

*Alcances y límites de la política exterior de México.* By MARIO OJEDA. México, 1976. El Colegio de México. Tables. Notes. Bibliography. Pp. viii, 220. Paper.

This is a book about the capability and limits of Mexican foreign policy over three decades following World War II. The author points out that Mexican foreign policy has always focused upon maintaining national sovereignty and some degree of independent choice relative to the great powers, especially the United States on the northern frontier. Success in maintaining these aims was varied but the intent was always the same. Essentially it was a passive stance using legalism on the diplomatic front to avoid direct confrontation with a greater national power.

The task of Mexican diplomats was not especially easier after the second world war. The United States emerged as one of two global powers in a world much changed from the situation prior to World War II when great power status was shared by several nation-states. The undisputed hegemony of the United States in the postwar period in conjunction with the cold war bipolarity of Soviet–U.S. rivalry created a series of difficult decisions for all Latin American countries and emphasized the dependence upon the great power of the hemisphere. Superiority of both powers in technology and armaments as well as the long-standing dependence of Mexico upon the United States both as export market and as supplier of essential industrial products heightened Mexican vulnerability. Yet, despite the new world situation and the continued existence of the traditional bases of dependence, the author finds that Mexico exercised some freedom of choice. There was in fact “greater relative independence” on the part of Mexico than in any of the other Latin American states.

This is the main orienting proposition in the book, but it is treated as mainly heuristic rather than as a thesis which must be demonstrated. The discussion unfolds thematically rather than chronologically; it is unusually lucid and well-organized; and it is distinguished in its use of sources.

From Dumbarton Oaks through the Dominican intervention of 1965 and its aftermath, Mexico was an apparent classic paradox—close geographically to the United States but consistent of all Latin American countries in opposing strongly backed U.S. initiatives.

More recently, Mexican foreign policy may have achieved a slightly more universal focus during the presidency of Echeverría (1970–1976), but this is overshadowed by less fortunate developments such as mounting internal and external debt, chronic balance of payments deficits,

and continuing doubts about political stability. None of these problems were much in evidence during the first two decades covered by the author's study.

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*La otra cara de México: El pueblo chicano.* Edited by DAVID R. MACIEL. Prologue by CARLOS MONSIVÁIS. México, 1977. Ediciones El Caballito. Tables. Pp. 369. Paper.

The intention of the editor of this collection of essays is to clarify the erroneous and negative concepts concerning the Chicano population prevalent in Mexico, and at the same time to offer a critical analysis of the formation, "problemática" and significance of the Mexican population in the United States. The thirteen essays that comprise the book are by Chicano academicians and vary in quality, importance, and subject, but do generally convey a Marxist focus. According to the editor, this is due in part to the insistence of the Mexican government that the Chicano issue is a problem of the United States and not a Mexican question. Assumption of any responsibility for "the Mexican problem" by Mexico would deny the rhetoric of the gains of the Mexican Revolution, and Mexico's leaders would have to face the conclusion that the cause of the constant emigration is due to the limitations and failures of the Mexican economic miracle and the impact of North American capitalism (p. 22). The Chicano struggle on this side of the river is seen as an anti-imperialistic battle among the Mexican people against the alienation and oppression caused by the capitalistic system, and is compared to Mexico's revolutionary measures seeking to limit U.S. influence and "the universal struggle for a humanistic and socialist society."

Topics covered in the book include a history of the Mexican community north of the Rio Grande from settlement to the present; a statistical profile of Chicano socioeconomic conditions; the Chicano population and its role within the capitalistic system; a description and analysis of some demographic and social characteristics of the Chicanos of the Midwest; a historical study of the Chicanos of the Yakima Valley in the state of Washington; the role of women in the Chicano struggle; the role of psychologists and the schools in the formation and perpetuation of the existing social order; a Marxist cultural perspective of Mexican-American folklore as direct and indirect protest against the cul-