#### Citizenship Segregation and the Struggle for **Equality: The Texas Bookshelf**



The Mexican American Experience in Texas: Citizenship, Segregation, and the Struggle for Equality (The Texas Bookshelf) by Martha Menchaca



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Citizenship is a fundamental right that should be available to all people, regardless of their race, ethnicity, gender, or sexual orientation. However, throughout history, citizenship has often been used as a tool to segregate and exclude people of color from full participation in society.

In the United States, citizenship segregation has been a persistent problem since the country's founding. The first citizenship law, passed in 1790, limited citizenship to white men. Over time, citizenship laws were徐々に expanded to include women and people of color, but discrimination continued to be a major barrier to full citizenship for these groups.

In the 20th century, citizenship segregation was used to justify a number of discriminatory policies, including the Jim Crow laws of the South. These

laws segregated blacks and whites in all aspects of life, from education to housing to employment. Citizenship segregation also played a role in the mass deportation of Mexicans during the 1930s.

The struggle for citizenship equality has been a long and difficult one. However, progress has been made over time. In 1965, the Voting Rights Act outlawed racial discrimination in voting. In 1968, the Civil Rights Act outlawed discrimination in housing, employment, and public accommodations. And in 1975, the Supreme Court ruled that states could not deny citizenship to people based on their race or national origin.

Despite these gains, citizenship segregation continues to be a problem in the United States today. For example, a 2017 study by the Pew Research Center found that black and Hispanic Americans are less likely than white Americans to be registered to vote or to vote in elections. And a 2018 study by the National Fair Housing Alliance found that discrimination in housing is still a major problem for people of color.

The struggle for citizenship equality is not over. We must continue to work to ensure that all people have the opportunity to participate fully in American society.

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Citizenship Segregation and the Struggle for Equality: The Texas Bookshelf is a must-read for anyone interested in the history of citizenship in the United States. This book examines the ways in which citizenship has been used to segregate and exclude people of color from full participation in American society.

The book is divided into three parts. The first part provides a historical overview of citizenship in the United States, from the founding of the country to the present day. The second part examines the ways in which citizenship has been used to segregate and exclude people of color. The third part discusses the struggle for citizenship equality and the progress that has been made over time.

Citizenship Segregation and the Struggle for Equality is a well-written and researched book that provides a valuable contribution to the understanding of citizenship in the United States. This book is essential reading for anyone interested in the history of race and equality in the United States.

#### **About the Author**

The Texas Bookshelf is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the reading of Texas literature. The organization publishes a quarterly magazine, The Texas Bookshelf Quarterly, and hosts a variety of literary events throughout the year.



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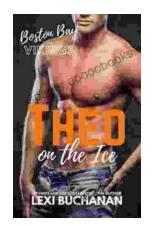
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