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Introduction and Table of Contents

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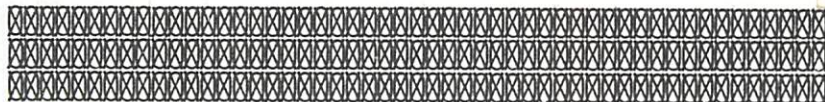
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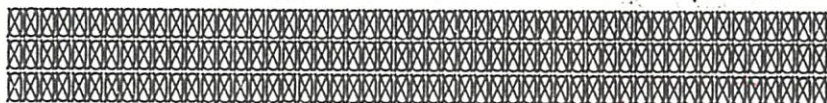
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THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR CHICANO STUDIES

Selected Papers 1979

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INTRODUCTION

by The Editors

¶ The articles in this volume are examples of work currently being done by Chicano scholars associated with the National Association for Chicano Studies. Most of these writers are relatively young, and form part of the first real "generation" of Chicano scholars. Until very recently the outstanding Chicano researchers - Galarza, Paredes, Samora, Romano and a very few others - were talented individuals who often found themselves working in isolation because of the systematic exclusion of Chicanos from higher education. During the late 1960's and early 1970's, however, Chicanos reached enough of a "critical mass" in universities to begin thinking of forming a national association devoted to encouraging and disseminating research on the Chicano experience. The result was the National Association for Chicano Studies (NACS), formed in 1973 at a conference in Las Vegas, New Mexico.

The Association is now in its eighth year, and has sponsored annual conferences in such diverse locations as Austin, El Paso, Colorado Springs, Berkeley, Claremont, Irvine and Houston. The Association is organized around local chapters, called "focos," in a number of cities of the Southwest and Midwest. One earlier volume of articles has been published by the Association, in 1975; it is entitled *Perspectivas En Chicano Studies* and was edited by Reynaldo Macias.

The following articles reflect a variety of traditional disciplines, such as sociology, history, political science and literature. The intent of the Association, however, is to learn from each other's approaches and thus in time transcend the limitations which are imposed on our work by the fragmented nature of scholarship in the United States. Moreover, the Association has been guided since its inception by the desire to promote new concepts and theories which critically analyze the discriminatory and oppressive impact which the dominant institutions have had on the Chicano community. It is our hope that the present volume will contribute in at least a modest way to these objectives.

Spring 1980

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