



Mexifornia: A State of Becoming

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This book is part history, part political analysis and part memoir. It is an intensely personal book about what has changed in California over the last quarter century.

Mexifornia: A State of Becoming Details

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From Reader Review Mexifornia: A State of Becoming for online ebook

Amber Elaine says

Terrible, racist book.

John Wiswell says

The best book on illegal immigration I've seen so far. Hanson has a lot of powerful anecdotes, and a lot of conflicting interests. Living in an area of the U.S. that is saturated with illegal immigrants, he's seen both the positive and the negative. When no one else will help him with his crops, he relied on some of them. Others stole his mail for credit information and used his field as a trash dump. Legal immigrant students struggled to pay tuition while illegal immigrant students breezed by on special aid and scholarships. There are so many contradictions and tough questions that the extreme left and extreme right on this issue ignore, and it seems they could only be put by someone who has been forced to feel both biases. He goes from economics to politics to cultural development to social criticism to grim forecasts of our likely future. It's a potent meditation on one of the most important issues facing our country.

Greg says

This was a really disappointing book. I was expecting a historical narrative and analysis of the migration of Mexicans to California, especially since Hanson is a somewhat renowned historian of ancient Rome and Greece. Instead this book is mainly Hanson's own personal stories (which is the best part of the book and I will get to later) and statistics. I don't agree with many of Hanson's arguments but what surprised me most was that he defended his claims with cheesy political one-liners I could have gotten from 30 minutes of CNN or Fox News.

Hanson's main arguments are against illegal immigration, attempts by leftists to assimilate America to Mexicans rather than harsh assimilation laws, and multiculturalism. I can't disagree with his wave of statistics how not learning English, having bilingual education, or Chicano Studies programs work to the economic detriment of Mexicans in California. I could really care less about that. What amused me is that his desire to educate and assimilate Mexicans for their own good shares a lot in common with the late 1800s desire to brutally civilize Native Americans that resulted in the genocide of many tribes.

I had three main problems with Hanson's argument. First, he believed immigrants to this country ought to assimilate to American culture because he believed it to be the most superior of all cultures where others (like Mexico) have failed. His evidence is the economic and military might of America and that this must be the greatest country because why would so many people be immigrating here. With that same logic I could say farming is the greatest job in the world because so many Mexicans are becoming farmers. What is more frustrating is that his argument is completely devoid of how history or environment has affected the "greatness" of some cultures and the "failure" of others.

Second, Hanson hates the idea of multiculturalism and the idea of Mexicanizing California, immigrants

must assimilate to this general American culture. Compared to many people I have only studied a small part of American History, but I have enough awareness to notice that throughout American history and even today there are dozens of different cultures scatter in America, and the idea of one generic, white American culture is ignorant of our own history. What culture should immigrants assimilate to? Small farm-town California, Polish Chicago, Cuban Miami, Puerto Rican New York, New Orleans, Amish Pennsylvania....

My third problem is that I was hoping for some insight into what has been going on in Mexico for the past few hundred years that would cause such a mass exodus of people. The only (and brief) answers I got was the corrupt autocratic government (noting about hwy is was corrupt) and northern drug wars. Again no historical analysis, Hanson employs as much depth in his answers as a CNN soundbite.

The one thing I did like about this book and thought important was his won personal stories about being a farmer and living in a small agrarian community in Southern California that has changed dramatically over the years due to Mexican immigration. He expresses a true fear that his home will be transformed to something new, un-American, Third World-like. I really started to feel for the guy and I think his struggles with cultural conflict is that most important part of the book. Many people (including Hanson) have no sympathy when other people around the world fight against having their culture uprooted or changed, but when the same conflict happens in America, Cinco de Mayo parties, the Spanish language, Mexican flags, etc. are treated as viruses and the end of life as we know it. I appreciate the emotion in his writing and think that this fear Hanson portrays is more insightful than anything else he has to say

Terry Cornell says

A must read for Californians, and anyone interested in the illegal immigration issue. Victor Hanson is a retired Fresno State Professor that grew up on his families farm in a Central Valley town, and still lives there today. His somewhat unique perspective helps him examine the issue from the negative effects on our state's resources and school systems, to the real need of having worker's ready to harvest his peaches and pick his grapes. He writes of the failure of California's primary and secondary education systems to keep up with the influx of immigrants, while at the same time Chicano/Latino Program College Professors preach the anti-assimilation message. Hanson makes the issue more personal than some, writing of some of his own experiences dealing with immigrants in his own community as well as the changes he has seen in his community over time. I discovered Professor Hanson has a blog, where he writes on political issues. <http://victorhanson.com/wordpress/>

Nathan Albright says

I have definitely mixed thoughts about the author of this book [1], and my thoughts and feelings about this book are probably about as positive as possible for this author's work. The author shows himself as a simple California farmer and classics professor, struggling in his own quixotic way with the massive population expansion of illegal Mexican immigrants into his beloved state, which has had drastic and immensely negative consequences for the well-being of the state as a whole, even if the political elites have so far been able to shield themselves against it. Reading this book, one gets the feeling that the author is trying to play

up his populist appeal as much as possible by pointing out that it is out-of-touch political and economic elites that have combined to support illegal immigration at the expense of the common citizen of the country, no matter the color. Part memoir and part political editorial spread out over around 150 or so pages, this book is definitely a worthwhile and quirky one, and anyone who wishes to say something intelligent about the immigration debate in contemporary American should give this book and its argument a serious look.

Given the short contents of this book, it is perhaps unsurprising that there are only a few chapters here. After a preface and introduction, the author comments on what makes the current immigration problem with Mexico so much different than previous periods of mass immigration, which were more discrete than continuous and from a much further distance away, with a culture in the United States committed firmly to assimilation. The author then looks at the universe of the illegal alien and points out how envy and discontent fester in that shadowy world. The author then talks about the mind of the host and tries to get at what people are looking for from illegal immigrants--namely cheap labor (for business owners of various kinds) and reliable voters (for Democrats). The author looks back to his own childhood in looking at the old simplicity that worked in getting immigrants acculturated and successful. The author then turns his attention to the new multiculturalism and how it has totally failed to provide even a basic degree of education or potential for advancement to contemporary immigrants. After this the author looks at popular culture and its potential to provide at least some insight into American culture before providing his own options that Americans should choose from in an epilogue.

There are a great many moments in this book that make the author appear a bit more human. It is almost entertaining to read him complain of how he has to deal with grumpy and entitled immigrants who disrespect property rights and seem entirely unfamiliar with the golden rule or how it is to be applied in respecting others as you wish for respect yourself. I happened to find the book a mixture between humorous and poignant while always remaining pointed. By and large, I happen to agree with the author's analysis, which is worth something. It is amazing how positively one can think and feel of a Victor Davis Hanson book--not something I am used to thinking or feeling--when one's positive feelings come from agreement between reader and writer. For those who disagree with this book's arguments, I wonder how the human touch of Hanson as a small-time farmer will influence the perception that people have of the book, and if the populist touches of the author will mean to anyone who is outside of the crowd of those who are guarded at best about the issue of America's contemporary attitudes towards immigration and our lack of interest in assimilation.

[1] See, for example:

<https://edgeinducedcohesion.blog/2011...>

<https://edgeinducedcohesion.blog/2014...>

<https://edgeinducedcohesion.blog/2014...>

Nolan says

This is a thoughtfully written book by a military historian and classics professor who takes a sane, careful look at how California and the entire western states and even the nation is changing as a result of almost-untrammelled illegal immigration. His concerns for the future are sobering indeed and on target. He writes of a burgeoning illegal population who assimilate in terms of wearing American clothes and even knowing about American cultural/entertainment icons but who have no real sense of what America has been and is.

He insists there's plenty of blame to go around in terms of why the problem exists, and he warns of a future in which California and other states may be neither fish nor fowl, so to speak. He points out that since Mexico is so close, many of those who come here never really become assimilated.

This man is by no means racist, and he's not among the screamers who would shoot anything that moves north across the border regardless of the reason for the movement. His proposed solutions are thoughtful, workable, and so far quite untried.

This book is written from a somewhat conservative point of view, but I thoroughly enjoyed the author's writing style. This is absolutely not some academic boring monologue. It's filled with stories and examples, and it's really a quick read. If you think at all about the future that people like my grandchildren are growing into, this book needs to be among your nonfiction reads of the year.

Jim Misko says

MEXIFORNIA, A State of Becoming by Victor Davis Hanson, was recommended to me five years ago and I blew it off. Then the President's move to handle illegal immigration by executive order (11/14) instead of having Congress pass laws—after mid-term elections when his party was trounced—I thought it was time to read it. Victor Davis Hanson is a bright man and his presentation of the immigration situation and how it has impacted California is clear and concise. It ought to be read by every person holding any political office in California. To that you could add opinion makers in other states affected by the large group of illegal immigrants who differ so much from the past waves of legal immigrants to our borders. It is sobering, personal, fits small communities and large alike and above all, the offered solutions could well solve California's dilemma of how to deal with it.

Betty says

Enlightening. The author understands both sides of the issue and is very adept at presenting his analysis in a truly readable manner. Great book.

John Gurney says

I support immigration, but read "Mexifornia", with an open mind, anticipating disagreement with author Victor Davis Hansen. I lack space to fully refute his book, but will tackle broad points. First, I do not attack him personally; one shortcut around argumentation is to blandish terms like 'racist', and I don't think Hansen is one. He is a Cal State Civics professor who also farms in California's predominantly Mexican-American Central Valley, who, as described in the book, had close relationships with Mexicans his entire life. His fear is not of Mexican immigrants per se, but rather numbers supposedly so large, and Mexico so proximate, that they aren't assimilating and are overwhelming the system.

Hansen writes in an engaging style, though I almost always disagree with him here. That said, he has surprisingly little data. It is very heavy with anecdotal stories, many his own California experiences. It has to be said that illegal immigration is, by its very nature, not well documented, and no one can even nail down how many undocumented immigrants even live in the United States. I note that even the highest plausible

estimates run at less than 3% of the US population.

He fails to ID a hugely important factor in immigration, namely, the tremendous drop in Mexican fertility. In 1976, the average fertility of an average Mexican woman was an astounding 7.2 children [<http://www.colby.edu/personal/t/thtie...>], though it is nearly the same as the USA today at 2.3 [<http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/m...>]. The math is such that Mexican population growth will all but stop in coming decades. [<http://www.un.org/esa/population/publ...>]

In reading his litany of complaints, several points struck me. One is that some of his concerns, e.g. litter and even stray animals left by illegal immigrants, can just as easily be leveled against any other group, including US citizens. Other parts of his book could have been written a century ago if we plug "Irish", "Italian", "German", "Pole" or "Jew" in for "Mexican."

Sometimes, Hansen almost gets things right. Starting on page 35, he identifies the menial work undocumented workers perform, and he guesses it's not the money (~\$10/hour cash) that stops native born Americans from working in the orchards or mowing lawns. I think he is right; young Anglos refuse to even consider work they consider 'below' themselves. Hence, the need for immigrant labor. Anyone who opposes Mexican immigration needs to be prepared to pay more for many services and goods, especially agricultural products. Deport the illegals, and who, exactly, will wash dishes, bus the tables, serve as maids, pick strawberries, or do your gardening?

Other complaints may be unique to California. This book got me thinking about Texas, the nation's second most populous state, which shares a much longer border with Mexico and has an equal proportion Mexican-American population; both California and Texas will soon be majority Latino. Yet, no one writes of "Mexitexas". Texas isn't facing the fiscal calamity or high unemployment of California. To me, the obvious answer is California has unique problems, unique to the state's fiscal policies and their economic consequences. California's Silicon Valley provides a number of incredibly well-paying jobs, but Palo Alto programmers have little impact on employment in Fresno or Anaheim. But the comparative success of Texas puts the lie to blaming Mexican-American immigration for California's problems. Note, also, the big four booming cities of Texas: Houston, San Antonio, Austin, and Dallas, all have atypically large Hispanic populations. San Antonio is 2/3 Hispanic and Harris County (Houston) is half Hispanic, according to the Census Bureau. Yet, jobs are plentiful and average income is growing.

He does not concede the economic impact of immigrants. The people he sees shopping at Wal-Mart or driving used cars are pumping money into local economies. When an immigrant pays rent or buys dinner at McDonalds, their dollars are no different than that of citizens, or the foreign tourists that so many cities attempt to lure precisely to spend money.

I agree with Hansen that Chicano studies programs accomplish little, and attempts to paper over, for example, Aztec human sacrifice are intellectually dishonest. Yet, does it matter? How many Mexican immigrants take college-level Chicano studies? Is anyone, even in Mexico, working to reintroduce Aztec rule?

Some of Hansen's concerns are bizarre. Though I've never met anyone who actually espoused "Aztlán", he writes of the fringe, so small it can't even be considered a 'movement', that wants a new Mexican state of "Aztlán" created in the American southwest. Come on. Ditto concern about divided loyalties. What Mexican-Americans want to merge the US and Mexico? For that matter, how many Mexicans want to merge

countries? Are we to be worried that the Mexican army, so corrupt it cannot maintain domestic peace, is going to defeat the world's most powerful military, the US, to reconquer the parts of the United States ceded in the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo?

He is concerned about people not learning English, yet, the data don't back him up. See the data on English vs. Spanish speaking in Mexican-American households. (<http://www.migrationinformation.org/F...>)

Intermarriage rates are very high, about one quarter of the total. (<http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1616/amer...>)

Hansen uses anecdotal stories, allowing someone like myself to compare and my own personal experiences. Chicagoland is not quite as Latino as metro L.A. or the Central Valley, but it has had an explosion of Hispanic immigration, and Hispanics are the largest ethnic group in many areas of the region. While some inner city Chicago barrio neighborhoods have the violence and poverty Hansen points to, it has to be said that (1) non-Hispanic city areas have similar problems and (2) there is a large, growing Latino middle class in Chicago and its suburbs. Even in the barrios, 26th Street and 18th Street are filled with small shops; the signs may be in Spanish, but there is a strong entrepreneurial streak there. (see also <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001...>) A mistake probably made by Hansen and other immigration opponents is to assume that the Mexican immigrant overheard speaking Spanish along 18th Street is the same who was talking Spanish there fifty years ago. Immigration means fresh waves keep coming, but the earlier waves get on with life, moving up, moving out.

Take the example of Chicago's large northwest suburban areas running along Lake Street and Irving Park Roads: Melrose Park, River Grove, Schiller Park, Franklin Park, Bensenville, Addison, Villa Park, and others. These mostly single family housing areas were synonymous with Italians not that many years ago, but the Italians have largely been replaced by Latinos. The housing stock hasn't changed; the area is still stable, working class, though of a different hue. English is clearly the main language, though Spanish is spoken. Just as Italian was not that many years ago.

Hansen's book was published in 2003. Ironically, net Mexican immigration dried up with the US recession and has not fully recovered even now in late 2013. Mexico, for all its security problems, has moved toward democracy and its economy is much improved vis-a-vis the US. The Border Patrol is now apprehending far more Central Americans than Mexicans. While Hondurans and Salvadorans speak Spanish, they can't be accused of harboring secret sympathies for Mexico.

Is Spanish a threat? Not realistically. English is the language on the march. English is a requirement of college graduation in India and China. Aspirant middle class and elites most everywhere, including Mexico, enroll their children in English. English is the dominant language in the United States for business, entertainment, education, technology, medicine, and more. Can anyone really think Spanish is going to replace English? Mexican-Americans tend to lose facility in Spanish by the third generation- see Pew Center research data. Given the monolingualism of most Americans, it would be good for the country to have more citizens who can speak two languages. While precious few Americans can speak Hindi, Mandarin, Turkish, Russian, or other emerging languages, at least our multinationals can find millions of residents who speak English and Spanish.

I've known many Hispanics, and Mexican-Americans in particular, who are middle class, having risen from immigrant backgrounds. They invariably speak English, often without any accent. They are loyal Americans, often with what I sense is a twinge of guilt about Mexico; some of the second and third generation confessing they feel guilty they speak so little Spanish. I chatted recently with one of the workers in my office building, who kindly conversed in Spanish, to let me practice my admittedly poor Espanol. While she has a menial job, she has four children, one serving as a soldier in Afghanistan, one doing well with a

technical education in HVAC repair, and two others in college. The story is commonly American.

Hansen concludes that we should reduce immigration to about 150,000 and enforce the border. I'd argue we should open up legal immigration to a much more realistic number, more like 1 million or more, and then the border would largely take care of itself. It'd save money and be more humane than our current system where human smugglers and desert heat take advantage of the migrant. Some of the problems Hansen and others identify, e.g. fake identification, are not the fault of immigration, but rather, illegal immigration. Allow larger, realistic numbers in and you will not have to worry about people swimming the Rio Grande. Which, after all, is the humane and American thing to do. I can't speak for you, but my ancestors were immigrants.

Kkraemer says

Hanson is a well-known conservative here in California; however, his position is more nuanced than I had imagined from his reputation. His argument is that illegal immigration is causing terrible problems because it's so rampant, drawing from the most proximal of nations. He points out that the life of an immigrant is never easy: the first immigrants are often consigned to low paying, physically demanding jobs that lead nowhere. The next generation is challenged as well, but by later generations, language has been mastered, connections have been made, education has been gained, and ways of generating income have become both more numerous and more remunerative. Immigrants become assimilated into American culture and, at the same time, enrich the culture.

He says that this is not so in the current environment: English remains a second language (at best), connections are within a community that has few inroads beyond either illegal or hard, hard work, few graduate from high school, and assimilation doesn't happen. The sheer number of immigrants from Mexico, he says, guarantees that all remain Mexican, not Mexican-American and certainly not American, looking to their homeland and their youth for inspiration rather than to this country and the future.

He lays this argument out in a number of ways, by drawing upon his own experience as a student in an almost entirely Mexican-American school system (he is of Swedish and mixed European descent), by citing the experience of his childhood friends, by telling of current situations from both the illegal immigrant and the native born perspective, by citing statistics.

His argument is interesting and worth reading, and I found myself thinking differently as well as yelling back at his argument (he, like most of us, chooses the information that bolsters his side).

He holds in particular contempt the ethnic studies/Mexican pride promulgated by academics, believing that a rigorous Western education will serve students and immigrants better than what he calls "pseudo-academe."

He holds in particular respect his Mexican childhood friends, who have become local business owners, farmers, accountants, etc., examples of what it means to be "American," and he notes that the Armenians, Sikhs, Japanese, and "Okies" (many came to this part of California during the Dust Bowl and were held in deep contempt) have, over generations, come to take full part in American culture...at least in the Central Valley. He does not blink the terrible history of discrimination or hatred so common in the area.

An interesting argument, one worth parsing and considering. As a Californian, I appreciate such a look at one of our most pressing challenges, though I cannot completely agree with him.

In this era of loud repetition as a source of "truth," it's nice to read the reasoned argument of someone with whom I disagree...

John says

Victor Davis Hanson offers a short, semi-autobiographical assessment of the state of immigration issues/challenges in his home state, California. Hanson is a fourth-generation farmer, writer (<http://victorhanson.com/wordpress/>), classicist formerly on the faculty of Fresno State, and current fellow at Stanford's Hoover Institute, who brings all of those skills to bear upon the vexing conundrum of immigration, particularly looking at how Mexican immigrants are uniquely shaping California's culture.

His book moves between several important poles—a veteran fruit farmer that has interacted for decades with working class immigrants (legal and illegal); a sympathetic neighbor that regularly sees the cost of non-engagement of broader American culture by a percentage of more recent immigrants; a skeptical professor at a public university that suspects that immigration has become a weapon for university's ideology of race, ethnicity and culture; and an historical wordsmith that appreciates the importance of seeing questions in view of historical precedent.

Hanson surely gives pause on the rush to abandon patterns of immigrant integration that until very recently represented a central, controlling motif for thinking about immigration. Arguably, Mexican and Central American immigrants represent a newer challenge to that paradigm, but Hanson wonders persuasively whether the disengagement from an integrative approach to language (English), immigration process (ordered), educational standards (unapologetically high), etc. has not created perennial poverty and suffering. His is a sympathetic book, wanting his largely Hispanic town and area to thrive instead of continuously stumbling.

He also does not hesitate to state facts that bear repeating. America's fruit is largely picked by those at the edges of functional society. If we reform immigration and seek to rightly manage immigrant flows, many Americans will not be willing to do the sort of work presently done by immigrants from our southern borders at their minimum wages. Costs will necessarily increase. Further, looking carefully at the welfare net that immigrants are immediately ushered into upon coming to the US is also needed. Would the removal or serious curtailing of those reshape how eager some are to come to America?

Hanson is one of my favorite writers, his grasp of language, history, and culture is matched by few. This is a thoughtful, empathetic work of his.

Rex says

Hanson argues that present-day California is a result of a two-way deal between the U.S. and Mexico. Mexico sends its poor to the U.S. while the U.S. profits from cheap labor. Politically, this is made possible by many Republican's lust for cheap labor, and many Democrat's thirst for an increased electoral base. The result is a constant wave of Latino immigrants that produces an unassimilated hybrid culture in the United States.

The book is largely anecdotal. I'd be interested in a book that provides a more rigorous analysis.

Stuff to chew on:

Immigration from Mexico is unique. Large migrant groups in America's past came in single waves (e.g. Polish, Jewish, and Italian immigration). This led to rapid assimilation. However, immigration from Mexico is unique. Mexico's proximity to the United States and lack of government reform (on both sides of the border) has resulted in a relatively steady influx of immigrants. This has reduced assimilation into the American culture.

Hanson argues that it is primarily Mexico's poor that immigrate to the United States. My personal experience suggests that many immigrants are young, hard-working males; so I'd like to see real data that suggest that Mexican immigrants are of Mexico's poorest classes.

Hanson avoids significant analysis of the economic effect of undocumented aliens, but acknowledges that the analysis is often contentious (I'd like to see a rigorous analysis somewhere). Specifically, does importing cheap labor outweigh the increased government costs associated with illegal immigrants?

Do Chicano studies professors--who often preach the doctrine of the oppressed--actually hurt rather than help Hispanics achieve their goals?

Affirmative action vs. reverse discrimination. Hanson asks if it fair for the second-generation immigrant Justin Gonzalez (American mother, Hispanic father) to be given preferential treatment over Justin Smith (American father, Hispanic mother).

Are open borders simply a safety valve that releases pressure for domestic reform in Mexico? Are the real winners of present-day immigration policy Mexico's kleptocratic rulers?

From the standpoint of supporting the family as the primary structural unit of society, is it better to enact legislation that enables families with undocumented members to thrive in American society, or to enact laws that will, in effect, encourage families to remain in Mexico?

Is multiculturalism a good thing? Much of what is preached today about multiculturalism implies that all cultures are equal. Obviously, however, not all aspects of different cultures are of equal value. A couple questions: Is it better to demand rapid assimilation or encourage/permit the retention of Mexican customs? What can the immigrants learn from our culture? What can we learn from theirs? What should be the role of the U.S. in this assimilation process? Hanson argues for rapid assimilation and complains that instead of insisting on acculturation to favorable aspects of our society, we simply teach a side dish of each culture regardless of the intrinsic value of each aspect.

Where is the proper boundary between encouraging assimilation and providing accommodation? This extends to many realms: government-supplied Spanish interpreters, separate government forms, bilingual education, etc. To what extent does accommodation actually hurt an immigrant's ability to achieve their goals?

Two-tiered legal system: What are the pros and cons of a making a separate legal system for illegal immigrants? What type of laws would apply to illegal immigrants? Who would make these laws?

Is it feasible for the U.S. to somehow demand assimilation without heightened border control?

Bob says

A short, but very well-written essay, ostensibly about immigration from Mexico, but in fact about social change in California and the replacement of an assimilationist ethos by one of racial separatism. Hanson's actual target seems to be liberal biases in American education, and, as a professor of classics at Cal State Fresno, is particularly critical of Chicano studies and similar programs.

"[The] subjugation of race to culture is forever a fragile state, not a natural condition. Each day it erodes if not actively maintained. Race, chauvinism, ethnicity creep hourly back into social life if not battled by citizens of strength and vision. A few malicious people can undo the work of centuries. Thus, each time a university president, a small-time politician on the make, or a *bien pensant* liberal journalist chooses the easy path of separatism, he does a little part in turning us toward Rwanda or Yugoslavia. The work of cultural unity is of the ages; advancing racial and ethnic separatism is a gesture of the moment." (p. 122)

The final chapter considers the role that globalized popular culture might play in retarding separatism, though at the price of losing many of the strengths of the American culture that initially attracted the immigrants.

John McCullough says

Former Republican Representative Dick Armey said some time ago he thought Americans were a country of whiners. I discounted his assertion but in reading this book and its many supporters I must confess defeat. Dr. Hanson and his many avid readers seem to bemoan the fact that California, historically called Alta California, is being invaded by, of all people, Mexicans. The horror of it. His sweet, innocent, moral Anglophones are having to live next door to invaders from Latin America who ditch their run-down cars in areas he must view on occasion, to speak nothing of other horrors, such as speaking Spanish. At least he didn't complain, like the mayor of Newton, Massachusetts, of people who "are illiterate. They don't even speak Spanish, just some tribal language." One of the Maya languages, actually - you know - the Maya who had astronomical observatories, literacy, cities, and that sort of thing before they were crushed by those Spanish-speaking conquistadores. Back to Hanson - this is simply a racist rant and whine about having to put up with some of the original Californios who were pushed out so nice English-speaking people could live there. Of course, forget the real Native Californians, the tribes who were destroyed by those pesky, unpleasant, dark-skinned Mexicans, etc. Some Anglos eat this drivel up and consider the book a responsible look at a serious threat to our nation. So were the Irish, the Jews, the Italians, whoever. The book is short and pathetic unless you are an undereducated racist, Tea Partier, or other person threatened by anything different than vanilla-flavored Ma and Pa Kettle. It might even be called intellectual pornography. Skip it and spend your time on another book. Almost anything will do.

Jon says

Fantastic book. Victor Davis Hanson shares in Mexifornia his personal, sometimes harrowing account of dealing with Hispanic illegal immigration principally from Mexico on his farm in Selma, CA - a small town in central California. He shares with the reader what he has experienced and because he is a noted military historian and a Professor at Fresno St., he is able to qualify his view and thoughts with impeccable research. This book is quite controversial, but a necessary wake up call.

There are so many salient points here as to the how of why this epidemic is occurring, the reason it is a major issue that needs to be addressed, and the whose behind its perpetual cycle and the way to correct it. The major points to glean to correct issue is assimilation of these immigrants into Americans, to aspire multiracial-ism and not multiculturalism, the former which embraces the various racial differences in the country but with every citizen becoming an American, whereas the later multiculturalism is considered by Dr. Hanson as the death knoll of this country when the citizens are no longer united by a common theme, thought and direction because society operates in various sub-group cocoons that are intolerant of other cultures. Principally, this country is founded on Judea-christian-ism and its history despite past discretion's is important for context, scope and purpose. All of those who wish to live here should subscribe to being the best American they can be, which means we aspire to know our history, work hard, learn, prosper and love thy neighbor.
