



Foundations of Mexico's Government

Mexico Overview

- Primarily one party system
- Federal Representative Republic
- Presidential Executive Branch, Bicameral Legislature, weak Judicial Branch
 - Legislative - Senate and Chamber of Deputies
- Fairly elitist – Large gap in power and wealth between wealthy and poor



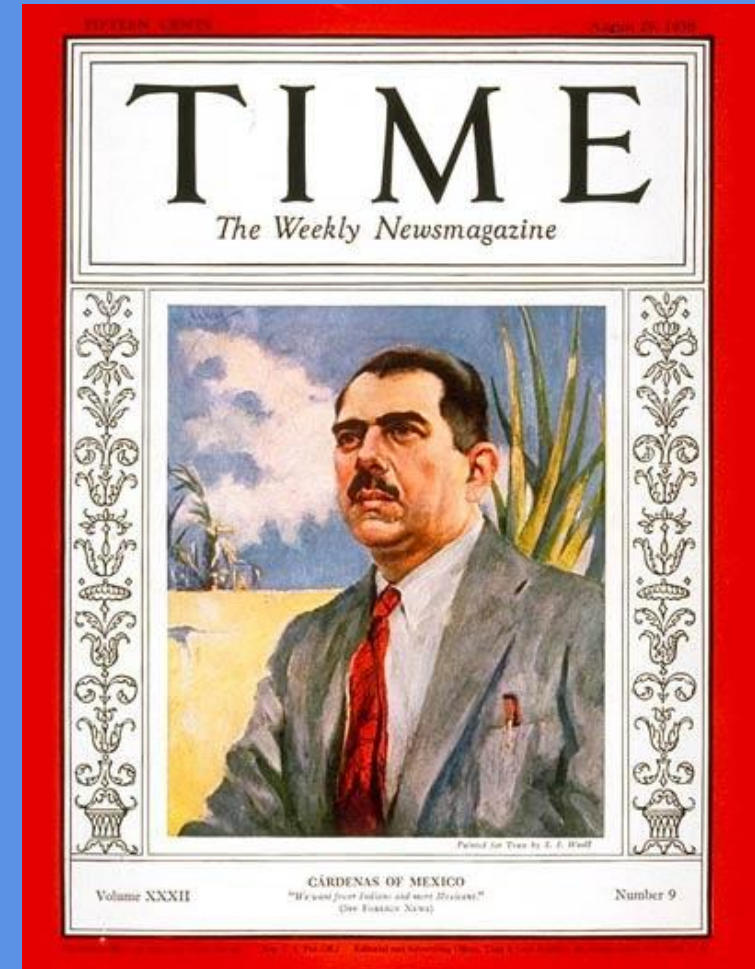
Mexico's Foundations

- Mexican War of Independence
 - Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla called for independence from Spain beginning 1810
 - Official date of Independence September 16, 1810
 - Established government ruled by Viceroy
- Early Stages – Military Authoritarianism
 - The Porfiriato (1876-1910)
 - Established by Porfirio Diaz
 - Process of Modernization at the expense of the poor
 - 1911-1934 – Warlordism and Populists uprisings
 - Intervention by United States
 - Influential uprisings led by Francisco Madero, Victoriano Huerta, Emiliano Zapata, and Pancho Villa
 - Conflicting interest with Catholic Church



The Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI)

- Founded in 1929 and maintained almost complete control until 2000
 - One-Party system with very little real opposition from elsewhere
- Mexicanization of Government under Lazaro Cardenas (1934-1940)
 - Nationalized Mexican Industries
 - Redistributed land (*ejidos*)
 - Unionization of peasantry
 - Investment in public works and infrastructure
 - Corporatist System
 - Military, Workers, Peasants, Middle Class



One-Party Authoritarian Rule

- Mexico a *de facto* one-party state run by PRI till mid-1980s
 - Presidents were more determined by party leadership than elections
 - No real opposition allowed
 - Corruption and fraud helped limit rise of other parties
 - Similar to China, Russia, and Iran
- President had almost dictator-like power
 - Limited checks on power of the president by legislative and judicial branches
- Party increasingly right leaning

Declining Support for PRI

- The 1968 Summer Olympics in Mexico City
 - Government using Olympics as a way to showcase modern Mexico
 - Spent large amounts of money preparing for games
 - Popular uprising against spending
 - 400 killed at protest at National University
 - Led to renewed commitment to reform PRI
- The 1985 earthquake in Mexico City
 - Ineffective response by Government
 - Further led people to question PRI
- People increasingly supported left leaning Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD)
 - First PRD governor elected in 1989 in Baja California



Process of Democratization

- Marked beginning of democratization process in 1968
- Increasingly right-leaning PRI increasingly contested by left-leaning PRD and National Action Party (PAN)
 - Organized protests, contested elections, pressured government to reform electoral laws and institutions
 - Economic crisis of 1982 and 1994 contributed to citizens losing faith in PRI
- Vincent Fox (PAN) elected in 2000
 - Marks substantial shift to left
 - Enrique Nena Pieta (PRI) elected in 2012

