Racism and the Latino Identity

1910-1970

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Abstract

◊ The 1900s saw the beginning of a surge of immigration from Mexico and other Latin-American countries

◊ There has been a great deal of discrimination against Latinos

◊ The Latino identity had changed due to this discrimination

◊ This study uses peer reviewed journals to examine how Latinos have used racism against those who perpetrated it, and how this racism has changed the Latino identity
Latino Presence in the United States

- Mexican Revolution
  - 1 million immigrants
- Bracero Program
  - 4.5-5 million immigrants
- Overall:
  - Close to 6 million by 1975

(Bosch, 2013)
World War II

- No recognition at home for their services
  - 500,000 Mexican American soldiers (~16.5 million total)
  - More Medals of Honor than any other minority
- GI Bill 1944
- Denied Hospital admittance, checks delayed
- Hector Garcia
  - American GI Forum

(Rosales, 2011; Bosch, 2013)
Bracero Program

- The US brings in 4.6 million legal immigrants
- Low wages, bad working conditions
- Un-unionized and undocumented
  - Endless supply of replacements for workers who would complain
  - Constant influx of labor
- Continued after the war for over a decade (1942-1964)

(Dominiguez, 2015)
(Blanton, 2009; Bosch, 2013)

(Martin, 2001)
Evolution of Identity

Pre-WWII
- Immigrants & first generation
  - Saw American life as temporary
  - They’d go back home
  - Accepted low wages, bad conditions

Post-Chavez
- Citizens & 2nd generation
  - America was ‘home’
  - Racism made them resilient
  - Made lives in America
  - Fought for freedom and rights

(Blanton, 2009; López, 2011; Rosales, 2011)
Conclusion

- Latinos immigrate to the US, 1910-1970
- Latinos encounter racism, as immigrants and as soldiers
- World War II brings them no recognition
- The Bracero Program drives down wages
- Latinos begin to identify as citizens, rather than immigrants
El Fin
Questions?
Works Cited


