

Garcia, Delia. *Latina Leadership Lessons: Fifty Latinas Speak*. Houston: Arte Publico Press, 2022. Pp. xi+186. \$19.95.

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Latina Leadership Lessons: Fifty Latinas Speak, edited by Delia Garcia, begins by reminding readers that empowering women empowers communities. In this reviewer's opinion, inspiring women of color is the objective of *Latina Leadership Lessons*. While this book seems geared towards inspiring a new generation of Latina leaders, Garcia's introduction and the words of the women profiled will impact women regardless of age, race, or ethnicity. I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge this book's impact on me. After reading *Latina Leadership Lessons*, I reflected on my leadership journey with all its trials and tribulations. Growing up in a barrio in San Antonio during the 1970s and 80s, Laredo activists Jovita Idar and California labor leader Dolores Huerta were the few Latina leaders and role models young girls, such as myself, knew outside of our *madres, tias*, and *abuelitas*. Latina names didn't appear in textbooks or monographs, and they were seldom recognized for their leadership outside the family. *Latina Leadership Lessons* reminds me that although there are more Latinas in leadership positions today, these women are rarely known outside their sphere of influence, as I was unaware of many of these extraordinary women and, more importantly, most may be unknown to a younger generation. Thus, the importance of *Latina Leadership Lessons* is providing role models by exposing women to Latinas who have succeeded in different fields and professions, furthering Latina influence and visibility. In the words of influential Latina labor and civil rights activist Dolores Huerta, who provided the forward, "we learn how to own our power from our sister leaders "(x)

Latina Leadership Lessons introduces fifty notable Latinas, from political to business leaders, through brief biographical profiles and their top ten leadership lessons influenced by their experiences. The Latinas profiled range in their background from immigrants from different Latin American countries to native-born. The ages of the profiled women are also diverse, with many holding leadership roles spanning decades, underscoring that Latinas in leadership positions is not a new phenomenon. As Garcia notes, the best way to explore leadership is by sharing experiences and lessons learned. The book provides words of wisdom from women such as Congresswoman Sylvia R. Garcia, activist Letitia Gomez, recipient of LULAC's Woman of the Year Award in 2019, and Helga Flores Trejo, vice president of Global Public Affairs International Organizations at Bayer Global and co-founder of the Latinos in Foreign Policy network.

While there may be some similarities in the collection of advice shared with the reader, the themes that resonate are persistence, resilience, hard work, self-love, and mentorship. From embracing diversity in others to empowering oneself, those without a seat at the table of influence or power, and the community, the leadership lessons from these fifty women are especially timely as the nation experiences divisions and a growing wave of intolerance. As Hilda L. Solis, the first woman to receive the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award, so eloquently puts it, "We stand on the shoulders of those who came before us. As Latinas, we must lift each other up and bring others with us along the way." (154)

While *Latina Leadership Lessons* highlights an array of notable Latinas and is a unique tribute to the work of Latinas, my only critique is that the book would benefit from delving into the personal and professional experiences that led these extraordinary women to develop their leadership perspectives. For instance, former Texas legislator Leticia Van de Putte's leadership lesson, "Failure is not the outcome; true failure is not learning from your mistakes. (169), left me wondering how her professional or personal trials influenced her perception. Understanding their experiences would aid readers in recognizing the importance of the lessons they learned and are now sharing.