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**Review of Storm Over the Bay: The People of Corpus Christi and Their Port. By Mary Jo O’Rear. (College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 2009. Pp. 200. Bibliography, index, illustrations. ISBN 978-1603440882 . \$24.95.**

Cesar Garcia  
*University of Texas at Brownsville*

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make connections with community members outside their ethnic group. This added economic income brought in by wives, mothers, and daughters from their industrial work would begin to break the Mexican American dependence on farm labor and increase the importance and confidence of women within the family structure. In the end, World War II not only changed the identity of the Mexican American community but also impacted what they expected from their government and demanded a political voice in which to achieve their common goals. Overall, Griswold Del Castillo maintains that the generation of Mexican Americans who experienced the war on the front line overseas and worked in the homefront industries learned skills and organizational tactics that would serve them in pursuing the various campaigns for their civil rights. Griswold Del Castillo has written an interesting, readable, and thought-provoking work that will be a valuable contribution to the overall historiography of the Mexican American community and their political and social struggles for respect and equality within the United States. His insights on this generation of leaders will provide other historians a model to further explore how race and ethnicity affected and influenced the various dominant movements in the twentieth century.

**M. Courtney Welch**

**University of North Texas**

*Storm Over the Bay: The People of Corpus Christi and Their Port.* By Mary Jo O'Rear. (College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 2009. Pp. 200. Bibliography, index, illustrations. ISBN 978-1603440882 . \$24.95.

In *The Storm Over The Bay: The People of Corpus Christi and Their Port*, Mary Jo O'Rear examines the political and climatic storms that wreaked havoc in Corpus Christi during the early decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. O'Rear argues that various divisive factions responsible for the creation of Corpus Christi and its port, including racial factions, political bosses, empire builders, and like-minded but ardent enemies, engaged in a tumultuous struggle for supremacy that left the city in a state of near political ruin. The disastrous hurricane of September 14, 1919, however, galvanized these disparate groups into a cohesive body that sought to attract national interest in Corpus Christi and to obtain state and federal funding for a deep-water port.

The work begins with a concise history of Corpus Christi dating back to its earliest Karankawan inhabitants, as well as an in-depth geographic analysis of the region and immediate township area. The discussion then turns to the diverse inhabitants of the city. The eclectic demographics ran the gambit from perennial Texas figures such as Richard King and Robert J. Kleberg to their

*Tejano peones*, blacks in the Jim Crow South, and European immigrants including Germans, Czechs, Irish, Serbians, Greeks and Lebanese. The author places emphasis on the intense racial and ethnic tensions that divided the city, its living quarters, and politics, highlighting the negative aspects of the city's segregation.

Attention to the religious conflicts that divided the city serves to strengthen the notion that Corpus Christi was not always harmonious. The blatant anti-Catholicism, often mixed with anti-Irish and anti-Mexican sentiments, discussed in the work in detail, along with the strong control that the Baptist and Methodist majorities held on the city convince one of the city's factionalism.

The majority of the work, however, centers around the intense power struggles of the various political machines run by bosses or prominent political individuals responsible for the city's massive growth and eventual successful acquisition of a deep-water port. Men such as Roy Miller, Archie Parr, Walter Pope, Robert J. Kleberg, Gordon Boone, Clark Pease, and Jim Wells, and their fierce battles for supremacy line the work's pages and illustrate the city's political turmoil. Such narratives create the image of a city on the verge of political implosion. Yet the author explains how the intense divisiveness ended when previously rival parties joined in the massive and daunting effort to rebuild the city after the horrific destruction following the hurricane of September 14, 1919.

One finds the author's impressive knowledge and detailed information of the city to be sound and indispensable in proving the work's thesis. Carefully selected anecdotes and information along with well placed photos convey the author's position and make for an interesting, yet informative read. The only issue the reader has with the work is that one must have an almost intimate knowledge of the city to comprehend some of the information, as street names appear without reference to a map or direction. With this said, one suggests that the work contributes greatly to the knowledge of the South Texas region and is of scholarly pertinence.

**Cesar Garcia**

**University of Texas-Brownsville**

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