



**SPAN322:
“North of the Río Grande”
US Latino/Chicano
Literature**

The Squatter and the Don Ia
January 14, 2020

CHICANOS IN THE USA



Spanish America c. 1794

- Much of this is wishful thinking, and relies on a more modern conception of territory and territorial possession.
- But there was certainly Spanish colonial presence in much of North America and what is now the United States.
- Spanish exploration stretched from Florida in the Southeast to California in the West, and sporadically even as far north as what is now British Columbia and Vancouver Island.

- The Hispanic presence in what is now the United States precedes that of the Anglo presence by more than a century. (Spanish Florida was established in 1513)
- This presence is reflected in numerous placenames: Florida, California, Colorado, Texas... Even in British Columbia, the Spanish expeditions of 1774 to 1794 have left us Quadra, Galiano, Cortez, Tofino, Port Alberni (and Alberni Street), the Juan de Fuca Strait, Spanish Banks, Cardero and Haro Streets, Langara College...
- But the longest and most consistent Hispanic influence in what is now the USA is in the Southwest, where there are populations (perhaps 10% of US Chicanos) who could say "I didn't cross the border, the border crossed me."

Spanish California

- In California, for instance, Spain established permanent settlements up the coast as far north as what is now San Francisco and the Bay Area.
- Each mission was the center of an ecosystem; a node of power and authority and part of a longer chain.



Mexico in 1824

- Newly independent, Mexico inherited the territorial claims of what has previously been “New Spain,” including much of what is now the US Southwest.



The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo

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- The Gadsden Purchase of 1854 added an additional 76,800 km² of what is now Arizona and New Mexico



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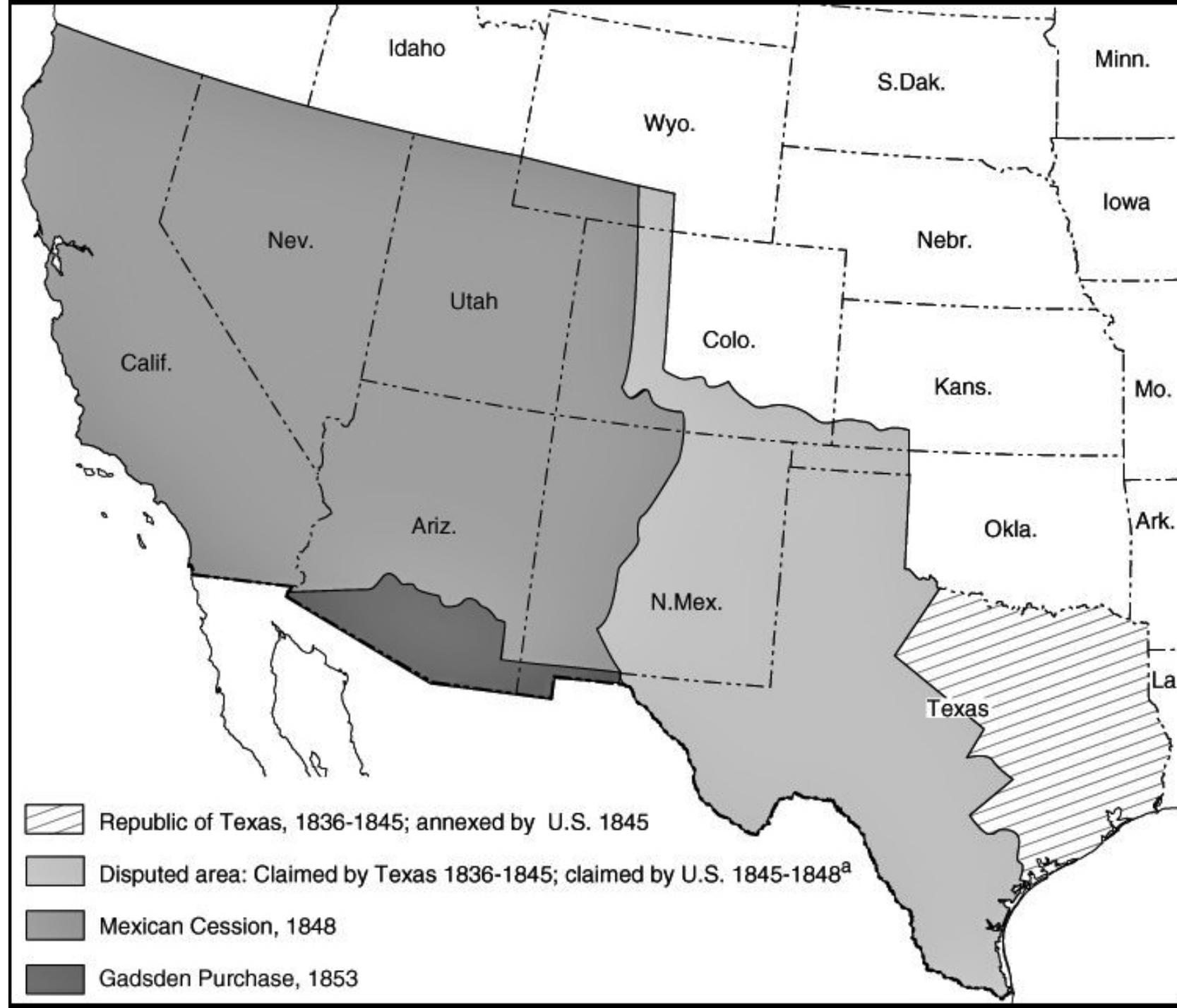
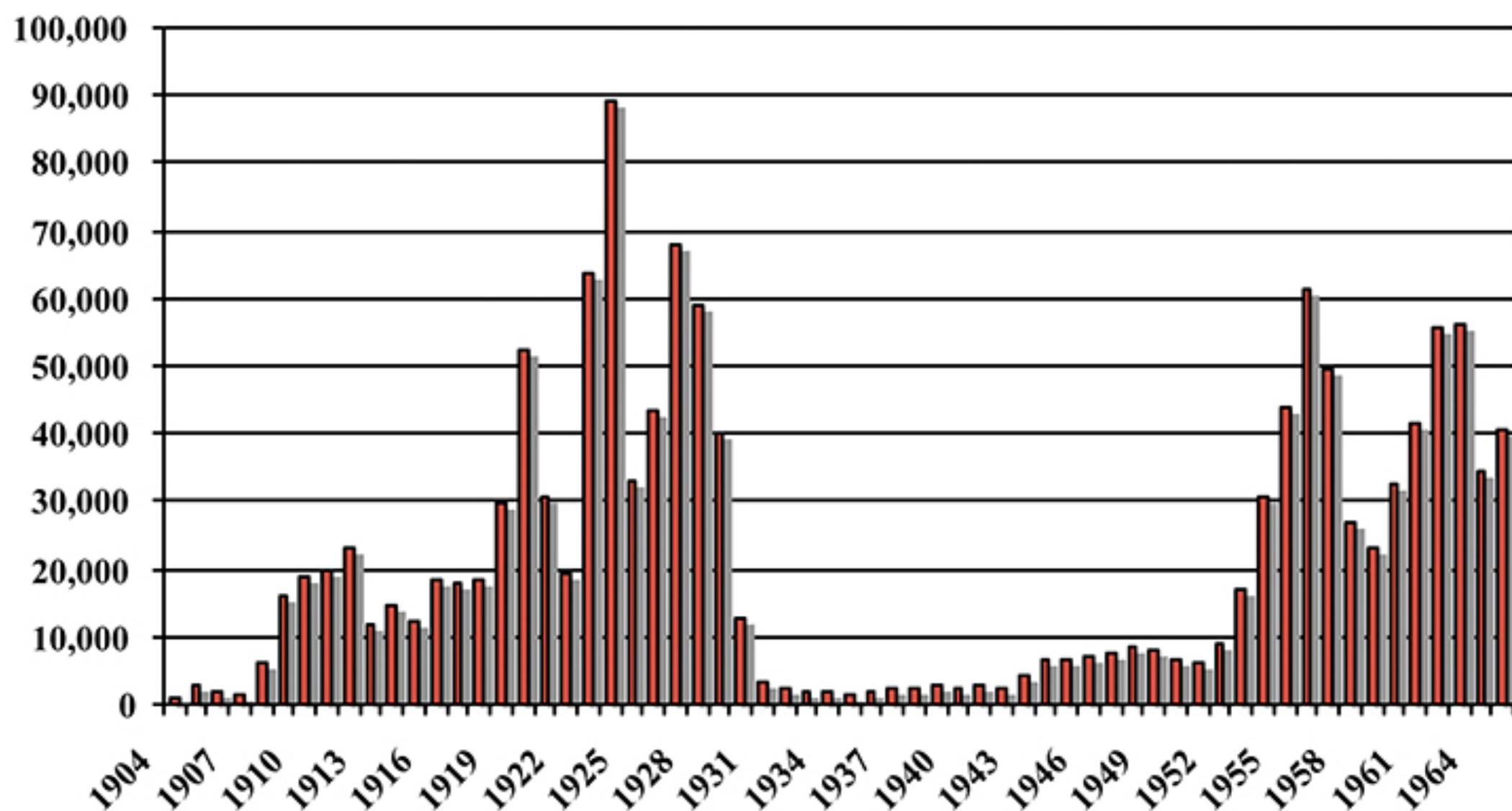


Table I. Mexican Immigrants to the United States, 1904–1967

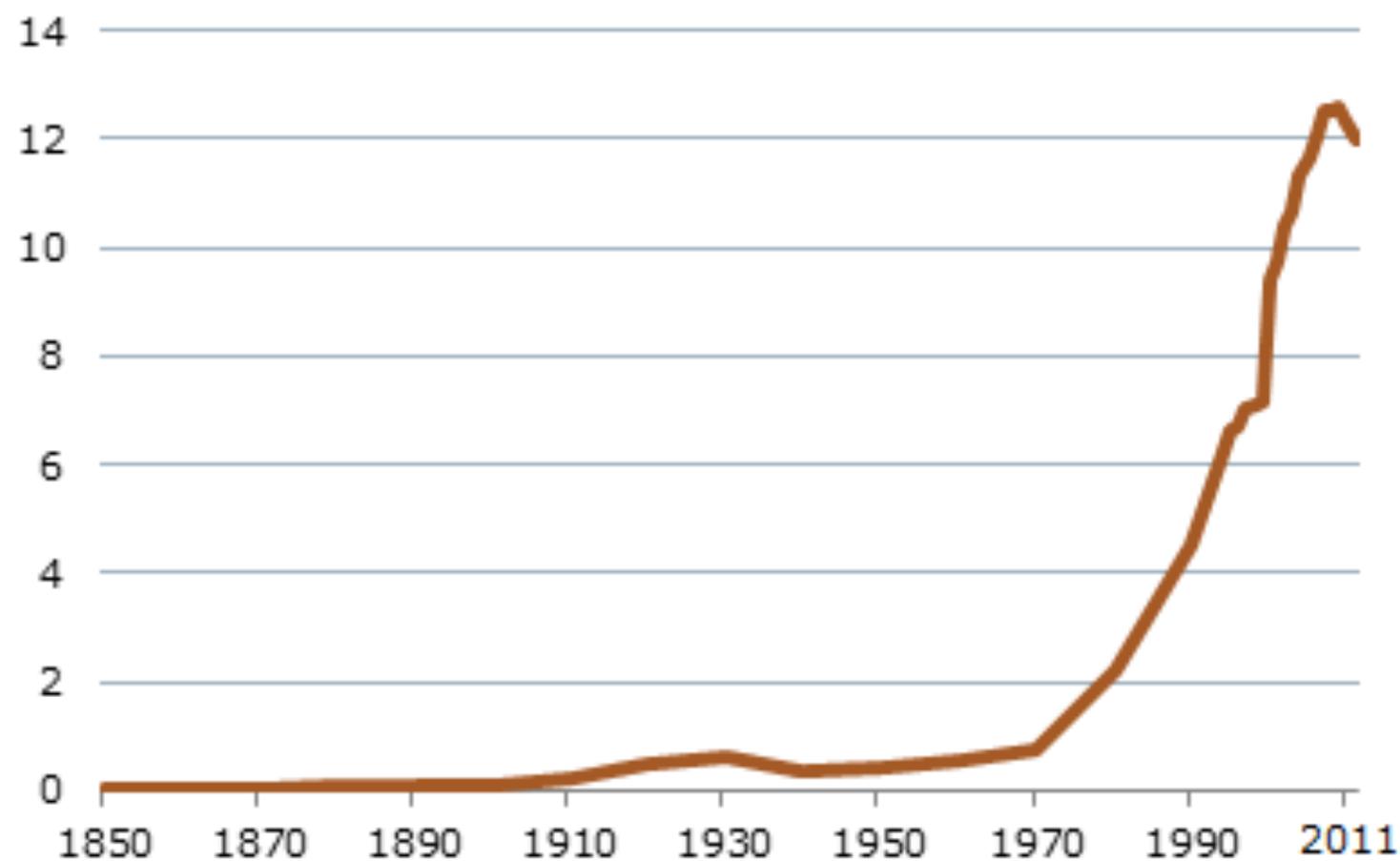


Source: *Historical Statistics of the United States*, 2006.

Figure 1.1

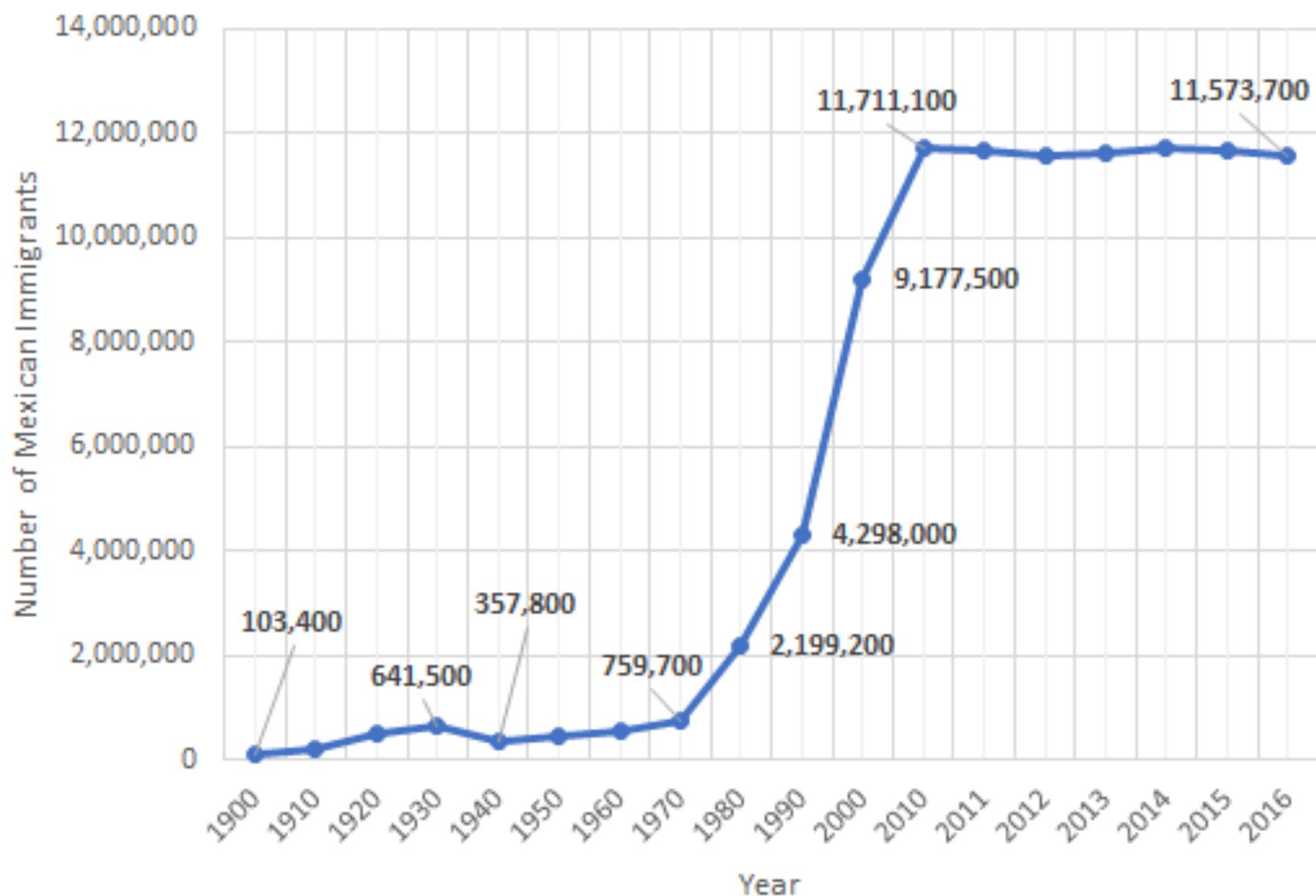
Mexican-Born Population in the U.S., 1850-2011

(in millions)



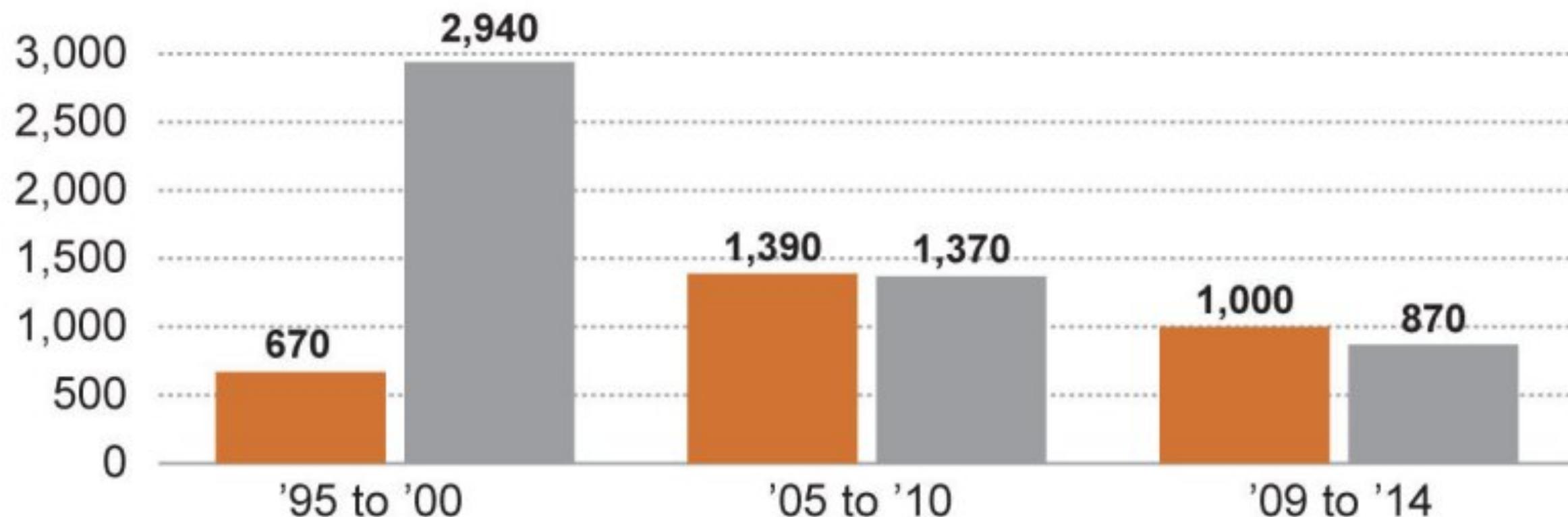
Source: 1850-1930, 1960-1980: Gibson and Jung (2006); 1940-1950, U.S. Census Bureau (1975), Series C228-295, white foreign-born; 1990-2011: Pew Hispanic Center estimates from augmented March Current Population Surveys and Decennial Censuses adjusted for undercount

Number of Mexican Immigrants in the United States 1900- 2016



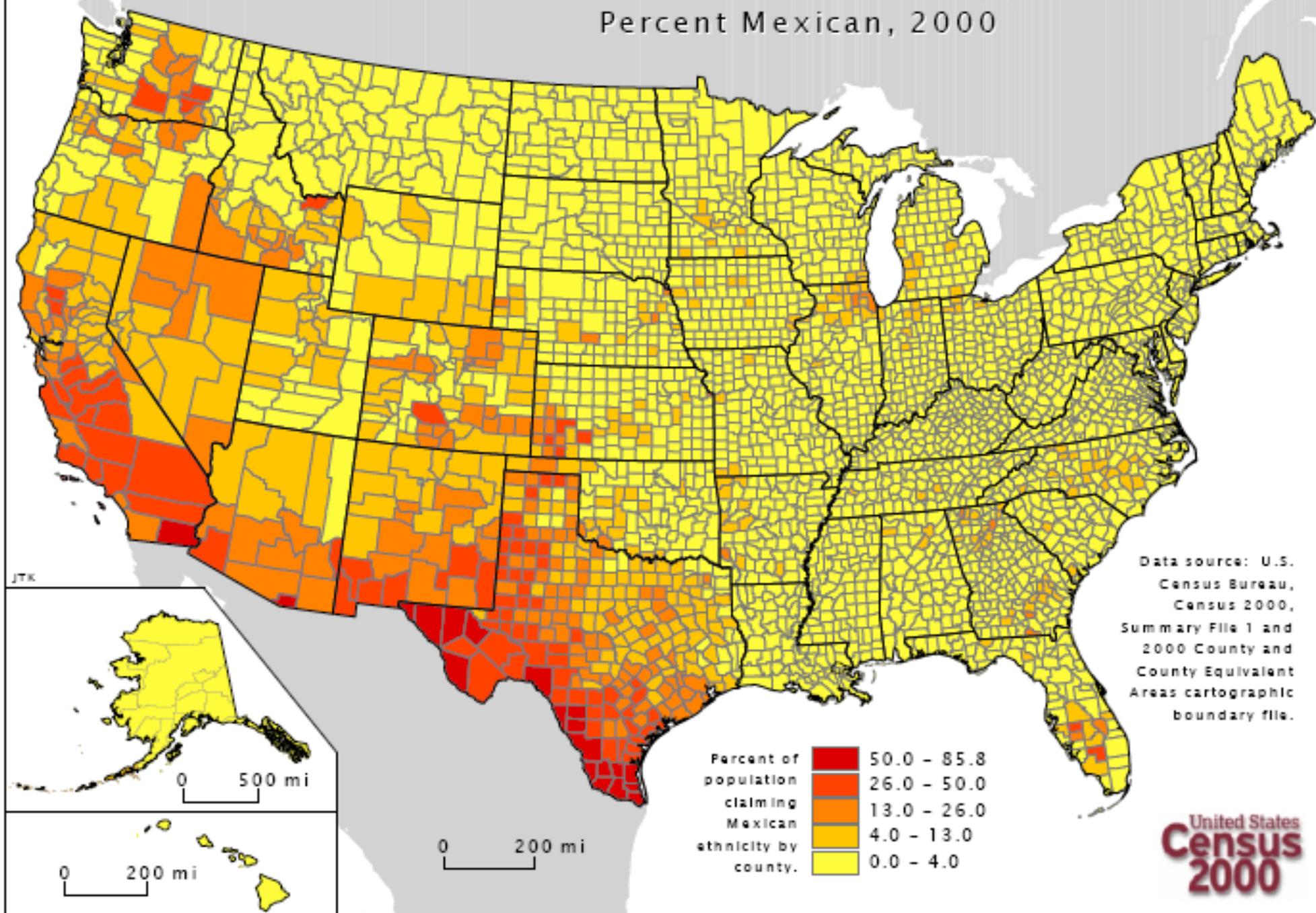
Net migration from Mexico (In thousands)

■ U.S. to Mexico ■ Mexico to U.S.



Note: Estimates are for February 1995 through February 2000, June 2005 through June 2010, and August 2009 through August 2014. Migration from the U.S. to Mexico includes people born in Mexico, the U.S. and elsewhere; Mexico to U.S. includes Mexican-born people only.

Percent Mexican, 2000

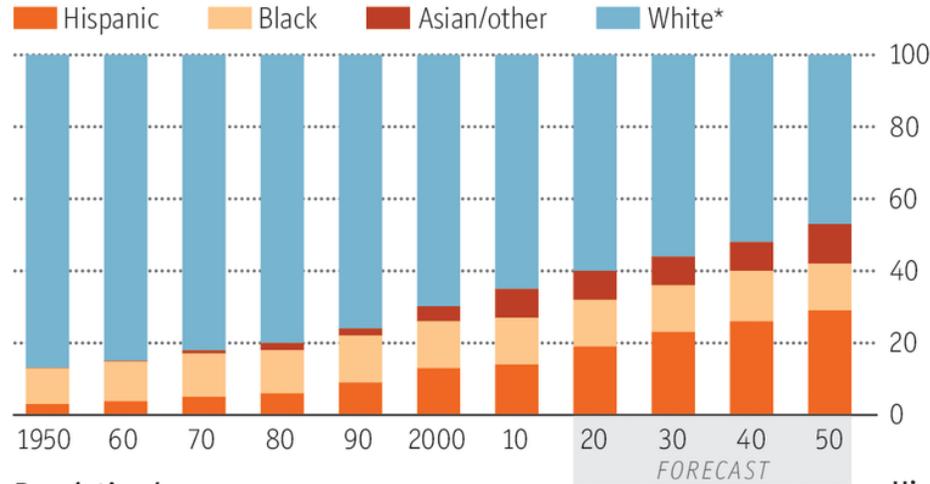


Data source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, Summary File 1 and 2000 County and County Equivalent Areas cartographic boundary file.

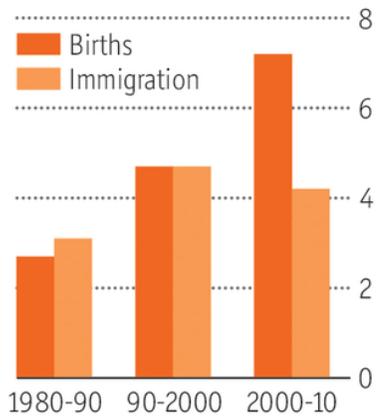
United States
**Census
2000**

- The 37 million Mexican-Americans (or Chicanos) are the largest Latino population in the USA: over 60% of the total. They constitute c. 11% of the US population, and this proportion is growing.
- Chicanos have lived in what is now US territory since the colonial era, or even before: the story of Aztlán locates the origin of the Aztec peoples in what is now the Southwest USA.
- Numbers have grown historically through immigration, driven mostly by economic factors, though this has varied over time and has recently tapered off (Net Mexico to US migration is currently negative). But relative numbers continue to increase because of high birthrate. This is a young population, vital to the US economy.
- Though concentrated in the Southwest, there are also Mexican-Americans in major cities across the USA: Houston, Chicago, New York, Atlanta, etc.
- But the East Coast is also home to many other Latino communities, while increasingly those crossing the US / Mexico border come from elsewhere, especially Central America.

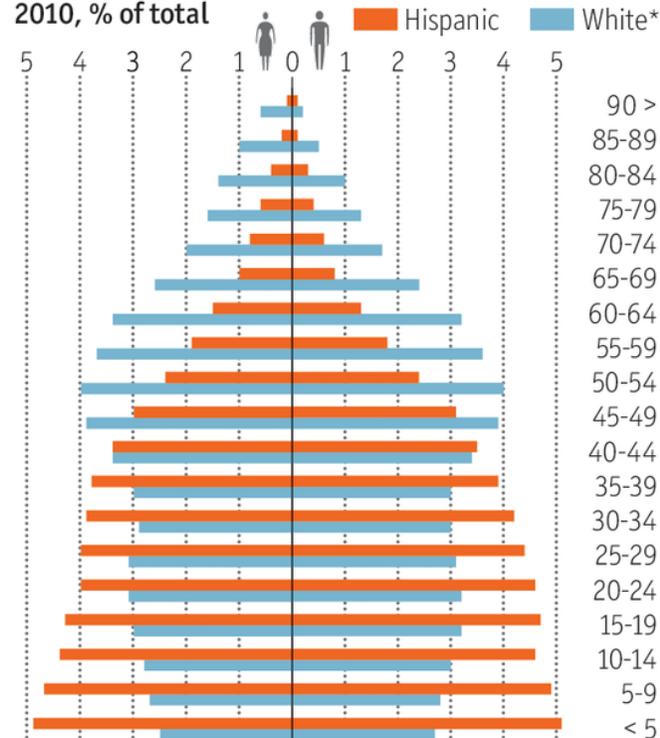
America's racial/ethnic composition, %



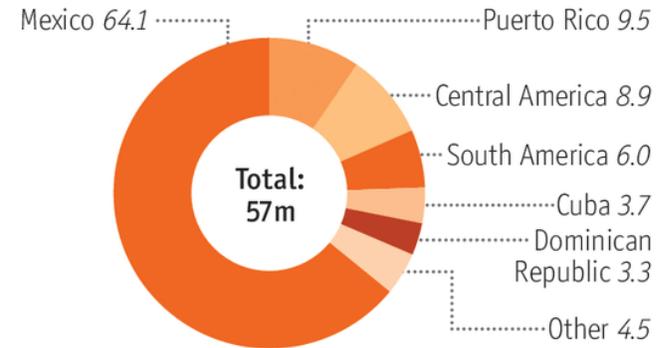
Growth of Mexican-American population, m



Population by age group 2010, % of total



Hispanic population by origin, 2013, %



Hispanic-American purchasing power is equivalent to the world's **16th** largest country

Nearly **1m** US-born Hispanics reach voting age annually

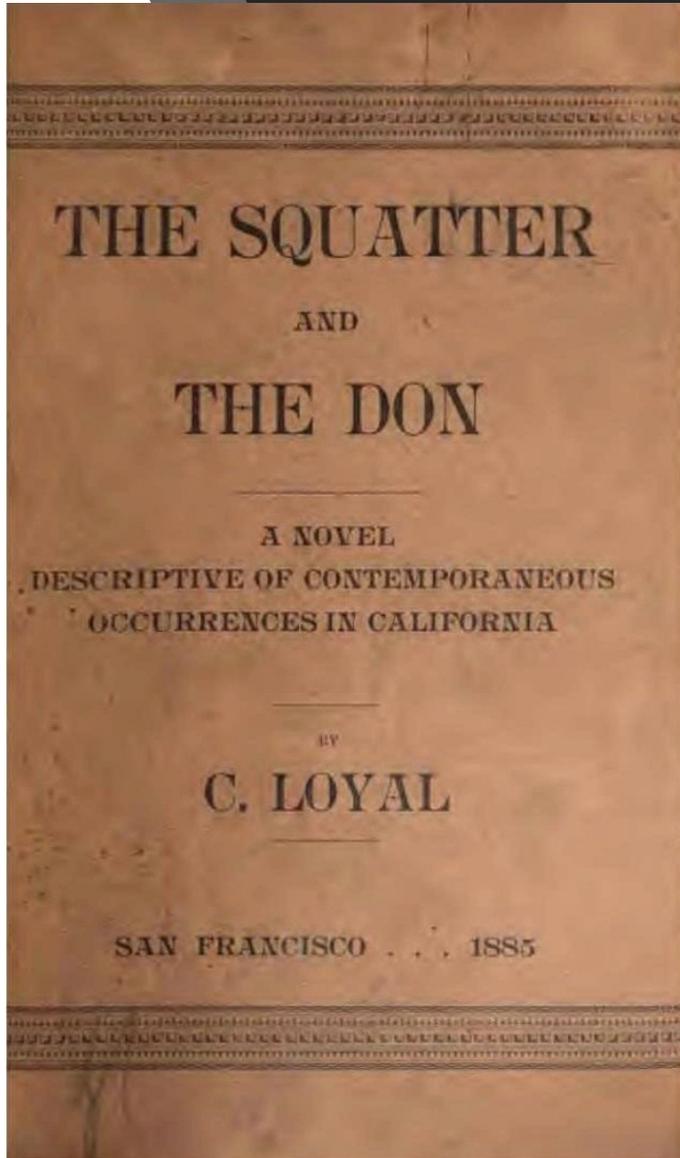
Median wealth† of households
 Hispanic **\$7,683**
 White* households **\$110,500**



*Non-Hispanic

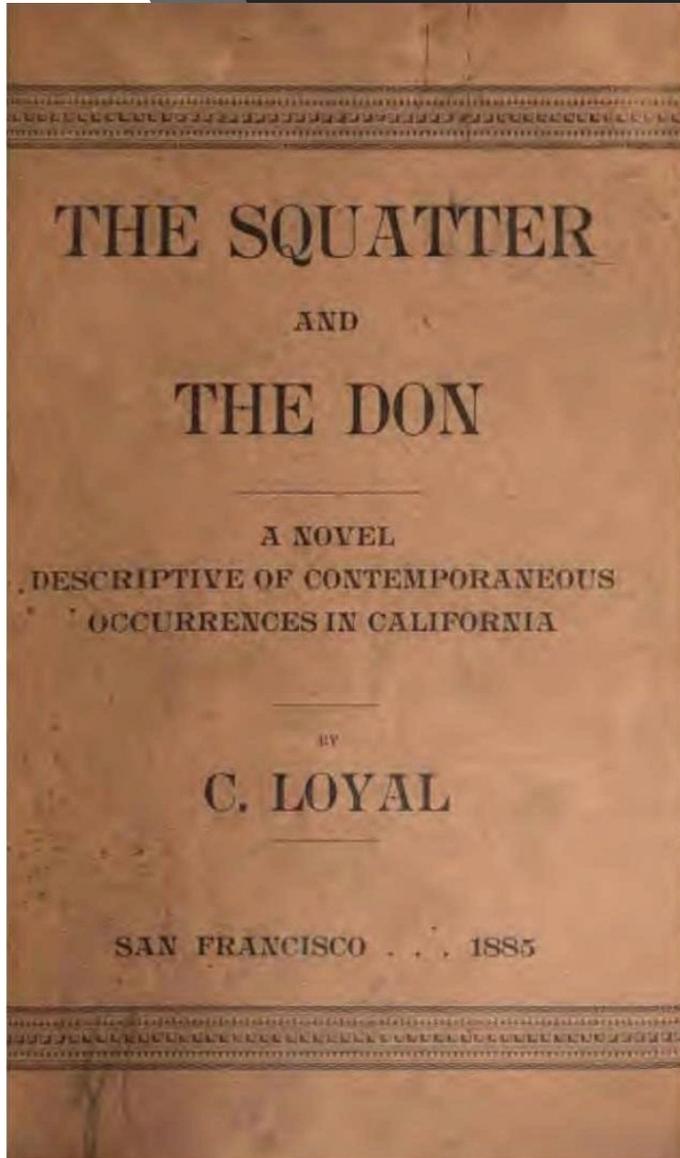
Sources: Pew Research Centre; US Census Bureau; "Latino Boom II" by Chiqui Cartagena; "Latino America" by Matt Barreto and Gary Segura †2011

THE SQUATTER AND THE DON



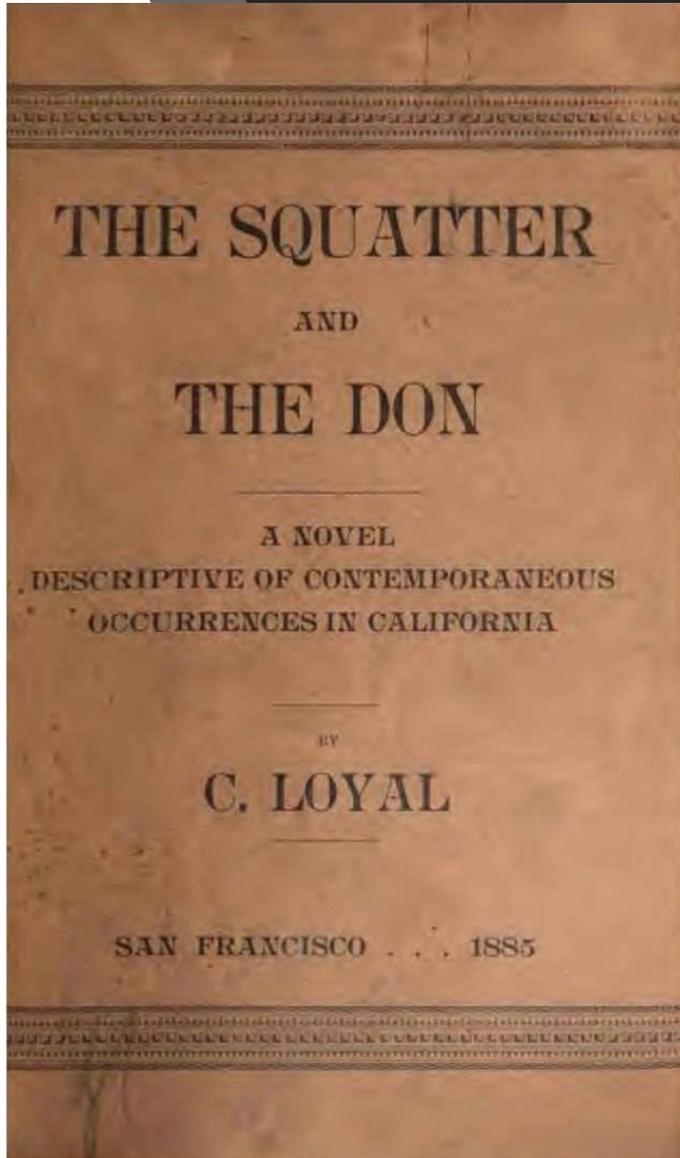
The Squatter and the Don

- By María Amparo Ruiz de Burton (1832-1895), under pen-name C Loyal
- First Mexican-American writer published in English
- Her second novel (1885)
- Narrates the consequences of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo (1848)
- “A book all 21st century Americans should read”



The Squatter and the Don

- In what sense is Ruiz de Burton a “Ciudadano Loyal”?
- What does the book have to say about the role of the law and the legal system?
- What does the book say about the state, politics, and political representation?
- How does the love story mesh with the story about land and territory?
- How does affect interact with reason?



The Squatter and the Don

- Who are the key characters, and what are the relationships between them?
- Family, land, love, money, nationality, ethnicity all both unite and divide.
- There are divisions both between groups and within groups
- The book is also about the construction of new relationships: continuities and changes

“Shake hands with the gentleman, that's a dear,” said Victoriano, talking baby talk to her.

“Oh, papa, make Tano hush. Mr. Darrell, I am afraid that I shall always seem ridiculous to you.”

“Not at all; I don't see why,” Clarence replied, “but I fear that your hurt might be serious.”

“That's it. You might be ridiculous, but your hurt might be serious,” said Victoriano.

It was Clarence's turn to blush now, but he smiled good naturedly.

“You won't be serious, though. I wish you were, and polite, too,” said Mercedes. “I don't know what Mr. Darrell will think of us.”

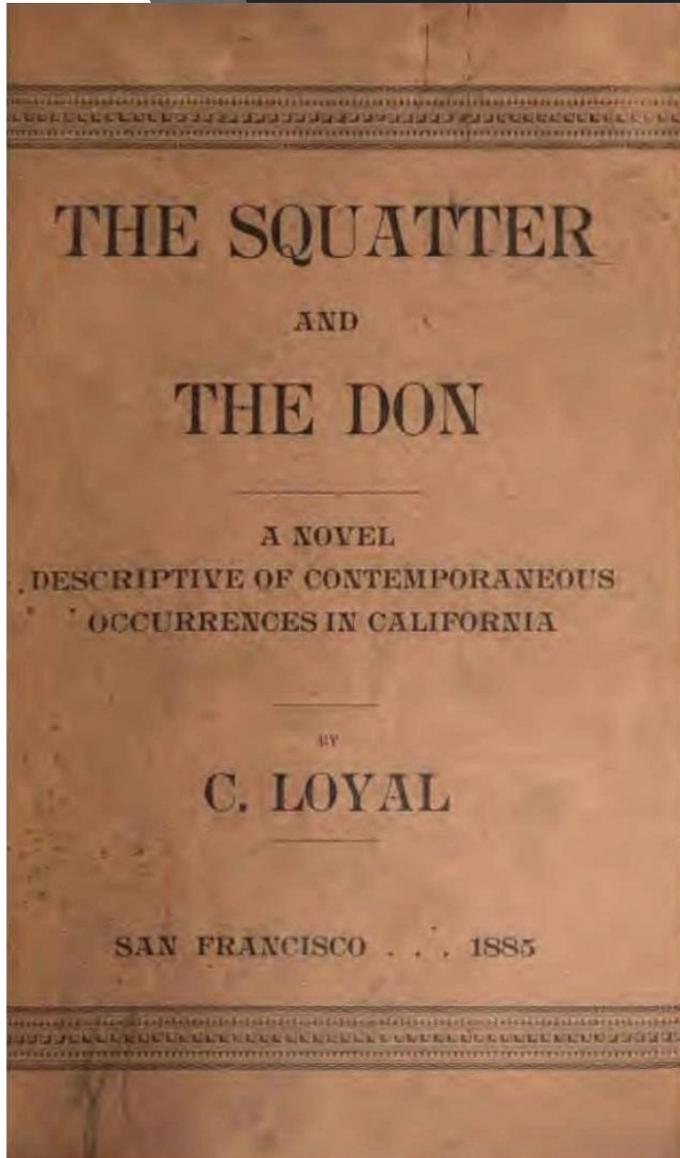
“Mr. Darrell will see us often, I hope, and think better of Tano,” said Don Mariano, carrying away his precious burden.

“My opinion is all that you could wish, Miss Mercedes,” said Clarence, and their eyes met, transmitting that strange thrill to both.

Don Mariano placed Mercedes tenderly on her mamma's lounge, called Madam Halier to attend to the sprained ankle, and returned to the veranda.

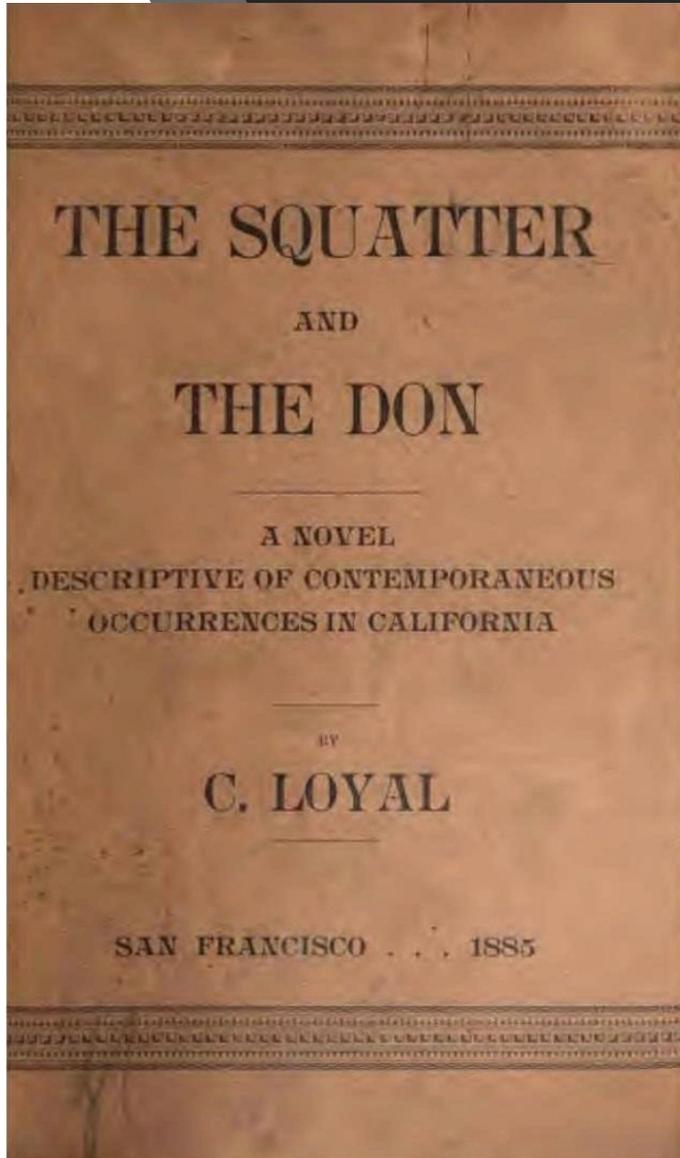
Clarence made no delay in stating the object of his visit. He said:

“Since the meeting I have had several talks with the settlers, and the result has been my conviction, that they will not accept your generous offer. They, no doubt, wish to take up more land, and think it cannot be done if they bind themselves to put up fences by accepting your proposition. How short-sighted they are time alone will show, for at present they will not listen to reason.” (57)



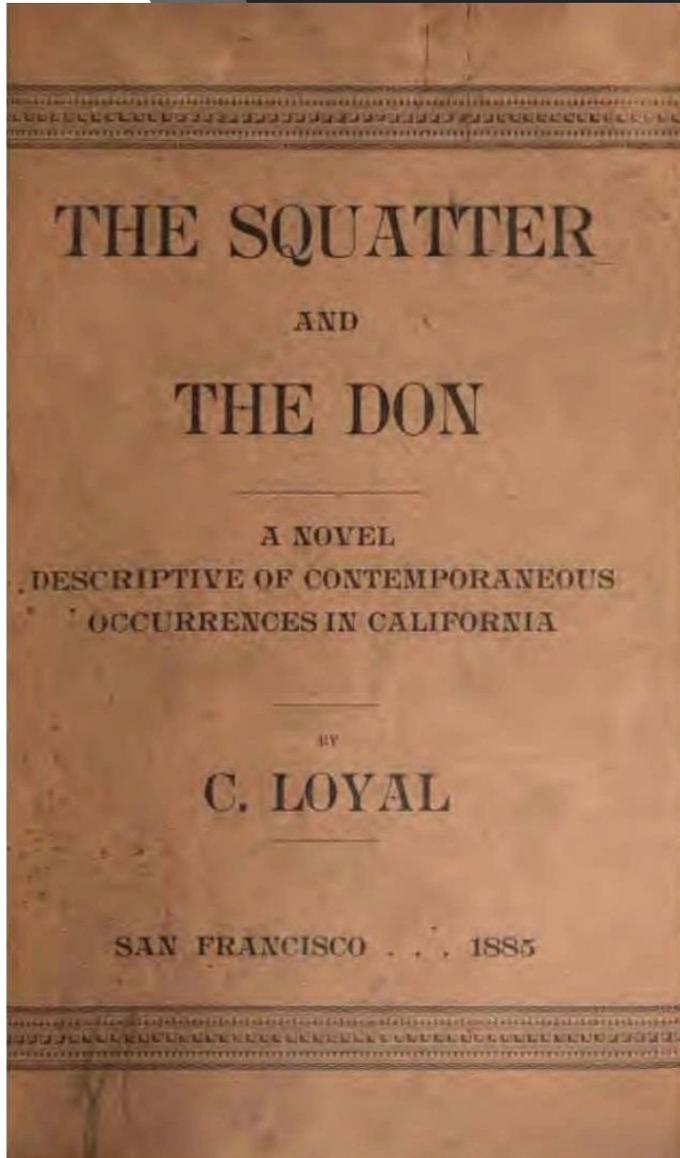
The Squatter and the Don

- What are the “kinks” in this novel?



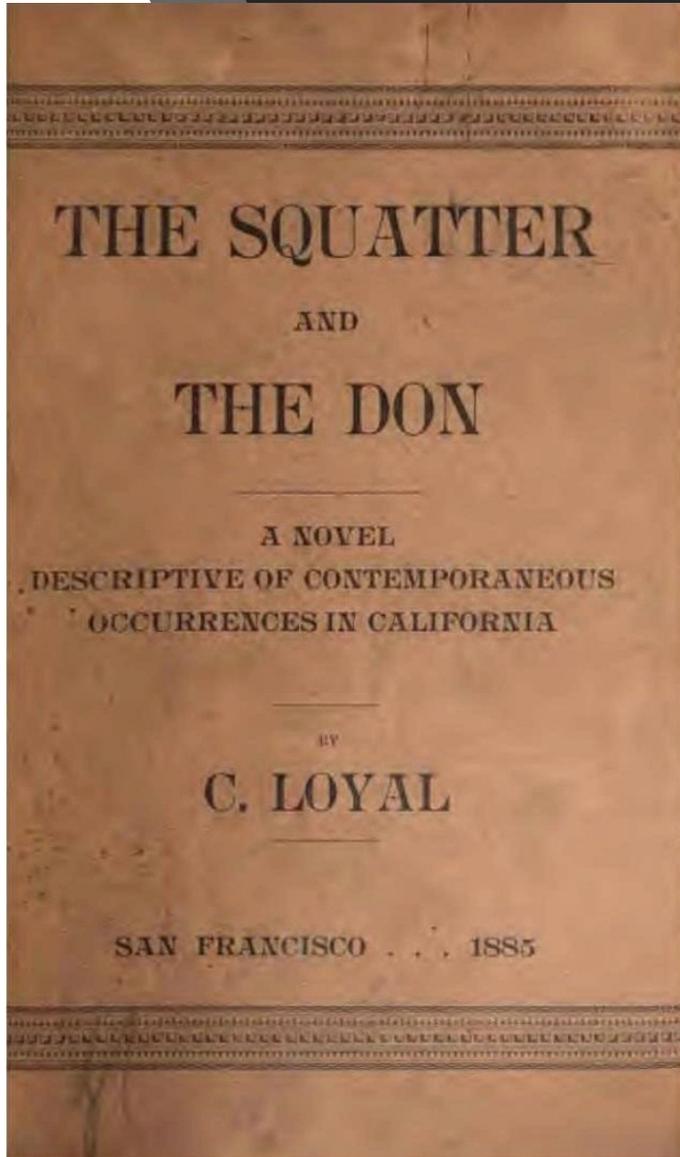
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The Squatter and the Don

- A reminder of some key concepts...
- Identity, Community
- Belonging, Difference
- Race, Gender, Language
- History, Time / temporality
- Trauma, Fantasy
- Performance / appearance



The Squatter and the Don

- A reminder of some key concepts...
- Representation, The Law, The State
- Crime, Deviance, Violence
- Territory, Space / spatiality
- Affect, Shame, Pride
- The Particular, The Universal

NEXT STEPS

For Thursday

- We will be introducing the Wikipedia project, so bring a laptop if you have one.
- We will also be continuing our discussion of the first half of *The Squatter and the Don*, so bring the book and ensure you have read at least to chapter XX.
- Write brief comments on two of your classmates' blog posts.