Mestizo Nations: Culture, Race, and Conformity in Latin American Literature

By Juan E. De Castro

University of Arizona Press. Hardback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Mestizo Nations: Culture, Race, and Conformity in Latin American Literature, Juan E. De Castro, Nationality in Latin America has long been entwined with questions of racial identity. Just as American-born colonial elites grounded their struggle for independence from Spain and Portugal in the history of Amerindian resistance, constructions of nationality were based on the notion of the fusion of populations heterogeneous in culture, race, and language. But this rhetorical celebration of difference was framed by a real-life pressure to assimilate into cultures always defined by Iberian American elites. In Mestizo Nations, Juan De Castro explores the construction of nationality in Latin American and Chicano literature and thought during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Focusing on the discourse of mestizaje which proposes the creation of a homogenous culture out of American Indian, black, and Iberian elements he examines a selection of texts that represent the entire history and regional landscape of Latin American culture in its Western, indigenous, and neo-African traditions from Independence to the present. Through them, he delineates some of the ambiguities and contradictions that have beset this discourse. Among texts considered are the Indianist novel Iracema by the...

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