

The Hispanic Experience
History, Economy, Culture, Education and
Law

Sponsored by SINBARRERAS

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YMCA, Monticello Park, Charlottesville

Cultural Contributions of the Hispanic Community Jack Podsiadlo, SJ

What is Culture and Why Does it Matter?

Culture is our way of life.

It includes our values, beliefs, customs, languages and traditions.

Culture is reflected in our history, in our heritage
and in how we express ideas and creativity.

Our culture measures our quality of life, our vitality and the health of our society.

Through our culture we develop a sense of belonging, personal and cognitive growth and the ability to empathize and relate to each other.

Direct benefits of a strong and vibrant culture include health and wellness, self esteem, skills development, social capital and economic return.

The arrival of European explorers to America began the most astounding and far-reaching encounter between cultures in the history of civilization. It brought together two portions of the human race that until then had known nothing of each other's existence, thus establishing the basic identity of our modern world.

Of the Europeans who settled America, those who hailed from England and Spain had the greatest impact. Both transplanted their cultures over vast territories. Both created colonial empires from whose abundance Europe rose to dominate the world. And descendants of both eventually launched independence wars that remade the political systems of our planet. That common history has made Latin Americans and Anglo Americans, like Jews and Arabs of the Middle East, cousins in constant conflict, often hearing but not understanding each other.

Juan Gonzalez, Harvest of Empire



What kind of people were the original English and Spanish settlers and how did the views and customs they brought with them affect the America they fashioned?

The Role of the Church

English Settlers

- English kings ordered their agents to “conquer, occupy and possess” the lands of the “heathens and infidels” but said nothing of the people inhabiting them. The English never saw proselytizing among the Indians as important.
- The first English colonies began as family settlements. They maintained strict separation from Indian communities. Only Roger William’s Rhode Island colony and the Quakers of PA showed themselves to coexist in harmony with their Indian neighbors.
- No English colonial Church enjoyed a monopoly power. Each Protestant denomination could do so only within a circumscribed area. The Rhode Island colony permitted all manner of worship and other colonies followed.

Spanish Settlers

- In Spain, both Crown and Church saw colonizing and conversión as a unified effort. Priests accompanied each military expedition for the purpose of Christianizing the natives.
- The priests performed occasional marriages between Spaniards and Indians, thus fostering and legitimizing a new **mestizo** race in America. Far more important than legal marriages was the extraordinary number of consensual unions.
- The Catholic Church reached into every corner of colonial life. It functioned side by side with Spanish civil government, sometimes even above it. Even those who dared question Church authority or doctrine were liable to be called before the Inquisition

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The Role of Slavery and Race

English Settlers

- Color and status so deeply demarked the English colonies, that the free colored class was considered an abnormality only barely tolerated. A drop of black blood made you black in Anglo-Saxon society.
- For the Anglo-Saxon colonies, interracial marriage was taboo, by any class of whites. Even after Independence and emancipation, it remained banned, and while rape or unsanctioned unions obviously occurred, Anglo-Saxons almost never recognized their mixed-race children, no matter how light-skinned the offspring or how poor the father.
- After the Haitian revolution, British, French and Dutch started to restrict manumission while the Portuguese and Spanish colonies promoted and codified the practice.

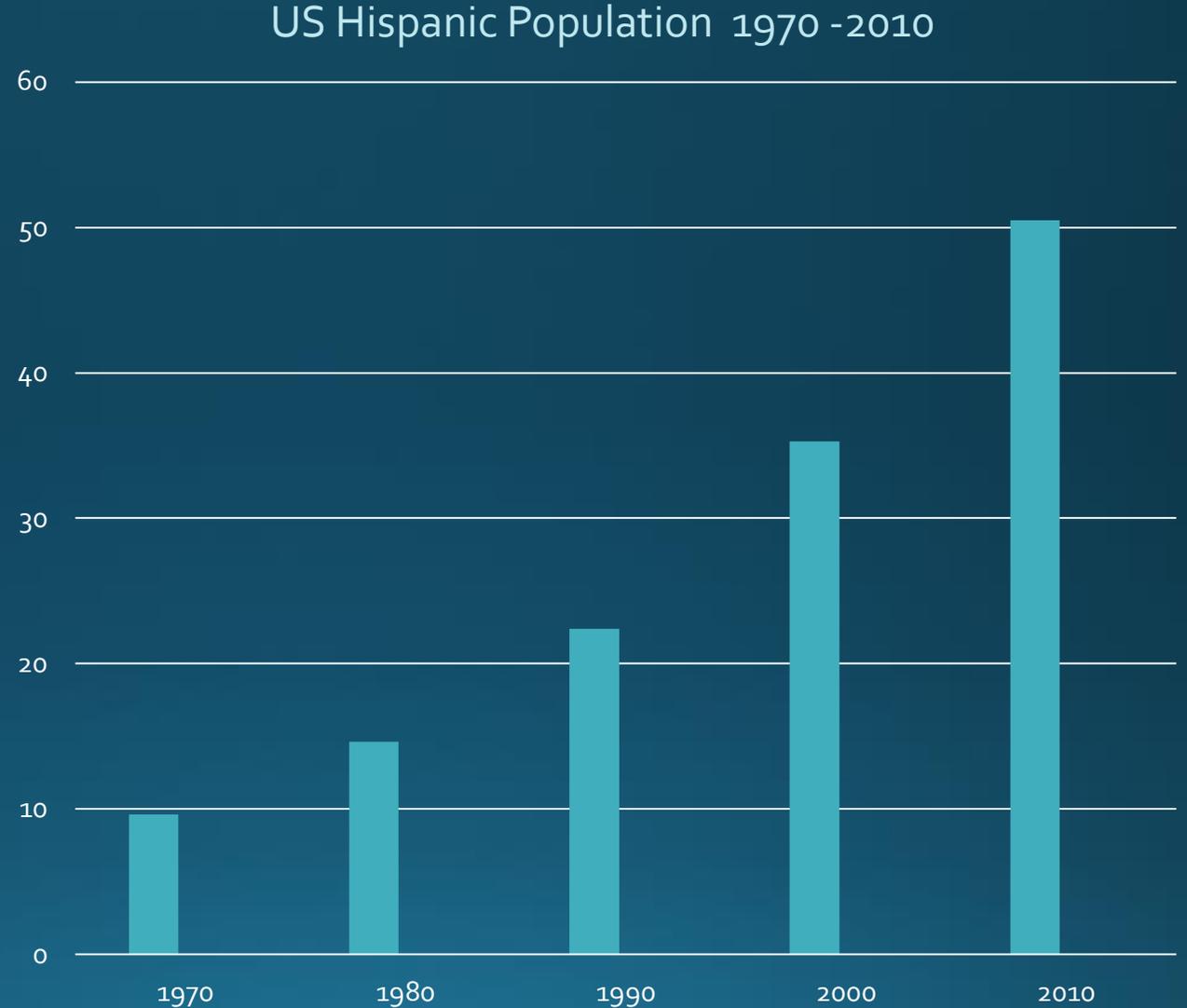
Spanish Settlers

- The long period of Arab domination left an indelible legacy of racial and cultural mixing that the Spanish immigrants carried to the New World. Moorish occupiers of the Iberian Peninsula had invariably taken Spanish wives, setting off an era of miscegenation so extensive that “by the fifteenth century there were dark-skinned Christians, light-haired Moors, hybrids of every shape and complexion in Castile.” This tradition of racial mixing made it more acceptable for Spanish settlers to engage in sexual unions with both Amerindians and Africans.
- The Church would not permit slave owners to separate married couples, and it sanctioned marriage between slaves and free persons.
- In the Portuguese and Spanish colonies, giant classes of free blacks developed, and with them the **mulato** group that so distinguished Latin America’s rainbow racial spectrum from North America’s stark black-White system of racial classification.

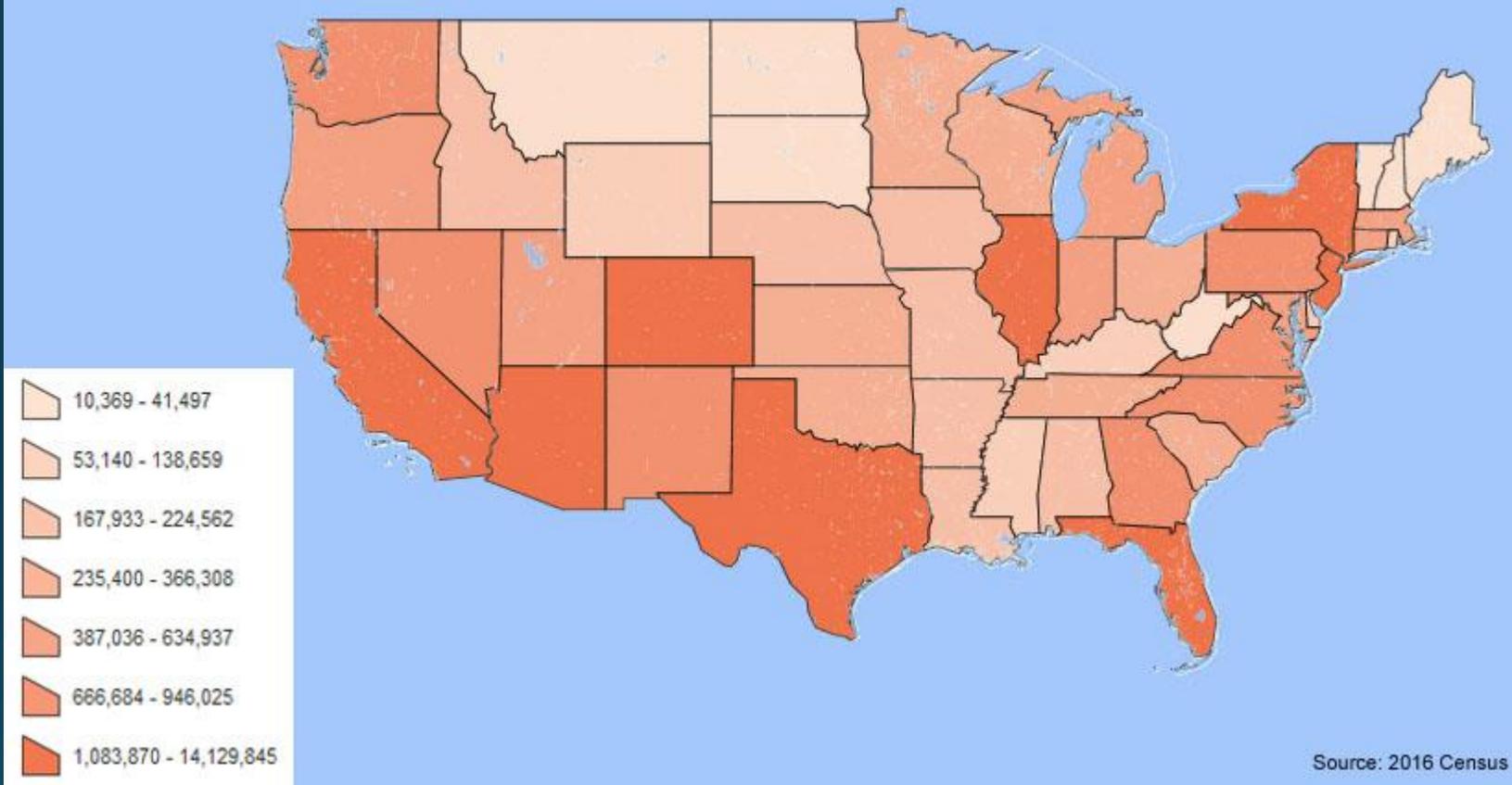
DE ESPAÑOL Y DE INDIA
PRODUCE MESTIZO



Yet by virtue of large waves of immigration from Mexico and other parts of Latin America from the 70s through the 90s, the Hispanic population more than tripled, from less than 10 million in 1970 to more than 35 million in 2000. Furthermore, despite an immigration slowdown during the period after the 2007-09 recession, the Hispanic population grew by another 15 million in the first decade of the 2000s.



Hispanic Population by State



The Hispanic population of the United States as of July 1, 2016.

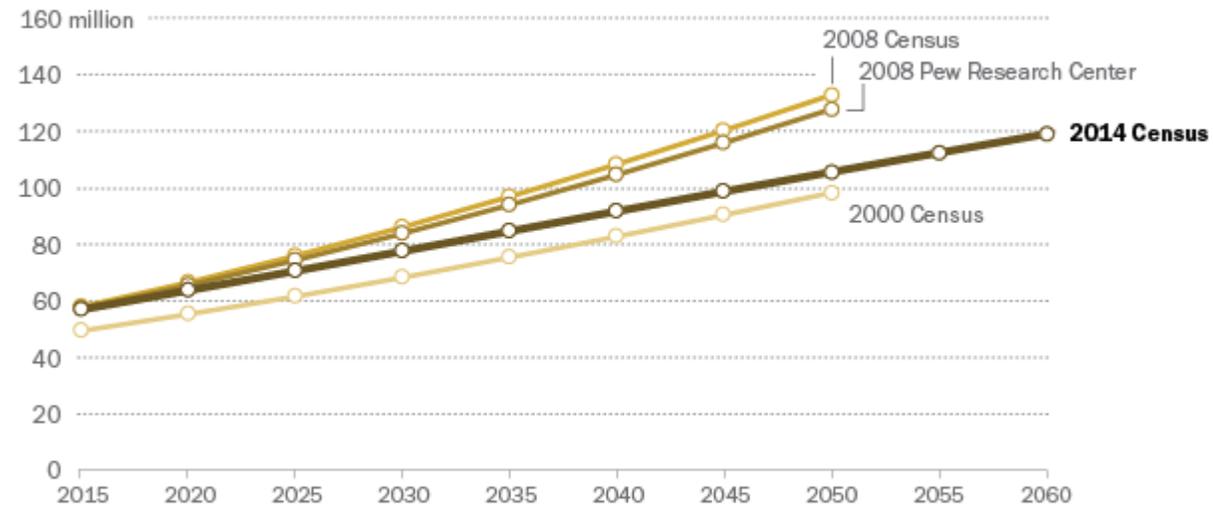
Today, 57.5 million people or 18% of the American population are of Hispanic or Latino origin.

This makes Hispanic Americans the nations largest ethnic or racial minority.

Hispanics constituted 17.8 percent of the nations total population with a median age of 27.

Hispanic Population Projections Scaled Back

U.S. Hispanic population, 2015-2060



Source: U.S. Census Bureau population projections, 2000, 2008 and 2014; Pew Research Center population projections, 2008.

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The sharp contrast between relatively younger Hispanic and older white populations on dimensions such as language ,nativity, family type, economic status and education attainment tends to reinforce the cultural generation gap between the two groups.

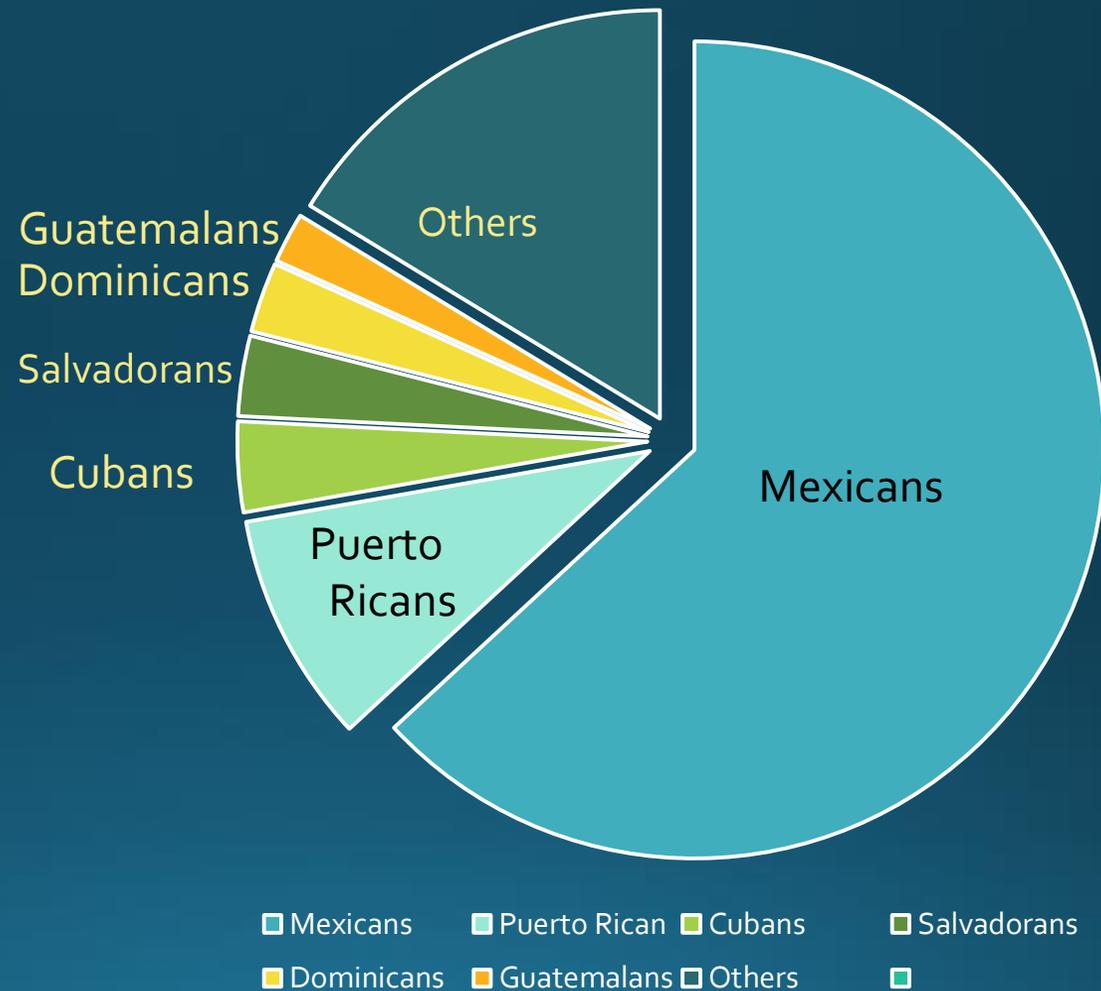




Although public perception often conflates the Hispanic population with Mexican immigrants, US Hispanics increasingly will be native-born Americans from a variety of origins.

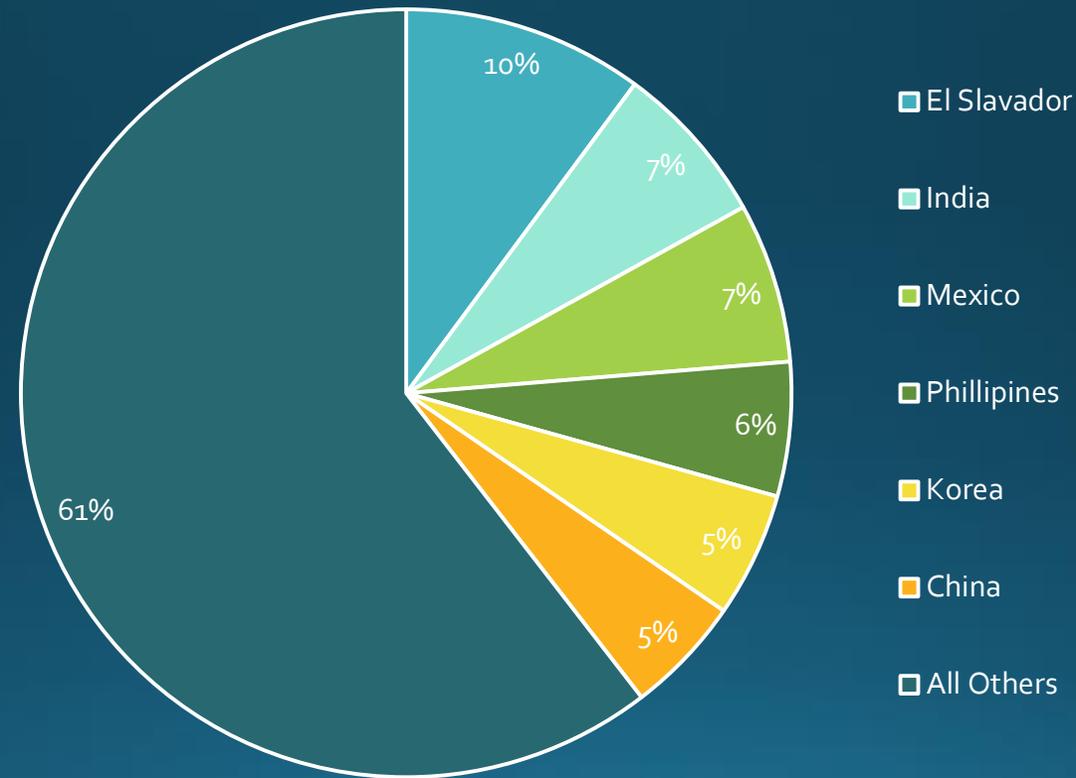
There are more than 30 million residents of Mexican origin in the United States, - a number that overwhelms the number of Puerto Ricans and Cubans who make up the next largest Hispanic groups. Yet the population of Mexican origin is growing nearly twice as rapidly as the latter populations. Between 1990 and 2010, the group of residents identifying themselves as Guatemalans, Salvadorans and Dominicans grew well over 150%. Apart from Puerto Ricans who for the most part are US citizens, and Mexicans, most other Hispanics are likely to be foreign born.

Largest Hispanic Origin Populations 2010



Demographic Profile of immigrants in Virginia:

Today there are more than one million immigrants in Virginia. They make up 12.2% of Virginia's overall population.



Source: American Community Survey, 2015

Demographic Profile of Hispanics in Virginia, 2016

HISPANIC POPULATION

732,000

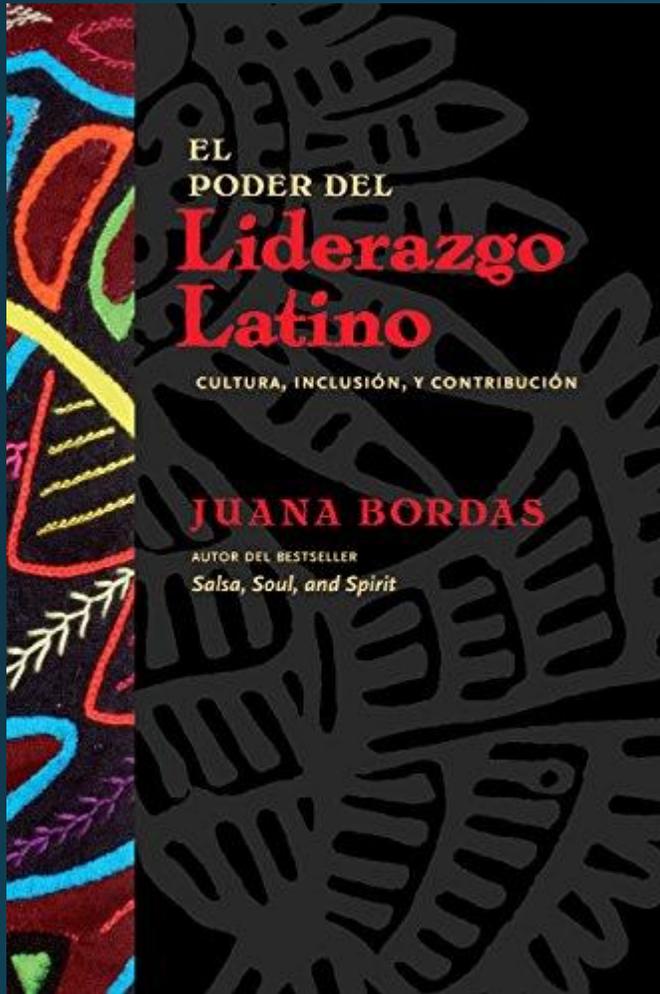
HISPANICS AS PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION

9%

MEDIAN AGE OF HISPANICS

27





The
Power of

Latino Leadership

CULTURE, INCLUSION, AND CONTRIBUTION

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NgOVDIRJlao&t=15>

Juana Bordas

GRACIAS