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Editor's Pick's

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The books listed below, most of them recently published, offer a variety of views on Latinos in the Midwest and the nation.

APPLE PIE & ENCHILADAS: Latino Newcomers in the Rural Midwest
This multidisciplinary study focuses on Latinos in the rural Midwest and how it has become the scene of dramatic change involving major issues facing the country – the intertwining of ethnic differences, prejudice, and poverty. The fact is that many Midwestern communities would be losing population and facing a dearth of workers if not for Latino newcomers.

BARRIOS NORTEÑOS: St. Paul and Midwestern Mexican Communities in the Twentieth Century
Offers a comprehensive social, labor, and cultural history of Mexican agricultural laborers and their descendants in Midwestern cities. It uses the Mexican barrio of “San Pablo” (St. Paul), Minnesota, as a window on the region. Mexicans created ethnic spaces and changed the makeup of many communities over the course of the twentieth century.

LA CAUSA: Civil Rights, Social Justice and the Struggle for Equality in the Midwest
This anthology documents and evaluates the widespread participation of Latinos in the industrial development, the communications infrastructure, the social justice and labor movements of the Midwest. The collection of essays from scholars and activists hopes to fill a gaping void in the literature available about civil rights and Latinos in the Midwest.

FORGING A COMMUNITY: The Latino Experience in Northwest Indiana, 1919-1975
This volume offers a collection of articles that depict the Latino experience in the Calumet Region of Northwest Indiana. There is a collection of almost all of the scholarly works previously written, as well as several original essays that study Puerto Ricans and Mexican-Americans in this region of the Midwest.

LATINO CROSSINGS: Mexicans, Puerto Ricans and the Politics of Race and Citizenship
This ethnographic study analyzes the benefits of citizenship between Puerto Ricans and Mexicans in the United States. Puerto Ricans are U.S. citizens while Mexican migrants often are not, and this difference is key to understanding how both occupy different positions within the U.S. racial hierarchy; yet have a possibility for a shared Latinidad in order to better combat a sociopolitical system that discriminates against both.

LATINO LANGUAGE and LITERACY in ETHNOLINGUISTIC CHICAGO
This volume fills an important gap in
research on language use in a globalized metropolitan area like Chicago. Language and ethnicity are unquestionably central to the makeup of Chicago neighborhoods. This book includes ethnographic studies that offer a set of portraits emphasizing language use as centrally related to ethnic, class or gender identities.

LATINOS INC: The Marketing and Making of a People
In this original and entertaining book, there is an examination of the increasing visibility of Latinos in mainstream culture. It sheds light not only on the growing Latino population but their important influence in the United States' economic sector. There is a critical examination of the Hispanic marketing industry and of its role in the making and marketing of U.S. Latinos.

LATINOS IN MICHIGAN: Discovering the Peoples of Michigan
This book sheds light on the many struggles and contributions Latinos make culturally, economically, and socially to many important developments in Michigan's history. Latinos have shared a vision of the American Dream – made all the more difficult by the contemporary challenge of cultural assimilation. It further reflects over the complexity of their local struggles and far-reaching developments on the national stage.

MEXICANS IN THE MIDWEST, 1900-1932
Here is a book that includes the internal and external forces that affected the process of immigration as well as the development of communities in the Midwest region. It underlines the similarities and differences between Mexicans in that region and those that settled elsewhere.

NATIONAL PERFORMANCES: The Politics of Race, Class and Space in Puerto Rican Chicago
This extensive and original ethnographic research shows the performance of Puerto Rican nationalism in Chicago. It explores how nationalism highlights distinctions along class, gender, racial, and generational lines among Puerto Ricans, as well as between Puerto Ricans and other Latino, black, and white populations.

THE NEAR NORTHWEST SIDE STORY: Migration, Displacement, & Puerto Rican Families
This book takes a close look at the Puerto Rican community in Chicago and explains why its members have maintained transnational connections with distant communities between Chicago and San Sebastian, Puerto Rico. It focuses on how poor and working-class Puerto Ricans work to build meaningful communities. The ethnographic study explores the long history of circulating people, ideas, goods, and information.

THE NEAR NORTHWEST SIDE STORY: Fighting for Latino Rights with the Young Lords
This memoir gives a compelling account of the ideals, anger, and vitality of the New York branch of the Young Lords. It tells the story of the rise of one of the most respected and powerful voice for Puerto Rican empowerment in the country. They were one of most provocative and misunderstood activist groups to emerge during the 1960s.