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Home on that News and Books of Works (en) Appearance Contact Sergio Troncoso Ringside Seat to Revolution: The Underground Cultural History of El Paso and Juarez: 1893-1923, David Dorado Romo, (Cinco Puntos Press: El Paso), is a vital historical work for the Southwest. The originality and significance of this book go beyond the history of the ephemeral environment of many areas of El Paso during the Mexican Revolution. This would be an achievement enough to encourage everyone to read this historical tour de force, and yet this book performs much more. Romo's central point is that El Paso and Juarez became a hotbed of intrigue before and during and after the Mexican Revolution, with spies and counter-spies fishing for information, money flowing between revolutionaries and their benefactors, conspiracies and counter plots invented on Stanton and Oregon Street, in The Caples Building and Mills Building. The Anglo-newspapers of El Paso ridiculed the radicalization of the Mexican rabble, xenophobic propaganda and often justified the inhumane treatment of Mexicans by the United States Government and Chicanos in El Paso. Romo's colorful depiction of these turbulent times begins with the people and events of the Mexican Revolution. Twenty-two-year-old Teresata Urrera, Saint Cabora, arrived at the Union Of El Paso station in 1896, and to the horror of the Anglo-press she attracted and healed hundreds of pelons and pelons in Segundo Barrio. Teresita inspired countless followers, including the Chihuahua rebels of Tomaszcic, to fight the oppressive Porfiriato. However, this saint also cohabited with an Anglo man with whom she had two daughters out of wedlock. Later, the anarchist Flores Magon brothers, Ricardo and Enrique, hatched a plan in the southern part of El Paso, in the house on First and Theis Streets, to take over Juarez in 1906. The Mogist's plot was thwarted by Mexican spies infiltrating Mexico's Liberal Party, but the brothers did not give up and tried to retake Juarez in 1908. In 1910, the lynching of a Mexican by a Texas mob provoked unrest in Mexico and sparked national protests during fraudulent elections between dictator Porfirio Diaz and Francisco Madero. Madero called for the overthrow of the Mexican government from its exile in El Paso in 1911. In these historical days, El Paso and Juarez were home not only to Madero and Pancho Villa, but also to Pascual Orozco, Giuseppe Garibaldi, Felipe Angeles and John Reed. From the rooftop laundry of El Paso on Santa Fe Street, many of El Paso had a ring place for the Mexican Revolution. Romo also draws his criticism at the numerous Spanish newspapers of El Paso, which have provided a voice for Mexicans and Chicanos, against the ugly stereotypes propagated by El Paso Times and El Paso Herald. In 1916, the mayor of El Paso, Tom Lee Sr., tried to suppress these Spanish daily newspapers and called for the border to be closed because of his paranoid fear of Mexicans. But perhaps the most remarkable piece of Romo's history excavation is the systematic and shameful delusion of Mexicanos on the Santa Fe Bridge. The American authorities, enthusiastically encouraged by the mayor, forced thousands of Mexicans to strip naked as they were about to cross the bridge and sprayed them with insecticides, gasoline, kerosene and cyanide-based pesticides. This racist practice continued for decades until, finally and surprisingly, Cyclone B was used in El Paso in 1929, the same chemical agent that in a more concentrated form was subsequently used by the Nazis in its death camps to exterminate Jews. Romo reveals evidence that the use of Cyclone B along the Mexican-American border directly inspired German scientists to begin looking for its properties to cleanse the country of its pests. And hardly there were heroes, such as Carmelita Torres, the maid of Juarez, who on January 28, 1917 refused the demands of American customs officials on the Bridge of Santa Fe to disinfect gasoline. Riots broke out and hundreds of women blocked the bridge in El Paso to protest against the humiliation of defrauded people at the border. Why aren't children's books about Carmelita Torres written? Why is this story not taught, analyzed and discussed in our local secondary schools? Why didn't El Paso organize more walking tours, plaques and monuments to uncover this story that lies before our eyes? Truly, what author David Romo achieves in Ringside Seat to revolution is the return of a sense of engagement, struggle, achievement and self-esteem of the Mexican-American community of El Paso, for those Mexicans who fought for a better society during the revolution, for many who faced discrimination and abuse because of the irrational xenophobia of the United States. Romo successfully refutes decades of cowboy history, explaining El Paso's past, where Chicanos and Mexicanos existed only as marginal historical actors, or as dirty Mexicans, or as stereotypically insidious villains. Romo's carefully researched and well-written book gives us the past we knew was there, the past we went through, in our neighborhoods and in our families, and yet the past, which is rarely the subject of history books, to this day. Ringside Seat to a Revolution is a gift to all who are serious about the truth of history and the way it shaped us today. This newspaper article appeared in the Sunday Books section of the El Paso Times on 13 November 2005. El Paso/Juarez served as a drone of the Mexican Revolution and turbulent years. In essays and archival photographs, David Romo tells surreal stories at the origins of the greatest Latin American revolution: the holy beauty queen Teresita inspires revolutionary fervor and is rumored to have blessed the first rifles of revolutionaries; anarchists publish newspapers and plottings against Porfirio Diaz's regime; Mexican criminal Pancho Villa eats ice cream cones and his Indian motorbike happily through the city centre; Mayor Gringo El Paso wears silk underwear because he fears Mexican lice; John Reed contributed to never-before-published essays; young Mexican maids refuse to be deceived, so they have closed the border and retreat the people of Pershing in the process; Vegetarian and spiritualist Francisco Madero institutes the Mexican revolutionary junta in El Paso before moving to Juarez his ill-fated presidency and assassination; and the bands play Verdi while the shootings go about their deadly business. Romo's work is doing what Mike Davis of the City of quartz did for Los Angeles - it represents a subversive and opposing vision of twin cities at this crucial time for both countries. David Dorado Romo, the son of Mexican immigrants, is an essayist, historian, musician and cultural figure. Ringside Seat to revolution is the result of his three-year study of archives detailing the cultural and political roots of the Mexican Revolution along the la frontera. Romo earned a degree in Judaism from Stanford University and studied in Israel and Italy. Home (en) Popular category Latinx/Chicanx Ring Seat to Revolution Category: Adult (en) All Books History Latinx / Chicanx Description Details Ringside Seat Reviews to the Revolution gives us a renewed perspective to witness the Mexican Revolution. Through detailed research, archival photographs and great storytelling, David Romo tells the story of a long-ignored cultural and political renaissance that was born out of conflict to overthrow the Diaz regime and the bloody struggle that followed. His story helps us identify fronterizos, a hybrid group of people, not entirely Mexican, not entirely American, who was instrumental in the launch of the Mexican Revolution. Ringside Seat is also about uprisings in terms of peripheral characters: musicians of the military group who played Verdi's operas during the executions in Juarez; filmmakers who came to the border to make silent movies like Griser's Revenge and Guns and Grease; women are bullfighters; Poets; Jazz musicians; Anglo pool hustlers reborn as postcard sellers; Chinese illegals; Arms smugglers; and, of course, revolutionaries, counter-revolutionaries and counter-revolutionaries. The stories he tells reveal the intellectual and cultural rebirth born of conflict, the revelation of a fronterizo spirit that is so important in understanding the U.S.-Mexico border region and the Mexican-American experience in the United States. NPR, National Public Radio hosts a special broadcast from Ringside Seat to Revolution called Bath Riots: The Humiliation Along the Mexican Border. Only registered customers who purchased this product can leave a review. David Romo Ringside Seat to Revolution fascinating peek into unknown scenes revolution of 1911. It takes us to El Paso and Juarez face each other through the Rio Grande in years just before and after the exciting events of the revolution itself. It's a close-up and personal story through the eyes of an extraordinary cast of characters. It's a true story at its best. Howard Sinn, author of The Hanging History of the United States, The Microinsua Story of David Romo is brilliant. Here you will find what the official story seems to ignore: the salt of the earth, the amazing anecdote, the rumors, the absurdity. The strange relationship between El Paso and Mexico makes this book even more fascinating. Paco Ignacio Taibo II, author of Guevara also known as Che and The Inconvenient Dead Over 200 archival black and white photographs enhance Romo's live text. They show onlookers watching the Battle of Juarez from trains, women drinking from huge glasses at the Juarez bar, a bull killing a matador, a jazz band at the El Paso Cafe and a penalty. The book sheds new light on a fascinating era. Book list in a city whose popular history has been depicted as one populated only by militants and conquistadors, is a breath of fresh air to read about the deep cultural and social influences of the Mexican Revolution and Mexican-born people. An El Paso Times quote from Yolanda Leyva, University of Texas at El Paso history professor David Dorado Romo Ringside Seat to Revolution is not really about the villa. This is a different kind of book, perhaps unique it's an unusual book. For those who love the tangled history of Texas and Mexico and their tragic border, this is a treasure. Dallas Morning News Romo couldn't leave his hometown and we should be grateful. He collected a beautiful, thick book with more than 200 photographs and dozens of pieces from the history of El Paso Juarez. RALPH: A review of the Arts, Literature, Philosophy and Humanities Project, inspired by the anarchic avant-garde 'map' of Situationist International, Ringside Seat to Revolution is a cultural and historical exploration of two geographical locations: cities on both sides of the Rio Grande and on both sides of Mexico-USA. Border. Beautifully written and illustrated, this alternative story is a treat for readers. Southern California quarterly Most people know that to truly uncover the city, one has to find places where the locals hang out and dig up the legends and tales that make every city what it is. David Dorado Romo did just that from The West Texas Town of El Paso. Romo's book reads like its own soft star for all those interested in this fascinating period of time. Monitor Ring Seat to Revolution is a must-read not only for those interested in the history of war, but also for those interested in the history of the two peoples and Mexican American culture. The San Antonio Express-News Every chapter is illustrated with beautiful photos and is riddled with a finely honed sense of Romo absurdity. He's a research fanatic, and he spent five years plowing through archives scattered from the Getty Research Institute in Los Angeles Smithsonian Institution in Washington to write Ringside Seat to Revolution. Big Bend Sentinel In general, Romo seems to have touched the revolution locally in all its different and relevant aspects that's as fine local a primer as the early Mexican Revolution, as we'll probably ever read. The El Paso Times, Leon Metz Ringside Seat to Revolution is a fun, history book that is funny, beautifully illustrated, well written and deadly serious. This is a very dangerous book - the kind that you could read and actually learn something from. Tucson Weekly Romo's book is a fascinating read for any inhabitant of the El Paso/Juarez region. His riveting narrative will keep you glued to your seats. El Paso Inside and Out Magazine Drawing on contemporary eyewitness accounts and archival records by David Dorado Romo, the son of Mexican immigrants, documents this pivotal period of Mexican-American history with fresh perspective. Romo, who is both an essayist and a historian, deserves credit for this excellent work. This is highly recommended. Tucson Citizen Romo weaves together biographical, historical and seemingly inconsequential facts, from comic to tragic, to convey the head of cultural and political intensity among the Mexican population along the border at the time and destroys stereotypes along the way. The large, paperback book also features jazzy graphic design and edges with compelling photos. Taos Daily Horse Fly Books, articles and columns about the Mexican Revolution have floated around for decades. But this one is different from anything we've ever read! El Paso Inc. David Romo, the son of Mexican immigrants, is an essayist, historian, musician and cultural figure. The mayor's silk underwear is the result of his three-year study of archives detailing the cultural and political roots of the Mexican Revolution along La Frontera. Romo earned a degree in Jewish studies from Stanford University, and studied in Israel and Italy. Italy.

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