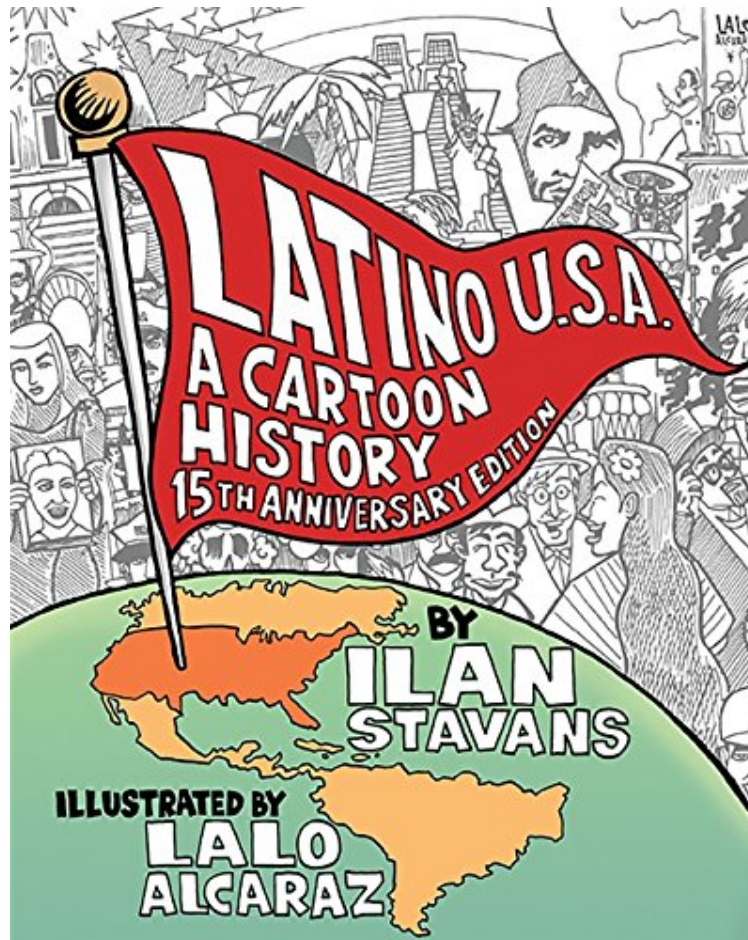


Latino USA, Revised Edition: A Cartoon History

Ilan Stavans

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#344309 in Books Stavans Ilan 2012-04-03Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.25 x 7.50 x .751, .90 #File Name: 0465082505240 pagesLatino U S A A Cartoon History | File size: 39.Mb

Ilan Stavans : Latino USA, Revised Edition: A Cartoon History before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Latino USA, Revised Edition: A Cartoon History:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A great idea destroyed (as many are) by academeBy Carmella KimMy joy at hearing about a cartoon history of Latinos (not, you may notice, Latinas or even Latina/os) illustrated by Lalo Alcaraz was tempered only slightly by hearing the editor (not, I'm sorry Mr Stavans, the author) was self-styled Mexican kitsch authority Ilan Stavans. "A possible resource for teaching!" I thought. Reading the book, however, was such a great disappointment that I doubt it's going to make the cut for the classroom. Without denigrating at all Lalo Alcaraz' art, the book fails on several levels, not the least of which is originality. The first question I asked myself was "Who was this written for?" The introduction to what could have been a revolutionary book seems to veer between being too clever for its own good and winking in the direction of academics, intimating somehow that "comics" are a kind of Latino cultural icon that is kitschy and therefore useful for transmitting ideas. Stavans hasn't done much work on cartoons or comics, or the notion that cartoonish comic art is more (or less) appropriate to

represent Latino history would have been more informed. Alcaraz' talent rises above this rather mediocre beginning and keeps the reader amused, even while Stavans (as a cartoon Mini-Me) keeps popping up exclaiming the inevitability of historical bias, insisting on the futility of "truth" in history, and generally sounding defensive. Instead of acknowledging the real social and cultural impact of how history has been and gets transmitted, Stavans seems to want to exist in an academic, vague vacuum, which he may believe protects him or makes him appear to be unbiased--it does neither. Even some of us academics know that. More troubling, and the key to a two-star review of this text, the book cribbs horribly its history from better texts, the most particular offenses being those against the Elizabeth Martinez-edited "500 Years of Chicano History". Several images (MANY images) are culled from that fine picture/word text-- somewhat surprisingly, since Alcaraz has talent galore. Martinez' book, far more complex in its use of images and commentary, should be read before this cartoon history. Also at stake is Stavans' perception of historical importance. We know from the text he loves Richard Rodriguez, but when we finally get to the real (non-idealized) Latinas, we get a few of them drawn on one page, and a digression all too brief of their importance. In what way was this book supposed to educate, inform, or revolutionize when it remakes history in the pattern of most history books before it? Reread Acuna's "Occupied America" and "500 Years" if you'd like to see history-as-usual turned on its head. A book which perhaps would have been better if left to Alcaraz alone, Latino USA trips over itself and its editor's need to academize and, ironically, oversimplify in trying for an audience (ANY audience). Next time, aim for the Academy, Mr. Stavans-- it deserves the hit better than Latinas and Latinos who are still looking for the past to make sense of the present and prepare for the future. Meanwhile, I'll keep reading L.A. Cucaracha.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The other side of American History By RHBA great way to learn the American History that your educators refused to cover. This book covers important parts of American History involving both Hispanics and Latin@s. While they don't go over every single detail that happens, they do cover enough to give you the motivation to go out and learn more about the other side of America. Here are the chapters of the book, as well as some of my favorite topics mentioned within them:

P1: Conquest and Exploration 1492-1890 The cruelties of the Holy Church Forget the Alamo The Guadalupe Hidalgo Treaty Border bylaws and outlaws

P2: Into the Cauldron 1891-1957 Our good neighbor policy Miguel Antonio Otero rules Viva Zapata! Hispanophobia: The Movie

P3: Upheaval 1958-1977 Here comes Fidel Castro Bilingual Education is born Rodolfo "Corky" Gonzalez also raises the myth of Aztlan Cesar Chavez's hunger Triumphs and Tribulations of the Chicano Movement

P4: In Search of a Mainstream 1978-1998 Central America on fire! Comprendes Espaol? The English only movement Bilingual Nation

P5: Welcome to Gringolandia 1998-Maana (tomorrow) Patriotism and its Discontents Dreamers Act The making of Latino USA Fear and Racial profiling in Arizona

These topics and more are covered in the book. Anyone and everyone who is a part of, or wants to learn more about, Hispanic/Latin@ culture should go out and buy this book!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great resource for my high school literature class By Libby Rego Great resource for my high school literature class. I need to explain the historical context of the literature and this is a fun way to do it!

Latino USA represents the culmination of Ilan Stavans' lifelong determination to meet the challenges of capturing the joys, nuances, and multiple dimensions of Latino culture within the context of the English language. In this cartoon history of Latinos, Stavans also seeks to combine the solemnity of so-called serious literature and history with the inherently theatrical and humorous nature of the comics. Stavans represents Hispanic civilization as a fiesta of types, archetypes, and stereotypes. These multiple, at times contradictory voices, each narrating various episodes of Latino history from a unique perspective, combine to create a carnivalesque rhythm, which is democratic and impartial. Latino USA, like the history it so entertainingly relates, is a dazzling kaleidoscope of irreverence, wit, subversion, anarchy, politics, humanism, celebration, and serious and responsible history."

.com If it's a comic book, then it can't be a work of serious scholarship, right? Wrong. Ilan Stavans, a literary scholar and cultural historian, teams up with Chicano artist Lalo Alcaraz to craft an endlessly entertaining but painstakingly researched history of Latinos--also called Latin Americans and Hispanics, and taking in peoples from all over the Spanish-speaking world--in the United States. Stavans's text covers the ground from avocados to zoot suits, touching on such matters as the Puerto Rican independence movement, the Mexican American War, the Marielito flotilla, and the ongoing struggle for civil rights throughout the hemisphere. Stavans has great fun, it's clear, twitting received wisdom. He observes, for instance, that Mexico's "Nios Heroes" may be an invention of folklore, and wryly remarks that "nationalism turns egotism into an ideology." Alcaraz has just as much fun, subversively borrowing stock figures such as the toucan (a symbol in much Latin American literature) and the skeleton to serve as a kind of ironic Greek chorus. But author and illustrator also fulfill an earnestly undertaken mission: namely, in Stavans's words, to "represent Hispanic civilization as a fiesta of types, archetypes, and stereotypes" and to tell its story from many points of view. In this they succeed admirably, and Latino U.S.A. is required reading for anyone interested in democratic, inclusive historical writing. --Gregory McNamee ". . . Latino's kaleidoscopic perspective bubbles with an irreverent mix of Latin politics, wit, self-reference and sincerity." -- San Antonio Express-News [September 1, 2000]. . . an amusing comic book that outlines the salient features of U.S. Latino history." -- Houston Chronicle [November 1,

2000]"...a cartoon history for everyone: ...witty and inviting." -- Kirkus s [October 1, 2000]"Latino USA explores these and similarly serious questions in entertaining cartoon form." -- Austin American-Statesman [October 30,"Read this primer if you don't want to be left out." -- TheAbout the AuthorIlan Stavans is a Mexican-born essayist and cultural critic and the author of over 20 books. Since 1993 he has been on the faculty at Amherst College, Massachusetts, where he is the Lewis-Sebring Professor in Latin American and Latino Culture. He has also taught at various other institutions, including Columbia University. In 1997, Stavans was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship and has been the recipient of international prizes and honors, including the Latino Literature Prize, Chile's Presidential Medal, and the Ruben Dario Distinction. He lives in Amherst, Massachusetts."