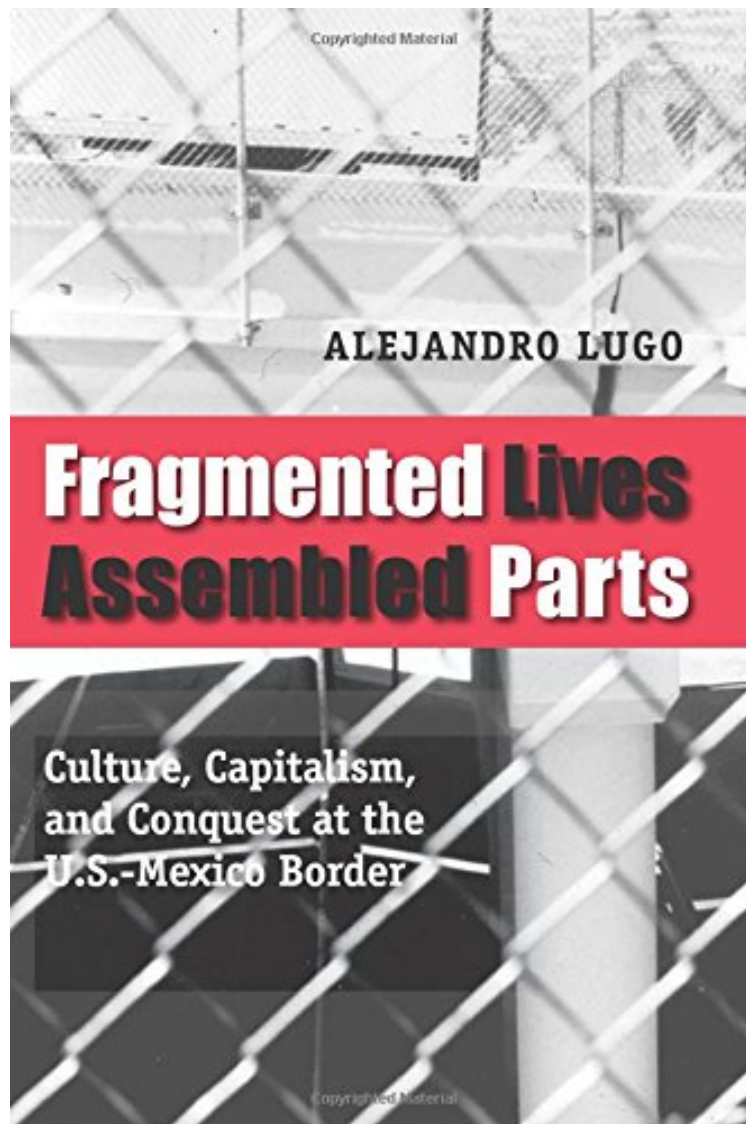


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Fragmented Lives, Assembled Parts: Culture, Capitalism, and Conquest at the U.S.-Mexico Border

Alejandro Lugo

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Alejandro Lugo : Fragmented Lives, Assembled Parts: Culture, Capitalism, and Conquest at the U.S.-Mexico Border before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Fragmented Lives, Assembled Parts: Culture, Capitalism, and Conquest at the U.S.-Mexico Border*:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Text for ClassBy KgizmoGot this book for my Chicano Studies class

and it did its job. It was in great condition when I received it and for a pretty good price too. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Powerful By Ernesto Aguilar Although overshadowed these days in mainstream media by drug cartel violence, Ciudad Juarez has come to capture the minds of many people concerned about social justice, and for good reason. In no other city in Latin America do controversies such as globalization, economic collapse, institutionalized violence against women, history, immigration, resistance, North American exceptionalism and the much lauded Eduardo Galleano-esque mythology so crisply cut paths. Juarez is as much a place of triumph as it is the crushing sadness that has come to symbolize its cycle of death the last 20 years. *Fragmented Lives, Fragmented Parts: Culture, Capitalism and Conquest at the U.S.-Mexico Border* by Alejandro Lugo seeks to make sense of the world of Juarez, a city at war with itself as well as those outside. The real value in books like Lugo's is in their efforts to tell Mexico's story in a way that is unafraid to tangle with patriotism, indigenism and the nation's conflicted cultural pride. That pride slammed headfirst a few years ago into elites' deals to import U.S. jobs and exploit Mexican underclasses in the service of North American corporations' maquiladores. Those maquilas were largely transferred to cheaper labor pools in South Asia in the new century, and the result on the Mexican psyche was significant. Sheila Marie Contreras' *Blood Lines: Myth, Indigenism and Chicana/o Literature* is a great compliment to some of Lugo's writings on these issues. However, Lugo should receive high praise for his willingness to talk about Mexico and its contradictions between national integrity and free-market opportunism. Acknowledging how compromised the country is can be a hard conversation for some quarters to take. Still, *Lives* scrutinizes these matters without trepidation. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Sloppy, work By Desert Visitor Poorly written. Sloppy research. Cites from other scholars without making the effort to find the sources himself. Superficial analysis. Adds nothing to the scholarship

Winner, Southwest Book Award, Border Regional Library Association, 2008 Association of Latina and Latino Anthropologists Book Award, 2009 Established in 1659 as Misin de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe de los Mansos del Paso del Norte, Ciudad Juárez is the oldest colonial settlement on the U.S.-Mexico border—and one of the largest industrialized border cities in the world. Since the days of its founding, Juárez has been marked by different forms of conquest and the quest for wealth as an elaborate matrix of gender, class, and ethnic hierarchies struggled for dominance. Juxtaposing the early Spanish invasions of the region with the arrival of late-twentieth-century industrial "conquistadors," *Fragmented Lives, Assembled Parts* documents the consequences of imperial history through in-depth ethnographic studies of working-class factory life. By comparing the social and human consequences of recent globalism with the region's pioneer era, Alejandro Lugo demonstrates the ways in which class mobilization is itself constantly being "unmade" at both the international and personal levels for border workers. Both an inside account of maquiladora practices and a rich social history, this is an interdisciplinary survey of the legacies, tropes, economic systems, and gender-based inequalities reflected in a unique cultural landscape. Through a framework of theoretical conceptualizations applied to a range of facets from multiracial "mestizo" populations to the notions of border "crossings" and "inspections," as well as the recent brutal killings of working-class women in Ciudad Juárez *Fragmented Lives, Assembled Parts* provides a critical understanding of the effect of transnational corporations on contemporary Mexico, calling for official recognition of the desperate need for improved working and living conditions within this community.

About the Author ALEJANDRO LUGO is Associate Professor of Anthropology and Latina/Latino Studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He is the co-editor (with Bill Maurer) of *Gender Matters: Rereading Michelle Rosaldo*.