power and privilege were asserted,” Myers concludes (p. 94).

Company documents, some made public through class-action lawsuits, reveal management’s systematic attempt to hide employment discrimination through superficial compliance with the affirmative action policies imposed on defense contractors in the 1960s and 1970s. Jane Doe v. Boeing Company, a 1989 suit brought by a male engineer fired for violating gender norms while navigating sex-reassignment protocols, exposed the rigid adherence to heterosexuality and hegemonic gender identity that had long structured the Boeing workplace (to cisgender women’s disadvantage as well).

Myers is at her best in parsing such cases, uncovering metaphors in company newspapers and interpreting interviews that were gathered for an anniversary monograph celebrating Boeing’s female workers but that were ultimately buried to avoid publicizing the anger and discontent felt even by women in the company’s management. She is less interested in providing a robust discussion of welfare capitalism than in powerfully charting its demise. Readers not convinced by the utility of theory for history writing will find her introductory claims wanting; readers looking for greater explication will need to consider home and family labor with the same creativity and sensitivity that Myers has brought to this study of employment.

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The historian Anthony Quiroz has assembled a group of scholars who examine key players of an era known as the Mexican American generation. Most historians frame the period of the 1930s–1950s as one of emergence and transition for this generation of Mexican Americans. Leaders of the Mexican American Generation contains thirteen essays and is divided into two parts. The first part, “Intellectuals and Ethnic Consciousness,” is a primer for the second section of the book, showing how various prominent activists acquired their world view and their identity based on their lived experience. Section 2, “Legal, Political, and Labor Activists,” provides the framework for how individuals of this generation put into practice their sense of economic, social, and political justice. The authors make several arguments regarding the importance of this volume. First, although many scholars have generally viewed the Mexican American generation as “assimilationist” and “exclusionary,” the complexity of the Mexican American generation compels us to reexamine their role in this important era. Second, as noted by the title, this volume uses biography to situate the various players and their roles within this period. Finally, the collection argues that the formation of this generation’s identity revolved around their full inclusion as U.S. citizens.

Leaders of the Mexican American Generation provides a strong intellectual history of the Mexican American generation. The collection makes a compelling argument for the use of the biography as an effective research tool. Additionally, through the use of oral history, readers are given an opportunity to gaze into the lives of such people as Alice Dickerson Montemayor to better understand the struggles and contributions of women to the development of the League of United Latin American Citizens, or how lived experience shaped identity and ideology for individuals such as Vicente Ximenes, who fought for Mexican American civil rights. This volume also challenges us not only to reexamine the role of the Mexican American generation but also to better understand the social, economic, and political climate in which this cohort lived and how this influenced their stand against injustice and oppression. As the editor notes in the conclusion and the thirteen essays demonstrate, the Mexican American generation cannot be homogenized.

However, I do have quibbles with this volume. First, of the thirteen essays only three are on women. Quiroz does address the notion of integrating gender into history, but...
he does not explain the underrepresentation of women in this anthology. A significant number of women from this generation are left out, and their inclusion would have provided a stronger gender balance as well as a more complete history of the role of women in this era’s activism. Individuals such as Josefina Fierro de Bright of the Spanish-Speaking Congress or Isabel Gonzalez of the Committee to Organize the Mexican People could have been discussed. Just as important, geographical diversity is lacking. Of the thirteen essays, nine examine the lives of individuals in Texas, two in California (Ernesto Galbarza and Edward Roybal), one in Arizona (Ralph Estrada), and one with multiple roots (Luisa Moreno). Lastly, some of the essays cover old ground, which reinforces the need to expand the scope and include individuals from this important era.

Quiroz and the other authors provide a much-needed intellectual history of the field and remind us that time allows for deeper reflection on important historical events and the people involved. The volume provides insight into thirteen individuals and their lives, professions, and why each constructed a particular world view that forged an identity, simultaneously fought for civil rights, and attempted to uphold what it meant to be a U.S. citizen. This collection will be of strong interest to scholars in the fields of political history, intellectual history, biographical studies, and Chicana/o studies.

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Maggie Rivas-Rodriguez’s historical portrait in *Texas Mexican Americans and Postwar Civil Rights* of three local activists of the Mexican American generation foregrounds the narratives of recognized, as well as less familiar, political figures who contributed to Texas civil rights reform. From a journalistic, and occasionally forensic, perspective—using oral history interviews, witness accounts, and archival evidence—Rivas-Rodriguez makes the case for including the grassroots mobilizing efforts of leaders such as Alpine, Texas, school board member Pete Gallego (1969), El Paso mayor Raymond Telles (1960), and San Antonio organizer Pete Tijerina (who helped form the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund [MALDEF] in 1967) in the larger historical narrative of postwar Mexican American civil rights reform. Her “goal here is to shed light on three important milestones in Texas’s Mexican civil rights advancements” (p. 6). Rivas-Rodriguez casts both light and shadow on local Texas figures and regional developments.

The book includes three stand-alone chapters, organized into discrete nonchronological sections that synthesize an array of media portrayals, interviews, and archival evidence to construct stories of Gallego’s struggle for school integration in Alpine, Telles’s efforts toward police department integration in El Paso, and Tijerina’s campaign to form MALDEF in San Antonio. Rivas-Rodriguez chronicles the painstaking direct action political tactics of these three leaders and their contemporaries. However, the rhetorical frame of the book remains effaced as Rivas-Rodriguez never brings together these mobilizations with a deep analysis or broader argument about the historical, political, or social implications for Texas and U.S. politics. The book stands in isolation, failing to engage scholarship that has problematized and complicated postwar Mexican American civil rights studies over the past decade.

The individual accounts of Gallego, Telles, and Tijerina resist answering three critical questions: How does this project constitute a collective narrative of postwar Mexican American civil rights activism? What is the significance of these case studies for Texas and U.S. historical scholarship? How does this local research expand the recovery of Mexican American civil rights rhetoric (oral and literate discourses; grassroots community and institutionalized texts; and historically privileged and historically marginalized voices) toward a more complex story?