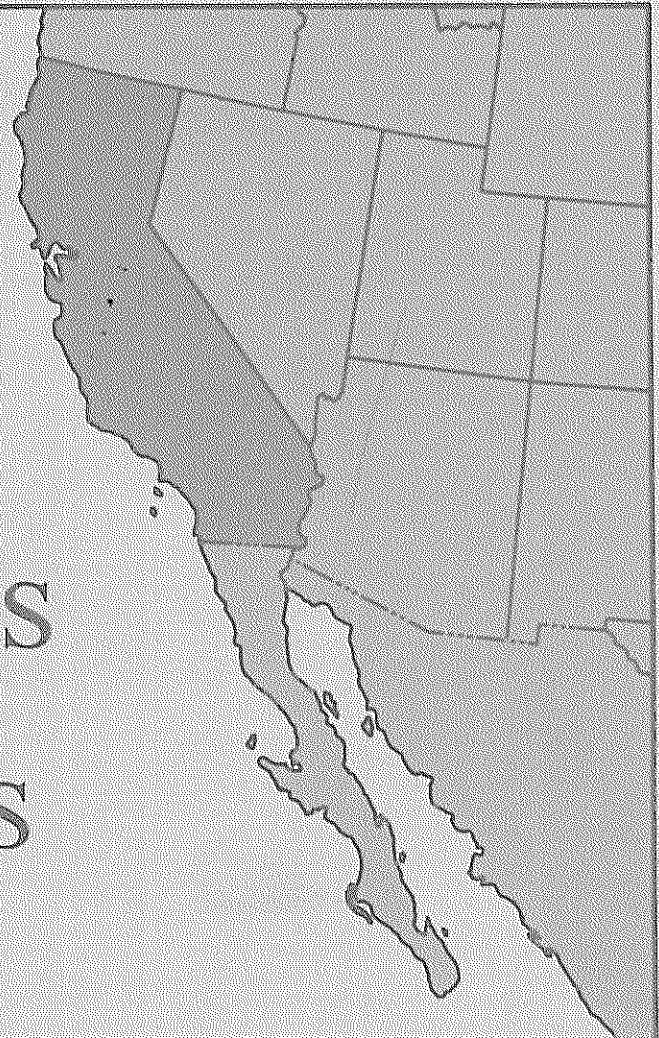


THE FOURTH WAVE

CALIFORNIA'S NEWEST IMMIGRANTS

Thomas Muller



A Summary

HIGHLIGHTS FROM STUDY FINDINGS

- The majority of recent immigrants to Southern California, both Mexicans and others, are undocumented.
- One-half of all recent immigrants to California settled in Los Angeles County.
- State expenditures for public services used by Mexican immigrants have not been offset by taxes paid by this immigrant group, primarily because Mexicans' earnings are low.
- The presence of Mexican immigrants in Southern California did not cause unemployment to rise among non-Hispanic minorities, particularly blacks.
- About 645,000 jobs were added in Los Angeles County between 1970 and 1980. Recent Mexican immigrants hold about one-third of these jobs, while other recent immigrants hold somewhat more than a third.
- Almost one-half of all Mexican immigrants finding jobs in Southern California since 1970 are employed as production workers in manufacturing. Their presence reduces wages in low-skill occupations relative to other wages.
- Lower wages enabled manufacturing firms in highly competitive industries to expand during the 1970s, despite the influx of imported goods.
- The presence of Mexican workers outside the manufacturing sector has led to higher profits for business and lower prices to consumers.
- Despite high unemployment rates in Southern California during the early 1980s, current residents can meet less than half the prospective labor needs during this decade. The remainder must be met by workers from outside the state.

- About the same number of undocumented workers arriving in the region during the 1980s can be expected to find work as was the case in the 1970s.
- The projected rise throughout Southern California in the number of foreign-born students will lead to more all-Hispanic schools and exacerbate the shortage of trained bilingual teachers.
- The considerable economic gap between Mexicans and other ethnic groups will widen further unless schools can train and the job market absorb more skilled Mexican workers.