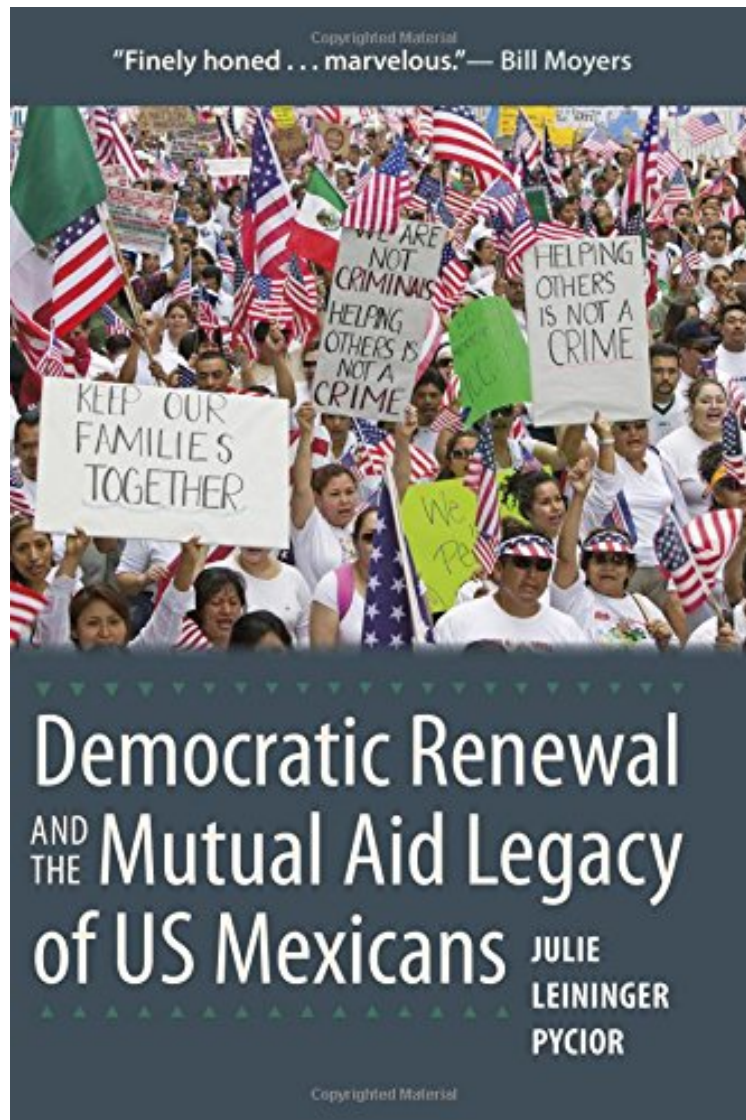


(Download free ebook) Democratic Renewal and the Mutual Aid Legacy of US Mexicans

Democratic Renewal and the Mutual Aid Legacy of US Mexicans

Julie Leininger Pycior

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Julie Leininger Pycior : Democratic Renewal and the Mutual Aid Legacy of US Mexicans before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Democratic Renewal and the Mutual Aid Legacy of US Mexicans:

The legacy of the historic mutual aid organizing by US Mexicans, with its emphasis on self-help and community solidarity, continues to inform Mexican American activism and subtly influence a number of major US social

movements. In *Democratic Renewal and the Mutual Aid Legacy of US Mexicans*, Julie Leininger Pycior traces the early origins of organizing in the decades following the US-Mexican War, when Mexicans in the Southwest established mutualista associations for their protection. Further, she traces the ways in which these efforts have been invoked by contemporary Latino civil rights leaders. Pycior notes that the Mexican immigrant associations instrumental in the landmark 2006 immigration reform marches echo mutualista societies at their peak in the 1920s. Then Mexican immigrants from San Diego to New York engaged in economic, medical, cultural, educational, and legal aid. This path-breaking study culminates with an examination of Southwest community organizing networks as crucial counterweights to the outsize role of large financial contributions in the democratic political process. It also finds ways in which this community organizing echoes the activity of mutualista groups in the very same neighborhoods a century ago.

"This book makes a timely contribution to the field of Mexican migrant community organizing and civic engagement by tracing the trajectory of Mexican mutual-aid organizations, dating them back to the 1880s and explaining their relevance to the contemporary hometown association movement. *Democratic Renewal and the Mutual Aid Legacy of US Mexicans* skillfully reconstructs and vividly describes the goals and aspirations of mutualista members through oral histories and archival research. Individual experiences of interviewees allow readers enter the fascinating world of mutualistas and the multiple ways in which these organizations managed to help immigrants adapt and integrate to their new world while simultaneously preserving their culture, language, and homeland traditions. These important institutions planted the seeds that would later encourage the active engagement of Mexican immigrants and Mexican-Americans in the civil rights and labor movements in the United States." Xchitl Bada, author of *Mexican Hometown Associations in Chicago* and assistant professor of Latin American and Latino Studies at the University of Illinois at Chicago.