

Latino Leaders who shaped the Labor Movement

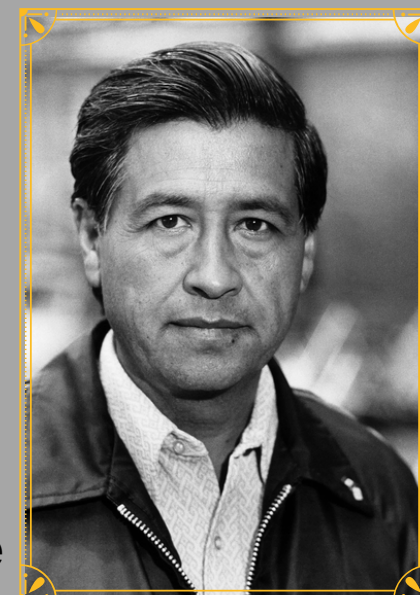


American history education tends to describe the Latino population as a monolith, but they have long played a key role in advancing the causes of fairer wages and humane working conditions that has benefited people from all racial and ethnic groups.

Discussion of the labor movement in textbooks has historically focused on the white union leaders and white immigrants. Let's take a look at some of the most influential Latino leaders who helped shape the labor movement.

La Causa! The Cause!

Cesar Chavez founder of the National Farm Workers Association embraced non-violent acts of civil disobedience. Chavez drew attention to discrimination and brought about policies that improved working and living conditions for farmworkers around the country. On September 8, 1965, Filipino American grape workers, walked out on strike against Delano-area table and wine grape growers protesting years of poor pay and conditions. Chavez who led the National Farm Workers Association, was asked to join their strike. The strike drew unprecedented support from other unions, civil rights groups and churches. By 1970, the grape boycott was a complete success. Table grape growers signed their first union contracts, granting workers better pay, benefits, and protections. Chavez believed that strikes and other forms of peaceful protest were tools for improving the lives of others. He dedicated his life's work to what he called **la causa (the cause)**: the struggle of farm workers in the United States.



"The fight is never about grapes or lettuce. It is always about people," he said



A passionate advocate for women and immigrant laborers' rights, Luisa Moreno helped create a coalition of Latino labor rights activists in the 1930s. Moreno organized New York garment district workers, Louisiana cane workers and Florida cigar rollers. She also helped found the National Congress of Spanish-Speaking Peoples, which advocated for integration and fair treatment of Latino laborers. Luisa Moreno worked with several unions throughout the 1930s and 1940s. Her bilingual outreach sought to improve working conditions in fields and canneries in the Southwest. She wrote pamphlets, organized strikes, and encouraged participation in unions. Her labor organizing and civil rights activism drew anger from the U.S. government during a time when anti-Latino and anti-Communist sentiments were high. Facing imminent deportation, Moreno left the United States in 1950.

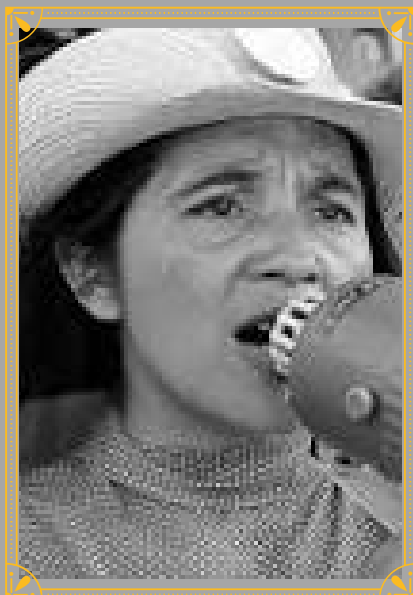


Mexican American labor organizer Emma Tenayuca participated in the 1933 walkout of women cigar workers, and later helped form two International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union locals. She also protested border patrol abuses, led demonstrations and strikes, and advocated for Mexican immigrant workers' right to unionize without fear of deportation. On Jan 31, 1938, when Tenayuca was in her early twenties, she led a 3 month, 12,000 worker pecan shellers' strike after factory owners sliced wages. The strike was one of the largest in U.S. history, and one of the first significant labor equity victories for Mexican Americans.



Huelga! Strike!

Si Se Puede!



Dolores Huerta co-founded the National Farm Workers Association (later the United Farm Workers) with Cesar Chavez in 1962. Huerta directed a national grape boycott to protest the dangers of pesticides on grape pickers, which led the entire California table grape industry to adopt safer practices. She also negotiated the first collective bargaining agreement with an agricultural business to secure better wages and working conditions for farmworkers. She coined the phrase Si Se Puede when farmworkers were afraid to fight for their rights. They would say “no, se puede” (no, you can't) in regards to fighting the system. She then turned to them and said **SI, SI SE PUEDE!** (Yes, Yes we can!) Throughout her career, Huerta fought for world peace and the rights of immigrants, women, minorities, at-risk youth and LGBTQ+ Americans



SANTIAGO IGLESIAS PANTÍN

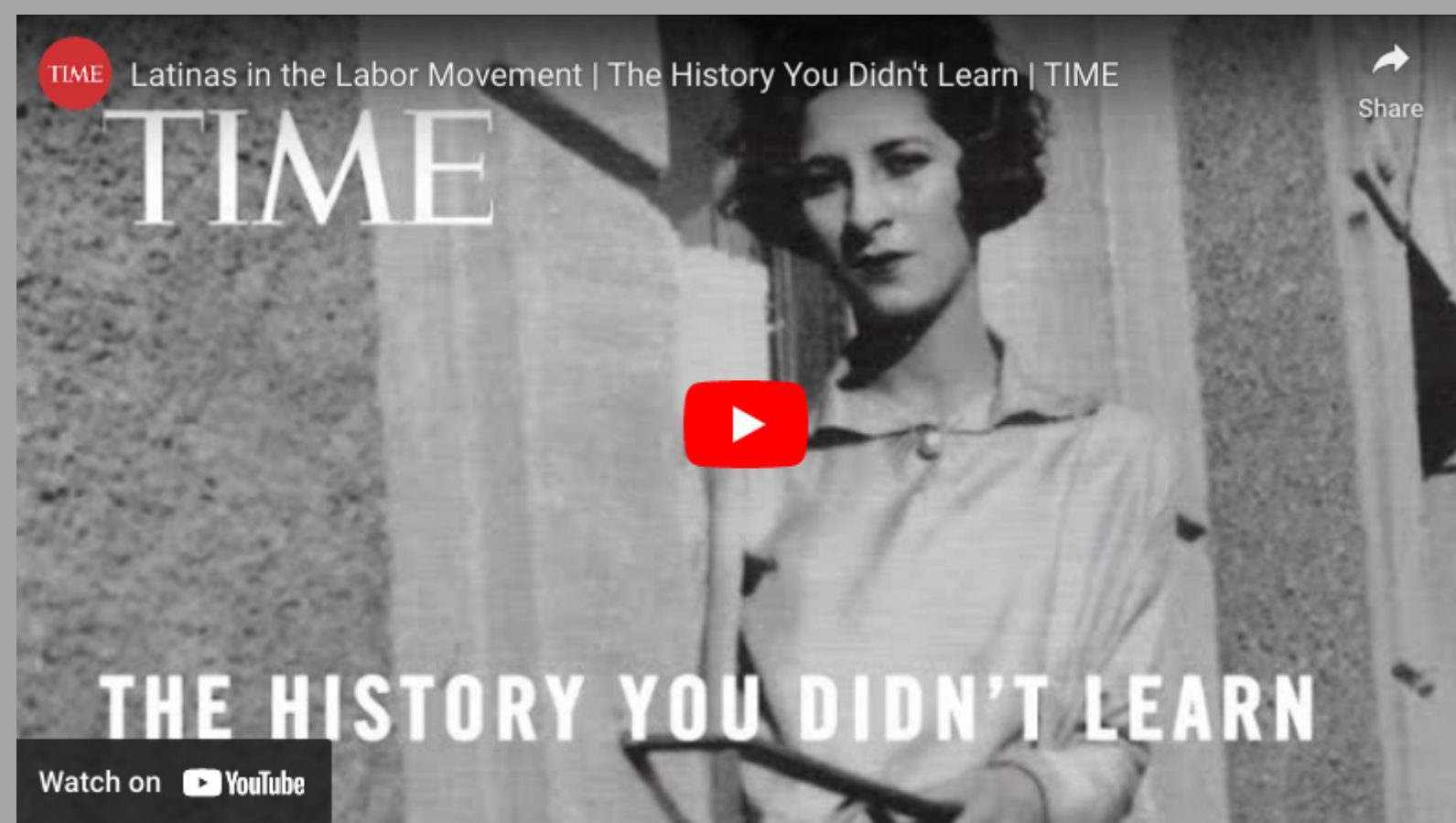
American Federation of Labor president Samuel Gompers appointed Santiago Iglesias Pantín the AFL's labor organizer for Puerto Rico and Cuba in 1901. As part of his organizing, Iglesias Pantín traveled extensively to New York City to organize Puerto Rican workers there. His effort to link workers on the mainland and island came to fruition in 1916 when approximately 200 Puerto Rican cigar makers in New York City rallied in support of cigar strike in Puerto Rico.



Click on the links below each video to learn more about these Powerful Latin Activists in the labor movement



<https://youtu.be/iMTTFWH143k>



https://youtu.be/4LNzgpZ6_J8



<https://youtu.be/KjH0UZGQag8>



<https://youtu.be/5hNELQh6iRM>

Yes We Can!

Recipe of the week

Mexican Rice

Courtesy of Ms. Herrera

- Comet rice (Long grain enriched rice)
- olive oil,
- Knorr chicken bouillon (caldo con sabor de pollo chicken flavor- green lid)
- 1 can tomato sauce
- 1-tomato
- 1-yellow onion
- 1-cilantro
- 1-carrot
- fresh head of garlic
- garlic powder
- pepper
- onion powder
- salt and pepper (to your liking)



Cut up a couple of slices of onion and cut those slices into small pieces, Cut up one tomato into small squares, mince garlic cloves.

Use the back of the box for the amount of rice to start for measurements and the amount of liquid to use (do not use water. use chicken stock). heat up the oil then add the rice. brown the rice (keep an eye on it) once it's a little brown add the chicken stock, use two shakes per seasoning (garlic powder, pepper, salt, onion powder) and with the Knorr seasoning only use two spoon fulls. taste the liquid to be sure it has enough seasoning. If not, season to your liking. Add the cut up vegetables from above (onions, tomato, garlic, two little carrots) Add one can of tomato sauce. Stir slow. then put a little cilantro on top. Cover the lid and set your timer to 18 minutes. Be sure to check it after 12 minutes to make sure it has enough liquid. Move the rice a little to see the bottom. Don't let it dry up. Add a little more chicken broth if needed. close the lid back up. once done, take the lid off half way. enjoy!

A big thank You to Senora Jiminez for Week 1's Bunuelo Recipe.

Mami... Que Rico!