

Delve Deeper into "Maquilapolis"

A film by Vicky Funari and Sergio De La Torre

This multi-media resource list, compiled by Rebecca Federman of the New York Public Library in partnership with the American Library Association, provides a range of perspectives on the issues raised by the upcoming P.O.V. documentary "Maquilapolis" that premieres on October 10th, 2006 at 10 p.m. on PBS (check local listings at www.pbs.org/pov/).

Just over the border in Mexico is an area peppered with maquiladoras: massive sweatshops often owned by the world's largest multinational corporations. Carmen and Lourdes work at maquiladoras in Tijuana, where each day they confront labor violations, environmental devastation and urban chaos. In this lyrical documentary, the women reach beyond the daily struggle for survival to organize for change, taking on both the Mexican and U.S. governments and a major television manufacturer. A co-production of the Independent Television Service (ITVS).

ADULT NONFICTION

Armbruster-Sandoval, Ralph. *Globalization and Cross-Border Labor Solidarity in the Americas: The Anti-Sweatshop Movement and the Struggle for Social Justice.* New York: Routledge, 2005. Looks at the future of labor organizations in four countries: Nicaragua, Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador.

Bacon, David. *The Children of NAFTA: Labor Wars on the U.S. Mexico Border.* Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 2004. Through interviews and photographs, Bacon examines the effects of NAFTA on Mexican workers on both sides of the border.

Barndt, Deborah. *Tangled Routes: Women, Work, Globalization on the Tomato Trail.* Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2002. How tomatoes from Mexico make it to Canada, with thoughts on eco-feminism, bio-engineering, and NAFTA.

Baud, I. S. A. *Forms of Production and Women's Labour: Gender Aspects of Industrialisation in India and Mexico.* Newbury Park, CA: Sage

Publications, 1992. The book looks at the role women play in industrial production, specifically in Mexico and India.

Castillo, Debra A. *Border Women: Writing from La Frontera.* Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota Press, 2002. *Border Women* views border theories from women living on the border itself, with writers such as Helena Maria Viramontes and Demetria Martinez.

Chant, Sylvia H. *Women and Survival in Mexican Cities: Perspectives on Gender, Labour Markets and Low-Income Households.* New York: Manchester University Press, 1991. Chant explores the lives of women in Mexico, the issues of poverty and survival, and the available employment opportunities for women.

Cruz-Torres, Maria Luz. *Lives of Dust and Water: An Anthropology of Change and Resistance in Northwestern Mexico.* Tucson, AZ: University of Arizona Press, 2004. Cruz-Torres examines the northwestern coast of Mexico, the growth of marine life and economic development, and the effects (socially and environmentally) it is having on the lives of its residents.

Davidson, Miriam. *Lives on the Line: Dispatches from the U.S.-Mexico Border.* Tucson, AZ: University of Arizona Press, 2000. Davidson's book examines the impact of the *maquiladoras* on two towns on either side of the border.

Fox, Claire F. *The Fence and the River: Culture and Politics at the U.S.-Mexico Border.* Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota Press, 1999. A look at the cultural representations of border life, through novels, photography, performance art, and film.

Kamel, Rachael and Anya Hoffman, eds. *The Maquiladora Reader: Cross-Border Organizing since NAFTA.* Philadelphia, PA: American Friends Service Committee, 1999. The author illuminates the stories of the *maquiladora* workers who have mobilized themselves to

improve working conditions in the border-lands.

Kopinak, Kathryn. *Desert Capitalism: Maquiladoras in North America's Western Industrial Corridor.* Tucson, AZ: University of Arizona Press, 1996. An examination of the new desert capitalism of *maquiladoras* in Mexico, and how these companies are not improving the lives of their workers, but rather making them much worse.

Macías, Anna. *Against All Odds: The Feminist Movement in Mexico to 1940.* Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1982. This book gives an introduction into the origins and actions of the Mexican feminist movement.

Martens, Margaret Hosmer, and Swasti Mitter. *Women in Trade Unions: Organizing the Unorganized.* Geneva: International Labour Office, 1994. Female workers, enticed by more flexible employment opportunities brought on by the technology industries, have not often mobilized to join unions. This book stresses the importance of collective action for female workers in developing nations.

Miller, Frank Charles. *Industrialization in Mexico: Old Village and a New Town.* Menlo Park, CA: Cummings Pub. Co., 1973. Part of the *Kiste and Ogan Social Change* series in anthropology, this book explores the social and economic conditions of Mexico as it industrializes.

Olcott, Jocelyn. *Revolutionary Women in Post-Revolutionary Mexico.* Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2005. Discusses the birth of Mexican feminism and revolutionary citizenship, and the women's organizations and political movements throughout Mexico.

Pena, Devon Gerardo. *The Terror of the Machine: Technology, Work, Gender, and Ecology on the U.S.-Mexico Border.* Austin, TX: Center for Mexican American Studies, 1997. The book discusses female workers struggles for democracy and justice in the increasing number of foreign-owned *maquiladoras* lining the Mexico-

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American border, and their resistance to patriarchal rule.

Perlin, D.E. *Eight Bright Candles: Courageous Women of Mexico*. Plano, TX: Republic of Texas Press, 1995. Part of the *Women of the West* series, contains biographical stories of Mexican women.

Price, Patricia L. *Dry Place: Landscapes of Belonging and Exclusion*. Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota Press, 2004. Price looks at the Mexico - U.S. border in a historical context, and researches the many peoples who have laid claim to it.

Randall, Laura, ed. *Changing Structure of Mexico: Political, Social, and Economic Prospects*. Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe, 2006. Chapters include issues on the social and economic geography of Mexico, how NAFTA has affected the Mexican economy, and the changing roles of women within Mexican politics and education. From the Columbia University seminar series.

Ruiz, Vicki. *Cannery Women, Cannery Lives: Mexican Women, Unionization, and the California Food Processing Industry, 1930-1950*. Albuquerque, NM: University of New Mexico Press, 1987. The story of the cannery unions in Southern California organized by Mexican-American women, and the benefits (maternity leave, paid vacations and day care), put into place by their efforts.

Sainz, Juan Perez. *From the Finca to the Maquila: Labor and Capitalist Development in Central America*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 2000. The development of exports out of Central and South America, specifically bananas and coffee, and how the mass exportation has put these small businesses in the global market and how that affects the *maquilas*, workers and the environment.

Saldivar, Jose David. *Border Matters: Remapping American Cultural Studies*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 1997. This book looks at the representations of the Chicano world from a cultural perspective: poetry, hip hop, and art, and argues

that border studies needs to be approached from new angles.

Saldivar, Ramon. *The Borderlands of Culture: American Paredes and the Transnational Imaginary*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2006. Saldivar's book is a literary history of Paredes -- scholar, poet and founder of Chicano studies.

Salzinger, Leslie. *Genders in Production: Making Workers in Mexico's Global Factories*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 2003. This book provides analysis of the role of gender in global production.

Skalair, Leslie. *Assembling for Development: The Maquila Industry in Mexico and the United States*. New York, NY: Routledge, 1989. Skalair looks at the history of the *maquila* industry, and its relationship to both the U.S. and Mexico.

Smart, Alan and Josephine Smart, ed. *Petty Capitalists and Globalization: Flexibility, Entrepreneurship, and Economic Development*. Albany, NY: State University of New York Press, 2005. Part of the SUNY series in anthropological studies of contemporary issues.

Stiglitz, Joseph. *Globalization and its Discontent*. New York, NY: W.W. Norton & Co., 2003. Explores the way the IMF and the World Bank operate around the world, providing a better understanding of Mexico's situation as a debtor nation.

Tiano, Susan. *Patriarchy on the Line: Labor, Gender, and Ideology in the Mexican Maquila Industry*. Philadelphia, PA: Temple University Press, 1994. Tiano takes a closer look at the strict division of gender roles within the *maquila* industry.

Townsend, Janet Gabriel. *Women and Power: Fighting Patriarchies and Poverty*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1999. Townsend examines examples of women and how they deal with the power struggle, looking specifically at rural Mexican women and how their winning fights against patriarchal power are shedding new light on female empowerment.

Tulchin, Joseph S. and Gary Bland. *Getting Globalization Right: The Dilemmas of Inequality*. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2005. Explores the issues of globalization worldwide, including a chapter on Mexico, globalization and democracy.

Wise, Timothy A., Hilda Salazar, and Laura Carlsen. *Confronting Globalization: Economic Integration and Popular Resistance in Mexico*. Bloomfield, CT: Kumarian Press, 2003. Discusses the popular resistance to globalization in Mexico with special emphasis on the ecological and human rights concerns globalization brings with it.

Vila, Pablo, ed. *Ethnography at the Border*. Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota Press, 2003. A look at the border experience from the people who live there.

***The Mexican Maquila Industry and the Environment: An Overview of the Issues*. New York, NY: United Nations Publications, 2005.** How the *maquila* industry, in light of the already fragile climate issues in the border area, is causing grave environmental effects to the region's ever-growing population.

ADULT FICTION

Agosin, Marjorie and Nancy Abraham Hall. *A Necklace of Words: Stories by Mexican Women*. Fredonia, NY: White Pine Press, 1997. This is a collection of short stories from Mexican women writers from the Secret Weavers series.

Cisneros, Sandra. *Women Hollering Cree: And Other Stories*. New York: Random House, 1991. Short stories about life on the Mexico/Texas border, involving love, family and homeland.

Gerson, Mary-Joan. *Fiesta Femenina: Celebrating Women in Mexican Folktales*. Darby, PA: Diane Publishing, 2004. Folktales about the magical,

Delve Deeper into "Maquilapolis"

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fantastical life of Mexican women and the talents they possess.

Martinez, Manuel Luis. *Crossing. Tempe, AZ: Bilingual Press, 1998.* Luis, a 16 year old from rural Mexico, makes the journey into the U.S. only to be caught. He finds himself on a train with other Mexicans on a journey that involves many other figurative crossings.

Miller, Tom, ed. *Writing on the Edge: A Borderlands Reader. Tucson, AZ: University of Arizona Press, 2003.* Miller edits this collection of stories, song lyrics, and poems from a variety of writers all inspired by the unique experience of the U.S./Mexico border.

Palmer, Karen. *Border Dogs: A Novel. New York: Soho Press, 2002.* A novel about California border cop James Reece, his suspicious younger co-worker, and the "coyotes," the guides of illegal Mexican immigrants, they patrol.

Quiroz, Leobardo Savaria, ed. *Line of Fire: Detective Stories from the Mexican Border. San Diego, CA: San Diego State University Press, 1996.* Quiroz edits a collection of short detective and mystery stories from the Baja California Literature in Translation series.

Yanez, Richard. *El Paso del Norte : Stories on the Border. Reno, NV: University of Nevada Press, 2003.* This is a collection of stories about characters living on El Paso's Lower Valley, and inhabiting many aspects of border life.

NON-FICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS

Dash, Joan. *We Shall Not Be Moved: The Women's Factory Strike of 1909. New York: Scholastic, 1996.* Nearly 30,000 poverty-stricken teenage girls started what was to become one of the largest women's strikes in history, when they walked out on their jobs as garment workers for 13 weeks. Their legacy eventually became the Ladies Garment Workers Union.

Jacob, Iris. *My Sisters' Voice: Teenage Girls of Color Speak Out. New York: Owl Books,*

2002. Jacob's book contains a series of essays from teenage girls of African American, Hispanic American, Asian American and Native American backgrounds.

Presilla, Maricel and Gloria Soto. *Life Around the Lake: Embroideries by the Women of Lake Patzcuaro. New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1997.* This book looks at the women of the Tarasco Indian tribe in Central Mexico, the embroidery they make and the lives they lead. Includes messages on environmental concerns about Lake Patzcuaro.

FICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS

Bunting, Eve. *Going Home. New York: HarperCollins, 1996.* Mexican migrant workers move to the United States so that their children will have opportunities to improve their lives.

Cruz, Maria Colleen. *Border Crossing: A Novel. Houston, TX: Pinata Books, 2003.* Ceci Alvarez, in an attempt to learn more about her father's history and her own Mexican heritage, heads across the border to Mexico.

Hernandez, Irene Beltran. *Across the Great River. Houston, TX: Arte Publico Press, 1989.* Kata's father dies trying to cross the Rio Grande for a better life in the United States, and Kata soon learns the harsh realities of her life in Mexico and the dreams that exist across the border.

Paulsen, Gary. *Sisters/Hermanas. New York: Harcourt, 1993.* A bilingual book about two different girls with two very different lives. Although Rosa and Traci both live in Houston, Rosa must make money as a prostitute, while Traci lives a sheltered life with her wealthy parents. However they experience a kinship the day their lives cross.

Velasquez, Glora. *Juanita Fights the School Board. Houston, TX: Pinata Books, 1994.* Juanita, living in California with her family, is expelled from school for fighting with another girl. The other girl, an Anglo, goes unpunished. With the help of some school officials, Juanita takes on the board.

Viramontes, Helena Maria. *Under the Feet of Jesus. New York: Plume, 1996.* Viramontes tells the story of thirteen-year old Estrella, and the life of her migrant farm family.

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS

Hembra, Richard L. *Hazardous Waste: U.S. and Mexican Management of Hazardous Waste from Maquiladoras Hampered by Lack of Information. Washington, DC: U.S. General Accounting Office, 1991.* Statement of Richard L. Hembra, Director of Environmental Protection Issues, Resources, Community, and Economic Development Division, before the Environment, Energy, and Natural Resources Subcommittee, Committee on Government Operations, House of Representatives.

Metales y Derivados Final Factual Record. Montreal, Québec: Commission for Environmental Cooperation, 2002. This is the official report of the NAFTA-created CEC on the situation at Metales y Derivados.

VIDEOS/DOCUMENTARIES

"Senorita Extraviada." A film by Lourdes Portillo, 2002. (74 min.) Portillo's P.O.V. documentary explores the mystery of the nearly 300 factory women murdered in Juarez, Mexico.

"Is Wal-Mart Good for America?" A film by Rick Young, 2004. (60 min.) This PBS Frontline documentary explores the effects of Wal-Mart within both the United States and China. The documentary argues that Wal-Mart's power has changed the balance of power within the world of business, and has provided China with 80% of Wal-Mart's exports.
www.shoppbs.org

"America 101." A film by Mark A. Russell, 2005. (86 min.) A comedy about two brothers leaving Mexico in search of the American Dream. Angel is anxious to leave his small Mexican town, while his brother Carlos is just along for the ride.

Delve Deeper into "Maquilapolis"

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www.amazon.com

"Grassroots Rising." A film by Robert C. Winn, 2005. (56 min.)

The film explores the origins of grassroots political activism in L.A.'s Asian American population by looking at various workers' stories about injustice, and how grassroots activist groups are combating the problem head-on. Winn also explores the activism of L.A.'s Latino population.

"La Tragedia de Macario." A film by Pablo Veliz, 2005. (71 min.)

The film looks at the harrowing journey of Mexican immigrants attempting to cross the border into the United States. The film is dedicated to those Mexican workers who suffocated in the back of a truck in Victoria, TX on May 14, 2003.

www.amazon.com

"Mexico – Back-door to the Promised Land." A film by Stephan Hallman, 1999. (45 min.)

Roger Moore narrates this episode from the series *Children without Childhood* that explores the hardships of migrant workers in Mexico who dream of the promised land of America next door.

"On the Edge: The Femicide of Ciudad Juarez." A film by Steev Hise, 2006. (58 min.)

Over the last 12 years more than 400 young women have been murdered in the Mexican border town of Ciudad Juarez, while the Mexican government and the police have done little to investigate the brutal killings. Family and community activists try to obtain justice in this documentary.

www.amazon.com

"Salt of the Earth." A film by Herbert J. Biberman, 1954. (94 min.)

Based on the Empire Zinc Mine in New Mexico, this film explores the working conditions and wage disparities between Mexican-American workers and the Anglo workers of nearby mines.

www.amazon.com

"Wal-Mart: The High Cost of Low Price." A film by Robert Greenwald, 2005. (95 min.)

A documentary about people from three different continents trying to fight the giant that is Wal-Mart. Artists, small business owners, and

workers on a personal quest to take the giant down.

www.amazon.com

"Norma Rae." A film by Martin Ritt, 1979. (110 min.)

Sally Field plays a single mother working in a textile factory who overcomes dangers to unionize her factory.

www.amazon.com

WEB SITES

P.O.V.'s "Maquilapolis" Web site

www.pbs.org/pov/pov2006/maquilapolis

Includes an interview with the filmmakers, resources, special features and more.

P.O.V.'s "Senorita Extraviada" Web site

www.pbs.org/pov/pov2002/senoritaextraviada

Official P.O.V. Web site for the film "Senorita Extraviada." Includes resources for getting involved and what life is like in the *maquiladoras*.

Under Two Flags: Mexican Workers in Washington Fields

<http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/mexico/>

This four-part series chronicles the lives of Mexican farm workers in Eastern Washington and explores the underground economy that supports Washington's agricultural industry.

Migration Policy Institute

www.migrationpolicy.org/
Web site devoted to the policies and procedures of immigration and workers throughout the world.

Line of Sight: Views of the U.S./Mexico Border

<http://sweeney.ucr.edu/exhibitions/border/>

Photo exhibition organized by the Sweeney Art Gallery, University of California, Riverside, and by the University of California Institute for Mexico. Web site includes images, introduction to the exhibit and artists, and online resources related to Mexican/U.S border studies.

Border Studies: Texas-Mexico Border

www.humanities-interactive.org/borderstudies/order_studies_exhibit/exhibitindex.html

Includes changing border maps, an essay on "Human Interaction in the

Texas-Mexico Borderlands", and teacher activities. From the Texas Council for the Humanities.

San Diego/Tijuana Border Aerial Photo Set

<http://gort.ucsd.edu/mw/border/sdtab2.html>

Ten aerial photographs from the USGS/US Customs Service from 1979.

Tijuana and the Border

www.signonsandiego.com/news/mexico/tijuana/

Contains continuous coverage of the issues affecting California and the Tijuana border, including news stories, immigration issues, entertainment and weather. From SignonSanDiego.com, part of the *Union-Tribune*.

U.S. Embassy in Mexico City

http://mexico.usembassy.gov/mexico/eborder_mechs.html
Maps, laws, and border migration from the official Embassy website.

The New Frontier/ La Nueva Frontera

www.time.com/time/covers/1101010611/

A *Time* magazine special on the borders of El Paso and Juarez, immigration, economies, and politics of these two border cities.

Toxic Candy

www.ocregister.com/investigations/2004/lead/

An article about unsafe levels of lead in candy – most of it made in Mexico. Includes a guide to the questionable candies and graphics on the dangers in lead. From the Orange Country Register.

The Maquila Solidarity Network

www.maquilasolidarity.org/
News stories, action newsletters, and factory disclosures are features in this trilingual website for maquila solidarity. Includes other resources, links and an action toolkit.

Handbook of Texas Online

www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/articles/MM/dzm2.html

An online article describing *maquiladoras* and their histories. Includes a bibliography.

Maquiladora Health and Safety Support Network

<http://mhssn.iqc.org/>

Delve Deeper into "Maquilapolis"

A film by Vicky Funari and Sergio De La Torre

A volunteer network of occupational health and safety professionals providing information on workplace hazards in the 3,000 *maquiladora* plants along the U.S.-Mexico border. Includes links to a an article at: http://mhssn.igc.org/brown_synergist.htm

Globalization at the Crossroads www.environmentalhealth.org/CoverGlobalizationReport.html

A bilingual report from the Environmental Health Coalition discussing the ten years of NAFTA in the San Diego and Tijuana Border area.

Mexican Workers since NAFTA: **NACLA Report on the Americas** www.nacla.org/issue_disp.php?iss=39|1

A report from the North American Conference on Latin America discussing Mexican labor law reform and issues of immigration.

Comite Fronterizo de Obreras www.cfomaquiladoras.org/data/principalabril05.htm

This Web site provides *Maquiladora* statistics on Comite Fronterizo de Obreras. Text in Spanish.