Hispanics in the United States

A Demographic, Social, and Economic History, 1980–2005

In 1980 the U.S. government began to systematically collect data on Hispanics. By 2005 the Latino population of the United States had become the nation’s largest minority; it is projected to comprise about one-third of the total U.S. population in 2050. Using census data and other statistical source materials, this book examines the transformations in the demographic, social, and economic structures of Latino Americans in the United States between 1980 and 2005. Unlike most other studies, this book presents data on transformations over time, rather than a static portrait of specific topics at particular moments. Latino Americans are examined over this twenty-five-year period in terms of their demographic structures, changing patterns of wealth and poverty, educational attainment, citizenship and voter participation, occupational structures, employment, and unemployment, among other themes. The result is a detailed socioeconomic portrait by region and over time that indicates the basic patterns that have led to the formation of a complex national minority group that has become central to U.S. society.

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This book is dedicated to our grandchildren

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and

Benjamin Alexander Klein
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