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Review of Reverberations of Racial Violence: Critical Reflections on the History of the Border ed. by Sonia Hernández and John Morán González

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One of Hamilton's major claims is that the contemporary information state can trace its roots to the CPI. Such a view neglects how the CPI represented the end of one age as much as the beginning of a new one. Creel relied on established technologies such as the telegraph, the printing press, and progressive ideas long baked into American political culture. Radio would soon revolutionize political communication in the 1920s, casting aside CPI hallmarks such as the four-minute men. Normalcy rather than Wilsonian idealism would dominate the ensuing decade of national politics. Censorship would be a longer-lasting legacy, particularly in relation to World War II; George Roeder's *The Censored War* (Yale University Press, 1993) would pair well with *Manipulating the Masses* on any academic reading list. However, censorship was nothing new in 1917, whereas the failure of governments to control information and their success in manufacturing consent in later wars, whether Vietnam in the 1960s or Iraq in the 2000s, suggest more change than continuity since the Great War. Ultimately, this reader finds Creel to have more in common with Edwin Stanton than Karl Rove.

Finally, the absence of Texas from Hamilton's story is a shame. The Texas State Council of Defense worked with the CPI and other federal entities to mobilize speakers, organize liberty loan drives, and break opposition to the war. Wilson's postmaster general, Albert Sidney Burleson, played a vital role in war-time censorship of the mails, while Edward House was Wilson's right-hand man in both Washington and Paris. Both House and Burleson were Texans, and the whole state was deeply animated and divided by the war. Given the role that Texas and other border states played in drawing America into conflict with Germany—most sensationally in the intrigue and outrage that stemmed from the Zimmermann Telegram—the omission of the Lone Star State feels like a missed opportunity. Nevertheless, Hamilton has contributed a superb tome that helps to map a fascinating and forgotten history. He has provided historians with the most significant book available on the CPI, and it will no doubt inspire future studies.

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BEN WRIGHT

Reverberations of Racial Violence: Critical Reflections on the History of the Border.

Edited by Sonia Hernández and John Morán González. (Austin: University of Texas Press, 2021. Pp. 310. Notes, index.)

This excellent collection of essays examines the role of state-sponsored violence against ethnic Mexicans in Texas. In particular, Sonia Hernández and John Morán González consider Texas Ranger and vigilante attacks in the Rio Grande borderlands during the 1910s. While other books

have extensively examined the *matanza* (the killings of hundreds, possibly thousands, of ethnic Mexicans), this collection offers an interdisciplinary consideration of both the terror inflicted by state forces as well as the resilience of survivors.

Reverberations of Racial Violence offers essays by historians, literary scholars, and social scientists as well as ethnographic and auto-ethnographic contributions by filmmakers and writers, all organized in three sections and fourteen chapters. Section I examines the *matanza* and contextualizes race relations and racial violence in Texas and the Southwest in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Essays in this section consider the volume's direct connection to the efforts of scholarly activists involved in Refusing to Forget, a project that aims to "commemorate this violence and honor the struggles of those who resisted it" (27). Section II considers resistance and resilience, particularly by Mexican American journalists and by State Representative José Tomás Canales. While acknowledging Canales as one of the most prominent advocates for Mexican American rights, the essays also reveal his "naivete" (159). Although Canales succeeded in exposing Texas Ranger atrocities, these crimes meant little to lawmakers when the victims were people of color. Racism within the Texas government allowed the perpetrators to walk free and be reimagined as white-hat heroes in pulp fiction movies and bad history (172). Section III examines the aftermath of the *matanza* as survivors and their families tried to recover their family histories and reveal truths that challenge the dominant state narrative. Contributors' recovery projects vary from accounts of scholarly investigation into the long-sealed Canales investigation to creative efforts such as documentary filmmaking and historical fiction. The book includes poetic interpretations as well, one told from the perspective of a Mexican man begging for his life. These creative works, drawn from family histories, help fill gaps in state accounts and beautifully bridge disciplinary divides to uncover long-veiled history.

Few edited collections are as cohesive and substantive as *Reverberations of Racial Violence*. It is impossible to consider each essay in a short book review, but volume readers will have much to appreciate. The book balances to great effect hard examinations of state-sponsored violence while avoiding sensationalism. Collectively, the book presents tangible facts and detailed truths that will resonate with readers familiar with the *matanza* as well as those learning of it for the first time. The collection will work particularly well in Mexican American Studies courses and Texas history classes.