

How did we get HERE!

(A short timeline * ...

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1848

Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo

1863

The Territory of Arizona is incorporated into the United States, following the expansion of the New Mexico Territory in 1853.

1872

First public school in Tucson is founded by a Mexican-born American, Tucson mayor Estevan Ochoa

Dolores Huerta delivered a speech at a Tucson High School that infuriates Tom Horne (R), at that time State Education Superintendent.

2006

A deputy commissioned by **Tom Horne** is sent to that high school to retrieve students' concerns. However, they perceive his visit as an attack on free speech, 200 protested by walking out.

Tom Horne, Arizona Superintendant of Public Instruction, wrote an open letter to the citizens of Tucson, that begins **"The TUSD Ethnic Studies Program Should be Terminated"**

Horne claimed that the district's Mexican American Studies program promotes anti-American/anti-white sentiments that promote social instability. **The program served a district that was 60% Latina/o.**

June 2007

June 2009

Horne introduces a state legislation, Senate Bill 1069, to ban Ethnic Studies courses, specifying 22 courses offered at four Tucson high schools. The bill does not pass.

May 11th, 2010. Tom Horne, (then candidate for Arizona Attorney General) **introduces HB 2281** into the Arizona Republican-controlled Legislature, which Governor **Jan Brewer** signed into law, which went into effect January 2011, the **"law prohibiting classes that advocate overthrowing the government, are designed for students of one ethnic group or advocate ethnic solidarity instead of treating pupils as individuals,"** Those schools found in violation will lose 10% of their state funds (about \$15 million a year).

2010 **Arizona passes anti-immigration law SB 1070**

2011

Democrat Judge Roll, the federal judge assigned to HB 2281 challenge brought by 11 Ethnic Studies teachers, gets assassinated at Gabrielle Giffords (D) event.

When Tucson officials refuse to accept, the attorney general's office issued subpoenas. **Investigators obtained textbooks, PowerPoint presentations, teachers' college theses, exam prompts, poems, and lyrics from hip-hop songs.**

Horne left office at the end of 2010, but his successor, John Huppenthal, backed Horne's ruling. Huppenthal, a Republican, had voted in favor of the Ethnic Studies law as a state senator before becoming the state's school chief.

In December, Administrative law judge Lewis Kowal said the auditors observed only a limited number of classes. He ruled that the Tucson school district's Ethnic Studies program violates state law. He found grounds to withhold 10% of the district's monthly state aid until they complied. Kowal argued that "teaching oppression objectively is quite different than actively presenting material in a biased, political and emotionally charged manner, which is what occurred in [Mexican American Studies] classes."

Huppenthal ordered a review of the program. A state sponsored audit found that while some aspects of the program needed changing, it was doing a good job. It noted that students who took Mexican American Studies were more likely to attend college, and that the program helped close the achievement gap. The state ignored the audit, calling it flawed.

2012

January 10th, 2012. The MAS at TUSD program is officially suspended. "Facing a \$15 million penalty from the state for failure to comply, the Tucson resisters threw down their arms. Administrators went from room to room, collecting hundreds of copies of [banned] textbooks," including Chicano! The History of the Mexican-American Civil Rights Movement by F. Arturo Rosales, and Pedagogy of the Oppressed by Paulo Freire.

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* References:

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Winerip, Michael. "Racial Lens Used to Cull Curriculum in Arizona." *New York Times*, March 19, 2012