



***Message to Aztlán: Selected Writings* by Rodolfo “Corky” Gonzales**

Arte Público Press, 2001

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*Age Range: 14+ (Suggested by Publisher)

Grade Range: 8+ (Suggested by Publisher)

BOOK SYNOPSIS

One of the most famous leaders of the Chicano civil rights movement, Rodolfo “Corky” Gonzales was a multifaceted and charismatic, bigger-than-life hero who inspired his followers not only by taking direct political action but also by making eloquent speeches, writing incisive essays, and creating the kind of socially engaged poetry and drama that could be communicated easily through the *barrios* of Aztlán, populated by Chicanos in the United States.

Gonzales is the author of *I Am Joaquín*, an epic poem of the Chicano movement that lives on in film, sound recording, and hundreds of anthologies. Gonzales and other Chicanos established the Crusade for Justice, a Denver-based civil rights organization, school, and community center in 1966. The school, La Escuela Tlatelolco, lives on today some three decades after its founding.

In *Message to Aztlán*, Dr. Antonio Esquibel, Professor Emeritus of Metropolitan State College of Denver, has compiled the first collection of Gonzales’ diverse writings: the original *I Am Joaquín* (1967), along with a new Spanish translation, seven major speeches (1968-78); two plays, *The Revolutionist* and *A Cross for Malcovio* (1966-67); various poems written during the 1970s and a selection of letters. These varied works demonstrate the evolution of Gonzales’ thought on human and civil rights. Any examination of the Chicano movement is incomplete without this volume. More than 35 photographs accompany the text.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

“Gonzales’ poetry and plays... are historically important and represent the struggles encountered by Chicanos up to the 1980s.” —*Library Journal*

“[This book] contains a valuable key to understanding the depths of Gonzales’ revulsion to mainstream politics and its representatives.” —*San Antonio Express-News*

RESPONSE TO CHALLENGES

HuffPost: [“‘Librotraficante’ Caravan Set To Smuggle Books Back Into Arizona Following Ethnic Studies Ban”](#)

Houston Press: [“Dumb-Ass Arizona Law Keeps University of Houston-Published Books Out of Schools”](#)

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***A NOTE ON AGE RANGES**

A publisher-suggested age range covers the gamut of readers that publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate age range for the diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book's intended use.

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