



Drink Cultura: Chicanismo

José Antonio Burciaga

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This book is about the Chicano experience of living within, between and sometimes outside of two cultures--the damnation and salvation, and the celebration of it all.

"In some ways a book Erma Bombeck might have written, that is, if she were from El Paso, dressed in Tony Lama boots, and full fledged member of raza."--Gary Soto

"A passionately lyrical *lección para todos* about the history of the Western and Southwestern people. Burciaga is deeply rooted in the indigenous realities."--Carlos Santana

Drink Cultura: Chicanismo Details

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Author : José Antonio Burciaga

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Kathleen says

This book is a quick read with 26 chapters that reflect on Chicano history, language, family values, and cultural norms. It also includes chapters on the author's own experiences growing up Chicano in the United States, having lived in Texas, California, and Washington, D.C., and having traveled to Mexico and Spain. His writing is flavored with Spanish and Spanglish expressions and slang. It's a great blend of personal and Chicano history. A great read for Americans who work with Hispanic populations, or young Chicanos who want to learn a little about their own history.

Michelle says

This is a difficult book to review, although I liked it and would recommend it because of the content and subject matter, I didn't find his writing style engaging. It felt a little too basic at times, which makes me think this would be a great read for a young adult looking to learn more about Chicano history. It's a good starting off point.

In terms of the subject, it appeared to be well researched and offered new insights into "common knowledge".

Miguel Vega says

Overall I really like this book. This book is divided into 26 essays that span the Chicano experience and besides being a very quick read, it was a very interesting one. Burciaga defines what it is to be Chicano, the stigma placed on the word from both sides, and other culturally important ideas and values such as the origin of Poinsettia Plant. I marked up this book almost every page. This is one of this books I felt really understood me. 5/5 would read again.

Jennifer says

Essays from the heart. Really beautiful.

Samantha Prado says

Beautiful stories that allow us to further analyze our Chicano heritage. Wonderful book! Due to its content, it can be a supplemental book for teaching Chicano studies, History of the U.S, or Sociology of Latinos.

María Rivas says

"Drink Cultura" is exactly that. In this collection of essays Jose Antonio Burciaga discusses the various

Historical Chicano events. Most importantly for me, he introduces Dr. Ernesto Galarza, a Chicano activist in the Californian Immigrant Farmworker Union movement and who was nominated for a Nobel Prize in 1976. The question that now arises is: who are the next generation of Chicanas y Chicanos fighting for equality and equity in our community? #DrinkCultura #Chicana

Stacy says

A friend suggested this book as a primer on Chicano culture. It consists of 26 essays, each reflecting a different aspect of being Chicano. I learned a lot! For example, did you know that poinsettias were brought to the US by an ambassador to Mexico (whose last name was Poinsett)? They are native to Mexico and had been used to celebrate Christmas and Aztec celebrations before that. This totally explains why I have never seen a poinsettia plant growing in a garden, always in a pot, since they come from a hot climate.

Another fact he shared: A good reason to celebrate Cinco de Mayo is that if France had won that battle, they might have helped the South with their ties to that region and America might have lost the Civil War.

Other aspects covered included how Chicanos love to eat a jalapeño with a meal, what it's like to grow up in Catholic schools where they weren't allowed to speak Spanish, and why most Mexican heroes are bandits or outlaws (like Tiburcio Vasquez). They aren't viewed as criminals but as brave people fighting back against conquering oppressors and chose to live outside the.

Sometimes he just shares his memories: the infamous Juarez nightlife of the 60's, friends from his youth who died in Vietnam and were never properly remembered on the memorial, getting lost in the desert as a kid, and trying Taco Bell for the first time while writing this book in 1992. (He puzzles over the Enchirito and Mexican pizza on the menu.)

Super sad he died just 3 years after this book was published.

Paulina Sanchez says

This is a wonderful book that talks about Chicanismo, what does it mean to be a Chicano? What does it mean to be Mexican and American at the same time? To be neither from here or there?

It's a book that resonates with me and I'm sure will resonate with many other people who grew up with two (or more) cultures.

You will find small essays about the importance of the jalapeño, the campesino theater movement, and death in our culture(s). It really is a beautiful collection of essays and stories that really show you the multifaceted life of a Chicano.

Ruth says

Author has strong knowledge of Chicano history. It gets a bit repetitive. The chapters are short and would serve as great conversation pieces for students.

Brandon Teran says

This is a quick read - a collection of essays and stories of the reality of Chicanismo, yet I found myself stretching out my reading of this book for enjoyment's sake. Burciaga's writing is a witty conversation with the reader, sometimes wily, but in the end deeply reflective of the importance and legacy of the Chicano culture.

Clarisa says

Not on all levels, but on most levels was it relatable and humorous. I already wear being a Chicana proudly, but now even more so as some of the author's words struck me with clarifying realization on why a certain tradition or custom is what it is for a person with Mexican descent living in the United States.

Vonnie says

I bought this book many, many years ago while I was an undergrad. I graduated with a B.A. in Chicano and Latino Studies, so the theme of this book was the main focus of what I studied in college. I almost forgot I had this book until I was sorting things out of my book boxes at the beginning of the new year. I became very excited when I found it because it brought back memories of everything I held dear in my late teens and early twenties. I had high hopes for this book.

This book was a compilation of small chapters of Burciaga's opinions of different things in the Chicano culture (Chicano= A Mexican American). I especially loved reading his chapters on the origins of Mexican words and phrases as well as Mexican items, such as the pinata. Many of the things discussed in the book, like the history, I was already aware of. However, it was nice to view Burciaga's perspective on how the Chicano came to be. The chapters that I found to be less interesting were the ones on his family and friends. Burciaga was trying to give examples of Chicano life but to me I found them pointless. It felt as if Burciaga was trying to tell people that his experiences were things that ALL Chicanos go through. Being Mexican born but raised in California, my Chicano experiences were vastly different from Burciaga's, as well as any other Chicano living here in the U.S., thus I was not able to connect with most of Burciaga's experiences. Other than these chapters, the other chapters were very interesting and entertaining.

In the end, I was happy to have found this book and finally cross it off my TBR list. It was not the greatest book, but I still found myself enjoying it (I even highlighted many parts in the book). The book is very small and it's a quick read. I recommend it to those who want to learn some of the origins of the Chicano culture.

Yasmin says

I wanted to like this book a lot, mostly because I thought it would address a lot of the topics I'm interested such as identity, language, etc. However, while several of the short chapters resonated with me, many did not. I'm not sure why, and I wish I could explain more, but I found myself neglecting the collection of essays

then rushing through them just to finish.

Andrew Hanna says

Mi vida... This book is well written and very true if you have lived the life of a Mexican American. The insights and humor

Alex says

DRINK CULTURA unfolds as an interesting explorations and recollection of Chicano-related anecdotes, but historical and personal, which Burciaga's narrative delivers with a zest that only a Latino voice can. This book will be appreciated by any reader with the smallest inclination to learn more about Chicanismo and that love-hate relationship between the Mexican and American cultures.
