



The Roots of Lo Mexicano: Self and Society in Mexican Thought, 1900-1934

By Henry C. Schmidt

Texas A&M University Press. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 212 pages. Dimensions: 9.1in. x 6.0in. x 0.5in. With the publication of *Profile of Man and Culture in Mexico* (1934) Samuel Ramos launched the modern search for Mexican national identity, shifting examination of that country's problems from a physical to a psychological plane. But Ramos' work crystallized a long inquiry into the meaning of Mexican civilization, discernible from the 1920s on. From 1900 to 1934 Mexicans made the difficult transition from a culture largely foreign in spirit to one created in the aftermath of the 1910 Revolution, insistently and proudly Mexican. In the decades following the revolution the term *lo mexicano* (meaning both the Mexican ethos and its study) became a sacred phrase in the reappraisal of Mexican civilization, a concept analogous in the history of ideas to the quest for Mexican authenticity in painting, music, the novel, and education. Schmidt examines the origins and development of *lo mexicano* in the work of Ramos' intellectual antecedents, particularly that of Justo Sierra, Antonio Caso, Jos Vasconcelos, Alfonso Reyes, and Daniel Cosío Villegas. Schmidt shows why and how Mexican intellectuals went about the task of defining national character during this period. His analysis establishes...

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