



# **Forgotten Dead: Mob Violence Against Mexicans in the United States, 1848-1928**

*William D. Carrigan , Clive Webb*

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Mob violence in the United States is usually associated with the southern lynch mobs who terrorized African Americans during the Jim Crow era. In *Forgotten Dead*, William D. Carrigan and Clive Webb uncover a comparatively neglected chapter in the story of American racial violence, the lynching of persons of Mexican origin or descent. Over eight decades lynch mobs murdered hundreds of Mexicans, mostly in the American Southwest. Racial prejudice, a lack of respect for local courts, and economic competition all fueled the actions of the mob. Sometimes ordinary citizens committed these acts because of the alleged failure of the criminal justice system; other times the culprits were law enforcement officers themselves. Violence also occurred against the backdrop of continuing tensions along the border between the United States and Mexico aggravated by criminal raids, military escalation, and political revolution.

Based on Spanish and English archival documents from both sides of the border, *Forgotten Dead* explores through detailed case studies the characteristics and causes of mob violence against Mexicans across time and place. It also relates the numerous acts of resistance by Mexicans, including armed self-defense, crusading journalism, and lobbying by diplomats who pressured the United States to honor its rhetorical commitment to democracy. Finally, it contains the first-ever inventory of Mexican victims of mob violence in the United States.

Carrigan and Webb assess how Mexican lynching victims came in the minds of many Americans to be the "forgotten dead" and provide a timely account of Latinos' historical struggle for recognition of civil and human rights.

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### **Details**

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# **From Reader Review Forgotten Dead: Mob Violence Against Mexicans in the United States, 1848-1928 for online ebook**

## **José Angel Hernandez says**

After reading this book, I wrote the following to the authors: 'I could not help but think of James Baldwin's review of "Uncle Tom's Cabin." I am not suggesting I am Baldwin, much less that this book is "Uncle Tom's Cabin," but it did recall the following quote: "Sentimentality, the ostentatious parading of excessive and spurious emotion, is the mark of dishonesty...the wet eyes of the sentimentalist betray his aversion to experience, his fear of life, his arid heart; and it is always, therefore, the signal of secret and violent humanity, the mark of cruelty."'

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## **John Bond says**

Well written. Well researched. Great information on an oft-forgotten part of US history

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## **Charles Heath says**

As many as 4,000-5,000 ethnic Mexicans may have been lynched in the US from 1850-1930. Carrigan and Webb's elegant work recovers this "forgotten" history. Their own database documents 500 of these by name, place, alleged crime, size and makeup of mob, and primary source. Without criticizing the work of the NAACP and Tuskegee lynching databases, the author's do point out that the prodigious (and important) work done on the lynching of African Americans perpetuates the assumptions that lynching was predominantly a regional and racially specific phenomenon. Their research demonstrates such a reading marginalizes the victimization of other racial minorities outside of the Deep South.

This is the fourth or fifth book I have read on the subject of racial violence against Mexicans and Mexican Americans, each more eloquent and moving than before. These books should be further addressed in higher education, in public education until the Porvenir Massacre is as well-known as the Tulsa Riots, until the name Rafael Benavides is as well known as Emmitt Till.

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