The Cambridge History of Latina/o American Literature emphasizes the importance of understanding Latina/o literature not simply as a U.S. ethnic phenomenon but more broadly as a trans-American tradition extending from the sixteenth century to the present. Engaging with the dynamics of transculturation, linguistic and cultural difference, and the uneven distribution of power across the Americas that characterize Latina/o literature, the essays in this History provide a critical overview of key texts, authors, themes, and contexts as discussed by leading scholars in the field. This book demonstrates the relevance of Latina/o literature for a world defined by legacies of coloniality, the imposition of militarized borders, and the transnational migration of people, commodities, and cultural practices.

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A Patricia, Angelita, y Santiago, siempre en mi corazón — JMG
A Amaru, Marta Zabina, el futuro; y a Rubén, mi cielo — LAL
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Acknowledgements

We would like to thank Ray Ryan, our editor at Cambridge University Press, for encouraging this volume along to fruition. Thanks also to the editorial and production staff of Cambridge University Press for their efforts in making this volume a reality; in particular, Emma Collison, Divya Mathesh, and Jane Voodikon lent their expertise. We also extend our appreciation to Sandra Spicher for compiling the index.

As this critical anthology would be nothing without the essays, we would like to thank all the contributors for their wonderful efforts in creating this collaborative critical overview of Latina/o literary studies.

Finally, we would like to acknowledge Juan Flores and José Esteban Muñoz, two inspiring and engaged scholars who helped make the field what it is today. They had each agreed to contribute an essay but passed away during the volume’s elaboration. For us, they will always be ¡Presente!
This chronology sets out dates and events that have informed Latina/o American literary history. While not comprehensive, it is intended to illustrate connections among and across the disparate, heterogeneous histories discussed herein. The geographical scope is transnational and includes salient points of contact between Latin America, the Caribbean, and the United States as these interactions shaped the trans-American and Latina/o literary imagination. Insofar as the latinidades of the Americas have been formed through the dynamics of European colonization, African slavery and emancipation, and indigenous resistance and survival, this chronology highlights these processes as they have found expression in the cultural practices and productions across the Americas. The goal is to offer a sense of a present defined by migration and empire; to provide reference points for entangled routes; to map transculturation rather than national assimilation; to explain the impossibility of return to a single point of departure. The event of textual publication offers but one index of historicity, often belated, so this chronology also references processes, performance, movements, and cultural work peculiar to Latina/o literature, both emergent and recovered.

1492  Columbus’s small fleet accidentally runs across inhabited Caribbean islands; Columbian Viceroyalty of the Indies lasts until 1526. Reconquista of Iberian Peninsula terminates with the fall of the Emirate of Granada; the expulsion of Jews from all Spanish territories generates numerous nuevos cristianos.

1494  The Kingdoms of Portugal and Spain divide the Americas between themselves in the Treaty of Tordesillas.

1500  The Kingdom of Portugal claims the area of what is now Brazil.

1510  King Ferdinand of Spain authorizes the beginning of systematic transport of Africans to the new world, beginning with fifty taken to Santo Domingo.
Chronology

1519 Spanish conquest of Mexico Empire aided by indigenous allies. Malinali, Doña Marina, or la Malinche was given as spoils of war to the Spanish, and she gave birth to her son Martín by conquistador Hernán Cortés, after the fall of Tenochtitlán in 1522.

1524 *Popul Wuj* transcribed into Spanish.

1528–1536 Black navigator Esteban joins Pánfilo de Narváez’s expedition to explore Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, Arizona, and Texas; Núñez Cabeza de Vaca publishes narrative of said disastrous expedition entitled *Naufragios* in 1542.

1532 Francisco Pizarro massacres Incas in Caxamarca and captures the Inca, Atahualpa.

1535 Viceroyalty of New Spain, established in what would become Mexico, lasts until 1821.

1542 Viceroyalty of New Castilla, set down in what would be Peru, Ecuador, Bolivia, and Chile, lasts until 1824.

1565 Pedro Menéndez de Avilés claims San Augustine, Florida, in the land of the Seminole.

1591 Juan de Cárdenas describes the Mexican Spanish criollos in *Problemas y maravillas secretos de los Indios*.

1609 Expulsion of Muslims from Spain. Mestizo writer Inca Garcilaso de la Vega publishes the *Comentarios reales de los Incas*.

1610 Gaspar Pérez de Villagrá writes *Historia de la Nueva México*, with a first-hand account of the massacre of 800 Acoma by Spanish troops under Juan de Oñate, who imprisoned hundreds in addition to ordering the amputation of the right foot of male survivors and enslavement of the rest of the Acoma Pueblo in the oldest continuously inhabited city in what is now the United States.

1615 Felipe Guaman Poma de Ayala sends to King Phillip III of Spain his handwritten manuscript, *El primer nueva crónica y buen gobierno*, which documents Andean civilization and the effects of the Spanish conquest. The manuscript resurfaced in 1908 and published in 1936.

1680 Pueblo Revolt unites indigenous groups throughout the Upper Rio Grande basin and ends Spanish rule in New Mexico for twelve years.

1680–1688 Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, or Juana Ramírez de Asbaje, becomes the most prominent unofficial poet of the court of Mexico City, having published in Spain her poems, theater, and other writings while living cloistered in the convent of San Francisco de Paula.
Chronology

1717 Viceroyalty of New Granada in what would become Panama, Colombia, and Venezuela established, lasts until 1819.
1769 City of New Orleans under Spanish rule until 1802.
1776 Viceroyalty of Rio de la Plata established, lasts until 1814.
1780–1781 Túpac Amaru II and Micaela Bastidas lead an indigenous and black revolt against Spanish colonial rule in Peru.
1790 Fermín de Reygadas submits Astucias por heredar un sobrino a un tío to be considered for the stage at the Mexican Coliseum. But the play is banned by the censor, and not performed until 1796 in the secular settlement Villa de Branciforte, next to the Mission Santa Cruz in California.
1791–1804 Slave revolts, beginning in Bois Caiman and led by Jamaican Dutty Boukman and Cécile Fatiman, spark revolution against Napoleon led by Toussaint L’Ouverture. Founding of the Republic of Haiti.
1799 Juan Pablo Vizcardo y Guzmán, “Carta a los Hispanos Americanos” proposes criollo rights to territories of the Americas dominated by the Spanish.
1803 United States acquires Louisiana.
1808 Under Napoleon, France invades Spain. In what would become Texas and other parts of the Spanish empire in the Americas, this attack on the Spanish monarchy makes it possible to redefine sovereignty locally. El Misisípi, the first Spanish-language newspaper in the United States, is published through 1810.
1810–1829 Wars of Independence across Latin America.
1812 José Antonio Aponte, free black artisan and leader of a black military battalion, uses an infamous book of paintings to plot a black-led revolt in Havana. Aponte and other leaders are detained, and he is decapitated.
1816 Manuel Torres publishes An Exposition of the Commerce of Spanish America; With Some Observations Upon Its Importance to the United States.
1819 United States acquires Florida from Spain in the Adams-Onís Treaty.
1823 Proclamation of the Monroe Doctrine by the United States.
1824–1826 Father Félix Varela edits El Habanero in Philadelphia.
1826 The anonymously authored Spanish-language historical novel *Jicoténcal* is published in Philadelphia. Simón Bolívar hosts the Congreso Anfictiónico de Panamá.

1836 Texas revolt and the formation of the Republic of Texas.

1845 United States annexes the Republic of Texas as a state; Eusebio José Gómez publishes a Spanish-language paper, *El Hablador/La Patria/La Unión* in New Orleans, through 1851, in which is serialized what may be the first Latino novel, *Un matrimonio como hay muchos* (1848–1849).

1846 U.S.-Mexican War begins as border dispute.

1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ends U.S.-Mexican War, transferring Mexico’s northern provinces to the United States.

1848–1851 *La Verdad* and *La Crónica* are published in New York City.

1851 Guatemalan-born Antonio José de Irisarri’s *El cristiano errante* is serialized in *La Patria* of New Orleans.

1854 Periodical *El Mulatto* is published in New York City.

1855 Many Spanish-language journalists of the annexed portion of Mexico denounce the 1851 Land Act and Manifest Destiny. Francisco P. Ramirez defends “la raza latina” in *El Clamor Público*, a Los Angeles newspaper that is published until 1859.


1861–1864 U.S. Civil War.

1861–1867 French military occupies Mexico until driven out by Republican forces under Benito Juárez.

1868–1878 Ten Years War in Cuba and a strike for independence in Puerto Rico leads to the migration of thousands of Cubans and Puerto Ricans to the United States, many of whom are tobacco workers who contribute significantly to the creation of the cities of Key West, Tampa, and migrant communities in New York.

1872 María Amparo Ruiz de Burton publishes *Who Would Have Thought It?*

1873 U.S. ship *Virginius* is captured and filibuster Narciso López is put to death.

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**Chronology**

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1876 Loreta Janeta Velazquez publishes *The Woman in Battle: The Civil War Narrative of Loreta Janeta Velazquez, Cuban Woman and Confederate Soldier*.

1881 José Martí publishes “Coney Island” in Bogotá, Colombia.

1885 María Amparo Ruiz de Burton publishes *The Squatter and the Don*.

1887 Spanish General Romualdo Palacios represses advocates of social equality in the Autonomist Party during the “compontes,” which disproportionately affects Afro-Puertorriqueños; Lucy Gonzalez Parsons helps lead hundreds of thousands in demanding the eight-hour workday.

1888–1889 José Antonia Fernández de Trava edits the newspaper *El Moro de Paz* and later becomes the first professor of Spanish at Tulane.

1889–1891 International American Conference in Washington, D.C. convenes leaders of Latin American and Caribbean nations to lower tariffs, obtain concessions for industry, and establish a single hemispheric currency; Latin American leaders travel to various U.S. cities and attend meetings and ultimately refuse the proposal.

1891 José Martí’s “Nuestra América” published in Mexico City and New York.


1893 Lola Rodríguez de Tío publishes *Mi Libro de Cuba*; Aurelia Castillo de González attends and writes about the World’s Columbian Exhibition in Chicago.

1894 Manuel Zeno Gandía publishes *La charca*.

1895–1898 Cubans and Puerto Ricans fight in the Cuban War of Independence, led by Dominican Máximo Gómez, Antonio Maceo, and José Martí.
Chronology

1898–1901 U.S.-Cuban-Spanish War results in the transfer of Cuba, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines to U.S. control. Justo Sierra publishes *En tierra yankee (notas a todo vapor)* in Mexico City.

1899 Incorporation of United Fruit Company; Máximo Soto Hall publishes *El Problema*.

1900–1938 Flores Magón brothers, anarchist opponents of Porfirio Díaz regime, moved publication of their major newspaper from Mexico, upon the editors’ imprisonment and exile, to Texas, Missouri and California. The paper continues to circulate in the United States, with interruptions, to 30,000 readers.

1901 In *Downes vs. Bidwell*, Supreme Court justice Edward E. White declares Puerto Rico and other annexed territories “foreign in a domestic sense.” The Platt Amendment reserves the right of the United States to intervene in the affairs of a nominally independent Cuba, beginning in 1902.

1904–1910 Sara Estela Ramírez, revolutionary Mexicana in exile, contributes to *La Crónica* and *El Demócrata fronterizo*, in addition to founding and directing two literary magazines, *La Corregidora* and *Aurora*.

1906–1909 U.S. military occupies Cuba for a second time.

1908 New Mexican ex-confederate James Santiago Tafolla writes his memoir in Spanish, which will not be published until 2009, after being translated and edited by his great-granddaughters Carmen and Laura Tafolla, as *A Life Crossing Borders*.


1910–1920 The Mexican Revolution forces up to a million Mexicans to migrate to the United States as war refugees.

1911–1927 *El Mercurio* (New Orleans) includes prose by Salvadoran born Máximo Soto Hall and poetry by Peruvian José Santos Chocano. Luisa Capetillo publishes *Mi Opinión Sobre las Libertades, Derechos y Deberes de la Mujer* (1911).

1912 New Mexico Territory admitted to the Union as a state; Several thousand members of the Partido Independiente de Color, are massacred by the Cuban military under President José Miguel Gómez, whose government had declared any political parties
organized by racial groups to be illegal and “racist”; Arturo Schomburg publishes “Gen. Evaristo Estenoz,” in The Crisis.

1912–1933 U.S. military occupies Nicaragua.
1914 Aliro Díaz Guerra publishes Lucas Guevara.
1914–1918 First World War.
1915 Armed uprising of los sediciosos in South Texas; Mariano Azuela publishes Los de abajo.
1915–1934 U.S. military occupies Haiti.
1914–1924 U.S. military occupies the Dominican Republic.
1917 United States imposes citizenship upon Puerto Ricans through the Jones-Shafroth Act. Puerto Ricans drafted for military service.
1918 Salomón de la Selva publishes Tropical Town and Other Poems.
1920 Merchant Marine Act forces Puerto Rico to become dependent on shipping from U.S. ports.
1925 William Carlos Williams publishes In the American Grain.
1926 The Schomburg Collection of Negro Literature and Art is established in Harlem.
1926–1929 The Cristero Rebellion in Mexico sends a new wave of migrants to the United States.
1927–1933 Augusto César Sandino leads guerilla war against the U.S. military in Nicaragua.
1928 Daniel Venegas publishes Las aventuras de Don Chipote.
1929–1939 Worldwide Great Depression; tens of thousands of Mexican nationals and Mexican American citizens alike are deported to Mexico by the U.S. government.
1932 Agustín Farabundo Martí organizes peasants to challenge exploitative conditions in El Salvador, to which the military government of Maximiliano Hernández Martínez responds with La Matanza, a massacre of between 10,000 and 30,000, nearly eradicating the Pipil culture.
1933 U.S. president Franklin Roosevelt announces the “Good Neighbor Policy.”

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1935  María Elena Zamora O’Shea publishes *El Mesquite*.
1936  Texas centennial of independence from Mexico; Miguel Antonio Otero publishes *The Real Billy the Kid; With New Light on the Lincoln County War*.
1937  Massacre of nationalists by state authorities in Ponce, Puerto Rico; dictator Rafael Leonides Trujillo orders the massacre of 10,000 Haitians in the Dominican Republic.
1938  Julia de Burgos publishes *Poema en veinte surcos*, to be followed by *Canción de la verdad sencilla* in 1939; Eusebia Cosme performs *poesía negra* in U.S. cities.
1937–1941  Jovita González and Margaret Eimer collaborate to write *Caballero*.
1938–1945  Second World War; up to 500,000 “Hispanics” serve in the U.S. military.
1943  Zoot Suit Riots in Los Angeles.
1942–1964  In response to wartime labor shortages in U.S. agriculture, the bracero program admits hundreds of thousands of Mexican agricultural workers into the United States.
1945  Josefina Niggli publishes *Mexican Folk Plays*.
1948  Operation Bootstrap initiated in Puerto Rico and consequent industrialization leads tens of thousands to migrate to New York City.
1950  National Party president Pedro Albizu Campos calls for coordinated militant attacks for independence in eight Puerto Rican cities and an attempted attack on President Harry Truman in Washington, D.C. Albizu Campos is held political prisoner of the United States from 1936 to 1947 and again from 1950 to 1965.
1951  Guillermo Cotto-Thorner publishes *Trópico en Manhattan*.
1952  Puerto Rico becomes a U.S. Commonwealth, or Estado Libre Asociado.
1954  Puerto Rican nationalists led by Lolita Lébron open fire in the U.S. House of Representatives; Operation Wetback implemented to deport undocumented Mexican migrants in the United States; René Marqués publishes *La carreta*.
1954  The CIA topples democratically elected government of Guatemala’s president Jacobo Arbenz, who had implemented
Decree 900, an ambitious land-reform program that benefited 500,000 poverty-stricken Guatemalans.


1956 Pedro Juan Soto publishes Spiks.

1958 Américo Paredes publishes doctoral dissertation at University of Texas at Austin, about El corrido de Gregorio Cortez, as With a Pistol in his Hand.

1959 The Cuban Revolution overthrows U.S.-backed dictator Fulgencio Batista, initiating the first wave of the Cuban diaspora to the United States. José Antonio Villareal publishes Pocho; William Carlos Williams publishes Yes, Mrs. Williams: A Personal Record of My Mother.

1960 The United States imposes trade and travel embargos on Cuba in the wake of nationalization of industries; through Operation Pedro Pan, Catholics cooperate with U.S. government to airlift 14,000 unaccompanied minors from Cuba to the United States.

1961 Failed military invasion by CIA-sponsored paramilitary group of Cuban exiles at Playa Girón, or Bay of Pigs Invasion. Jesús Colón publishes A Puerto Rican in New York, and other sketches.

1962 Cuban Missile Crisis; César Chavez and Dolores Huerta organize the United Farm Workers Association.

1963 John Rechy publishes City of Night.

1964–1985 Brazil under military dictatorship.

1965 U.S. military occupies the Dominican Republic after period of civil unrest following Trujillo’s assassination in 1961; Immigration and Nationality Reform Act shifts future immigration to the United States away from Europe and to Asia; Hart-Cellar Act imposes quota restriction upon Latin American and Caribbean migration for the first time and thus generates the category of the “deportable” or “illegal” alien. Luis Valdez founds Teatro Campesino as the cultural arm of the United Farm Workers Association in conjunction with the grape strike (1965–1970), with support of César Chávez.

1966–1978 Severe repression during Joaquin Balaguer’s “Twelve Years” initiates mass migration from the Dominican Republic to the
United States. Max Ferrá founds INTAR Theater as part of the Hispanic American Arts Center.

1967
Rodolfo “Corky” Gonzales publishes *I am Joaquin*; Piri Thomas publishes *Down These Mean Streets*; Luis Valdez publishes *Los Vendidos*. Miriam Colón and Roberto Rodríguez found Puerto Rican Travelling Theater in New York City.

1968
In tandem with strikes across the globe, the Third World Liberation Front student strike leads to the establishment of the Department of Ethnic Studies at San Francisco State University. Pedro Pietri publishes “Puerto Rican Obituary”; Victor Hernández Cruz publishes *Snaps*; George Romero releases film *Night of the Living Dead*.

1969–1970
Young Lords active in Spanish Harlem.

1970

1971
Tomás Rivera publishes *... y no se lo tragó la tierra*; Alurista publishes *Floricanto en Aztlán*; Pedro Pietri records live album, *Aquí Se Habla Español*.

1972
Oscar Zeta Acosta publishes *Autobiography of a Brown Buffalo*; Rodolfo Anaya publishes *Bless Me, Ultima*; Ernesto Galarza publishes *Barrio Boy*; Eddie Palmieri features Felipe Luciano on *Live at Sing Sing* album; Jesus Papoleto Meléndez publishes *Street Poetry and Other Poems*.

1972–1987
Asco art performance collective is active.

1973
With CIA backing, General Augusto Pinochet overthrows the democratically elected president Salvador Allende, installing a dictatorship in Chile that lasts until 1990 and prompting Chilean exile. Oscar Zeta Acosta publishes *Revolt of the Cockroach People*; Rolando Hinojosa publishes *Estampas del Valle y otras obras*; Nicholasa Mohr publishes *Nilda*; Lourdes Casal publishes *Los Fundadores: Alfonso y otros cuentos*; Miguel Algarín and others found the first Nuyorican Poet’s Café; Nicolás Kanellos and Luis Dávila found *La Revista Chicano-Riqueña*, which becomes *Americas Review*.

1974
Miguel Piñero publishes *Short Eyes*; Puerto Rican Riots break out throughout New Jersey; Isabelo Zenón Cruz publishes *Narciso descubre su trasero: El negro en la cultura puertorriqueña*;
Chronology

Lourdes Casal et al. edit Areíto, a Cuban diaspora quarterly that lasts for a decade.

1975
Miguel Algarín and Miguel Piñero edit Nuyorican Poetry: An Anthology of Puerto Rican Words and Feelings; Lorraine Sutton publishes SAYcred LAYdy.

1976
Victor Hernández Cruz publishes Tropicalizations; Rosario Ferré publishes Papeles de Pandora.

1977
César Andreu Iglesias’s edition and transformation of Bernardo Vega’s 800-page, five-volume manuscript into a first-person memoria is published twelve years after Vega’s death; Juan Flores’s translation into English appears seven years later. María Irene Fornés publishes Fefú and Her Friends; Gary Soto publishes The Elements of San Joaquin.

1978
Luis Valdez publishes Zoot Suit.

1979

1980
Responding to endemic poverty, a socialist revolution in Nicaragua and the U.S.-sponsored counterrevolutionary intervention across the region, civil wars in Guatemala (dating to 1944) and El Salvador (beginning in 1979), initiate the great Central American diasporas to the United States. Sandra María Esteves publishes Yerba Buena (1980).

Mariel boatlift brings 125,000 Cubans to U.S. soil; Raúlrsalinas publishes Un trip through the mind jail; Miguel Piñero publishes La Bodega Sold Dreams.

1981
Gloria Anzaldúa and Cherríe Moraga edit This Bridge Called My Back; Alurista publishes Spik in Glyph; Lorna Dee Cervantes publishes Emplumada; Richard Rodriguez publishes Hunger of Memory; Rodolfo Acuña publishes Occupied America: A History of Chicanos; Lourdes Casal publishes Palabras juntan revolución.

1982
Edward Rivera publishes Family Installments; Gilbert and Jaime Hernández commence publication of comic book series Love and Rockets.

1983
Cherríe Moraga publishes Loving in the War Years/ lo que nunca pasó por sus labios.

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1984 Sandra Cisneros publishes *The House on Mango Street*; Arturo Islas publishes *The Rain God*; Tato Laviera publishes *La Carreta Made a U-Turn*.

1985 Miguel Algarín publishes *Time’s Now*; Helena María Viramontes publishes *The Moths and Other Stories*.

1986 Immigration and Control Reform Act provides path to citizenship for 2.7 million undocumented workers in the United States while enacting more stringent border controls. Ana Castillo publishes *The Mixquiahuala Letters*; Cherrie Moraga publishes *Giving Up the Ghost*.

1987 Gloria Anzaldúa publishes *Borderlands/ La Frontera*; Sandra Cisneros publishes *My Wicked, Wicked Ways*; Martin Espada publishes *Trumpets from the Islands of Their Eviction*; Luz María Umpierre publishes *The Margarita Poems*.

1988 Ana Castillo publishes *My Father Was a Toltec*; Roberto Fernández publishes *Raining Backwards*.

1989 U.S. military invades Panama; Lucha Corpi publishes *Delia’s Song*; Virgil Suárez publishes *Latin Jazz*; Julio Ramos publishes *Desencuentros de la modernidad en América Latina*.

1990 Oscar Hijuelos’s *The Mambo Kings Play Songs of Love* awarded the Pulitzer Prize for fiction; Judith Ortiz Cofer publishes *Silent Dancing*.


1991 Julia Alvarez publishes *How the García Girls Lost Their Accents*; Sandra Cisneros publishes *Woman Hollering Creek and Other Stories*.

1992 Columbian Quincentenary; Los Angeles riots; Recovering the U.S. Hispanic Literary Heritage Project is founded. Reinaldo Arenas publishes *Antes que anochezca*; Cristina García publishes *Dreaming in Cuban*; Alejandro Morales publishes *The Rag Doll Plagues*; Luisa Valenzuela publishes *Black Novel with Argentines*; launch of InSite, a network of contemporary art programs and commissioned projects that maps the dynamics of permeability and blockage that characterize the liminal border zone of San Diego-Tijuana.

1992–1994 Coco Fusco and Guillermo Gómez-Peña perform *The Year of the White Bear and Two Undiscovered Amerindians Visit the West*;