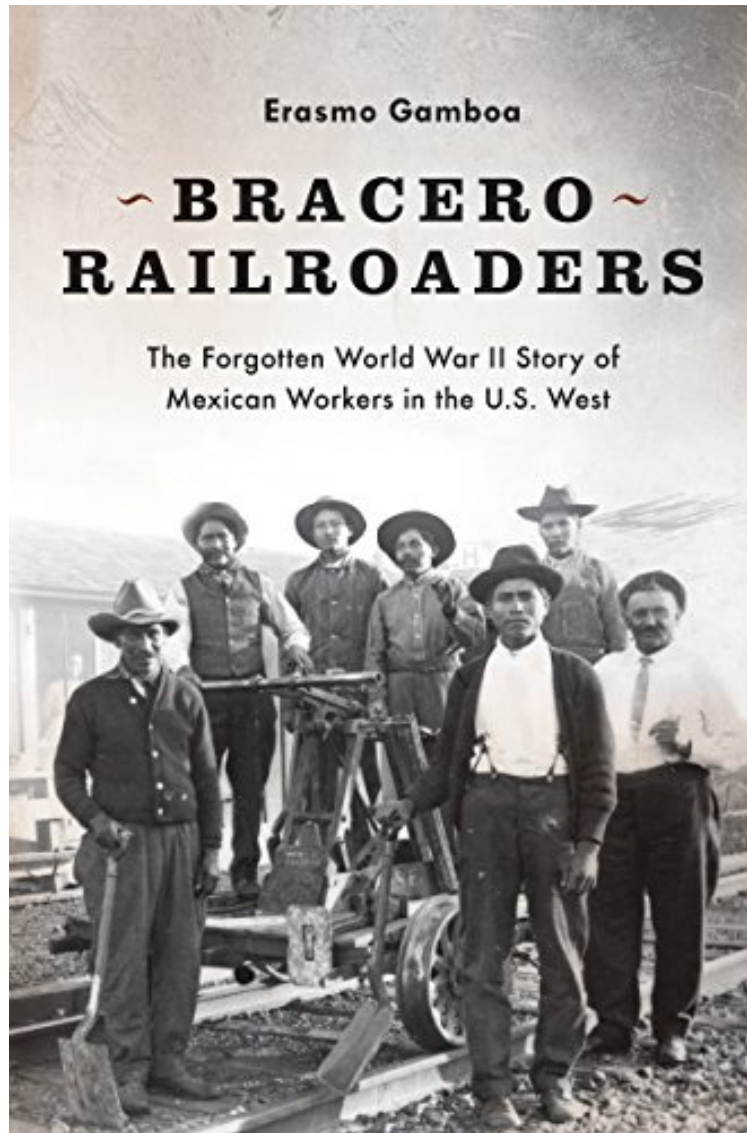


(Mobile pdf) Bracero Railroaders: The Forgotten World War II Story of Mexican Workers in the U.S. West

Bracero Railroaders: The Forgotten World War II Story of Mexican Workers in the U.S. West

Erasmus Gamboa

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Erasmus Gamboa : Bracero Railroaders: The Forgotten World War II Story of Mexican Workers in the U.S. West before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Bracero Railroaders: The Forgotten World War II Story of Mexican Workers in the U.S. West:

Desperate for laborers to keep the trains moving during World War II, the U.S. and Mexican governments created a

now mostly forgotten bracero railroad program that sent a hundred thousand Mexican workers across the border to build and maintain railroad lines throughout the United States, particularly the West. Although both governments promised the workers adequate living arrangements and fair working conditions, most bracero railroaders lived in squalor, worked dangerous jobs, and were subject to harsh racial discrimination. Making matters worse, the governments held a percentage of the workers' earnings in a savings and retirement program that supposedly would await the men on their return to Mexico. However, rampant corruption within both the railroad companies and the Mexican banks meant that most workers were unable to collect what was rightfully theirs. Historian Erasmo Gamboa recounts the difficult conditions, systemic racism, and decades-long quest for justice these men faced. The result is a pathbreaking examination that deepens our understanding of Mexican American, immigration, and labor histories in the twentieth-century U.S. West.

"Bracero Railroaders documents a hidden dimension of the World War II bracero program and details the experiences of the bracero railroad workers and the difficult conditions under which they worked. It documents an important part of World War II and Mexican immigration history."—Lynn Stephen, author of *Transborder Lives: Indigenous Oaxacans in Mexico, California, and Oregon* "Gamboa captures the rigors and limited opportunities of the bracero railroad workers in the Pacific Northwest. *Bracero Railroaders* is an invigorating treatment of a displaced generation of Mexican men who cannot remain in the margins."—Ana Elizabeth Rosas, author of *Abrazando el Espiritu: Bracero Families Confront the US-Mexico Border* About the Author Erasmo Gamboa is professor of American ethnic studies at the University of Washington. He is the author of *Mexican Labor and World War II: Braceros in the Pacific Northwest, 1942–1947*.