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They Should Stay There: The Story of Mexican Migration and Repatriation during the Great Depression by Fernando Saúl Alanís Enciso (review)

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men and women, and, later, veterans, experienced “separate realities” given their separate points of reference. Second, Holtby would like us to remember that in the course of the war and its expected sacrifices, the federal government’s presence in New Mexico grew in unprecedented proportions. Next, by the time the war ended, New Mexicans had grown increasingly war weary and disillusioned with its high costs and seemingly paltry results. Fourth, Holtby considers the veterans’ interwar obscurity, especially during national crises like the Great Depression. Finally, Holtby contends that the First World War is not a settled conflict. Its repercussions have never ended, with its long fuse lit in 1918, detonated in World War II, and still ablaze in war zones, especially in the Middle East.

Providing a detailed narrative and admirably addressing these five main themes, David Holtby has given us a well-written, near-definitive history of New Mexico’s role in the Great War. Holtby has filled a largely neglected void in New Mexico history, ably picking up the state’s history where he had left off with his award-winning *Forty-Seventh Star: New Mexico’s Struggle for Statehood* (2012).

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They Should Stay There: The Story of Mexican Migration and Repatriation during the Great Depression. By Fernando Saúl Alanís Enciso. Translated by Russ Davidson. (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2017. Pp. 272. \$90.00 hardcover; \$29.95 paper; \$19.95 ebook)

Fernando Saúl Alanís Enciso has long been the Mexican migration historian most widely cited by U.S.–based scholars of early-twentieth-century Mexican American history. Nonetheless, the fact that his oeuvre of more than fifteen books and twenty articles is written in Spanish has limited its potential to fully inform these fields or attract interest beyond them. Now, thanks to editor Mark Overmyer-Velázquez and the “Latin America in Translation” series of Duke University and the University of North Carolina presses, at least one of Alanís Enciso’s books can be widely read in the English-speaking world. *They Should Stay There*, which hones in on Mexican government policies toward emigrants in the final years of the Great Depression, will certainly interest the scholars of Mexican American history who ideally were reading him all along. It should also draw attention from historians of U.S. labor and immigration more generally, as well as political sci-

entists interested in the messy history of immigration and emigration policy in the Americas and the world.

The history of Mexican deportation from the United States during the Great Depression has been capably, though not exhaustively, documented by scholars. Most historians focus on the dramatic raids and expulsions of the early 1930s, and some do consider the actions of the Mexican government. With his unique focus on the final years of the Depression and the activist presidency of Lázaro Cárdenas, Alanís Enciso introduces a wholly new scene to Mexican American history: that of Mexican bureaucrats traveling through Texas in the late 1930s, drawing thousands of compatriots to meetings about the prospect of joining Mexican government-sponsored programs to resettle in northern Mexican agricultural colonies.

Yet, Alanís Enciso's painstaking archival research shows that this intriguing episode masks more than it reveals about Mexican emigration policy. Cárdenas, like the Mexican presidents who came before him, actually did little to encourage Mexican migrants to return home. He commissioned studies and entertained multiple proposals for repatriate agricultural colonies. But despite the developmentalist theories that Mexican intellectuals had long applied to the subject of migrant repatriation, elite fears of mass return combined with bureaucratic disarray to limit the Cárdenas government's investment in actual initiatives. Among a slew of failed and attempted repatriate colonies, only one, the 18 March colony in Tamaulipas, received any sustained federal support. Even then, state efforts to settle emigrants lasted less than two months, in 1939. Those who did settle in the 18 March colony complained bitterly that government support for their efforts was inadequate. While sporadic federal investments did continue, Alanís Enciso's final assessment is that the project "had little or no effect on Mexican society in terms of the total resources devoted to it, the location to which the repatriates were sent, or the number of people who arrived in the new settlement" (p. 192).

This fine-grained history of the state in action provides critical context for social historians of Mexican migration during the 1930s. Graduate students and other scholars of Mexican American history should certainly read *They Should Stay There*, if only to motivate them to seek out Alanís Enciso's other works, despite the likely slower pace of reading them in Spanish. Additionally, scholars of migration policy in the Americas and the world will find that Alanís Enciso's fine-grained analysis gives life to overdetermined theories of migration policy development.

While highly valuable for scholars, however, the book's audience beyond them will be limited. Experienced translator Russ Davidson has rendered the book faithfully, but perhaps too much so. I would

have given him greater license to smooth the edges of Alanís Enciso's academic Spanish to attract a wider reading audience. A single chapter might be suitable for an upper-division undergraduate course, but the whole book would not be. Nonetheless, the quantity of research and depth of analysis mark *They Should Stay There* as a significant historiographical contribution, and just as important, a bridge between a towering Mexican historian and the English-speaking world.

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This War Ain't Over: Fighting the Civil War in New Deal America. By Nina Silber. (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2019. Pp. 248. \$32.95 cloth; \$24.99 ebook)

Writing on the Jim Crow South in the late 1980s, C. Vann Woodward described a window in time in which few historical actors remember a particular event *and* those not old enough to remember have not yet meaningfully grasped it. A “twilight zone” always appears “between living memory and written history,” he maintained. “The light cast by living memory dims as the numbers possessing it decline, while full illumination by history has been slow in coming and even slower in being comprehended.”

In examining collective memory during the Great Depression and the New Deal era, including World War II, Nina Silber's *This War Ain't Over: Fighting the Civil War in New Deal America* explores this “twilight zone” with regard to the American Civil War. With the accelerated passing of veterans and former slaves, a demarcation emerged between those who had participated in the sectional conflict and subsequent generations who used non-living memories of the war to engage new political debates, find artistic inspiration, and glean moral lessons. As such, Silber's study presents the 1930s and 1940s as a critical era of memory construction and a watershed in the popular imaginings of the war. Amid the war's seventy-fifth anniversary, Civil War commemoration proved integral to how Americans confronted economic turmoil, labor disputes, leftist and reactionary ideologies, civil rights, and total war. Indeed, much like the swell of history wars, cultural conflicts, and