

The fact that in the twenty-first century Latinos became the largest ethnic minority in the United States is inevitably mentioned in any recent publication on Latino population in the U.S. 1 People of Mexican origin form the largest percentage of the Latino group, 58%, according to the 2000 U.S. census.² Mexican Americans have a long history of settling in the United States, nevertheless, their disadvantaged position in the American society is evident. They are usually located among the working-class, have low income, and also low educational attainment. Some social scientists, whose works will be mentioned in this thesis, believe that it is the Mexican American culture that prevents this population from success; others attribute it to discrimination and negative stereotypes of Mexicans that are perpetuated in the American society.

In the 1960s and 1970s the Mexican American civil rights movement, known as the Chicano Movement, decided to end the discrimination and other social problems by supporting Mexican American nationalism. One of the ways to increase their national pride was to point at the Mexican American family as a source of strength and a symbol of unity of all Mexicans in the United States. The Chicano Movement asked artists to create works of art that would represent the Chicano family as an inspiration, and several literary works were written at that time in support of the Mexican American family. On one hand, this depiction of Mexican Americans was a positive thing, as it formed a counterpart to the negative Anglo-American view of the Mexican American family, and it certainly helped the Mexican-American minority at that time. On the other hand, the movement completely disregarded women and homosexuals and their rights. Therefore, after the turbulent years of the Chicano Movement, several artists addressed these problematic issues in their works.