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## Chicana Feminist Thought: The Basic Historical Writings

*From Mario M Garcia*  
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Edited by Alma M. García

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Chicana Feminist Thought brings together the voices of Chicana poets, writers, and activists who reflect upon the Chicana Feminist Movement that began in the late 1960s. With energy and passion, this anthology of writings documents the personal and collective political struggles of Chicana feminists.

.com During the turbulent 1960s, Chicanas who funneled blood, sweat, and tears into Mexican American protest movements such as La Raza were often relegated to supporting the men who leapt to the ramparts. Stung by such sexual discrimination and disheartened by--or disinterested in--the largely middle-class Anglo agenda championed by the women's liberation movement, Chicana feminists fought to carve out a niche. Though dry at times, the outspoken essays and writings collected in Chicana Feminist Thought record this struggle as it occurred. Not surprisingly, the writers' voices overlap but don't necessarily blend: one rationalizes machismo and seeks only to redirect it, while another impatiently calls for its end. These writings, from the 1960s to the 1990s, chronicle the development and dissension of Chicana feminists faced with the high-wire balancing act of saving a culture while serving their own needs. The result is an enlightening, thought-provoking piece of feminist history. "This collection will serve as an invaluable reader for anyone interested in issues of race, ethnicity, women, feminism, communities, radical movements, and sexual and identity politics in recent US history."-"Journal of Women's History ""Chicana Feminist Thought is an exceptional text that not only explores the oppression experienced by the Chicanas from members of the dominant society, but also gives insight into tensions within the traditional community when it is confronted by those women who want to effect change and improve the status of women, as well as of their children and their community as a whole."-"NWSA Journal "This collection brings together the feminist documents that proliferated as women of "el movimiento struggled to overcome sexist oppression in their search for a 'room of their own'."-"Latina About the Author Alma Garcia is Professor of Ethnic Studies and Director of the Women's Studies Program at Santa Clara University.