Late 20th Early 21st Century Trends

Increased numbers of Hispanics including Mexican Americans

Gonzales says 60% Mexican

Immigration

Reproduction

High birth rate

Although greater number of Mexican Americans lived throughout the US most by far lived in the US Southwest

In the 1990s a larger percentage of Mexican Americans lived in urban areas the the US population at large

Immigration

Conditions in Mexico contributed to skyrocketing immigration to the US

End of the Bracero Program

Official reluctance to stop undocumented immigration

Unstable economy

Political corruption

A shift in the immigration patterns

Growing immigration coming from Southern and indigenous Mexico

Oaxacalifornia

Mexico also became a conduit for other Latin American immigrants into the US

In the 21st century with the development of powerful northern cartels human trafficking of Mexican and especially non-Mexican immigrants became more widespread due to its profitability

Of course, the immigration situation has led to fierce political debate in the US

Interestingly, the descendants of earlier twentieth century Mexican immigrants were greatly opposed to the increase of undocumented immigration, even more then the general public at large.

The political issue of undocumented immigration came to a head in the mid-1980s which led to the Immigration Control and Reform Act in 1986

The law allowed for undocumented immigrants to receive amnesty and receive legal status while establishing more sanctions against employers who hired undocumented immigrants that arrived after the law had been passed

However, even though there was a slowdown in undocumented immigration, it continued to increase in the 1990s

One way this issue was attempted to be dealt with was through NAFTA

The idea with that the inclusion of Mexico into the world’s largest free trade bloc would keep workers at home as industrial jobs were moved from the US and Canada to Mexico

Needless to say, NAFTA had very little effect on undocumented immigration

Undocumented immigration from and through Mexico continues to be a major social, moral, and political issue in the US to this day

Mexican American Politics

Ever since the Viva Kennedy Campaign the Mexican American community had been very strongly supportive of the Democratic Party

Tradition (especially in the South), and Kennedy’s Catholicism and continuation of New Deal welfare statism encouraged Mexican Americans to be Democrats

However, since the 1960s there has been a slow realignment of Mexican Americans that began speeding up in the 2010s due to economic and immigration issues

Issues of education and poverty have been ongoing concerns for Mexican Americans in the last 40 years

One strong influence on low education and high poverty statistics is continuous undocumented immigration

If we isolate generations old families, we see that those families of early 20th century immigrants mirror the education and economic levels of mainstream middle-class US

Due to assimilation, integration, and homogenization

Other areas of Assimilation

Mexican American Religion

Another important development since the 1960s is the growth of Protestantism in the Mexican American community

Mexican American Feminism

With expanding education opportunities in higher ed there also has be an increase in feminism

This basically followed the general historical trend of feminism in the US but of course there emerged a number of Mexican American or Chicana feminist organizations

Chicano Art

The same was true with Mexican American or Chicano art and literature

Mexican American artists and writers followed basic trends of art and literature

in the US but they featured various artistic aspects of their ancestral traditions from Mexico

Nevertheless, Chicano art is American art like Mexican American food in the US is American food

The Hispanic Generation

The main feature of recent Mexican American history since the 1960s is the massive assimilation of later generations of immigrants despite the ongoing continuation of especially undocumented immigration

The basic trends exhibited by the Mexican American community are the basic trends exhibited in the US especially much of Mexican American culture and society has been assimilated into the US

Certain Mexican American language, food, and other traditions are often exhibited by non-Mexican Americans which shows that this assimilation has gone both ways

However, since the Mexican American community is smaller in relation to the greater US community at large, most of the assimilation has gone one direction

This is an effect of the dominant environment and the process of learning and copying various things from that dominant environment