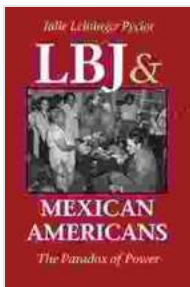


LBJ and Mexican Americans: The Paradox of Power

Lyndon B. Johnson's relationship with Mexican Americans was complex and paradoxical. On the one hand, he was a strong advocate for civil rights and economic justice for all Americans, regardless of race or ethnicity. He signed the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 into law, and he also created the Office of Economic Opportunity, which funded a variety of programs aimed at helping low-income Americans.

On the other hand, Johnson also supported policies that had a negative impact on Mexican Americans. For example, he signed the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965, which increased border patrols and made it more difficult for undocumented immigrants to enter the United States. He also supported the Vietnam War, which disproportionately affected Mexican Americans.



LBJ and Mexican Americans: The Paradox of Power

by Julie Leininger Pycior

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 3799 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 489 pages
Lending : Enabled



The paradox of Johnson's relationship with Mexican Americans can be explained by his political pragmatism. He was a master politician who was always looking for ways to build coalitions and win elections. He was willing to support policies that he thought would benefit his political career, even if those policies had negative consequences for some groups of Americans.

Johnson's relationship with Mexican Americans was also shaped by the Cold War. He believed that it was important to maintain a strong relationship with Mexico in order to prevent the spread of communism in the Western Hemisphere. He was also concerned about the potential for a mass migration of Mexicans to the United States, which he feared would destabilize the country.

Johnson's policies toward Mexican Americans were a reflection of his complex and paradoxical views on race and ethnicity. He was a man of his time, and his views on these issues were shaped by the social and political context in which he lived.

Johnson's Early Life and Career

Lyndon B. Johnson was born in 1908 in Stonewall, Texas. He was the son of a farmer and a schoolteacher. Johnson grew up in poverty, and he worked his way through college and law school. After graduating from law school, Johnson returned to Texas and entered politics.

Johnson was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1937. He served in the House for 12 years, and he was a close ally of President Franklin D. Roosevelt. In 1948, Johnson was elected to the U.S. Senate. He served in the Senate for 12 years, and he was the Majority Leader from 1955 to 1961.

In 1960, Johnson was elected Vice President of the United States. He served as Vice President for three years, and he was a close advisor to President John F. Kennedy. In 1963, Kennedy was assassinated, and Johnson became President.

Johnson and the Civil Rights Movement

Johnson was a strong supporter of the civil rights movement. He believed that all Americans should be treated equally, regardless of their race or ethnicity. In 1964, he signed the Civil Rights Act of 1964 into law. The Civil Rights Act prohibited discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin in employment, public accommodations, and government programs.

In 1965, Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act of 1965 into law. The Voting Rights Act prohibited racial discrimination in voting. It also created federal oversight of voter registration and elections in areas with a history of racial discrimination.

Johnson's support for civil rights was not always popular. He faced opposition from many white Southerners, who resented the federal government's interference in their way of life. However, Johnson was determined to make the United States a more just and equal society.

Johnson and Mexican Americans

Johnson's relationship with Mexican Americans was more complex than his relationship with African Americans. Johnson was a strong advocate for civil rights for all Americans, but he also supported policies that had a negative impact on Mexican Americans.

For example, Johnson signed the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 into law. The Immigration and Nationality Act increased border patrols and made it more difficult for undocumented immigrants to enter the United States. It also created a new system of preferences for immigrants from certain countries, which discriminated against Mexican immigrants.

Johnson also supported the Vietnam War, which disproportionately affected Mexican Americans. Mexican Americans were more likely to be drafted into the military than other groups of Americans. They were also more likely to be killed or wounded in the war.

Johnson's policies toward Mexican Americans were a reflection of his complex and paradoxical views on race and ethnicity. He was a man of his time, and his views on these issues were shaped by the social and political context in which he lived.

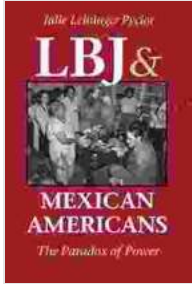
Johnson's Legacy

Johnson's legacy is complex and controversial. He was a strong advocate for civil rights, but he also supported policies that had a negative impact on Mexican Americans. He was a complex and paradoxical figure, and his relationship with Mexican Americans was no different.

Johnson's legacy is still being debated today. Some people believe that he was a great President who made significant progress on civil rights. Others believe that he was a flawed leader who made some serious mistakes. Ultimately, Johnson's legacy will be up to each individual to decide.

Additional Resources

- Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library and Museum



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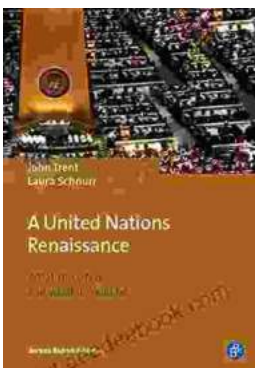
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