967 East L.A. high school teacher **Sal Castro** organizes students
MAYO (Mexican American Youth Organization) founded by **Jose Angel Gutierrez**, **Mario Compean**, William (Willie) Velasquez, Ignacio Perez, and Juan Patlan
- 1968 Mar. 6: teacher **Sal Castro** organizes nearly 10,000 high school students, parents, and supporters to protest sub-par "Mexican Schools" in L.A.
Mar. 7: students again walk out and continue until demands are met
- 1970 **La Raza Unida** ("The United Race") political party formed in Crystal City, Texas by **Jose Angel Gutierrez**
Aug. 29: **Chicano Moratorium** group protests Vietnam War
- 1974 Thousands of Latinos urged to register to vote by voting rights champion **Willie Velasquez** of San Antonio, TX
Congress passes **Equal Educational Opportunity Act** making bilingual education available to Hispanic students
- 1975 **Jerry Apodaca** (New Mexico) and **Raul Hector Castro** (Arizona) become first Hispanic governors in U.S.
- 1986 The **Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA)** signed by Ronald Reagan, aims to control illegal immigration with employers as monitors of employees. Nearly 3,000,000 who entered U.S. between 1970-80 are granted amnesty.
- 1987 **National Hispana Leadership Institute** spearheads crusade addressing underrepresentation of Latinas in the corporate, political, and nonprofit fields
- 1988 **Willie Velasquez**, voter rights activist, dies and posthumously rewarded with the Presidential Medal of Freedom
- 1990 **Antonia C. Novello** named first female and first Hispanic U.S. surgeon general
- 1993 Dr. **Ellen Ochoa** becomes first Hispanic woman in space aboard the Discovery
President Bill Clinton names **Federico Peña** Secretary of Transportation; **Henry Cisneros** Secretary of Housing and Urban Development; and **Norma V. Cantú** Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights in the Department of Education; he later names 25 other Hispanics to government posts
- 1994 **NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement)** eliminates tariffs between U.S., Canada, and Mexico within 15 years; **maquiladora** imports become duty free.
Nov. 8: California's **Proposition 187** passed with 59% of the vote, barring undocumented from public education, welfare, and health care benefits
- 1997 Proposition 187 found unconstitutional; federal government (not state) regulates immigration
Eliseo Medina first Mexican American Vice President of the Service Employees International Union
- 2003 Hispanics become nation's largest minority group at 37.1 million, surpassing African Americans
Congressional Hispanic Leadership Institute (CHLI) founded by Congress
Arturo (Arte) Moreno becomes first Latino owner of Anaheim Angels baseball team
- 2004 The **Minutemen Project** organized a volunteer militia to patrol border in Arizona
- 2005 April: Minutemen begin patrolling border, reporting illegal activity to **U.S. Border Patrol**
Antonio Villaraigosa first Mexican American mayor of Los Angeles in over a century
- 2009 **Sonia Sotomayor** first Hispanic Supreme Court Justice
Hilda Solis, Secretary of Labor, first Hispanic female Cabinet member
- 2010 No comprehensive federal immigration policy; states enact own
April: **Arizona SB 1070** becomes toughest anti-illegal law in U.S. history
- 2011 April: U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals rules against Arizona, blocking most of its contentious immigration laws
California gains largest Latino population of any state (14.4 million)
- 2013 With nearly 51 million people and a projected 127 million by mid-century, Hispanics make up 1/3 of the U.S. population
- 2015 **Juan Felipe Herrera** named first Latino U.S. Poet Laureate
- 2016- U.S. Congress deadlocks over immigration legislation; no clear path forward.