

Zoot Suit Riots And The Role Of The Zoot Suit In Chicano

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Term Paper Resource Guide to Latino History - Michael P. Moreno 2010

This resource guide to 100 key events in Latino history provides students, librarians, and scholars with hundreds of original and compelling term paper ideas and the key print and electronic sources needed for research. * Presents 100 historical events organized in chronological order, beginning with the founding of the California Missions in 1769 and culminating with Justice Sonia Sotomayor's confirmation to the U.S. Supreme Court * Each of the 100 events offers annotated resources, including primary, secondary, web, and multimedia sources * Contains a comprehensive index highlighting connections between key historical events and public figures

Murder at the Sleepy Lagoon - Eduardo Obregón Pagán 2003

Murder at the Sleepy Lagoon: Zoot Suits, Race, and Riot in Wartime L.A.

Pachucas and Pachucos in Tucson - Laura L. Cummings 2015-10-19

When the Zoot Suit Riots ignited in Los Angeles in 1943, they quickly became headline news across the country. At their center was a series of attacks by U.S. Marines and sailors on young Mexican American men who dressed in distinctive suits and called themselves pachucos. The media of the day portrayed these youths as miscreants and hoodlums. Even though the outspoken First Lady, Eleanor Roosevelt, quickly labeled them victims of race riots, the initial portrayal has distorted images ever since. A surprising amount of scholarship has reinforced those images, writes Laura Cummings, proceeding from what she calls "the deviance school of thought." This innovative study examines the pachuco phenomenon in a new way. Exploring its growth in Tucson, Arizona, the book combines ethnography, history, and sociolinguistics to contextualize the early years of the phenomenon, its diverse cultural roots, and its language development in Tucson. Unlike other studies, it features first-person research with men and women who—despite a wide span of ages—self-identify as pachucos and pachucas. Through these interviews and her archival research, the author finds that pachuco culture has deep roots in Tucson and the Southwest. And she discovers the importance of the pachuco/caló language variety to a shared sense of pachuquismo. Further, she identifies previously neglected pachuco ties to indigenous Indian languages and cultures in Mexico and the United States. Cummings stresses that the great majority of people conversant with the culture and language do not subscribe to the dynamics of contemporary hardcore gangs, but while zoot suits are no longer the rage today, the pachuco language and sensibilities do live on in Mexican American communities across the Southwest and throughout the United States.

Aztec and Maya Myths - Karl Taube 1993

The myths of the Aztec and Maya derive from a shared Mesoamerican cultural tradition. This is very much a living tradition, and many of the motifs and gods mentioned in early sources are still evoked in the lore of contemporary Mexico and Guatemala. Professor Taube discusses the different sources for Aztec and Maya myths. The Aztec empire began less than 200 years before the Spanish conquest, and our knowledge of their mythology derives primarily from native colonial documents and manuscripts commissioned by the Spanish. The Maya mythology is far older, and our knowledge of it comes mainly from native manuscripts of the Classic period, over 600 years before the Spanish conquest. Drawing on these sources as well as nineteenth- and twentieth-century excavations and research, including the interpretation of the codices and the decipherment of Maya hieroglyphic writing, the author discusses, among other things, the Popol Vuh myths of the Maya, the flood myth of Northern Yucatan, and the Aztec creation myths.

Zoot Suit Riots - Roger A. Bruns 2014

The Zoot Suit Riots in 1943 and the infamous Sleepy Lagoon murder trial of the preceding year represent a turning point in the cultural identity and historical experience of Mexican Americans in the United States. This engaging study of these regrettable events provide context for understanding the continuing battles in the 21st century over immigration policy and race relations.

The Zoot Suit Riots - Charles River Charles River Editors 2017-03-23

*Includes pictures *Includes accounts of the fighting *Includes online resources and a bibliography for further reading *Includes a table of contents "Marching through the streets of downtown Los Angeles, a mob of several thousand soldiers, sailors, and civilians, proceeded to beat up every zoot suiter they could find. Pushing its way into the important motion picture theaters, the mob ordered the management to turn on the house lights and then ran up and down the aisles dragging Mexicans out of their seats. Streetcars were halted while Mexicans, and some Filipinos and Negroes, were jerked from their seats, pushed into the streets and beaten with a sadistic frenzy." - Carey McWilliams, journalist Even enemies will agree that the United States is a unique nation, in that its culture has been developed almost entirely by immigrants, people who have come to the country from other places and carved their way into society. Sometimes called a melting pot, sometimes a tossed salad, the nation has been shaped by all that is good and bad of the people who live here. Sadly, history has taught that where there is immigration, there will always be conflict. Just as any newly married couple will argue over whose family to spend the holidays with, so those coming from different nations and cultures will clash over which traditions can be integrated into the new society and which ones must be left behind. One might think that after some 400 years of dealing with these issues, the nation would have mastered the subject, but instead the opposite seems true. In the early days of 2016, Americans are engaged in a heated presidential campaign fraught with rhetoric and fear over the role of immigrants in the United States. Candidates frequently speak out against certain cultures, insisting they are dangerous to the American economy or even national security. Because the nation is at war against an enemy defined more by religion and ethnicity than traditional national boundaries, there is a heightened sense of fear and that is adding fuel to the debate and no doubt clouding the judgment of many who are speaking out. They are warning the American people that there had never been a crisis like this in the nation's past, and that swift action must be taken or the country will not survive. The truth is that there has been a crisis much like this and that actions taken in the past, while often swift, was also just as often unjust. Few examples signify that like the Zoot Suit Riots, the national crisis that precipitated them, and the culture of fear and bigotry that nurtured them. If the name of the event sounds silly, its premise was both nearly comical but also deadly serious. It was the product of people of different races, cultures and practices, a story of immigration and clashes between nations on a grand scale and police and young people on an intimate one. The story unfolded in 1942 and 1943 but has been a recurring issue. If indeed, as philosopher George Santayana so famously contended, "those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it," then the Zoot Suit Riots are one aspect of our nation's history that proves it. The Zoot Suit Riots: The History of the Racial Attacks in Los Angeles during World War II looks at the riots in L.A. during the war. Along with pictures of important people, places, and events, you will learn about the Zoot Suit Riots like never before, in no time at all.

[A Study Guide for Luiz Valdez's "Zoot Suit"](#) - Gale, Cengage Learning

A Study Guide for Luiz Valdez's "Zoot Suit," excerpted from Gale's acclaimed Drama For Students. This concise study guide includes plot summary; character analysis; author biography; study questions; historical context; suggestions for further reading; and much more. For any literature project, trust Drama For Students for all of your research needs.

Spilling the Beans - José Antonio Burciaga 1995

The author of *Drink Cultura: Chicanismo* presents nearly two dozen short pieces including essays on the Mambo dance of el Diablo, the 1943 Los Angeles Zoot Suit riots, NAFTA, and the defense of the jalapen+a1o. Original. IP.

The Zoot Suit Riots - Kevin Hillstrom 2013

"Surveys the political events, social trends, and racial attitudes that contributed to a week-long outbreak of violence in Los Angeles in 1943 by white servicemen and civilians against young Mexican-American 'zoot suiters.' Includes a narrative overview, biographies, primary sources, chronology, glossary, bibliography, and index"--Provided by publisher.

Race, Space, and Riots in Chicago, New York, and Los Angeles - Janet L. Abu-Lughod 2007-09-20

This book weaves together historical narratives of major riots with the changing contexts in which they have occurred to show how urban space, politics, and economic conditions all structure the form and virulence of urban rebellions in the 60s. Abu-Lughod compares and reconstructs the events of six major race riots in Chicago, New York, and LA.

Zoot Suit & Other Plays - Luis Valdez 1992-04-30

This critically acclaimed play by Luis Valdez cracks open the depiction of Chicanos on stage, challenging viewers to revisit a troubled moment in our nation's history. From the moment the myth-infused character El Pachuco burst onto the stage, cutting his way through the drop curtain with a switchblade, Luis Valdez spurred a revolution in Chicano theater. Focusing on the events surrounding the Sleepy Lagoon Murder Trial of 1942 and the ensuing Zoot Suit Riots that turned Los Angeles into a bloody war zone, this is a gritty and vivid depiction of the horrifying violence and racism suffered by young Mexican Americans on the home front during World War II. Valdez's cadre of young urban characters struggle with the stereotypes and generalizations of America's dominant culture, the questions of assimilation and patriotism, and a desire to rebel against the mainstream pressures that threaten to wipe them out. Experimenting with brash forms of narration, pop culture of the war era, and complex characterizations, this quintessential exploration of the Mexican-American experience in the United States during the 1940's was the first, and only, Chicano play to open on Broadway. This collection contains three of playwright and screenwriter Luis Valdez's most important and recognized plays: *Zoot Suit*, *Bandido!* and *I Don't Have to Show You No Stinking Badges*. The anthology also includes an introduction by noted theater critic Dr. Jorge Huerta of the University of California-San Diego. Luis Valdez, the most recognized and celebrated Hispanic playwright of our times, is the director of the famous farm-worker theater, El Teatro Campesino.

Jazz Owls - Margarita Engle 2019-08-06

"Perfect for history buffs, dance enthusiasts, poets, and just about anyone looking for a great story." —School Library Journal (starred review) From the Young People's Poet Laureate Margarita Engle comes a searing novel in verse about the Zoot Suit Riots of 1943. Thousands of young Navy sailors are pouring into Los Angeles on their way to the front lines of World War II. They are teenagers, scared, longing to feel alive before they have to face the horrors of battle. Hot jazz music spiced with cool salsa rhythms beckons them to dance with the local Mexican American girls, who jitterbug all night before working all day in the canneries. Proud to do their part for the war effort, these Jazz Owl girls are happy to dance with the sailors—until the blazing summer night when racial violence leads to murder. Suddenly the young white sailors are attacking the girls' brothers and boyfriends. The cool, loose zoot suits they wear are supposedly the reason for the violence—when in reality the boys are viciously beaten and arrested simply because of the color of their skin. In soaring images and searing poems, this is the breathtaking story of what became known as the Zoot Suit Riots.

Crimes of the Centuries: Notorious Crimes, Criminals, and Criminal Trials in American History [3 volumes] - Steven Chermak Ph.D. 2016-01-25

This multivolume resource is the most extensive reference of its kind, offering a comprehensive summary of

the misdeeds, perpetrators, and victims involved in the most memorable crime events in American history.

- Supports national standards curriculum
- Offers an extensive selection of primary documents to encourage critical thinking and reading practice
- Includes photos and illustrations to help bring content to life
- Features sidebars with illuminating crime facts and interesting anecdotes

From Coveralls to Zoot Suits - Elizabeth R. Escobedo 2013-03-21

During World War II, unprecedented employment avenues opened up for women and minorities in U.S. defense industries at the same time that massive population shifts and the war challenged Americans to rethink notions of race. At this extraordinary historical moment, Mexican American women found new means to exercise control over their lives in the home, workplace, and nation. In *From Coveralls to Zoot Suits*, Elizabeth R. Escobedo explores how, as war workers and volunteers, dance hostesses and zoot suiters, respectable young ladies and rebellious daughters, these young women used wartime conditions to serve the United States in its time of need and to pursue their own desires. But even after the war, as Escobedo shows, Mexican American women had to continue challenging workplace inequities and confronting family and communal resistance to their broadening public presence. Highlighting seldom heard voices of the "Greatest Generation," Escobedo examines these contradictions within Mexican families and their communities, exploring the impact of youth culture, outside employment, and family relations on the lives of women whose home-front experiences and everyday life choices would fundamentally alter the history of a generation.

Violence on the Home Front: the 1943 Los Angeles "Zoot Suit" Riots - Glenn Michael Gomes 1973

Zoot Suit Riots - Barbara J. Turner 2015-09-13

Mexican Americans & the Law - Reynaldo Anaya Valencia 2004

The experience of Mexican Americans in the United States has been marked by oppression at the hands of the legal system—but it has also benefited from successful appeals to the same system. *Mexican Americans and the Law* illustrates how Mexican Americans have played crucial roles in mounting legal challenges regarding issues that directly affect their political, educational, and socioeconomic status. Each chapter highlights historical contexts, relevant laws, and policy concerns for a specific issue and features abridged versions of significant state and federal cases involving Mexican Americans. Beginning with *People v. Zammora* (1940), the trial that was a precursor to the Zoot Suit Riots in Los Angeles during World War II, the authors lead students through some of the most important and precedent-setting cases in American law: - Educational equality: from segregation concerns in *Mendez v. Westminster* (1946) to unequal funding in *San Antonio Independent School District vs. Rodriguez* (1973) - Gender issues: reproductive rights in *Madrigal v. Quilligan* (1981), workplace discrimination in *EEOC v. Hacienda Hotel* (1989), sexual violence in *Aguirre-Cervantes v. INS* (2001) - Language rights: *_-iguez v. Arizonans for Official English* (1995), *Garc'a v. Gloor* (1980), *Serna v. Portales Municipal Schools* (1974) - Immigration: search and seizure questions in *U.S. v. Brignoni-Ponce* (1975) and *U.S. v. Martinez-Fuerte* (1976); public benefits issues in *Plyler v. Doe* (1982) and *League of United Latin American Citizens v. Wilson* (1997) - Voting rights: redistricting in *White v. Regester* (1973) and *Bush v. Vera* (1996) - Affirmative action: *Hopwood v. State of Texas* (1996) and *Coalition for Economic Equity v. Wilson* (1997) - Criminal justice issues: equal protection in *Hernandez v. Texas* (1954); jury service in *Hernandez v. New York* (1991); self incrimination in *Miranda v. Arizona* (1966); access to legal counsel in *Escobedo v. Illinois* (1964) With coverage as timely as the 2003 Supreme Court decision on affirmative action, *Mexican Americans and the Law* offers invaluable insight into legal issues that have impacted Mexican Americans, other Latinos, other racial minorities, and all Americans. Discussion questions, suggested readings, and Internet sources help students better comprehend the intricacies of law.

The Zoot-suit Riots Revisited - Ismael Dieppa 1983

Zoot Suits and Second-hand Dresses - Angela McRobbie 1988

Bringing together a range of previously published and specially commissioned articles on the expanding field of popular culture, this book examines how fashion and the body can reflect both resourcefulness and

rebellion, the youth culture of the 1980s and music from punk and beyond.

The Zoot-Suit Riots - Mauricio Mazón 2010-07-05

“The most incisive analytic study yet produced by a Chicano scholar . . . Mazón looks at the bloody incidents that erupted in Los Angeles during June, 1943.” —California History Los Angeles, the summer of 1943. For ten days in June, Anglo servicemen and civilians clashed in the streets of the city with young Mexican Americans whose fingertip coats and pegged, draped trousers announced their rebellion. At their height, the riots involved several thousand men and women, fighting with fists, rocks, sticks, and sometimes knives. In the end none were killed, few were seriously injured, and property damage was slight and yet, even today, the zoot-suit riots are remembered and hold emotional and symbolic significance for Mexican Americans and Anglos alike. The causes of the rioting were complex, as Mazón demonstrates in this illuminating analysis of their psychodynamics. Based in part on previously undisclosed FBI and military records, this engrossing study goes beyond sensational headlines and biased memories to provide an understanding of the zoot-suit riots in the context of both Mexican American and Anglo social history. “The latest scholarly work to probe the significance of the brawls that erupted in Los Angeles between uniformed servicemen and young Mexican-Americans in June, 1943 . . . Mazón’s contribution is a psychohistory of the riots in which he concludes that they were not as dangerous, or even riotous, as often portrayed.” —Los Angeles Times “In the nascent field of Chicano history psychohistorical studies are not abundant. Thus Mazón makes an immense contribution to the study of the Mexican American.” —American Historical Review

The Sleepy Lagoon Murder Case - Mark A. Weitz 2010

Recounts the story of the largest mass murder trial in California's history, in which 22 Mexican-American youths were tried and 17 were convicted for a crime to which none of the defendants were ever tied. Opens a window onto a time and place that highlights the historical prejudices of white America towards Mexican Americans.

Vampires, Dragons, and Egyptian Kings - Eric C. Schneider 2021-01-12

They called themselves "Vampires," "Dragons," and "Egyptian Kings." They were divided by race, ethnicity, and neighborhood boundaries, but united by common styles, slang, and codes of honor. They fought--and sometimes killed--to protect and expand their territories. In postwar New York, youth gangs were a colorful and controversial part of the urban landscape, made famous by West Side Story and infamous by the media. This is the first historical study to explore fully the culture of these gangs. Eric Schneider takes us into a world of switchblades and slums, zoot suits and bebop music to explain why youth gangs emerged, how they evolved, and why young men found membership and the violence it involved so attractive. Schneider begins by describing how postwar urban renewal, slum clearances, and ethnic migration pitted African-American, Puerto Rican, and Euro-American youths against each other in battles to dominate changing neighborhoods. But he argues that young men ultimately joined gangs less because of ethnicity than because membership and gang violence offered rare opportunities for adolescents alienated from school, work, or the family to win prestige, power, adulation from girls, and a masculine identity. In the course of the book, Schneider paints a rich and detailed portrait of everyday life in gangs, drawing on personal interviews with former members to re-create for us their language, music, clothing, and social mores. We learn what it meant to be a "down bopper" or a "jive stud," to "fish" with a beautiful "deb" to the sounds of the Jesters, and to wear gang sweaters, wildly colored zoot suits, or the "Ivy League look." He outlines the unwritten rules of gang behavior, the paths members followed to adulthood, and the effects of gang intervention programs, while also providing detailed analyses of such notorious gang-related crimes as the murders committed by the "Capeman," Salvador Agron. Schneider focuses on the years from 1940 to 1975, but takes us up to the present in his conclusion, showing how youth gangs are no longer social organizations but economic units tied to the underground economy. Written with a profound understanding of adolescent culture and the street life of New York, this is a powerful work of history and a compelling story for a general audience.

Murder at the Sleepy Lagoon - Eduardo Obregón Pagán 2004-07-21

The notorious 1942 "Sleepy Lagoon" murder trial in Los Angeles concluded with the conviction of seventeen young Mexican American men for the alleged gang slaying of fellow youth Jose Diaz. Just five months later,

the so-called Zoot Suit Riot erupted, as white soldiers in the city attacked minority youths and burned their distinctive zoot suits. Eduardo Obregon Pagan here provides the first comprehensive social history of both the trial and the riot and argues that they resulted from a volatile mix of racial and social tensions that had long been simmering. In reconstructing the lives of the murder victim and those accused of the crime, Pagan contends that neither the convictions (which were based on little hard evidence) nor the ensuing riot arose simply from anti-Mexican sentiment. He demonstrates instead that a variety of pre-existing stresses, including demographic pressures, anxiety about nascent youth culture, and the war effort all contributed to the social tension and the eruption of violence. Moreover, he recovers a multidimensional picture of Los Angeles during World War II that incorporates the complex intersections of music, fashion, violence, race relations, and neighborhood activism. Drawing upon overlooked evidence, Pagan concludes by reconstructing the murder scene and proposes a compelling theory about what really happened the night of the murder.

Gangland: An Encyclopedia of Gang Life from Cradle to Grave [2 volumes] - Laura L. Finley 2018-10-31

This two-volume set integrates informative encyclopedia entries and essential primary documents to provide an illuminating overview of trends in gang membership and activity in America in the 21st century.

- Comprises approximately 200 encyclopedia entries on gangs in the United States
- Illustrates entries through 16 primary documents
- Provides a chronology to help readers to contextualize developments related to gang activity
- Includes a Guide to Related Topics to facilitate tangential discovery
- Defines terms essential to understanding the subject matter of the text in a glossary

The Power of the Zoot - Luis Alvarez 2009-09-22

“Luis Alvarez has quite simply crafted a magnificent first book—one that tells a national story from African American and Mexican American youth in New York and Los Angeles to Nisei, Filipino, and Euro-American zooters and the wartime race-based violence that erupted in Detroit, Beaumont, and Mobile.”—Vicki L. Ruiz, author of *From Out of the Shadows: Mexican Women in Twentieth-Century America* "Alvarez has broken new ground, with implications for our understanding of minority youth cultures of the past and today."—Edward J. Escobar, author of *Race, Police, and the Making of a Political Identity: Mexican Americans and the Los Angeles Police Department, 1900-1945*

Jazz Owls - Margarita Engle 2018-05-08

From the Young People’s Poet Laureate Margarita Engle comes a searing novel in verse about the Zoot Suit Riots of 1943. Thousands of young Navy sailors are pouring into Los Angeles on their way to the front lines of World War II. They are teenagers, scared, longing to feel alive before they have to face the horrors of battle. Hot jazz music spiced with cool salsa rhythms calls them to dance with the local Mexican American girls, who jitterbug all night before working all day in the canneries. Proud to do their part for the war effort, these Jazz Owl girls are happy to dance with the sailors—until the blazing summer night when racial violence leads to murder. Suddenly the young white sailors are attacking these girls’ brothers and boyfriends. The cool, loose zoot suits they wear are supposedly the reason for the violence—when in reality these boys are viciously beaten and arrested simply because of the color of their skin. In soaring images and powerful poems, this is the breathtaking story of what became known as the Zoot Suit Riots as only Margarita Engle could tell it.

Race, Police, and the Making of a Political Identity - Edward J. Escobar 1999-09-01

In June 1943, the city of Los Angeles was wrenched apart by the worst rioting it had seen to that point in the twentieth century. Incited by sensational newspaper stories and the growing public hysteria over allegations of widespread Mexican American juvenile crime, scores of American servicemen, joined by civilians and even police officers, roamed the streets of the city in search of young Mexican American men and boys wearing a distinctive style of dress called a Zoot Suit. Once found, the Zoot Suiters were stripped of their clothes, beaten, and left in the street. Over 600 Mexican American youths were arrested. The riots threw a harsh light upon the deteriorating relationship between the Los Angeles Mexican American community and the Los Angeles Police Department in the 1940s. In this study, Edward J. Escobar examines the history of the relationship between the Los Angeles Police Department and the Mexican American community from the turn of the century to the era of the Zoot Suit Riots. Escobar shows the changes in the

way police viewed Mexican Americans, increasingly characterizing them as a criminal element, and the corresponding assumption on the part of Mexican Americans that the police were a threat to their community. The broader implications of this relationship are, as Escobar demonstrates, the significance of the role of the police in suppressing labor unrest, the growing connection between ideas about race and criminality, changing public perceptions about Mexican Americans, and the rise of Mexican American political activism.

The First Civil Right - Naomi Murakawa 2014-07-10

The explosive rise in the U.S. incarceration rate in the second half of the twentieth century, and the racial transformation of the prison population from mostly white at mid-century to sixty-five percent black and Latino in the present day, is a trend that cannot easily be ignored. Many believe that this shift began with the "tough on crime" policies advocated by Republicans and southern Democrats beginning in the late 1960s, which sought longer prison sentences, more frequent use of the death penalty, and the explicit or implicit targeting of politically marginalized people. In *The First Civil Right*, Naomi Murakawa inverts the conventional wisdom by arguing that the expansion of the federal carceral state—a system that disproportionately imprisons blacks and Latinos—was, in fact, rooted in the civil-rights liberalism of the 1940s and early 1960s, not in the period after. Murakawa traces the development of the modern American prison system through several presidencies, both Republican and Democrat. Responding to calls to end the lawlessness and violence against blacks at the state and local levels, the Truman administration expanded the scope of what was previously a weak federal system. Later administrations from Johnson to Clinton expanded the federal presence even more. Ironically, these steps laid the groundwork for the creation of the vast penal archipelago that now exists in the United States. What began as a liberal initiative to curb the mob violence and police brutality that had deprived racial minorities of their 'first civil right—physical safety—eventually evolved into the federal correctional system that now deprives them, in unjustly large numbers, of another important right: freedom. *The First Civil Right* is a groundbreaking analysis of root of the conflicts that lie at the intersection of race and the legal system in America.

From Coveralls to Zoot Suits - Elizabeth Rachel Escobedo 2013

From Coveralls to Zoot Suits: The Lives of Mexican American Women on the World War II Home Front

The Woman in the Zoot Suit - Catherine S. Ramírez 2009-01-16

Recovers the neglected history of young Mexican American women zoot-suiters in wartime Los Angeles and explains their absence from Chicano movement narratives.

Mexican Americans and World War II - Maggie Rivas-Rodriguez 2005-04-01

A valuable book and the first significant scholarship on Mexican Americans in World War II. Up to 750,000 Mexican American men served in World War II, earning more Medals of Honor and other decorations in proportion to their numbers than any other ethnic group.

World War II and Mexican American Civil Rights - Richard Griswold del Castillo 2010-01-01

This historical study examines how Mexican American experiences during WWII galvanized the community's struggle for civil rights. World War II marked a turning point for Mexican Americans that fundamentally changed their relationship to US society at large. The experiences of fighting alongside white Americans in the military, as well as working in factory jobs for wages equal to those of Anglo workers, made Mexican Americans less willing to tolerate the second-class citizenship that had been their lot before the war. Having proven their loyalty and "Americanness" during World War II, Mexican Americans began to demand the civil rights they deserved. In this book, Richard Griswold del Castillo and Richard Steele investigate how the wartime experiences of Mexican Americans helped forge their civil rights consciousness and how the US government responded. The authors demonstrate, for example, that the US government "discovered" Mexican Americans during World War II and began addressing some of their problems as a way of ensuring their willingness to support the war effort. The book concludes with a selection of key essays and historical documents from the World War II period that provide a first-person perspective of Mexican American civil rights struggles.

Race, Police, and the Making of a Political Identity - Edward J. Escobar 1999-09

This book offers a fascinating examination of the historically volatile relationship between the Mexican American community and the Los Angeles Police Department. Within the vibrant backdrop of Los Angeles,

Escobar probes and interprets the roots of cultural misperception and social paranoia which culminated in the infamous Zoot Suit Riots.

Zoot Suit - Kathy Peiss 2011-05-23

ZOOT SUIT (n.): the ultimate in clothes. The only totally and truly American civilian suit. —Cab Calloway, *The Hepster's Dictionary*, 1944 Before the fashion statements of hippies, punks, or hip-hop, there was the zoot suit, a striking urban look of the World War II era that captivated the imagination. Created by poor African American men and obscure tailors, the "drape shape" was embraced by Mexican American pachucos, working-class youth, entertainers, and swing dancers, yet condemned by the U.S. government as wasteful and unpatriotic in a time of war. The fashion became notorious when it appeared to trigger violence and disorder in Los Angeles in 1943—events forever known as the "zoot suit riot." In its wake, social scientists, psychiatrists, journalists, and politicians all tried to explain the riddle of the zoot suit, transforming it into a multifaceted symbol: to some, a sign of social deviance and psychological disturbance, to others, a gesture of resistance against racial prejudice and discrimination. As controversy swirled at home, young men in other places—French zazous, South African tsotsi, Trinidadian saga boys, and Russian stiliagi—made the American zoot suit their own. In *Zoot Suit*, historian Kathy Peiss explores this extreme fashion and its mysterious career during World War II and after, as it spread from Harlem across the United States and around the world. She traces the unfolding history of this style and its importance to the youth who adopted it as their uniform, and at the same time considers the way public figures, experts, political activists, and historians have interpreted it. This outré style was a turning point in the way we understand the meaning of clothing as an expression of social conditions and power relations. *Zoot Suit* offers a new perspective on youth culture and the politics of style, tracing the seam between fashion and social action.

The Woman in the Zoot Suit - Catherine S. Ramírez 2010-07-01

The Mexican American woman zoot suiter, or pachuca, often wore a V-neck sweater or a long, broad-shouldered coat, a knee-length pleated skirt, fishnet stockings or bobby socks, platform heels or saddle shoes, dark lipstick, and a bouffant. Or she donned the same style of zoot suit that her male counterparts wore. With their striking attire, pachucos and pachucas represented a new generation of Mexican American youth, which arrived on the public scene in the 1940s. Yet while pachucos have often been the subject of literature, visual art, and scholarship, *The Woman in the Zoot Suit* is the first book focused on pachucas. Two events in wartime Los Angeles thrust young Mexican American zoot suiters into the media spotlight. In the Sleepy Lagoon incident, a man was murdered during a mass brawl in August 1942. Twenty-two young men, all but one of Mexican descent, were tried and convicted of the crime. In the Zoot Suit Riots of June 1943, white servicemen attacked young zoot suiters, particularly Mexican Americans, throughout Los Angeles. The Chicano movement of the 1960s–1980s cast these events as key moments in the political awakening of Mexican Americans and pachucos as exemplars of Chicano identity, resistance, and style. While pachucas and other Mexican American women figured in the two incidents, they were barely acknowledged in later Chicano movement narratives. Catherine S. Ramírez draws on interviews she conducted with Mexican American women who came of age in Los Angeles in the late 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s as she recovers the neglected stories of pachucas. Investigating their relative absence in scholarly and artistic works, she argues that both wartime U.S. culture and the Chicano movement rejected pachucas because they threatened traditional gender roles. Ramírez reveals how pachucas challenged dominant notions of Mexican American and Chicano identity, how feminists have reinterpreted la pachuca, and how attention to an overlooked figure can disclose much about history making, nationalism, and resistant identities.

Lizard in a Zoot Suit - Marco Finnegan 2020-08-04

Los Angeles, 1943. It's the era of the Zoot Suit Riots, and Flaca and Cuata have a problem. It's bigger than being grounded by their strict mother. It's bigger than tensions with the soldiers stationed nearby. And it's shaped like a five-foot-tall lizard. When a lost member of an unknown underground species needs help, the sisters must scramble to keep their new friend away from a corrupt military scientist—but they'll do it in style. Cartoonist Marco Finnegan presents *Lizard in a Zoot Suit*, an outrageous, historical, sci-fi graphic novel.

Zoot Suit Riots - Roger Bruns 2014-02-28

The Zoot Suit Riots in 1943 and the infamous Sleepy Lagoon murder trial of the preceding year represent a turning point in the cultural identity and historical experience of Mexican Americans in the United States. This engaging study of these regrettable events provides context for understanding the continuing battles in the 21st century over immigration policy and race relations. Although the "zoot suit" had earlier been a black youth fashion trend identified with jazz culture, by the 1940s, the zoot suit was adopted by Mexican American teenagers in wartime Los Angeles, who wore it as their unofficial "uniform" as an act of rebellion and to establish their cultural identity. For a week in June of 1943, the Zoot Suit Riots, instigated by Anglo-American servicemen and condoned by the Los Angeles police, terrorized the Mexican American community. The events were an ugly testament to the climate of racial tension and resentment in Los Angeles—and after similar riots began across the nation, it became apparent how endemic the problem was. This book traces these important historic events and their subsequent cultural and political influences on the Mexican American experience, especially the activist and reform efforts designed to prevent similar future injustices. General readers will gain an understanding of the challenges facing the Mexican American community in wartime Los Angeles, grasp the racial and cultural resistance of the larger Anglo-American society of the time, and see how the blatant injustices of the Sleepy Lagoon trial and the Zoot Suit Riots served to galvanize Latinos and others to fight back. Those conducting in-depth research will appreciate having access to original materials sourced from Federal and state archives as well as newspapers and other repositories of information provided in the book. • Connects the racially and socioeconomically motivated events of the World War II-era 1940s to the Chicano movement of the 1970s and the current battles over immigration legislation, allowing readers to see the recurring theme in American history • Exposes the distortions of a yellow journalistic press in its coverage and treatment of the Sleepy Lagoon trial and Zoot Suit Riots, providing documentation of how white America's perception of Mexican Americans has been fashioned over many years by the mainstream media • Documents how the zoot-suit and Pachuco cultures of Mexican American youths of the 1940s—an expression of their identity and an attempt to establish their place in the larger American culture—were a key reason behind the

violent culture clashes • Includes previously unpublished primary documents from the National Archives and Records Administration and the Franklin Roosevelt Library

Stylin' - Shane White 2018-10-18

For over two centuries, in the North as well as the South, both within their own community and in the public arena, African Americans have presented their bodies in culturally distinctive ways. Shane White and Graham White consider the deeper significance of the ways in which African Americans have dressed, walked, danced, arranged their hair, and communicated in silent gestures. They ask what elaborate hair styles, bright colors, bandanas, long watch chains, and zoot suits, for example, have really meant, and discuss style itself as an expression of deep-seated cultural imperatives. Their wide-ranging exploration of black style from its African origins to the 1940s reveals a culture that differed from that of the dominant racial group in ways that were often subtle and elusive. A wealth of black-and-white illustrations show the range of African American experience in America, emanating from all parts of the country, from cities and farms, from slave plantations, and Chicago beauty contests. White and White argue that the politics of black style is, in fact, the politics of metaphor, always ambiguous because it is always indirect. To tease out these ambiguities, they examine extensive sources, including advertisements for runaway slaves, interviews recorded with surviving ex-slaves in the 1930s, autobiographies, travelers' accounts, photographs, paintings, prints, newspapers, and images drawn from popular culture, such as the stereotypes of Jim Crow and Zip Coon.

Roots of Justice - Larry R. Salomon 1998

Some of the nearly forgotten histories of communities of color. Read about people who fought back against exploitation and injustice -- and won. From the Zoot Suiters to the welfare rights movement, *Roots of Justice* shows how, through organizing, ordinary people have made extraordinary contributions to change society.

Embattled Dreams - Kevin Starr 2003-09-11

This volume deals with the years of World War II and after. In the 1940s California changed from a regional centre into the dominant economic, social and cultural force it has been in America ever since.