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George Mariscal

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George Mariscal : Brown-Eyed Children of the Sun: Lessons from the Chicano Movement, 1965-1975 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Brown-Eyed Children of the Sun: Lessons from the Chicano Movement, 1965-1975:

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movement. Recommended for undergraduates and anyone interested in Chicano history.

Brown-Eyed Children of the Sun is a new study of the Chicano/a movement, *El Movimiento*, and its multiple ideologies from a broad cultural perspective. The late 1960s marked the first time U.S. society witnessed Americans of Mexican descent on a national stage as self-determined individuals and collective actors rather than second-class citizens. George Mariscal's book examines the Chicano movement's quest for equal rights and economic justice in the context of the Viet Nam War era. Mariscal outlines the social and political conditions that made *El Movimiento* possible, especially the Cold War, U.S. military interventions, the Black Civil Rights movement, and anti-colonial struggles in the so-called Third World. This context paved the way for U.S. minority groups to politicize their cultural production and elaborate radical identities. Mariscal analyzes many issues that scholars have heretofore ignored when studying *El Movimiento*. Mariscal argues convincingly that the term "nationalism" fails to adequately describe the complexity of the movement and shows how Chicano/a internationalism arose in response to the Cuban Revolution of 1959. He traces the ideological uses of the image of Cesar Chavez as a touchstone for debate within *El Movimiento* and explains how some activists such as Reies Lopez Tijerina formed alliances across ethnic boundaries, specifically with African American militants. The final chapters look at attempts to democratize higher education in California and suggest ways in which the legacy of the movement might be relevant to contemporary political projects. "George Mariscal gave us that extraordinary book *Aztlán and Viet Nam*. Here he turns his attention to a thoughtful analysis and description of the Chicano Movement of the Sixties and Seventies, in all its complexity, excitement, and promise. He finds fascinating connections between "el Movimiento" and certain historical figures like Che Guevara and Cesar Chavez. This book is a rich tapestry of provocative ideas and untold history." --Howard Zinn, author, *A People's History of the United States*

"*Brown-Eyed Children of the Sun*" is...a very worthy contribution to Chicano history. From the Inside Flap: A broad study of the Chicano/a movement in the Viet Nam War era. About the Author: George Mariscal is professor of literature and director of the Chicano/a-Latino/a arts and humanities program at the University of California, San Diego. He is also the author of *Aztlán and Viet Nam: Chicano and Chicana Experiences of the War*.