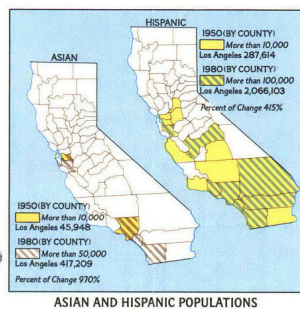


Source :  
National  
Geographic  
magazine  
(1984).

L'eau, la clé de la croissance.



### 5 1940-PRESENT EXPLOSIVE GROWTH

WORLD WAR II reinforced California's leadership in building aircraft and helped launch aerospace. The U. S. poured money into atomic testing in Nevada, more than 85 percent federally owned, but casino dollar fallout has made it the fastest growing state.

The 1941 Colorado River Aqueduct allowed Los Angeles to grow unchecked, and massive north-to-south transfers, such as the Central Valley and State Water Projects, slaked agriculture's greater thirst. Agribusiness largely satisfied its craving for seasonal field labor with Mexican braceros between 1942 and 1964. In 1980 Los Angeles County was home to nearly half the state's 4.5 million legal Hispanics, and the city draws immigrants and refugees from across the Pacific. Having sprouted the ecological movement, the 1960s counterculture, and Silicon Valley, the San Francisco Bay region expresses its iconoclasm through innovation.

