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SOC147NOS

22 February, 2023

## The Latino Americans

The documentary *The Latino Americans* was exciting and insightful. It brought a clearer perspective on why states like California and Texas have cities that are named in Spanish. I learned about the Mexican and American wars in high school. However, I only remember some things about how the documentary was presented. Many incidents led the United States to be where it is today, as much as the American people are proud of their land. As an immigrant, there's nothing to be proud of because this land was built on foreigners' backs. They were ostracized, mistreated, and treated as foreigners when they were the landowners and civilians living and nurturing the land.

Another thing I learned was the power of the catholic church. They had missions come into the ground to expand their territory. With that same idea of expansion in mind, Americans came to force the Mexican people out of their land.

The documentary shed light on how New Mexico was acquired forcefully. It is sad to see how a group of people worked so hard to create their own culture, society, and way of life just for foreigners to come in and kick them out of their land. It is sickening. They were tricked into thinking they were American citizens under the Guadalupe Hidalgo treaty. However, they saw

America's true colors during the gold rush era. The Mexicans owned an enormous amount of land, accumulating much wealth.

San Sanguin was a significant character in the documentary. He was a general arrested by American settlers and spent two months in prison. By the time he returned, his land was confiscated, and he was never reinstated to power as general. He was forced to move because there was no life for him here. Furthermore, they were introduced to the railroad, which led to confiscation of their land. Although some resistance arose, more was needed to stop the Americans from doing what they wanted to do in the first place. The fall of Mexican society in the United States resulted from their lack of resources. They didn't have enough people to bring resistance to the Americans.

A group arose who wanted to do what was suitable for their people. They were called the Las Gorras Blancas. They were considered activists who tried to stop the confiscation of lands. As a result, they formed a group of 1,110 men who would cut the fences used to put an encroachment on the grounds of Mexicans. They were also armed. Though they tried their best, more individuals were needed. The Mexicans lost most of their lands anyways. Unfortunately, some were arrested in the end, and their missions to protect their people ended. To this day, many Mexican families can attest that their families had plenty of lands that they're unaware of what happened to them. Once again, we see in American history that America deceived another group of people.

This story reminded me of the Haitian revolution. France oppressed the Haitian people for so long that they had to rise for themselves and kick them out of their land. That's what the Americans did to the Mexicans. They came into their land and kicked them out. They treated them as foreigners in their land. The Mexican revolution would have been successful if they had

enough human resources to bring resistance to the American people that oppressed them and forced them out of their land.