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

[Map showing the expansion of U.S. territory and key events during the Mexican-American War.]
Conservative and Liberal Leaders

BENITO JUAREZ

ANTONIO LOPEZ SANTA ANA
### 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