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March 16, 2018

Cosmic Race

The Cosmic Race a book written by Jose Vasconcelos in 1925. Presented in Spanish and English. Vasconcelos was born in the southern Mexican state of Oaxaca in 1882, but his family moved almost immediately to Sasabe on the northern border, where he learned at early age English. Vasconcelos finished preparatory school in Mexico City, attended law school, and became a practicing lawyer in 1905.

In his book *The Cosmic Race* he predicted the emergence of a new age in the development of humanity. Vasconcelos believed one day, a new race of people would be born out of the Americans. Vasconcelos underlying premise is that there are four races of humans: the Black, the Indian, the Mongol, and the White. Out of the four races, he imagines that the fifth race which is the mixture of all the races will emerge, and all the good qualities of all the previous races will survive by the natural selection of love; and the other races would be diffused and eventually disappear. The target audience are: the white, the Black, the indian, and the Mongol. However his ideas are very controversial and contradictory.

Most critics reject his ideas about “mestizaje” and the idea of a superior Latin American cosmetic race. His essay has been taken as a racist theory. Although Vasconcelos denied that it was not his purpose or intention in his essay to exalt a race, his tone and interpretation contradicts him. “The race in which all other races disappear” Vasconcelos is contradicting himself how can you think or have the idea of a fifth superior race with all the mixture of races; if all the other races would disappear that it is nonsense. He also remarks in his book that there is always a superior race, and that the whites are the superior race, he emphasized that is time for mestizos to be the superior race. His tone sounds like racist by saying that now is time for the fifth race to take over, and take the power.

The Cosmic Race for Chicanos it appears more like the concept of “La Raza” during the Chicano movement it was important to get acknowledge. Some chicanos they took it as if “La Raza” is the chicano people, and had already be the Cosmic race, the race of mixture or mestizaje, so it could be that *The Cosmic Race* was like a way of for chicanos to identify themselves. However, Vasconcelos refers to a wider mixture of all races.

I would not recommend this book because in my opinion is a book that empathizes racism. The author sounds not logical in his ideas and concepts of the book. He is not rationalistic through all the chapters of the book. Vasconcelos ideas or

predictions of a new age for humanity with the fifth race is just nonsense to me. Perhaps is an old book written in 1925. His ideas of having a superior race with the mixture of all the races. But at the same time, he is contradicting by saying; that all the other races would disappear and not exist anymore, is just nonsense. However, if this book was to be written as a fiction book and all these ideas of new races, but without stereotyping or offending other races, maybe would be interesting to me. The book was difficult to understand. Perhaps, the style that he uses throughout the book was difficult, it seems that his mistake was to have written in a style that emulates science and philosophy.