

orated to reach a workable agreement. This is why it is important to consider the success of this program in future Mexico-U.S. relations: under certain circumstances—in this case the outbreak of war—a temporary work program involving specific industries (like the railroads) can be implemented. The railroad bracero program eventually became autonomous, with its own importance outside the agricultural program, and declined at the end of World War II since one of its main features was to supply Mexican labor during the emergency.

Another aspect which should be taken into account in the framework of the railroad bracero program is the active role Mexico played in

designing U.S. immigration policy, a role which has not been repeated with practically any other country.

The railroad bracero program shows that Mexican immigrants have worked significantly in non-agricultural sectors of the U.S. economy and that historically, it is possible to have a bilateral focus on immigration.

The book also underlines the role of the strong U.S. railroad worker unions, which were anxious to defend their labor market since, in the last analysis, at the center of the immigration program is the question of jobs and the labor supply. The impact of the railroad bracero program on the economies of both countries, though difficult to calculate, is undeniable.

The author's impressive use of great numbers of reference sources testifies to the academic rigor of the research that went into writing this book. Her use of primary sources (archival documents) from both sides of the border and in several cities, in addition to a broad, up-to-date bibliography, is outstanding.

Barbara Driscoll's study opens up areas of discussion not only about the railroad bracero program as such, but it also brings out this fundamental—and little known—precedent of Mexico-U.S. relations regarding immigration. **W**

Dolores Lasapi Ortega
Head of Publishing
 CISAN, UNAM



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Amistad México-Canadá
 Attn.: Mr. Pierre Sved
 Schiller 529, Col. Rincón del Bosque
 Mexico, D.F. 11560

Tel: (5)724-7958
 Fax: (5)724-7980