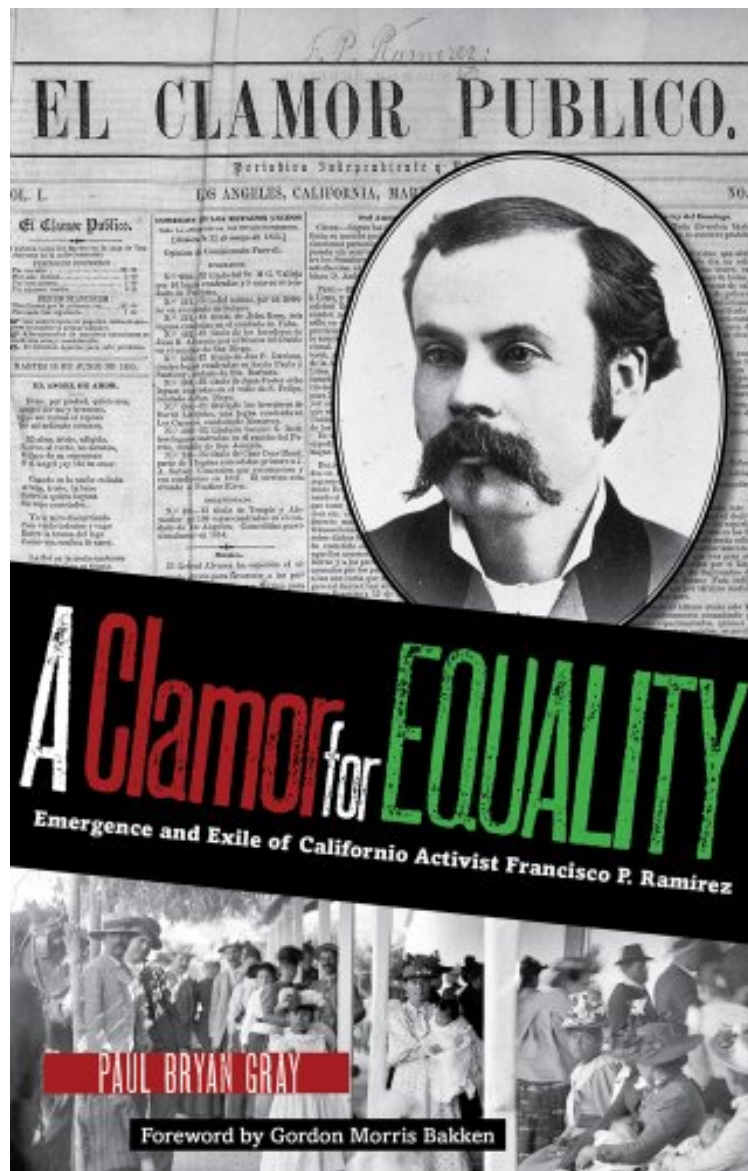


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(American Liberty and Justice)

A Clamor for Equality: Emergence and Exile of Californio Activist Francisco P. Ramirez (American Liberty and Justice)

Paul Bryan Gray

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Paul Bryan Gray : A Clamor for Equality: Emergence and Exile of Californio Activist Francisco P. Ramirez (American Liberty and Justice) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Clamor for Equality: Emergence and Exile of Californio Activist Francisco P. Ramirez (American Liberty and Justice):

5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. A Clamor For Equality By Michael H. Haussler A Clamor for Equality by Paul Bryan Gray is a remarkable book. I have taught American history for thirty five years. Years ago I was asked to teach a California History class to ninth graders, and the "text" the state asked me to use was a hideous compilation of bad history replete with friendly Franciscan friars helping poor and ignorant Indians, friendly enterprising Americans rushing in to mine the gold in the gold fields, and a beautiful virgin landscape setting to encompass all this simpleminded tomfoolery. I knew immediately it was nonsense. That sent me to what were then the stacks and I wound up reading all of Carey McWilliams' brilliant California history books. I never thought I would see another book of that caliber until I read this book by Paul Gray. What a delight. What a treat. The best yet. The story of Francisco Ramirez is not only exciting, it is important. The Indians and Mexican Sonorans who had occupied California before the Americans came with our Civil War politics were anything but simplistic and ignorant, and the exciting story of Francisco Ramirez and his newspaper, his legal adventures, and his life is a thrilling part of our state's history. I loved this book. I thought I knew a lot but I learned so much more. The wealth of detail and the documents which enrich that detail are an incredible combination. The book reminds me of how far we have come and how far we have yet to go to achieve the dream of racial equality. But this book is not propaganda. There is no slant or cant here. This is real history. It is meticulously researched and fabulously deep - in many places I stopped, pondered, and marveled at the tapestry of the time period that Mr. Gray has woven so brilliantly. It leaps off the page. But you must be a patient reader. This isn't a formulaic best seller murder mystery. And I like those too. This book requires you to engage and be thoughtful, and that's what I find most refreshing of all. I cannot praise this book highly enough. For the record I teach history at the university and high school level. This book is a keeper. 3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A deeply researched portrait of a little known but influential man and his turbulent times By Doc Man This book may be of particular interest for those curious about Latino history in the United States, and the history of Los Angeles and California, but Gray's deeply researched and well-written biography offers a rare look into the troubled transition from Mexican to American California during the mid-19th century that has relevance today. Even in his early 20s, Ramirez was an outspoken and accomplished journalist, ahead of his time with ideas and experiences that can inform discussion and understanding today, as Latino culture grows in importance and influence in the United States of the 21st century..

A dramatic response to American racism occurred in Los Angeles during 1855 when a brilliant eighteen-year-old Mexican-American, Francisco P. Ramirez, published a Spanish-language newspaper, *El Clamor Pblco*. Ramirez called upon a Mexican-American majority to rebel and seize power by electing themselves to public office. Ramirez was a radical liberal in a town controlled by white conservative Southerners with antebellum values. Nevertheless, from 1855 to 1859, he railed against slavery and ridiculed those in Los Angeles who supported it. His demands for Mexican equality, the abolition of slavery, free elections, and education for women were well ahead of his time. He was the first civil rights activist in Los Angeles. In December 1859 *El Clamor Pblco* bankrupted for lack of popular support. For three decades afterward Ramirez was involved in every major political and social movement of his day. He continued to militate for equality and civil rights as a San Francisco newspaper editor and the only Mexican-American lawyer in Los Angeles. His life's work has been the subject of academic seminars and mandatory reading in university classes. Historians have long recognized the need for a complete biography of Ramirez. Dr. Abraham Hoffman, a noted scholar in the history of Los Angeles, has written, Another person more mentioned than profiled was Francisco P. Ramirez, a figure who truly cries for more biographical information.

About the Author Paul Bryan Gray, a California lawyer and historian, was honored in 2001 with the Historical Society of Southern California's Donald H. Pflueger Award for distinguished research and writing, in connection with *Forster vs. Pico: The Struggle for the Rancho Santa Margarita*. Gordon Morris Bakken teaches American history at California State University, Fullerton. He is the author of twenty books as well as numerous articles and law reviews, book chapters and encyclopedia entries, and book reviews.