Educational and Organizing Resources
Across Races and Nations: Building New Communities in the South

Compiled by Susan Williams
Highlander Research and Education Center
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Videos

**At the River I Stand** – Directors David Appleby, Alison Graham and Steven Ross. 58 minutes. 1993. English version only.
This video chronicles a critical climax in the African American Civil Rights Movement, a two month period in Memphis in the spring of 1968. Memphis’ 1,300 sanitation workers, a low paid African American work force, struck for higher wages and union recognition, and for dignity and respect. Civil rights leaders and the Black community mobilized behind the workers. Martin Luther King, Jr. came to Memphis as part of his Poor People’s Campaign to expand the civil rights agenda to include the economy and, in his second trip there, was assassinated. This is a powerful film showing the grit and determination of ordinary people caught up in the Civil Rights Movement in the southern United States. (Available from California Newsreel at www.newsreel.org) Home use $29.95, $49.95 for selected organizations, $199.95 list price

**La Ciudad** – David Riker. 88 minutes. 1999. English version or Spanish version with English subtitles.
This film tells four stories of immigrant experiences in New York City. Filmed in black and white, it is a powerful way to begin to understand the many difficulties faced by immigrants to this country. To order, contact Zeitgeist Films, www.zeitgeistfilms.com. See the PBS web page, www.pbs.org/itvs/thecity for interesting stories and tools, including an immigration quiz and fact sheet. Institutional price is $195 (VHS only). Copies for home use can be ordered at www.amazon.com

**Dialogues for an Inclusive Democracy** – Southern Regional Council. 7 ½ minutes. 2002. English version only.
This short video provides a wide cross-section of comments from African American and Latino leaders about the changing demographics of this region in light of recent increases in immigration. Southern activists share views about the need for alliance building across these two populations, as well as tensions and divisions to be overcome. This video conveys a number of ideas in a concise format and is a great tool to help groups initiate strategic conversations around coalition building and across race and ethnicity in the southern United States. (Available from Highlander Center at www.highlandercenter.org) $19.95

**Echando Raíces/Taking Root: Immigrant and Refugee Communities in California, Texas and Iowa** – American Friends Service Committee. 60 minutes. 2002. English or Spanish version.
This is a production of the American Friends Service Committee and community partners working on immigrant rights. Stories and reflections from immigrants and refugees are woven with scenes of immigrants in Fresno and Stockton, California; Houston, Texas, and Des Moines,
Iowa. There are also very good ideas and information in an accompanying study guide. (Available from Highlander Center at www.highlandercenter.org or through American Friends Service Committee, www.takingroot.org)

**Eyes on the Prize I** – Henry Hampton. Blackside Films. 1987. Six one-hour-long segments, black and white. **English version only.**

This six-part series about the civil rights movement in the South was done in 1987. Widely acclaimed, it covers much of the “messy history” of this period. Though this video is available from Amazon.com, it is still quite expensive. However, you should also be able to find it through public and university libraries.

**From the Mountains to the Maquiladoras** – Tennessee Economic Renewal Network. 25 minutes. 1993. **English version only.**

In 1991, the Tennessee Economic Renewal Network (formerly the Tennessee Industrial Renewal Network or TIRN) conducted a Worker Exchange Project with members of the Committee Fronterizo de Obreras (CFO, or Border Committee of Women Workers), an association of women who work in “maquiladoras,” factories on the US/Mexican border near Matamoras, Mexico. The video documents the trip of nine Tennessee women, primarily factory workers, to this area. It includes their conversations with CFO members, a visit to a “colonia” where workers live, and an interview with the manager of a General Motors plant. It provides a look at the realities of life in the Maquiladora region while demonstrating the importance of worker-to-worker exchanges in our increasingly global economy. (Available from Highlander Center at www.highlandercenter.org) $15.00

**The Intolerable Burden** – Directed by Chea Prince; produced by Constance Curry. **English version only.**

This film tells the inspiring story of Mrs. Bertha Mae Carter and her family’s victory over a segregated school system in Mississippi. Mrs. Carter and her husband, Matthew, enrolled the youngest eight of their thirteen children in the public schools in Drew, Mississippi. Through their powerful witness, these ordinary sharecroppers change the status quo in Drew. The Carters provide an important example in understanding how ordinary Black people can change a violent, powerful, white supremacist system. It brings this history into the present as it also explores re-segregation and the growth of the prison population in the US. (Available from First Run/Icarus Films, www.frif.com)

**Long Journey Home** – Directed by Elizabeth Barret, Appalshop. 58 minutes. 1987. **English version only.**

This is a great video for new immigrants to the U.S. to learn more about Appalachian migration and economic history. It details the ethnic diversity of Appalachia and chronicles both the in-migration of immigrants and African Americans to the growing coal camps in the early twentieth century and the enormous out-migration in the 1950’s as mechanization took coal mining jobs. “Long Journey Home is an important film for anyone contemplating the past and future of the American economy and the toll industrial capitalism takes on individuals, families, and communities.” (Available from Appalshop, www.appalshop.org)
Morristown Video Letters: Stories from the Grassroots About Globalization – Ann Lewis. 60 minutes. 2000. **English or Spanish versions.**

In Tennessee, Mexico and on the US/Mexican border, workers talk about life, work, disappointment and hope. Common threads in these accounts – poverty, migration, insecurity, exploitation, the need to organize – offer a working class critique of globalization. These video letters are meant to be used a few at a time, together with discussion, for popular education and organizing. (Available from Highlander Center at [www.highlandercenter.org](http://www.highlandercenter.org) $20.00 DVD

The New Americans – Kartemquin Films. Three parts, seven hours total. 2004. **English version only.**

“What does the American dream look like through the eyes of today’s immigrants and refugees?” From Nigeria, India, the Dominican Republic, Mexico, and the Israeli-occupied West Bank, they come with different dreams: to achieve athletic glory or high-tech riches, to escape poverty and persecution, to provide for their families. This seven-hour, three-part series follows these newcomers from their homelands through their first years in America. (Available from PBS at [www.pbs.org/newamericans](http://www.pbs.org/newamericans); home video copies can be ordered by calling 888-572-8918. Educational materials to accompany the film are available at [www.activevoice.net](http://www.activevoice.net).)

The Shadow of Hate: A History of Intolerance in America – Charles Guggenheim, Teaching Tolerance. 40 minutes. 1995. **English version only.**

A good historical chronology that examines the connection between immigration and intolerance in this country. “The Shadow of Hate” spans three centuries to examine this country’s ongoing struggle to live up to its ideals of liberty, equality and justice for all. Documentary footage and eyewitness reports guide viewers through centuries of US racial and religious intolerance. (Available from Teaching Tolerance at [www.tolerance.org](http://www.tolerance.org)) $20.00 for kit

The Sixth Section – Alex Rivera. 27 minutes. 2003. **English version only.**

This video “captures a dynamic form of cross-border organizing through the efforts of Grupo Unión, a small band of Mexican immigrants in upstate New York devoted to raising money to rebuild the town they left behind.” Additional information, stories and links around this form of cross-border organizing can be found on the PBS website at [www.pbs.org](http://www.pbs.org). (“The Sixth Section” can be ordered from SubCine at [www.subcine.com](http://www.subcine.com) University/library/institution price $175, plus $10 shipping and handling; community/grassroots price $75, plus $10 shipping and handling; home use $29.95, plus $10 shipping and handling.

Underground Railroad in Mexico – Curtis Muhammad, Colorline Project. 2004. **Spanish version with English subtitles.**

This video documents stories of people of African descent living in Mexico, a racial history rarely discussed and acknowledged. The video shares dances and other cultural aspects of daily life of what some call an Afro-Mestizo culture among communities on the Mexican Pacific coast. The goal is to help “Latinos and African Americans come to see themselves in each other.” This is part of an on-going project to build alliances between people of color in the Americas. (For further information and copies of the video contact Curtis Muhammad, national organizer for the Colorline Project at curtismuhammad@earthlink.net or 504-236-4703.)

The film presents three stories of immigrants who left their homes in Bolivia, Haiti and the Philippines after global economic powers devastated their countries, only to face new challenges in the U.S. These powerful stories raise critical questions about U.S. immigration policy in an era when corporations also cross borders. All three stories show immigrants organizing for change. This video is great for helping people to understand some of the devastating reasons people are pushed to immigrate to the United States. (Available from the National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (NNIRR) Bridge Project, 310 8th Street, Suite 303; Oakland, CA  94607; (510) 465-1984; [www.nnirr.org](http://www.nnirr.org) $25.00


El film presenta tres historias de inmigrantes que dejaron sus hogares en Bolivia, Haití, y las Filipinas luego de que los poderes económicos globales devastaron sus países, sólo para enfrentar nuevos desafíos en los Estados Unidos. Estas poderosas historias dan lugar a preguntas cruciales acerca de la política de inmigración de los EEUU en una era en que las empresas cruzan las fronteras sin obstáculo alguno" (NNIRR) Estas tres historias muestran como los inmigrantes se organizan para impulsar el cambio. Este video es estupendo para ayudar a la gente a entender algunas de las devastadoras razones por las cuales las personas se ven forzadas a inmigrar a los Estados Unidos. (Available from the National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (NNIRR) Bridge Project, 310 8th Street, Suite 303; Oakland, CA  94607; (510) 465-1984; [www.nnirr.org](http://www.nnirr.org) $25.00

**Viva la Causa: 500 Years of Chicano History** - Southwest Organizing Project. Double video (Part One and Part Two, 30 minutes each). 1995. English or Spanish versions.

Part One of the video depicts Mexican Americans from their pre-Columbian origins through Spanish colonization, the 1848 US takeover of today's Southwest, the people's resistance, workers creating great wealth, and their massive strikes up to World War II.

Part Two includes the 1943 "Zoot Suit Riots" and early efforts to fight discrimination, the farm workers' struggle, student protests, the Chicano Moratorium against the US war in Vietnam, and new Chicano art. Today’s Latino struggles bring the video up to date. (Available from the Southwest Organizing Project, [www.swop.org](http://www.swop.org), or Highlander Center at [www.highlandercenter.org](http://www.highlandercenter.org)) $50.00


El Primer Parte del video representa a los Chicanos de sus orígenes pre-Colombianas hasta la colonización espa–ol a, la toma de poder del Sureste de hoy por los EE.UU. en 1848, la resistencia del pueblo, los trabajadores produciendo una gran riqueza, y sus huelgas masivos, hasta la Segunda Guerra Mundial.

La Segunda Parte incluye los "Zoot Suit Riots" (Disturbios de Trajes de Zoot) de 1943 y sus primeros esfuerzos de luchar en contra de la discriminacion, la lucha de los trabajadores agrícolas, las protestas estudiantiles, la Moratoria Chicana en contra de la guerra estadounidense en Vietnam, y el arte chicano nuevo. Las luchas latinas de hoy lleva el video hasta el momento
presente. (Available from the Southwest Organizing Project, www.swop.org, or Highlander Center at www.highlandercenter.org) $50.00

Books/Reports (Available in English only, unless otherwise noted)


This workbook contains tools for immigrant communities to build alliances and find common ground for action with others fighting for economic, social, and racial justice. BRIDGE strives to place the current work of the immigrant and refugee rights movement in larger historic and global contexts and to promote the human rights of all migrants and refugees. The project workbook is a “toolbox” of training materials, tips and resources. (Available from the National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (NNIRR) Bridge Project, 310 8th Street, Suite 303; Oakland, CA 94607; (510) 465-1984; www.nnirr.org) $30 + $4 shipping


“Racism and the stereotypes it spawns are so subtly interwoven into the fabric of Western society that very often even those with the best of intentions will display bad cultural manners. This does not necessarily mean one is a bad person – sometimes people just don’t know any better…” This book is written for all people, not just “white” people, because no one living in Western society is exempt from the influences of racism. $6.00


This is a great overview of immigration from around the world, with personal stories complementing information about problems with education, legalization, family reunification, workplace exploitation and other issues facing immigrants. A good educational resource. (Available from the Campaign for Jobs and Income Support, 1000 Wisconsin Avenue, NW; Washington, D.C. 20007; (202) 342-0567; www.nationalcampaign.org)

**From the Borderline to the Colorline: a Report on Anti-Immigrant Racism in the United States** - Prepared for the World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance, 2001, Durban, South Africa. (Available from the National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (NNIRR) Bridge Project, 310 8th Street, Suite 303; Oakland, CA 94607; (510) 465-1984; www.nnirr.org)


A guide to transforming corporate globalization and ultimately the world you live in. Tired of job insecurity, environmental degradation, and the selling of political office to the highest corporate bidders? Follow three dozen authors who look beyond the spectacular shutdowns and protests in Seattle, Genoa, and Ottawa and introduce the readers to farmers in Iowa, industrial workers in Tennessee, and anti-sweatshop activists in Maine who are connecting
global injustices to the issues in their own front yards. The authors range from movement "stars" to the unsung heroes who are challenging the world's largest corporations.

The Global Activist's Manual is introduced by best-selling anti-sweatshop writer, Naomi Klein. Protest photos, cartoons, and outrageous quotes by world economic leaders provide an ironic running commentary to the text. $15.95


Spanning 500 years, from the first New World colonies to our nation’s nineteenth-century westward expansion and the days of gunboat diplomacy to the turn of the millennium, this book features family portraits of real-life immigrants along with sketches of the political events and social conditions that compelled them to leave their homeland. In addition, it gives a fascinating look at how these Latino pioneers have transformed the cultural landscape of the United States.

**Immigration Policy Handbook** – National Immigration Forum

An overview of immigration programs and information on current immigration issues - including immigrants becoming voters - a historical timeline and contact list. (Available from National Immigration Forum, 2205 I Street NE, Suite 220; Washington, DC 20002; (202) 544-0004, fax (202) 544-1905; [www.immigrationforum.org](http://www.immigrationforum.org))


This momentous work offers a groundbreaking history of the early civil rights movement in the South. Using wide-ranging archival data and extensive interviews with movement participants, Charles Payne uncovers a chapter of American social history forged locally, in places like Greenwood, Mississippi, where countless unsung African Americans risked their lives for the freedom struggle. The leaders were ordinary women and men – sharecroppers, domestics, high school students, beauticians, independent farmers – committed to organizing the civil rights struggle house by house, block by block, relationship by relationship. Payne brings to life the tradition of grassroots African American activism, long practiced yet poorly understood. (Available from University of North Carolina Press at [www.ucpress.edu](http://www.ucpress.edu)) $21.95


"A gripping portrait of largely forgotten civil rights workers who forged racial change in the face of violence and murder…Redefines the roles of national leaders who were forced to act by the unswerving determination of local people.” William Ferris, New York Times Book Review. (Available from University of Illinois Press at [www.press.uillinois.edu](http://www.press.uillinois.edu)) $19.95


The arrival of several hundred Guatemalan-born workers in a Morganton, North Carolina, poultry plant sets the stage for this dramatic story of human struggle in an age of globalization. When laborers' concerns about safety and fairness spark a strike and, ultimately, a unionizing campaign at Case Farms, the resulting decade-long standoff pits a recalcitrant New
South employer against an unlikely coalition of antagonists. Mayan refugees from war-torn Guatemala, Mexican workers, and a diverse group of local allies join forces with the laborers’ union. The ensuing clash becomes a testing ground for "new labor" workplace and legal strategies. In the process, the nation's fastest-growing immigrant region encounters a new struggle for social justice. (Available from the University of North Carolina Press at www.uncpress.unc.edu) $17.95

**Southern Migrants, Northern Exiles** – Chad Berry, University of Illinois Press, Cloth or Paperback, 264 pages, 2000.

One of the largest internal migrations in US history, the great white migration, drew millions of southern workers to the steel mills, automobile factories, and even agricultural fields and orchards of Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, and Illinois. Through vivid oral histories, Chad Berry explores the conflict between the migrants’ economic success and their “spiritual exile” in the North. He documents the tension between factory owners who welcomed cheap, naïve southern laborers and local “native” workers who greeted migrants with suspicion and hostility. By allowing southern migrants to assess their own experiences and tell their own stories, *Southern Migrants, Northern Exiles* refutes persistent stereotypes about migrants’ clannishness, lifestyle, work ethic, and success in the North. (Available from the University of Illinois Press at www.press.uillinois.edu) Cloth - $44.95 / Paperback - $21.95

**Taking Flight (Comenzando a Volar)**

This manual relates the experience of Mujeres Unidas y Activas, a grassroots Latina immigrants’ group. This manual can provide helpful suggestions for organizing among new Latina immigrant women. (Available from Mujeres Unidas y Activas, 3543 18th Street; San Francisco, CA 94110; (415) 621-8140)

**Mapping Immigrant Infrastructure** – May, 2002

This resource contains information on immigrant and refugee efforts in the US, along with recommended actions. Also available: **Reasserting Justice Toolkit** – A collection of action tools from organizing around the country to counter increased civil rights violations, government harassment and violence against immigrants and refugees. (These can be downloaded from the Applied Resource Center, www.arc.org.)


This collection approaches differences of race and class not simply as forms of difference or separation among women but as social relationships. The focus on the South's historical legacies includes the tensions between long-standing patterns of regional distinctiveness and the disruptions of globalization. One chapter documents worker exchanges between Mexico and East Tennessee. *Neither Separate nor Equal* offers searching empirical studies of southern women and a conceptual model for feminist scholarship as a whole. $15.00

This is an exciting resource for people and groups struggling to tackle the impact of economic globalization. ELAN was founded in 1996 as a network for economic literacy and popular economic education groups working to build movements for social change. (Available from Highlander Center at www.highlandercenter.org) $20.00


After September 11, 2001, inter-faith coalitions across the country were the first to speak out against the hatred and intolerance rising at home. This manual is designed specifically with these faith-based communities in mind. It includes the most vital material from previous editions, as well as new information that faith-based communities should find beneficial - from an interfaith resource directory to inspirational sermons ministers might utilize in the aftermath of hate activities. In addition to the substantive changes, readers should enjoy the new user-friendly format. (Available from Center for Democratic Renewal) $19.95


This bilingual, large-format pictorial history depicts the Mexican American people from their origins in Europe's invasion of the continent to their struggles for social justice today. It is a unique book that aims to fill a major gap in knowledge about the peoples who make up our nation. (Available from Southwest Organizing Project) $16.00

500 Años de la Historia Chica en Dibujos
Por: Elizabeth Martinez. 238 páginas. 1991  Inglés/Españoł
Esta historia grafica bilingüe, en formato grande, representa al pueblo Chicano de sus origines en la invasion de Europa del continente hasta sus luchas por justicia social en el presente. Es un libro único que pretende llenar un vacio importante en el conocimiento de los pueblos que constituyen nuestra nacion. Southwest Organizing Project. Papel $16.00

Related Issues

Economic and Political Conditions in Mexico

From the Interhemispheric Resource Center - www.irc-online.org - These articles, along with many other relating to the Americas, can be found at www.americaspolicy.org: “NAFTA, Corn and Mexico’s Agricultural Trade Liberalization,” “NAFTA, Foreign Direct Investment, and Sustainable Industrial Development in Mexico,” “Seven Myths about NAFTA and Three Lessons for Latin America” – November 2003.

Mexico Solidarity Network - www.mexicosolidarity.org - Provides weekly updates on developments in Mexico.
NACLA (North American Congress on Latin America) Report on the Americas – This bimonthly magazine, published since 1966, provides critical analysis of developments in Latin America. $32/year. To subscribe, contact NACLA, P.O. Box 77; Hopewell, PA 16650-0077. www.nacla.org

NAFTA’s Promise and Reality: Lessons from Mexico for the Hemisphere - John Audley, Demetrios G. Papademetriou, Sandra Polaski and Scott Vaughan, 2003, English or Spanish version - This report shares information about trends in Mexico since NAFTA was passed. “Real wages in Mexico are lower now than they were when the agreement was adopted, despite higher productivity. Income inequality is greater there, and immigration has continued to soar.” Can be downloaded from the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, www.ceip.org/pubs

Immigration

Dream Act - www.communitychange.org/unitedwedream/index.asp - This website provides information about the push to allow children born in other countries but moved here by undocumented immigrant parents to attend college without paying out-of-state tuition or experiencing entrance problems.

La Jornada Sin Fronteras – www.lajornadausa.com (Spanish only) - This is a web page designed for Mexican immigrants to the United States. It contains news from the US and Mexico, information on immigration policy, and links to useful groups and resources for Mexican immigrants in the US.

Occupational Safety and Health

Popular information materials are available from the Committees on Occupational Safety and Health (COSH) network throughout the US. Information is available in both English, www.coshnetwork.org, and Spanish, www.coshnetwork.org/paginaespanol.htm. In the South, NCCOSH in North Carolina is especially active and has worked with immigrant and non-immigrant workers for a long time.

Multicultural Education

Multicultural Education (Alan H. Jones, Editor) - This quarterly magazine features articles, reviews, practices, art, music, and resources related to the field of multicultural education. Subscriptions are $50 for individuals and $80 for institutions. Available from Caddo Gap Press, http://www.uakron.edu/aesa/publications, telephone (415) 392-1911, fax (415) 956-3702, email caddogap@aol.com.

Resource Groups/Organizations:

AFL-CIO Department of Immigrant Workers Concerns - www.afl-cio.org - The AFL-CIO is the national labor federation in the United States. In the last several years, they have realized the importance of including new immigrant workers in order to strengthen the labor movement. The AFL-CIO also took the lead in organizing the Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride in 2003.
**Applied Research Center** - [www.arc.org](http://www.arc.org) - This center produces materials on race, immigration and education to be used by community groups. They have an excellent magazine called *Colorlines*, which explores many different facets of multiculturalism and racism. The center’s address is 3781 Broadway; Oakland, CA 94611; (510) 653-3415.

**The Peoples Institute for Survival and Beyond** - [www.thepeoplesinstitute.org](http://www.thepeoplesinstitute.org) - This center was founded in 1980 to develop more analytical, culturally-rooted and effective community organizers. Their Undoing Racism™ community organizing training process has been conducted for tens of thousands of people and is an excellent education process for challenging participants to analyze structures of power and privilege that hinder social equity, particularly around racism. Other programs include training of anti-racist trainers, training follow-up with organizations, and work in Louisiana with youth and community organizers. Contact information: Peoples Institute for Survival and Beyond, 7166 Crowder Boulevard, Suite 100; New Orleans, LA 70127; (504) 241-7472.

**Southeast Regional Economic Justice Network** - [www.rejn.org](http://www.rejn.org) - REJN works with 60 economic justice organizations across the southern United States. They work to build relationships and coalitions with people of different races in the southeast and also make connections with groups throughout the rest of the western hemisphere. They have also worked to build bridges between African Americans and Latinos within North Carolina. They have excellent tip sheets on coalition building. Contact information: SE Regional Economic Justice Network, PO Box 240; Durham, NC 27702-0240; (919) 683-4310, email serejn@rejn.org.

**Southern Poverty Law Center** - [www.splccenter.org](http://www.splccenter.org) - The Southern Poverty Law Center was founded in 1971 in Montgomery, Alabama. It is known for its tolerance education programs, work against white supremacists and tracking of hate groups. They produce useful educational materials, at low or no-cost, against racism and hate that are available at [www.tolerance.org](http://www.tolerance.org). Contact information: Southern Poverty Law Center, 400 Washington Ave., Montgomery, AL 36104; (334) 956-8200.