



## The History of Alta California: A Memoir of Mexican California

By Antonio Maria Osio

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**The History of Alta California: A Memoir of Mexican California** By Antonio Maria Osio

Antonio María Osio's *La Historia de Alta California* was the first written history of upper California during the era of Mexican rule, and this is its first complete English translation. A Mexican-Californian, government official, and the landowner of Angel Island and Point Reyes, Osio writes colorfully of life in old Monterey, Los Angeles, and San Francisco, and gives a first-hand account of the political intrigues of the 1830s that led to the appointment of Juan Bautista Alvarado as governor.

Osio wrote his *History* in 1851, conveying with immediacy and detail the years of the U.S.-Mexican War of 1846–1848 and the social upheaval that followed. As he witnesses California's territorial transition from Mexico to the United States, he recalls with pride the achievements of Mexican California in earlier decades and writes critically of the onset of U.S. influence and imperialism. Unable to endure life as foreigners in their home of twenty-seven years, Osio and his family left Alta California for Mexico in 1852.

Osio's account predates by a quarter century the better-known reminiscences of Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo and Juan Bautista Alvarado and the memoirs of Californios dictated to Hubert Howe Bancroft's staff in the 1870s. Editors Rose Marie Beebe and Robert M. Senkewicz have provided an accurate, complete translation of Osio's original manuscript, and their helpful introduction and notes offer further details of Osio's life and of society in Alta California.

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## The History of Alta California: A Memoir of Mexican California By Antonio Maria Osio Bibliography

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### Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

The first complete English translation of Osio's 1851 memoir of Mexican California, this account describes day-to-day life of the common people in what is now central and northern California from 1821 to 1846, before the Mexican-American War—a tense period marked by small skirmishes resulting from land and power disputes between the Anglos and the Mexicans. This is a daily account, so there is a lot of detail—perhaps more than the general reader really wants. Osio does have a readable style, however, and can write vividly, as in these observations about some corrupt Californios and Mexican traitors: "Señor Stockton, a patriotic and upright man, would have hanged them like a bunch of grapes from every yardarm of his frigate's main mast." In their comprehensive introduction to the volume and the author, the editors note that this is not a structured record, complete with historical perspective. Still, Osio's first-person perspective and quotidian subject matter flesh out current understanding of the place and period. Illustrations not seen by PW.

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### Review

“The publication of narratives and chronicles of Californios is long overdue. Beebe and Senkewicz’s faithful translation of *La Historia de Alta California* contributes to the recovery of long-neglected material by Latinos in the U.S. They are pioneers in a growing field and I am certain this will be a watershed work.”—Rosaura Sánchez, University of California, San Diego

### Language Notes

Text: English (translation)

Original Language: Spanish

### Users Review

#### From reader reviews:

#### George Thomas:

In this 21st hundred years, people become competitive in every way. By being competitive currently, people have do something to make them survives, being in the middle of the crowded place and notice simply by surrounding. One thing that sometimes many people have underestimated the item for a while is reading. Yep, by reading a publication your ability to survive raise then having chance to stand up than other is high. For yourself who want to start reading the book, we give you this specific The History of Alta California: A Memoir of Mexican California book as starter and daily reading e-book. Why, because this book is usually more than just a book.

#### Marlon Taylor:

Spent a free time and energy to be fun activity to accomplish! A lot of people spent their spare time with their family, or their particular friends. Usually they accomplishing activity like watching television, likely to

beach, or picnic from the park. They actually doing same thing every week. Do you feel it? Would you like to something different to fill your own personal free time/ holiday? Can be reading a book could be option to fill your no cost time/ holiday. The first thing you will ask may be what kinds of reserve that you should read. If you want to attempt look for book, may be the reserve untitled The History of Alta California: A Memoir of Mexican California can be good book to read. May be it could be best activity to you.

**Mark Miller:**

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**Stacy Brooks:**

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