

## HISTORY FOR ANTI-HISPANIC BIGOTS

Op Ed 2020-09-18 22:52:13

Princeton, NJ - Some bigots ask people not to speak Spanish in public and to speak English. Some say they should go back home, although the vast majority **are** home. What inspires such attitudes? Fear of the emerging new majority-minority that will become a reality in little more than a generation? Is it today's version of historic anti-Spanish, anti-Latino sentiment? Who knows?

Reaching these bigots is not easy. As a Spanish-speaker, I feel compelled to write try to reach them. Like Spanish-speaking actor and producer John Leguizamo, author of Latin History for Morons, I offer some nuggets that our history books treat inadequately, diminish or ignore.

- Σπανιση ωας της φερστ Ευροπεαν λανγυαγε σποκεν ιν ωηατ ις νοω της Υνιτεδ Στατεσ.
- Της φερστ Ευροπεαν ναμε φορ Μανηατταν ωας Τιερρα δε Γ'μεζ.
- Της Βαψ οφ Φυνδψ, ον της Μαινε χοαστ, ις α χορρυπτιον οφ Βαη'α Προφυνδα, ορ Δεεπ Βαψ.
- Της Γολδ Ρυση ωας μαδε εασψ βψ Σπανιση σπεακερσ ωηο παχιφιεδ Ινδιανσ ανδ βυιλτ ροαδσ ανδ πορτσ.
- Της Χαλιφορνια χονστιτυτιον προβιδεδ φορ Ενγλιση ανδ Σπανιση το βε οφφικιαλ λανγυαγεσ.
- Σπανιση ωας της λανγυαγε οφ της δεπελοπμεντ οφ της χαττλε ινδυστρυ (σεε βελοω).
- Σπανιση φορχεσ ιν Λουισιανα υνδερ Γεν. Βερναρδο δε Γ'λωεζ, ρουτεδ της Βριτιση ον της Μισσισιππι, δενψινγ συππλιεσ το της Ρεδ Χοαστ ιν της Οηιο Ριφερ παλλεψ (Γαλβεστον ις ναμεδ φορ ηιμ).
- Ωομεν ιν Χυβα, την α Σπανιση χολονψ, παωνεδ φεωελρψ το χοντριβυτε το Αμεριχαν ινδεπενδενχε.
- ζιδαλια ονιονσ ωερε ναμεδ φορ α Σπανιση γενεραλ, ζιδαλ.
- Χιπιλ Ωαρ Αδμιραλ Δαβιδ Φαρραγυτ ωας της σον οφ α Σπανιση μαρινερ ωηο φουγητ φορ Αμεριχαν ινδεπενδενχε.
- Μεξιχαν Τεξανσ φουγητ ανδ διεδ ατ της Αλαμο αγαινστ Γεν. Σαντα Αννα σ φορχεσ.
- Σπανιση σπεακινγ υνιτσ φορμ Πυερτο Ριχο ανδ της μαινλανδ φουγητ ιν ΩΩ Ι ανδ ΩΩΙΙ.
- Ηισπανιχ Αμεριχανσ ηαπε εαρνεδ μορε Χονγρεσσιοναλ Μεδαλσ οφ Ηονορ περ χαπιτα τηαν ανψ σεγμεντ.
- Σπανιση εξπλορατιον ον της Παχιφιχ Χοαστ ις εβιδεντ: Πορτ Ανγελεσ, της Στραιγητσ οφ θυαν δε Φυχα ανδ Τολεδο ιν Ωασηινγτον ανδ ζαλδεζ, Αλασκα αμονγ οτηερ πλαχεσ.
- Σπανιση ις της φορεινγ λανγυαγε μοστ στυδιεδ ιν χολλεγεσ ανδ υνιβερσιτιεσ.
- Αβουτ 53 μιλλιον πεοπλε ιν της Υ.Σ. σπεακ Σπανιση (νοτ αλλ αρε Ηισπανιχσ).

Would bigots harass these Spanish-speakers: Christina Aguilera, Jeb Bush, the late Kobe Bryant, Andrew Cuomo, Bill De Blasio, Conductor Gustavo Dudamel, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, Selena Gómez, Salma Hayek, Carolina Herrera, María Hinojosa, Sen. Tim Kaine, Jacqueline Kennedy, María Teresa Kumar, Eva Longoria, Jennifer López, United Airlines CEO Oscar Muñoz, Beto O'Rourke, Geraldo Rivera, Secretary Bill Richardson, Alex Rodriguez, Marco Rubio, Carlos Santana, Martin Sheen, Sonia Sotomayor, Miami Mayor Francis Suárez and many others?

If anti-Spanish language sentiment were carried to its illogical extreme:

- o Amarillo, TX would be "Yellow, Texas"
- o Boca Ratón, FL would be "Mouse Mouth, Flowery"
- o Calaveras County, MO would be "Skull County" Colorado would be "Red-colored"
- o El Paso would be "The Pass"
- o Florida would be "Flowery"
- o Key West, FL would be "Cayo Hueso" (bone key, its original name)
- o Las Vegas would be "The Plains"
- o Nevada would be "Snow covered"
- o Sacramento would be "Sacrament"
- o San Antonio would be "Saint Anthony"
- o San Diego would be "St. James"
- o Sierra Nevada would be "Snow-covered Mountains"

Spanish in the cattle industry, in Western history and folklore:

Bandido	bandit
Bronc, bronco	wild or untamed horse
Buckaroo	vaquero, cowboy
Calaboose (jail)	calabozo (jail)
Chaps	chapaderas
Cincho	cinch
Corral	corral
Desperado	desesperado (desperate)
Hackamore	jáquima, halter

Hoosegow (jail)	juzgado (court)
Lasso	lazo (rope)
Mustang	musteño or mestengo
Rancho	ranch
Mesa	mesa (a flat-topped hill)
Renegado	renegade
Rodeo	rodeo (round up)
Stampede	estampida
Ten-gallon hat	tan galán (so handsome)

Countless other terms, some from Mexican indigenous languages, have become part of our daily communication and are surely used by the bigots.

Aficionado Armadillo Avocado/aguacate Barrio Bodega Bonanza Burrito Burro Café con leche Cafeteria Campesino Canyon (cañón) Cargo Caudillo Casa Chicano Chorizo Conquistador Coyote Embargo	Fiesta Flamenco Galleon Gaudy (Spanish architect Antonio Gaudí) Guerrilla Jalapeño Latino, latina Junta Macho Mano a mano Mosquito Nachos Oregano Patio Piñata Piña colada Plaza Quesadilla	Quinceañera Quixotic Rancho Renegade Rumba Salsa Sherry Siesta Sí, se puede Taco Tango Tamales Telenovela Tequila Tomato Tortilla Vanilla Vigilante Vista
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In 1789, Thomas Jefferson advised his nephew, Peter Carr:

*“Pay attention to the Spanish language and strive to acquire an accurate knowledge of it. Our future relations with Spain and Latin America will convert that language*

*into a valuable acquisition.”*

While many public figures today understand the need to speak Spanish, many others do not get it. On the other hand, banks, hotels, entrepreneurs, communicators, advertisers and elected officials do get it. Language is important. Spanish is important. And it is not a joke. Spanish has been here for centuries, will increase in importance and will be here for centuries ahead. Get used to it.