

The Mexican Revolution
A Case Study of Latin America in the Early 20th Century

I. Latin American Puzzles

- A. Why the ongoing crushing burden of poverty?
- B. Why the chronic resort to dictatorship?

II. Dependency Theory

A. Economic and Cultural Dependence

- 1. Role of junior, dependent economic partner to
 - a. Spain and Portugal (to ca. 1825)
 - b. Great Britain (ca. 1825 to ca. 1900)
 - c. United States (since ca. 1900)
- 2. Colonial framework, in effect, never abolished

B. Creole elite sold raw materials and foodstuffs to foreign investors for finished goods

- 1. Central America: bananas and coffee
- 2. Cuba: tobacco and sugar
- 3. Brazil: rubber and coffee
- 4. Mexico: henequen, copper, and silver
- 5. Argentina: wool, wheat, and beef
- 6. Chile: copper and nitrate

IV. The Playing Out of the Hand of the Mexican Revolution

A. Major Players

- 1. Church
- 2. Cattle Ranchers (north)
- 3. Sugar Cane Haciendados (south)
- 4. Farmers and peons
- 5. U.S. Oil Companies
- 6. U.S. Government and Military (esp. Woodrow Wilson; General John J. Pershing)
- 7. Military leaders (other than dictators)
- 8. Mexico City vs. Provinces

(Major Players continued)

9. Dictators

- a. Porfirio Díaz (1830–1915), ruled Mexico 1876–1911 “Order and Progress”
- b. Victoriano Huerta (1845–1916), ruled Mexico 1913–1914

10. Reformers

- a. Francisco Madero (1873–1913), President of Mexico 1911–1913
- b. Venustiano Carranza (1859–1920), President of Mexico 1915–1920

11. Rebels and Revolutionaries

- a. Francisco “Pancho” Villa (Doroteo Arango) (1874–1923)
- b. Emiliano Zapata (1879–1919) (> *zapatistas*, *zapatismo*), Plan of Ayala (1911)

B. Results

1. Demographic (1921 census: 800,000 fewer people than 11 years earlier)
2. Infrastructure
3. Production
4. Economy

IV. Post-Revolution Politics of Consensus

A. Presidencies

1. Alvaro Obregón (1920–1924) – assassinated in 1928
2. Plutarco Elías Calles (1924–1928)
3. Emilio Portes Gil (1928–1930)
4. Ortiz Rubio (1930–1932) – wounded in assassination attempt at his inauguration
5. Albelardo Rodríguez (1932–1934)
6. Lázaro Cárdenas (1934–1940)

B. Cristero Rebellion (1927–1929)

C. National Revolutionary Party (PNR) → Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI)

1. Single Party System (1926–1993)
2. Was it merely a reinstatement of Porfirian-style social peace?