

Assimilation and Illusory membership: Chavez Chapter 10

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- Chavez: Shadowed Lives: Chapter 10, Incorporation, pp. 175-188
 - aspects of incorporation (Chavez calls them “facets” or “modes”)
 - economic
 - getting a decent, stable job
 - paying taxes
 - shopping in local stores, etc.
 - linguistic
 - Migrants learn English as a second language
 - their kids learn it as a first language, along with Spanish
 - social, cultural, personal
 - growing US networks of kin, friends, etc.
 - family reunification
 - especially kids raised in the US
 - US schools and television tend to acculturate kids
 - kids establish networks that then bind the parents
 - are culturally more American, not Mexican, don’t want to return
 - don’t know Mexican culture well enough
 - have no friends in Mexico
 - if born in the US, are US citizens
 - participation in church, cultural events, etc.
 - but this incorporation is illusory without legal residence
 - can always be deported
 - can’t do many things: can’t take kids to Disneyland...
 - Government policies are contradictory
 - ICE (formerly INS) trying to deport undocumented migrants
 - hospitals providing medical care
 - public housing services
 - school for kids
 - school lunch programs for kids
 - because most do pay taxes
 - but they are not here legally, so does the state owe them services?
 - partly because of undocumented parents with US-born, citizen children
 - but if an undocumented kid takes two years of high school in California and graduates, they get legal residence in the state for some purposes, like college tuition
 - so the state subsidizes their education... but then makes it illegal for them to work here!
- Again... that’s it!