

Dear Ms. Harrington,

I just read an announcement regarding Mr. Ken Burn's PBS documentary of World War II. It was discouraging to learn that Latinos were omitted from the 14-hour series, on the other hand it should be expected. While I understand you may not have been involved in the production of the series you are in a position to convey the dismay of our community. My feelings about this omission is not based on the premise that each ethnic group needs equal representation, it based upon the pandemic refusal of Anglo-American historians to ignore four hundred years of our history in what is now the United States.

Still, in the illustrated book of Mr. Burn's series *The West*, only six of over 400 pages of print are dedicated to the Spanish-Mexican Southwest, a presage of Mr. Burn's anglocentric mindset. In effect, this production implies that from 1598 to latter 1800's, the Hispanic presence in Florida, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, and California can be effectively represented in the nutshell of a mere six pages.

As to World War II, southern California experienced the "Pachuco Wars" wherein the military services, law enforcement agencies, and the Los Angeles Times, allowed or otherwise acquiesced in, the beatings, riots, rapes, and the destruction of private property of Mexican Americans (this series of violence is well-documented in any comprehensive book of Mexican American history).

In spite of these racist outrages, Mexican Americans served with distinction in every theater of the war and winning 17 Congressional Medals of Honor (Raul Morin, *Among the Valiant*). Further, the confiscation of Japanese lands and businesses (and episode of which I understand is in your World War II series) was an outrage, but the precedent for that injustice descended upon the Mexican American population about two generations before all across the west and the southwest.

Mexican Americans participated in every theater of the war and in every branch of the service. To illustrate: they suffered in the Bataan Death March, 36th Infantry (Texas National Guard) Battle for Casino, and in the person of Pvt. Guy Gabaldón, 2nd Marine Div., a Mexican American who spoke Japanese and talked some 1,000 Japanese soldiers holding out in caves in the Battle of Saipan convincing them to surrender thereby saving their lives and those of the many marines who would have died trying to flush them out. Although nominated for a Congressional Medal of Honor, he received the Navy Cross and later a Purple Heart.

As I mentioned above, I am not surprised that the chapters of American history remain anglocentric, but I continue to be profoundly disappointed. *I have a dream that someday* Anglos will see that their "Americanization" was not of their own doing, but rather the result of their evolution through layers of other cultures and societies they came in contact with across the continent.

Sincerely,

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