



## Beautiful Flowers of the Maquiladora: Life Histories of Women Workers in Tijuana (Institute of Latin American Studies)

By Norma Iglesias Prieto

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Published originally as *La flor mas bella de la maquiladora*, this beautifully written book is based on interviews the author conducted with more than fifty Mexican women who work in the assembly plants along the U.S.-Mexico border. A descriptive analytic study conducted in the late 1970s, the book uses compelling testimonials to detail the struggles these women face.

The experiences of women in maquiladoras are attracting increasing attention from scholars, especially in the context of ongoing Mexican migration to the country's northern frontier and in light of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). This book is among the earliest accounts of the physical and psychological toll exacted from the women who labor in these plants. Iglesias Prieto captures the idioms of these working women so that they emerge as dynamic individuals, young and articulate personalities, inexorably engaged in the daily struggle to change the fundamental conditions of their exploitation.

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### **Review**

"Poignant and powerful, this work is a tribute to the dignity of the human spirit. It should be required reading for policymakers on both sides of the political border separating Mexico and the United States." (Vicki L. Ruiz, Professor of History and Women's Studies, Arizona State University)

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### **Language Notes**

Text: English (translation)

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