

## Mexico

### 1) Impact of the Past

- a) 12,000 years ago hunter-gatherers walked across the Bering Strait pursuing game.
  - i) Some founded civilizations.
    - (1) **Civilizations: City-based culture with writing, social classes, and complex economic and political organization.**
- b) Humans began to transition from Hunter-gatherer to settled farmer over thousands of years.
  - i) Around 10000 years ago was the **Neolithic Age**.
    - (1) **Neolithic Age: Ne Stone Age, beginning of Agriculture, about 10000 years ago.**
  - ii) Which further progressed into the **Bronze Age**.
    - (1) **Bronze Age: Beginning of metal-working and cities, about 3500 years ago.**
- c) Several civilizations rose and fell within the Mexican region long before the arrival of the Spanish
  - i) First of which, the Olmec thrived in modern day Veracruz in 1000 BCE.
    - (1) **Mesoamerican: Southern Mexico and northern Central.**
  - ii) The Aztecs, Mexica, pushed into the Valley of Mexico at approximately 1300 CE.
  - iii) Aztecs continually expanded bringing more serfs, and captured warriors to sacrifice
- d) Mexico has distinctive geography that has assisted in molding its politics, which is regional in nature.
  - i) Geography forced government to work with **caciques**.
    - (1) **Caciques: Local Political Boss.**
- e) Geographically Mexico is part of North America, south of it **Central America**.
  - i) **Central America: Countries between Mexico and Colombia.**
  - ii) South of that is **South America**.
    - (1) **South America: Continent South of Panama.**
    - (2) Everything south of the United States is called **Latin America**.
      - (a) **Latin America: All countries south of the United States.**

### 2) New Spain

- a) Spain's Ferdinand and Isabella, seeing Portugal's progress, readily accepted Columbus' proposal to reach Asia by way of the Atlantic Ocean.
  - i) Columbus had thought he reached India; hence he named the peoples Indians.
    - (1) The Spanish went into the New World in Pursuit of "Gold, God, and Glory."
- b) Despite the Aztec's large size, several factors led to the downfall of the Aztec empire to the Spanish
  - i) Native Americans had no immunity to various diseases the Spaniards brought with them.
  - ii) The Spanish had steel, horses and guns.
  - iii) Subordinated countries to the Aztecs rose up and assisted the Spanish.

- iv) Aztecs thought Spanish were Quetzalcoatl's messengers.
- c) Hernan Cortes, based in Cuba, equipped eleven ships and sailed from Havana in 1518.
- d) Moctezuma originally welcomed Cortes but soon arrested him.
  - i) Fighting broke out.
  - ii) Cortes finally captured and killed Cuauhtemoc.
  - iii) Despite Spaniards domination of indigenous tribes, many **pre-Columbian** traditions remain in the Mexican culture.

(1) **Pre-Columbian: The Americas before Columbus arrived.**

- e) Spaniards continued expansion.
  - i) Takeover of Northern Mexico was not complete until 1600.
- f) To control New Spain, Spanish used encomiendas system.
  - i) Which were grants of lands and workers, given to Spanish settlers, and soldiers.
  - ii) Created stratification because of its feudal nature.

(1) Peninsulares (those born in Spain) were at the very top.

- (a) Held complete (administrative and social) control over **creoles**.

(i) **Creoles: Spaniard born in the New World.**

(2) Mestizos (mixed races) primarily became artisans and craftsmen.

3) Mexican Independence

- a) The Enlightenment in Eighteenth century, inspired some countries in Latin America to revolt.
  - i) The trigger was the occupation of Spain by Napoleon
    - (1) Spain's Cortes passed liberal 1812 constitution.
- b) Miguel Hidalgo, a parish priest, proclaimed Mexican independence on September 16, 1810.
  - i) Hidalgo himself wanted Mexican equality and Catholicism.
  - ii) Captured by royalists and executed.
- c) Other trigger was the liberal constitution of 1812 (rejected but reinstated in 1820).
  - i) Subsequently the elites feared the loss of their status and so declared independence in 1821

4) Between Monarchy and Republic.

- a) Mexico began as a conservative democracy.
- b) Mexican politics spread out into two different factions.
  - i) Conservative centralizers and Liberal Federalists.
  - ii) Much of Mexico has been ruled by **caudillos**.
    - (1) **Caudillo: Military chief or strong man, specifically one who takes over the government.**
- c) Key figure at first was Antonia Lopez de Santa Ana.
  - i) Big issue was with Texas.
    - (1) To halt further US settlers into Texas, Mexico outlawed slavery.

- (a) Republic of Texas declared independence after Santa Ana refused them States Right.
    - (b) US annexed Texas causing war, leading to defeat of Mexico, “buying” large amounts of land, humiliating Mexico.
  - d) Mexico was briefly occupied by France from 1861-1867.
    - (1) Cost too much money, and US civil war ended.
  - e) The main figure in 19<sup>th</sup> century Mexico was Benito Juarez
    - i) Became president in 1858 (power was focused in Creole hands at the time).
    - ii) Juarez main goals were to: redistribute the land, have a market economy, federalism, and separate church and state.
  - f) Porfirio Diaz succeeded Juarez and turned into a military dictator.
    - i) Centralized control.
    - ii) Used **positivism** to justify him and his científicos to push economic growth at the expense of the poor.
      - (1) **Positivism: Philosophy, originally French, of applying scientific methods to analyze and improve society.**
- 5) The Mexican Revolution
- a) Because of the Porfiriato discontent seeped into the nation.
  - b) Trigger to Revolution was another “reelection” in 1910.
    - i) Francisco Madero started the Revolution November 20.
      - (1) Diaz fell back was exiled and left to Paris.
      - (2) Madero was elected President!
  - c) Supported by the US General Victoriano Huerta arrested and shot Madero, subsequently taking power.
    - i) US wanted to put things right and put a naval blockade, and tried to apprehend Pancho Villa
  - d) When Huerta fell in 1914, four armies fought for control.
    - i) The two revolutionaries; Zapata and Villa
    - ii) Two moderates who wanted stability; Venustiano Carranza and Alvaro Obregon.
      - (1) Zapata was assassinated in 1919, Carranza in 1920, Villa in 1923, and Obregon in 1928.
- 6) The Revolution Institutionalized:
- a) In 1920 when Obregon became president he began rural reeducation and reform.
    - i) Even granted **ejidos** to poor villagers.
      - (1) **Ejidos: Land owned in common by villages.**
  - b) In 1924 he arranged the election of his successor Plutarco Elias Calles.
    - i) Obregon was later assassinated by catholic fanatic.
      - (1) Strated with Calles’ anticlericalism implemented in 1917.
  - c) Calles created a new system.
    - i) Presidency for single non-renewable six year term.

- ii) Also created a coalition of political bosses, generals, union chiefs, and peasant leaders into a single party; The National Revolutionary Party (PNR) Later Institutional Revolutionary Party
    - (1) The party lasted up until 2000 never losing an election (by questionable means).
  - iii) **Priismo: Ideology and methods of PRI**
  - iv) **Sexenio: Six year term of Mexico's Presidents**
  - v) **Austerity: Drastically holding down government expenses.**
  - d) PNR was generally conservative but Lazaro Cardenas put Mexico on a radical path.
    - i) Cardenas was one of the founders and first presidents of the PNR system.
      - (1) Transformed PNR from loose to cohesive coalition of forces.
    - ii) Nationalized oil fields.
      - (1) Implemented **statism**
        - (a) **Statism: Idea that a strong government should run things, especially major industries.**
    - iii) He had huge land reform, and organized peasants and workers into the PNR.
    - iv) Made the party involved in **corporatism**.
      - (1) **Corporatism: Direct Participation of interest groups in politics.**
    - v) Created large bureaucracies to mediate between groups and the allocation of funds to them.
      - (1) This was known as **clientelism**.
        - (a) **Clientelism: Government favors to groups for their support.**
        - (b) Left things unstable.
- 7) Key Institutions.
- a) Throughout Mexican history little **constitutionalism** was observed.
    - i) **Constitutionalism: Degree to which government limits its powers.**
  - b) PRI somewhat changed this with 6 year single term.
    - i) Mexico was a clientelistic
      - (1) Major groups put into cooperation.
  - c) **Political Power: Ability of one person to get another to do something.**
  - d) **Political Institution: Established and durable relationships of power and authority.**
  - e) **Institutionalize: To make a political relationship permanent.**
- 8) The Six-Year Presidency
- a) Since 1928 Mexico has not deviated from the single six-year term principle.
    - i) Calles supported this system after the assassination of Obregon.
  - b) Succession is in the hands of the president.
    - i) President picks successor with **dedazo** principle
      - (1) **Dedazo: Tapped for high office.**
    - ii) Presidents looked toward stability when picking successor, but they were sometime unpredictable, being more radical than expected.

## 9) Mexico's Legislature

- a) Congress, in Mexico, is less important than the president's role.
- b) Mexico fills seats from single-member districts, but also gives seats based on share of the popular vote.
  - i) Upper House has 128 seats and six year terms
  - ii) Lower House has 500 seats with 3 year terms.
- c) Deadlock in Congress because of opposing views of PAN, PRD, and PRI.

## 10) Mexico's Dominant Party System

- a) Dominant party arises when a single party wields great power and prevents the entry of other parties.
  - i) PRI was dominant party, but lost power and influence as large middle class emerged.
    - (1) Still has broad support.
- b) PAN started as religious opposition to PRI
  - i) Obtained business elements as well.
- c) PRD is a liberal party founded in the South.
- d) Mexico is now known as a "former dominant-party system" with **bilateral opposition**.
  - i) **Bilateral Opposition: Centrist parties or government undermined from both sides.**

## 11) Mexican Federalism

- a) **Mercantilism: Originally French theory that a nation's wealth is the gold and silver in its treasury.**
- b) **Egalitarian: Dedicated to equality**
- c) Mexican federalism concentrated power in the center.
  - i) PRI handpicked state governors for much of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.
  - ii) State gets much of their revenue from national governments which are then dispensed to municipalities.

## 12) Mexican Political Culture

- a) Mexico's different cultures are badly and diversified in the different cultures that haven't integrated.
  - i) No coherent culture can be seen.

## 13) Mexico's Indian Heritage

- a) Beneath the surface Mexico the culture is still very Indian
- b) The Aztecs and other pre-Columbian civilizations had very stratified hierarchy's.
  - i) When Spanish took over, they made Indians forced labor upon haciendas.
    - (1) **Haciendas: Large country estate with Spanish owner and Indian serfs.**
  - ii) **Mestizaje** also occurred with the Spanish.
    - (1) **Mestizaje:** intermingling of Spanish and Indian.
- c) Latin America is free of racial prejudice, unlike **Norteamericanos**.
  - i) **Norteamericanos: North Americans; US citizens.**
- d) "Money lightens one's skin color"

- i) Still Mexicans of Indian descent live in worse conditions.
- e) **Personalismo: Politics by strong, showoff personalities**
- f) **Machismo: Strutting, exaggerated masculinity.**
- g) Many nonwhites have risen to the top (Juarez).

#### 14) Imported Ideologies

- a) Liberalism: The original notion that rejected monarchy and was open to new ideas.
  - i) No middle class, thus no real liberalism.
- b) Positivism: Experts should improve society via science.
  - i) Diaz big into positivism.
- c) Socialism: Very little industry and working class, thus no big socialist movement.
- d) Rural socialism: Rejects industry in favor of small farms.
  - i) Pursues **quixotic** vision
    - (1) **Quixotic: Romantic, unrealistic efforts to achieve mistaken goals.**
- e) Anarchism: Only small amount of Mexicans were influenced by anarchism
- f) Fascism: Briefly influenced Latin America.
  - i) Communism: Many prominent Mexican artists (Diego Rivera, David Siquieros) drew on communism.

#### 15) Patterns of Interaction.

- a) Calles and Cardenas first devised a system of **co-optation**.
  - i) **Co-optation: To enroll other group in your cause, rendering them harmless.**
- b) Presidents crushed competition and rebellion.
  - i) Mexico tried to co-opt students with free education, however did not work
    - (1) Many turned radical and accused of PRI of abandoning social justice.
    - (2) Before the Olympics PRI crushed a huge student revolt killings hundreds.

#### 16) Politics inside the PRI

- a) Two major factions of PRI are politicos and tecnicos
  - i) Politicos: populists who want elected office.
    - (1) Don't pay heed to economic outcries
  - ii) Tecnicos: try to fix economic instability.
    - (1) Many studied neoclassical economics
    - (2) Want **neoliberalism** practiced in their economy.
      - (a) **Neoliberalism: Rediscovery of classic free-market economics.**

#### 17) Mexican Catholicism

- a) After independence govt. has been very secular
- b) Leaders saw church as symbol of upper class conservatism.
  - i) Thus they put constitutional limits on church.
  - ii) Calles's anti clerical movement started Cristero Rebellion
  - iii) 1939 PAN party set return for Catholic into govt.

#### 18) Crime and Politics.

- a) Crime is Mexico's biggest interest group.

- i) Pancho Villa was mix of revolution and bandit.
- ii) Assassination were common
  - (1) Journalists, presidents, aides, and others have been targets of political assassinations.
- b) Shooting brought revelation to people
  - i) PRI was beginning to stink of crime.
  - ii) PRI's system could no longer operate with intelligent basis.

19) What Mexicans Quarrel About

20) Population and Jobs

- a) Mexico's population grew from 16 million to 34 million in between 1935 and 1960.
  - i) Mexico needs to create jobs for the millions of peoples, which cannot keep up with population growth.
- b) Many Mexicans are poor (40% below the poverty line)
  - i) Poor Mexicans flood into the cities where they live in horrible conditions.
  - ii) Many Mexicans work in "informal economy."
- c) Southern Mexico is also very poor.
  - i) Guerrilla forces are led by Subcomandante Marcos, who talks about oppression by the government
- d) Because of no jobs, middle class saves and thus there is no domestic capital, and no foreign investment.
  - i) High crime rate also dissuades foreign businesses.
- e) Neoliberal economists want to restore state-owned industries.
- f) Oil help, but has disadvantages.
  - i) It concentrates wealth in the hand of few.
  - ii) Creates unbalanced growth.
  - iii) Makes the country dependent on price of oil.
- g) **Gringos** mainly demand Mexican oil.
  - i) **Gringos: Foreigner, specifically norteamericano, pejorative.**

21) The NAFTA question.

- a) Latin America is not very apart of **globalization**, because of few benefits enjoyed from it.
  - i) **Globalization: the world becoming one big capitalist market.**
  - ii) Stagnation of Latin America is said to be proof that globalization does not help poverty.
- b) **NAFTA** was first looked at with hatred, but also hailed.
  - i) **NAFTA: 1994 North American Free Trade Agreement among the United States, Canada, and Mexico.**
  - ii) Many thought that it would steal jobs from the US, however such was not the case.
  - iii) Despite NAFTA little happened, and Mexico's GDP saw little to no increase, as Mexico lost millions of jobs.

(1) No one could compete with China.

c) PDR wants to get rid of NAFTA, however PAN solidly supports the system.

## 22) Drugs: A Mexican or US Problem

a) Mexico is the most important way station for drugs such as cocaine and heroin.

i) Lots of drugs subsequently are funneled into the US via the US/Mexico border.

b) Drugs have led to crime permeating high levels of government in Mexico.

i) The Mexican police, judicial system, and army have all been corrupted.

c) The main problem is that there is a large market for drugs in the US.

i) People don't consider the actions of **narcotraficantes**.

(1) **Narcotraficantes: Drug trafficker.**

## 23) Illegal or Undocumented?

a) They're either called illegal immigrants or undocumented workers.

i) There is push because of poverty and joblessness in Mexico.

ii) There is also pull of American jobs and opportunities.

iii) Many illegals are still hired.

b) Mexico is pushing for looser immigration policies with the United States..

i) Many United States citizens don't want flood of Mexican immigrants.

ii) Business owners relish the opportunity.

c) For Mexico the immigration is a way of putting off much of the unemployment and a source of **remittance**.

i) **Remittance: Money sent home.**

## 24) Modern Mexico?

a) Compared to much of Latin America, Mexico is prosperous.

b) Under the right conditions Mexico, could become a strong economic force.

i) Good combination that encourages economic growth is low wages tied to good productivity.

(1) Try to have productivity grow with wages to allow sustained economic growth.

ii) Factors such as many regulations, high taxes, strike-happy unions, crime, and corruption are negative factors to economic growth.

(1) Such factors need to be cleaned up to allow business friendly environment.