Ana Laura Alvarado

Professor Gomez

8 February 2017

A

Search for “Mexicanidad”

Identity is a topic that has become more and more common throughout the course of the years. One of the many identities there are is the Mexican identity which is the one we focus on for this class. The Mexican identity is a combination of Spaniards and Indigenous people. In this course, we have read some authors that sort of describe the Mexican identity, but not completely. To be Mexican is much more than what these articles are saying. All authors have described their individual opinion of what the search of “mexicanidad” is, but I have a different view on this.

One of the readings that were assigned by Joel Poinsett “The Mexican Character” had a pessimistic view on what the Mexican character was. It also doubted a lot on the nation itself for progress, the nation meaning Mexico. He describes the Mexican character as being vulnerable, he sees them as useless people. He does not believe they can even be independent. He focusses on a lot of negativity throughout the course of his article. He stated that Indians were ignorant and illiterate and he basically said that that’s what Mexicans were, ignorant and illiterate as well. He talked about their poor lifestyles and living in bad conditions due to lack of money and resources. He describes their houses as being so small and cramped and not in the best place to have a nice yard or so.

Another reading was by Jose Vasconcelos “The Cosmic Race”. In this article the author is rejecting the ideas of the previous author, Joel Poinsett. He felt offended by his idea and basically is describing the opposite of what the previous author wrote. To begin with, he did not want Latin Americans imitating Americans. He disagreed with Poinsett because he said that the cosmic race was not the combination of Indians and Europeans as he had mentioned, in his point of view those were the mestizos, and called out Poinsett’s theory as racist. Vasconcelos was an advocate for Indian literacy, he wanted them to get educated and sponsored many artists as well. Vasconcelos said that the white race was destined to rule only temporary, thinking that God laughs at other races that were conquered by whites. He stated that to be able to win the battle of races there must be different kinds of mating occurring. Unlike whites that only mate to their same kind and Indians mate to different kinds, he thought that whites would lose and Indians would win. Vasconcelos theory is that “The Cosmic Race” will be when all the races get mixed up together, and have virtues of every race, as a result of the Ibero-American development.

Furthermore, Octavio Paz in “The Sons of La Malinche” believes that Mexico was intent on denying its true heritage. Paz states that Mexico is going through identity crisis. He describes the history and goes back to La Malinche which was the lover of Moctezuma and the traitor that sold him to the whites. He describes “La Chingada” as La Malinche because she is the violated and raped mother, the very first woman to have a mestizo. She brings to earth the creation of a new generation of people, Indian mixed with Spaniard virtues. He describes this new generations as “hijos de la chingada”, because they are sons of la Malinche. Paz says that the Chingones are the macho men, the ones that are brave and can handle it all, the ones who are different and unique in their own way. They stand out and are like no other, they are strange and they are the best compared to other people. The Chingones are confident and are not like their people because they know it all.

To be Mexican is to love and value your culture and traditions as well as your people. It is to have a passion towards everything you do, because the Mexican character is strong and passionate about everything they do. The Mexican character does not define everyone, it only defines those who besides their horrible history have learned to value it like no other, and because of their history they are who they are today. Strong people who don't give up, hard workers, and passionate people. To be Mexican is to be much more than just a nationality or race. Unlike described by the 45th president Mexicans are not rapist, criminals, and bad people, Mexicans are strong people, they are not afraid to take on a new challenge and that is why so many migrate to a different country because they are not afraid of change. They want to have a better life than what it is offered in their country due to lack of money and resources. The Mexican Character defines unity in the sense of coming to a different country and wanting to help it be greater. They take on the hardest jobs that no one wants to have without complaining, and they do it to provide their children as well as us with fruits and vegetables in our tables. They work with a smile on their face because although the challenge is tough they know that their character can handle anything that comes to them. That is the true meaning on the Mexican Character.