

ABSTRACT

"POR LA GUERRA DE MARINOS Y PACHUCOS": THE ZOOT SUIT RIOTS IN THE SPANISH-LANGUAGE PRESS

In June 1943, American servicemen stationed in Los Angeles clashed with local Mexican-American youths who were dressed in the elaborate outfit known as the zoot suit. For more than a week, military men descended upon Los Angeles's Mexican neighborhoods where they assaulted Chicano boys and stripped them of their zoot suits. The Zoot Suit Riots, as the clashes came to be known, received a great deal of attention in the press. English-language newspapers sensationalized the riots, vilifying zoot suiters. While numerous scholars have noted the bias exhibited by the English-language media, historians have seldom explored the reportage in the Spanish-language press. In this study, I examine the coverage that the Zoot Suit Riots received in the Spanish-language press in both the United States and Mexico. This material presents the Mexican and Mexican-American perspective on the Zoot Suit Riots.

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