

which are partially alien to us. However, it tells us a great deal about the author because it is sprinkled with frank, spontaneous comments about herself and her reactions to what she observes. And when we reflect upon them, the book tells us a lot about ourselves the readers, both men and women. ❧

Eva Cruz Yáñez

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**México en los informes presidenciales
de los Estados Unidos de América**

(Mexico in U.S. State of the Union Addresses)

Ricardo Ampudia

Fondo de Cultura Económica/SRE

Mexico City, 1996, 259 pp.

A considerable amount has been published about relations between Mexico and the United States of America because their complex history of interaction has been of constant interest to outstanding scholars at research centers of both countries, as well as to political leaders who interact and actively participate in this difficult association. For those familiar with the topic, the day-to-day doings shared by these two nations come as no surprise since they not only share a very long border, but also differ in an infinity of historic, economic and social ways.

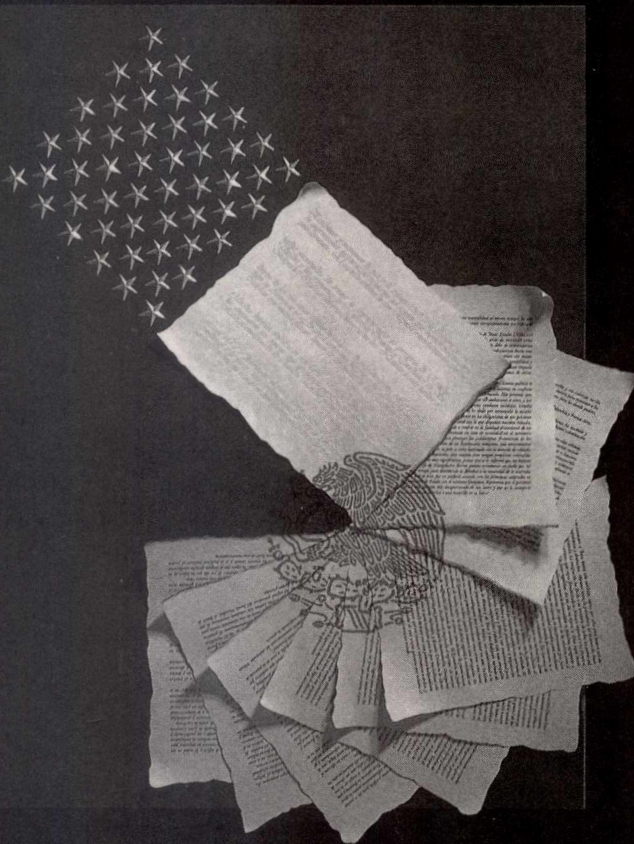
Knowing your neighbor is vitally important to achieving a fluid day-to-day relationship based on common interests but without sidestepping individual points of view and interests which are usually contradictory.

Ricardo Ampudia's book *México en los informes presidenciales de los Estados Unidos de América* (Mexico in U.S. State of the Union Addresses) is unique in that his enthusiastic research highlights references to Mexico, the historical development of the bilateral relationship documented in the State of the Union Address's that each first executive is required to present to the joint

Ampudia points out interesting inconsistencies in U.S. foreign policy toward Mexico which reveal ambivalence and contradictions, a result of the pragmatic pursuit of its interests.



Ricardo Ampudia
*México en los informes
presidenciales de los
Estados Unidos de América*



session of Congress, and the vision that they reveal of U.S. foreign policy toward Latin America and the Caribbean. The work is also enriched with two appendices: a list of Mexico's ambassadors and representatives in Washington and another of U.S. diplomats in Mexico.

Ampudia cites the first reference to Mexico in President George Washington's 1789 address, followed by recurrent if not constant mention of Mexico by the following 39 presidents, up until the next-to-the-last address by President William Clinton in February 1995 (the last one included in the study).

Ampudia states that as the United States began to take on a more important role in the world and give more importance to world affairs, the mentions of Mexico drop and even disappear. He also points out interesting inconsistencies in U.S. foreign policy toward Mexico which reveal ambivalence and contradictions, a result of the pragmatic pursuit of its interests.

The addresses touch on different topics regarding Mexico: borders, U.S. rejection of possible intervention by the European powers in affairs in the Americas, the implementation of the Monroe Doctrine (justifying its own intervention), the protection and security of its borders, the defense of U.S. interests in Mexico, payment of compensation and claims, oil, the fight against drug traf-

ficking, migration, the defense and fostering of democracy, the environment and trade relations.

We also come across constructive references to the bilateral relationship. The Good Neighbor Policy promoted by Franklin Delano Roosevelt in 1933 resulted in Latin America's participation in World War II on the side of the United States and the Allies. Dwight D. Eisenhower announced in 1959 the creation of the Interamerican Development Bank in order to "bring all the American republics together in a common institution to foment and finance the development of Latin America." The Alliance for Progress proposed by President Kennedy in 1961 aimed to promote economic and social reform. George Bush proposed the creation of a free trade agreement between the United States, Mexico and Canada in 1990.

Ricardo Ampudia has been a Mexican government official in the area of international relations and has also represented his country at the Mexican Consulate in Houston, Texas. This book is the companion to a 1994

publication, *The United States of America in Mexican Presidential Reports*.

For scholars of Mexican and U.S. history and the relation between the two countries, this book is required reading. ❧

Fernanda Riveroll
Editorial Advisor

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