

20th Century Latinx Literature

The turn of the 20th century saw the completion of U.S. imperial expansion under the Monroe Doctrine and its dichotomous ethos of freedom by force. This myth of modernity directly preceded the corporatist militarism of the United States for the next fifty years: paternalistic interventionism in the form of occupations and coups, along with the exploits of venture capital through foreign investment, debt consolidation, and governmental oversight. This corporate militarism fostered the structural dependence of Latin America and the Caribbean on their northern neighbor. The rapid industrialization and modernization of urban centers in these countries did not solve issues of unemployment and poverty as promised by discourses of development (economic or otherwise). Rather, the political schemes of government officials to combat civil uprisings in financial protectorates abroad, along with the shortage of immigrant labor in the United States as a result of WWII, drove Latinx migrants north *en mass* in search of asylum and employment in rural and urban locales alike. Later in the century, the Civil Rights and Chicano Rights movements, along with mainstream and women of color feminisms, saw the consolidation of both reform-oriented political programs and anti-systemic critiques.

From narratives of migration, nostalgia for imagined homelands, and disillusionment with the American Dream, to radical developments in ethnic and feminist consciousness, the texts below chart the diverse ways in which Latinx creatives position themselves and others in the world economy and its military theatre. These cultural producers are often caught between the coerced desire to assimilate under the standards of European modernity, and the ongoing condition of subalternity brought about by the hierarchical orders of coloniality. Others refute discourses of assimilation forthright, offering speculative interventions in, or models of transformation for, multiple scales of their dehumanizing, bifurcated experiences of social reality. Regardless of their positionings, most of these writers offer textual platforms for the schematization of systemic formations: aesthetic blueprints of intuitions of incorporation and their mechanisms of structural domination across history.

Primary Texts

1. Leonor Villegas de Magnón, *The Rebel* (1920s)
2. William Carlos Williams, *In the American Grain* (1925)
3. Daniel Venegas, *The Adventures of Don Chipote: or, When Parrot's Breast-Feed* (1928)
4. Americo Paredes, *George Washington Gomez: A Mexicotexan Novel* (1930s)
5. Adelina Otero-Warren, *Old Spain in Our Southwest* (1936)
6. Jovita González and Eve Raleigh, *Caballero: A Historical Novel* (1930s-1940s)
7. Julia de Burgos, from *Song of the Simple Truth: The Complete Poems of Julia de Burgos* (1933-1943)
8. José Antonio Villarreal, *Pocho* (1959)
9. John Rechy, *City of Night* (1963)
10. Piri Thomas, *Down These Mean Streets* (1967)
11. Rodolfo Gonzales, *I Am Joaquin* (1967)

12. Thomás Rivera, *...And the Earth Did Not Devour Him* (1971)
13. Rudolfo Anaya, *Bless Me, Ultima* (1972)
14. Oscar Zeta Acosta, *The Revolt of the Cockroach People* (1973)
15. Nicholasa Mohr, *Nilda* (1973)
16. Pedro Pietri, *Illusions of a Revolving Door: Plays, Teatro* (1973-1985)
17. Miguel Pinero, *Short Eyes* (1974/1975)
18. Nash Candelaria, *Memories of the Alhambra* (1977)
19. Arturo Islas, *The Rain God* (1984)
20. Gloria E. Anzaldúa, *Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza* (1987)
21. Sandra Cisneros, *Woman Hollering Creek and Other Stories* (1991)
22. Julia Alvarez, *How the García Girls Lost Their Accents* (1991)
23. Alejandro Morales, *The Rag Doll Plagues* (1992)
24. Cherrie Moraga, *Heroes and Saints and Other Plays* (1986-1992/1994)
25. Ana Castillo, *So Far From God* (1993)
26. Rosario Ferre, *The House on the Lagoon* (1995)
27. Helena Maria Viramontes, *Under the Feet of Jesus* (1995)
28. Graciela Limon, *Song of the Hummingbird* (1996)
29. Emma Pérez, *Gulf Dreams* (1996)
30. Héctor Tobar, *The Tattooed Soldier* (1998)

Critical Works

1. Néstor García Canclini, *Hybrid Cultures: Strategies for Entering and Leaving Modernity* (1995)
2. Rafael Pérez-Torres, *Mestizaje: Critical Uses of Race in Chicano Culture* (2006)
3. Antonio Viego, *Dead Subjects: A Politics of Loss in Latino Studies* (2007)
4. Christina Beltran, *The Trouble With Unity: Latino Politics and the Creation of Identity* (2010)
5. Grace Kyungwon Hong and Roderick A. Ferguson, *Strange Affinities: The Gender and Sexual Politics of Comparative Racialization* (2011)
6. Arlene Dávila, *Latinos, Inc.: The Marketing and Making of a People* (2012)
7. John Alba Cutler, *Ends of Assimilation: The Formation of Chicano Literature* (2015)
8. Cathryn Josefina Merla-Watson and B. V. Olguín, *Altermundos: Latin@ Speculative Literature, Film, and Popular Culture* (2017)
9. Marissa K. López, *Racial Immanence: Chicanx Bodies Beyond Representation* (2019)
10. Yomaira C. Figueroa, *Decolonizing Diasporas: Radical Mappings of Afro-Atlantic Literature* (2020)