
Sonoma County Superintendent of Schools, Santa Rosa, Calif.

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106p.; For the first American Ethnic Studies Bibliography, see ED 038 221; Some pages may reproduce poorly due to paper color of original document.

Approximately 1500 books published between 1940 and 1974 constitute this revised edition of the 1970 minority experience bibliography. It is said to be directed at teachers in inservice activities and students of American minority groups. Afro-Americans and native Americans are covered with additional sections on the Asian-American, Euro-American, and Mexican-American subgroups incorporated into this edition. Most citations are said to have been included to provide a historical approach to current problems. Specific disciplines such as anthropology, literature, sociology, economics, history, and psychology reflect concern in many areas of inquiry such as civil rights, black power, race issues, immigration, social systems, socialization, bilingualism, and religion. (AM)
THE MINORITY EXPERIENCE

A Basic Bibliography of American Ethnic Studies

Compiled by Ron Caselli

Sonoma County Office of Education
Santa Rosa, California
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Revised and Enlarged Edition
FORWARD

Our desire to continue to assist teachers in inservice training activities resulted in the preparation of this revised American Ethnic Studies bibliography.

Intensive or selective reading of these materials should help each of us to better understand ourselves and others, and to provide educational services, whereby attitudes might be changed, or positively developed from the beginning.

The first ethnic studies bibliography was published in 1970, and was well received by teachers and librarians in Sonoma County and throughout the United States. This revised edition, expanded to include European and Asian minority experiences, should prove even more useful. Your constructive criticism will continue to be appreciated. Likewise, suggestions for materials to be included will be appreciated as we work to keep listings current.

Walter A. Eagan
Superintendent of Schools
Sonoma County, California
Bibliographies are forever incomplete. One of the major tasks confronting a compiler of available works is dealing with a reasonable cut-off point, and sticking to it. As soon as a list is made type-ready, one can find new titles which should have been included. By the time all sheets have been subjected to printing and binding, the volume they now represent may be already out-of-date.

Another problem has to do with selection. There are so many titles, both current and past, that the compiler must exercise an inordinate amount of subjective preference. Care must also be afforded to the general availability of recommended works. Preference may run strong for a given source, but if that source is generally unavailable, its inclusion is of doubtful value.

With these pitfalls in mind, this revision of The Minority Experience was published by Sonoma County Office of Education as a service to local educators, and for dissemination through the nationwide ERIC system. The first edition of the bibliography (1970) enjoyed excellent success: Some 1,000 copies were distributed, mostly on request, to educational agencies all over the United States and Canada.

The first edition confined itself to works reflecting the unique experiences of Black, Chicano, and Native-American minority groups. The rationale for this restriction remains valid: These three groups have suffered most from academic and educational neglect, and are in greatest need of cultural response by majority communities who can well learn from the experiences of other Americans.

The current volume has been expanded to include sections outlining the sub-cultural experiences of Asian and Euro-American minorities. In the former instance, many current titles are in evidence, as testimony to recent Asian-American attempts to regain identity in the broader Anglo-Saxon majority.

Listings dealing with Euro-American sub-cultural groups are older works, for the most part, dealing with what is now called "immigrant history." Yet, owing to more similarity than difference, of experience, the inclusion of Euro-American groups represents an important addition to the study of North American pluralism. This section, in fact, required more research than the other four, and may be one of the most succinct bibliographical sections of its kind.
Biases governing selection, or rejection, of works included in this revision are two-fold: (1) Each selection had to be directly relevant to understanding each group's attempt to carry over cultural attitudes into a system dominated by Anglo-Saxon values. (2) Each selection had to reflect continuing struggles for ethnic cultural identity in a society which persists in the comfortable delusion that it is a melting pot, capable of somehow merging the very atoms of a vast variety of traditions, religions, languages, and methods of progressing.

In an early effort to meet the educational needs of its rather diverse community, the Sonoma County Board of Education established the position of ethnic studies coordinator in July, 1969. One of the first priorities attached to that position was the development of an American ethnic studies bibliography for use by area teachers, counselors, and administrators. The first Minority Experience was distributed well beyond the borders of Sonoma County during Spring 1970. This expanded revision reflects the commitment stated in the first bibliography to up-date and revise, to increase the importance of the publication as educational experience and need may dictate.

This revised edition attempts to provide a general background for the serious student of United States' ethnic traditions, as well as for those seeking understanding of modern ethnic-based protest movements. The approach is eclectic, in terms of disciplines included: Some titles are primarily concerned with sociology, others with economics, others with folk tradition, still others with prescriptions for the future which the reader may accept or reject according to his/her background.

Serious constraints may be found among works dealing with Mexican-, Native-, and Afro-American peoples: The former two groups have been traditional prey for anthropologists, public health students, and nutritionists. Similarly, the black heritage has been re-routed into an overconcern with Slavery and Reconstruction periods by white historians. In the present volume, care has been taken to limit selections typifying these biases.

Realizing that books are generally more lasting, and therefore available, than periodicals, no attempt was made to cite articles on the subjects documented. This is not to discount the importance of magazine and newspaper statements over two or three centuries of North American experience, but to limit inclusions on the correct notion that the best statements tend to appear in hardbound collections eventually.

The first edition of The Minority Experience acknowledged the contribution of many participants. That volume was a result of a priority established by the Sonoma County Board of Education, County Superintendent Walter A. Eagan, and the Sonoma County Ethnic Studies Curriculum Committee. Individual contributions to the current revision have grown, almost in proportion to the size of the volume. In any event, a work of this kind implies the assistance
of many people, each adding unique skills to the total administrative vitality and was provided in abundance by Dr. Eagan, Assistant Superintendent Clifford H. Kopitzke, and Sonoma County Office of Education Directors Harry "Bud" Loucks and Jack Thompson. Assistance with identifying sources was provided by Learning Resources Consultant Musya Sakovich and librarians throughout the Northern California area. Careful and concerned secretarial support was the contribution of Diana Milani, Vocational Education Department Secretary. Norm Baerd, Sonoma County Office of Education Graphic Arts Technician, loaned his expertise to the many details of competent production. A host of others graciously gave of their time and knowledge to the revision project, and space will not permit naming them all.

Finally, a quote from the first edition is still relevant:

"It is obvious that no one bibliography can satisfy all research needs for the serious student of American ethnic studies. Sonoma County Office of Education, therefore, invites comments and additional listings useful in updating this document from time to time. Hopefully, the current work will reflect a healthy beginning of the bibliography project, rather than a final work to be shelved and forgotten."

Ron Caselli
Intergroup Relations Consultant
April, 1975
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