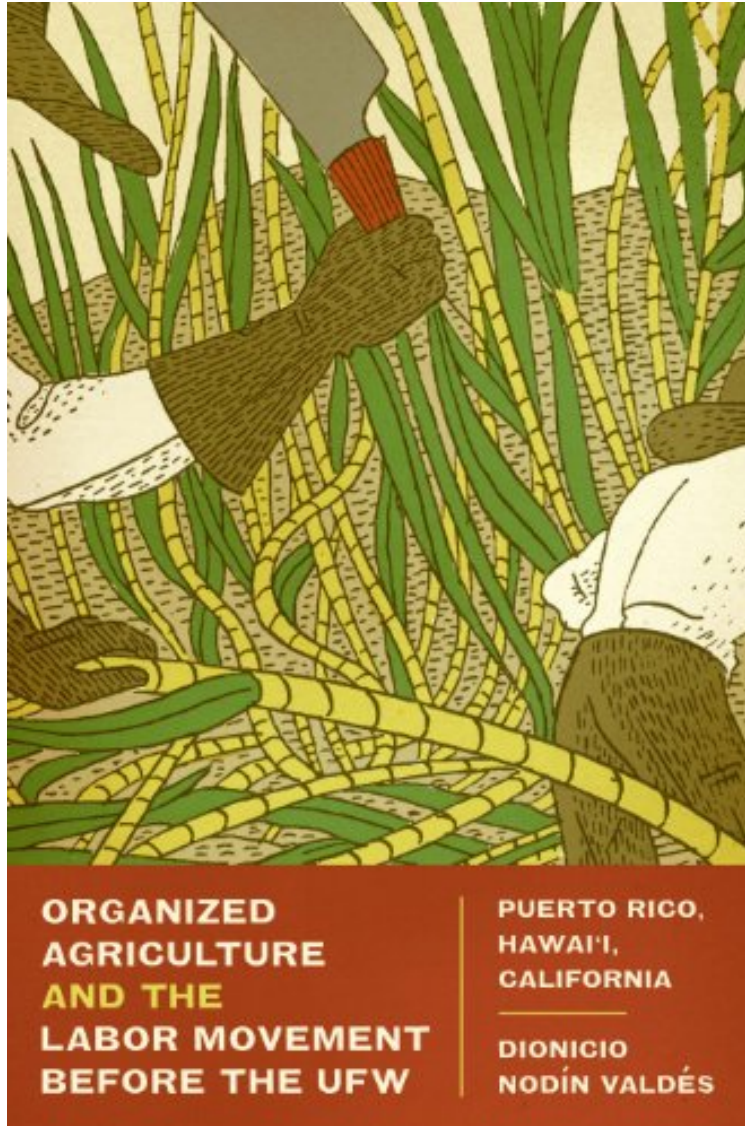


Organized Agriculture and the Labor Movement before the UFW

Dionicio Nodín Valdés

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Dionicio Nodín Valdés : Organized Agriculture and the Labor Movement before the UFW before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Organized Agriculture and the Labor Movement before the UFW:

Puerto Rico, Hawai'i, and California share the experiences of conquest and annexation to the United States in the nineteenth century and mass organizational struggles by rural workers in the twentieth. Organized Agriculture and the Labor Movement before the UFW offers a comparative examination of those struggles, which were the era's longest

and most protracted campaigns by agricultural workers, supported by organized labor, to establish a collective presence and realize the fruits of democracy. Dionicio Nodias Valdeacabes examines critical links between the earlier conquests and the later organizing campaigns while he corrects a number of popular misconceptions about agriculture, farmworkers, and organized labor. He shows that agricultural workers have engaged in continuous efforts to gain a place in the institutional life of the nation, that unions succeeded before the United Farm Workers and Cesar Chavez, and that the labor movement played a major role in those efforts. He also offers a window into understanding crucial limitations of institutional democracy in the United States, and demonstrates that the widespread lack of participation in the nation's institutions by agricultural workers has not been due to a lack of volition, but rather to employers' continuous efforts to prevent worker empowerment. Organized Agriculture and the Labor Movement before the UFW demonstrates how employers benefitted not only from power and wealth, but also from imperialism in both its domestic and international manifestations. It also demonstrates how workers at times successfully overcame growers' advantages, although they were ultimately unable to sustain movements and gain a permanent institutional presence in Puerto Rico and California.

"This book is an extremely well-researched history with a compelling mission to bring three distinct areas of the United States together into a single story... Valdeacabes' study is an important contribution to the field of agricultural labor history." (American Historical Association) About the Author DIONICIO NODIAS VALDEACABES is Professor of History at Michigan State University. He has written extensively on labor and social history, including the books *Barrios Nortenses: St. Paul and Midwestern Mexican Communities in the Twentieth Century* and *Al Norte: Agricultural Workers in the Great Lakes Region, 1917-1990*.