

The Mexican Revolution

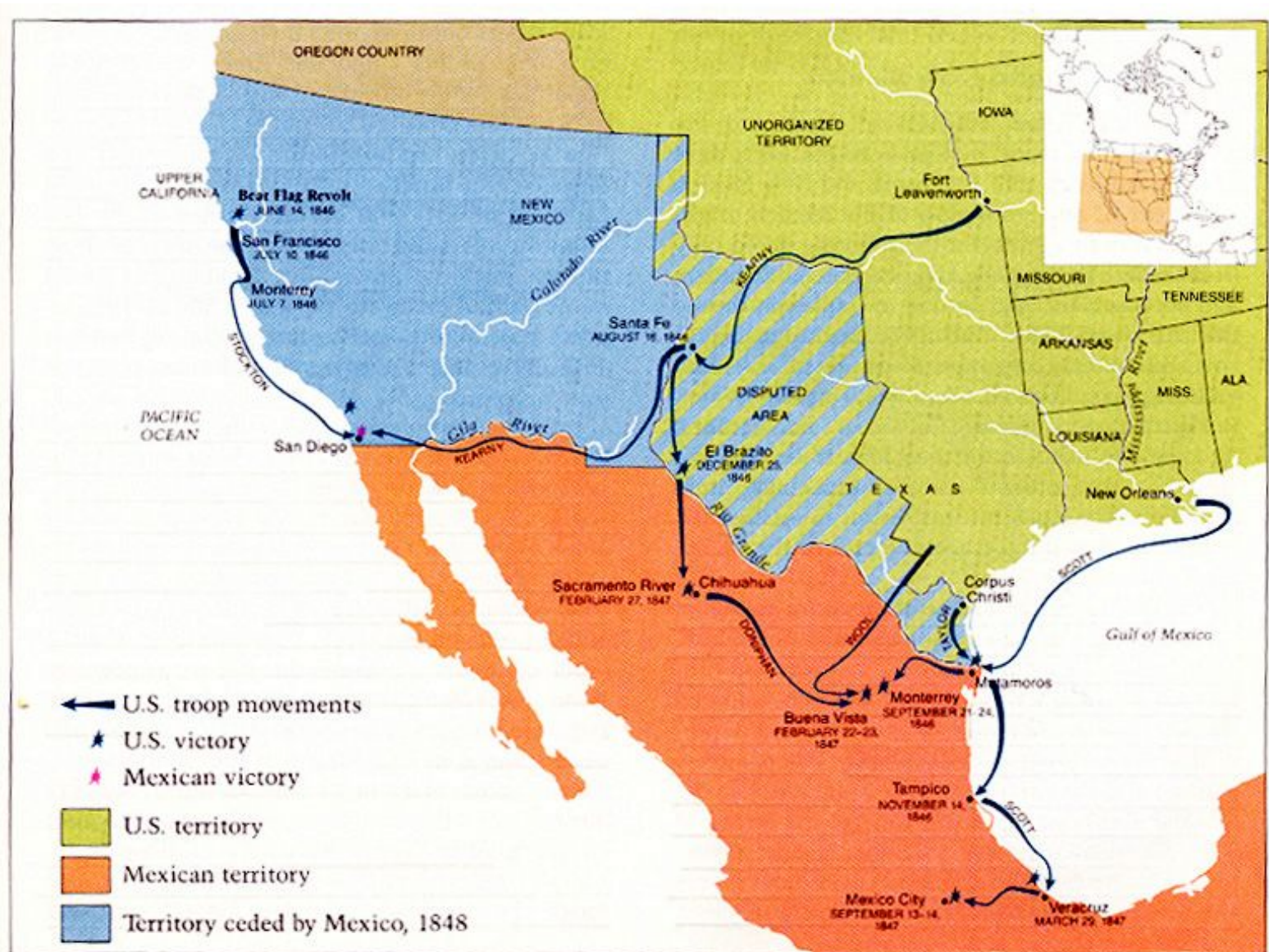
Civil War

The War of North American Intervention (Mexican-American War)

- Antonio Lopez Santa Ana was President of 11 different governments
 - Kept central government weak and taxes low
- United States saw opportunity and expanded into Mexico's territory north of the Rio Grande (Arizona, Texas, New Mexico)



LOSS OF LAND AND PRIDE



Conservative and Liberal Leaders

BENITO JUAREZ



ANTONIO LOPEZ SANTA ANA



Liberals and Conservatives Post-Independent Mexico

LIBERALS

In Mexico in the 19th century (1800s), liberals were mainly *educated, middle class professionals like teachers, and lawyers* who lived in cities or urban areas.

Liberals generally wanted to **distribute the ownership of land** more broadly and to change the political and economic systems of Mexico to **give every Mexican more political rights and power** rather than the systems being dominated by an elite few.

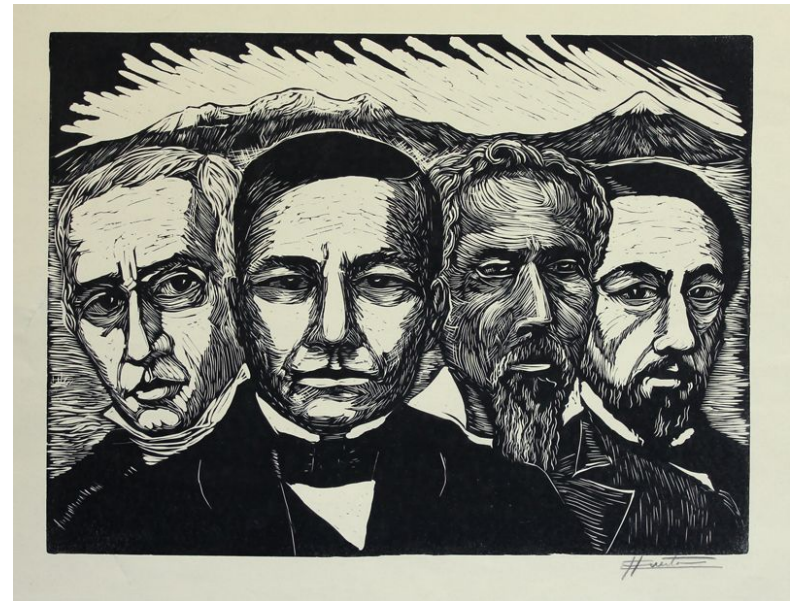
CONSERVATIVES

In Mexico in the 19th century (1800s), conservatives were mainly *wealthy landowners, Creoles*, who wanted a political system that would preserve their wealth & privilege.

Conservatives generally **did NOT want to share land in Mexico** with mestizo or indigenous Mexicans.

Rise of the Liberals: *La Reforma*

- ***La Reforma***: A liberal group who called for the lessening of the power of the Catholic Church and military leaders in Mexico.
- **Benito Juarez**: Mestizo lawyer who led *La Reforma* and eventually rose to power as president.



Benito Juarez as President

Constructs the Constitution of 1857

- Created a government run education system.
- Limited the power of the Catholic Church. Forced them to sell much of their land.
- Broke up tribal lands into individually owned lands → Didn't work because rich landowners bought them instead.
- Encouraged foreign investment to build infrastructure.

Juarez died in 1872, leaving the government unstable

The Rule of Porfirio Diaz

Porfirio Diaz rose to power (through a coup) as president following Juarez's death and stayed in power for over 30 years. During his rule...

- The rich continued to buy land. 30 families owned half of Mexico by 1900 → more widespread poverty
- Mexico engaged in foreign trade → 90% of all industry and 25% of land owned by foreigners.
- Oil and coal were discovered → Again, controlled by foreigners
- Pan, o Palo (Bread or Stick): Created a large police force to maintain his rule (stick) and rewarded his supporters with benefits (bread).



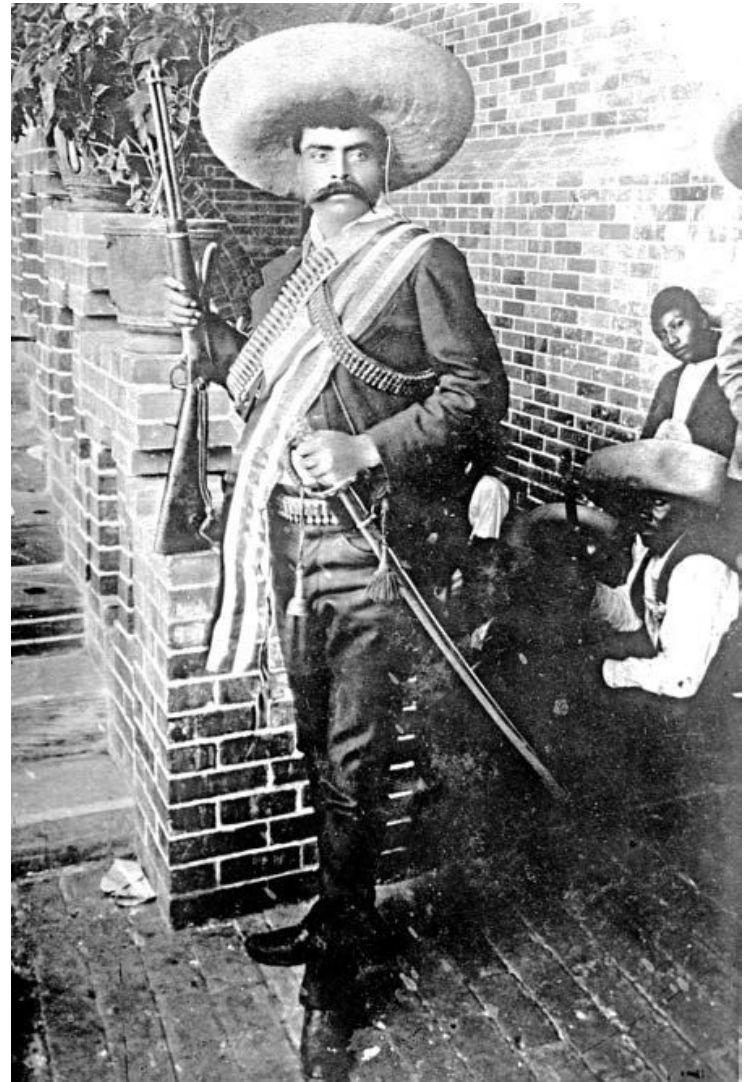
The Mexican Revolution



- A major armed struggle between 1910-1920 that reshaped Mexican social, political, environmental, cultural, and economic landscape.
- Original goal was to end Diaz's 30 year rule and to solve inequality -- across all aspects -- within society.
- Three major factions rose up to fight against Diaz's government.

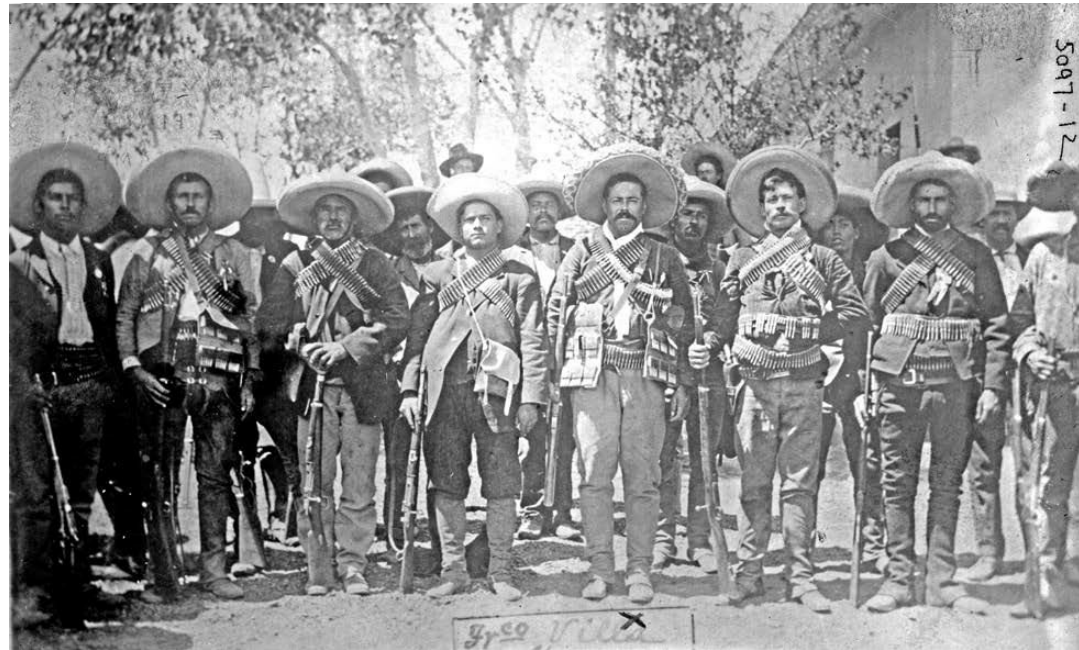
Zapatistas (Southern Mexico)

- Led by Emiliana Zapata
- Called for land reform and redistribution of Hacienda Land to the peasants.



Villistas (Northern Mexico)

- Led by Pancho Villa
- Called for land reforms and improved working conditions for rural peasants and urban workers.



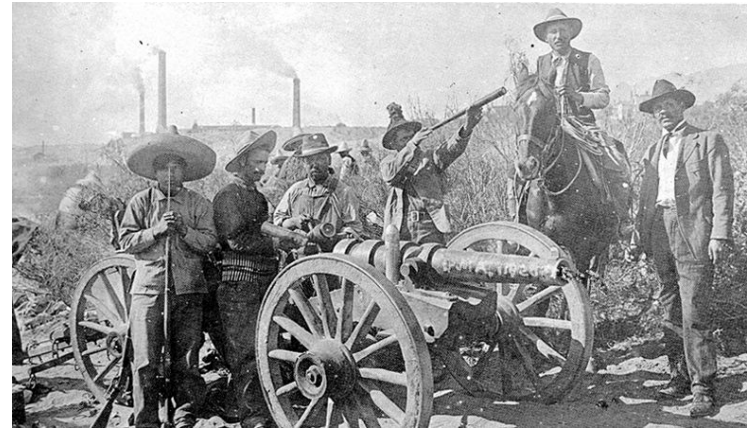
Constitutionalists

- Called for the democracy established by the 1857 constitution
- Supported with ammunition by the United States



Key Events of the Mexican Revolution

- 1912-1914: The various rebel armies fought battles all around Mexico against the National Army.
 - Leaders such as Zapata and Villa rose to international fame.
- 1914: The Constitutionalists (with help from the U.S.) took power of the presidency.
 - Arranged a convention between the three factions to bring peace to Mexico.
 - The meeting broke into violence between the major factions and led to more fighting.



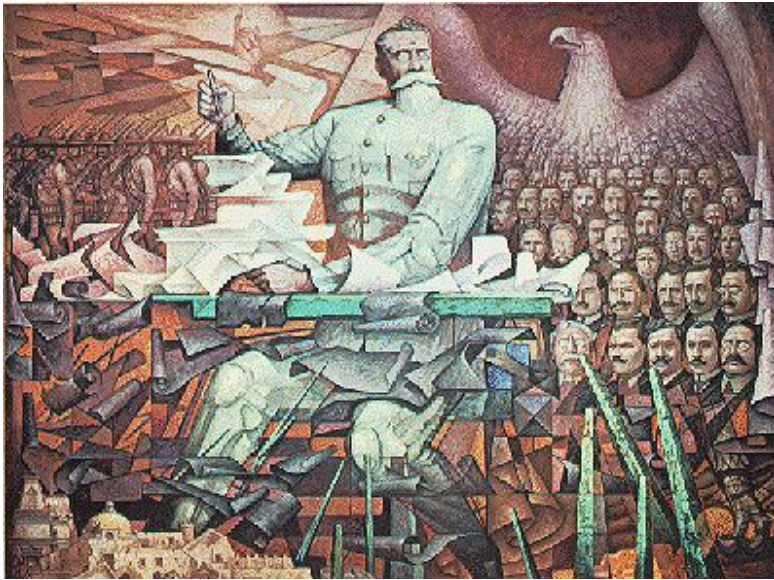
The Continuing Civil War

- Villa & Zapata made an alliance to overthrow the Constitutional Government and fighting increased.

Villa: "Those are men who have always slept on soft pillows. How could they ever be friends of the people who have spent their whole lives in nothing but suffering?"

- The Villa-Zapata army was crushed after attempting to occupy Mexico City and the Constitutionalist took control of the country.

The Constitution of 1917



- The Constitutionalist Government crafted the 1917 Constitution.
- The Constitution increased the role of the Mexican Government in the lives of Mexicans with policies such as...
 - Redistributed land to rural farmers
 - Allowed for the creation of Labor Unions
 - Took control of oil and mineral deposits
 - Created a separation of Church & State

Results of the Mexican Revolution

While not all accepted the Constitution, it did mark the end of the Revolution.

- Diaz's Government ended
- The Hacienda System ended
- Kicked out foreign investors and the Mexican government took control of the oil business.
- Increased nationalism among Mexicans.
- Eventual rise of the PRI (Held power from 1930's to 1990's).
- Between 1.5-2 million Mexicans died during these conflicts and much of the Mexican infrastructure was destroyed.
- Thousands of new schools were built, educating the masses