



George Washington Gomez (Spanish Edition)

Americo Paredes

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This classic novel about the struggles of Texas Mexicans to preserve their property, culture and identity in the face of Anglo-American migration to and dominance of the Rio Grande Valley is available for the first time in Spanish.

Born in the early part of the twentieth century, George Washington Gomez is named after the American rebel and hero because his parents are certain their son will be a great man too. George, or Gualinto as he's known, grows up in turbulent times. His family has lived for generations in what has become Texas. "I was born here. My father was born here and so was my grandfather and his father before him. And then they come, they come and take it, steal it and call it theirs," his Uncle Feliciano rages.

The Texas Mexicans' attempts to take back their land from the Gringos and the *rinches* the brutal Texas Rangers fail. Gualinto's father, who never participated in the seditionist violence, is murdered in cold blood, and Feliciano makes a death-bed promise to raise his nephew without hatred.

Young Gualinto comes of age in a world where Mexicans are treated as second-class citizens. Teachers can beat and mistreat them with impunity, and most of his Mexican-American friends drop out of school at a young age. But the Gomez family insists that he continue his education, which he will need in order to do great things for his people. And so his school years create a terrible conflict within him: Gualinto alternately hates and admires the Gringo, loves and despises the Mexican. Written in the 1930s but not published until 1990, *George Washington Gomez* has become mandatory reading for anyone interested in Mexican-American literature, culture and history.

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