

19th century Latin America

- All this hurts the small farmers who are now being forced to sell or being kicked off their land to make way for both commodities & Progress
- Created almost a century of chaos, instability, government corruption, and economic hardship
- As we go through- colored dates should be added to timelines





Benito Juárez in
office (1861-76)

In 1876...Porfirio Diaz is elected

- After Benito Juarez...Diaz would rule until 1911.
- •Diaz is almost like a neo-caudillo
 - –Very popular amongst people at first because he is a Catholic, military man who promises reforms
- •Instead gives most of land to his men and other rich creoles & become corrupt:
 - –Elections becomes more blatantly rigged than before
 - –Eliminates freedom of the press and of speech
 - –Imprisons political enemies or executes them after show trials
 - –Allows the church to reclaim land, etc.
 - –Forces local governors to kick-up lots of money to the national state



Diaz Continued

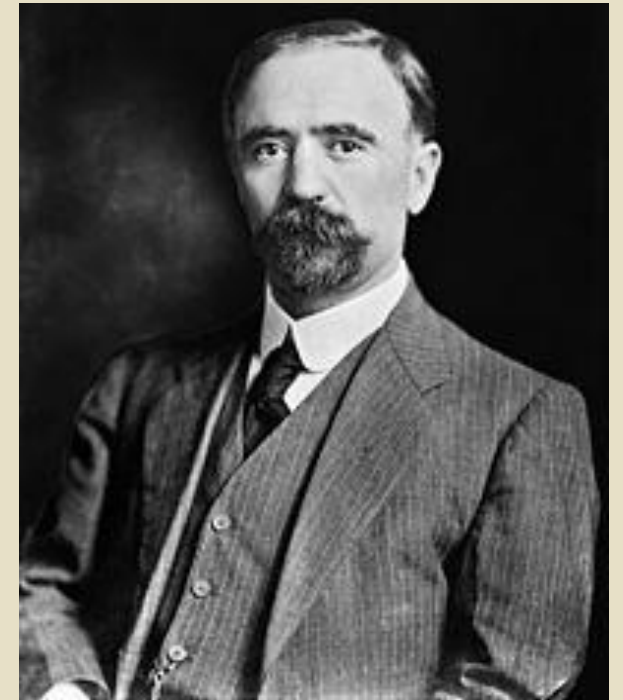
- But, he looks really, really good to the outside world:
 - Mexican exports increase a lot (trade grows 900%) during this time
 - Industrialism & infrastructure improvements occur too
 - Allows US, British and other corporations to come into Mexico to produce and export raw materials
 - Tries to make Mexico City as European (and civilized) as possible

Problems with Diaz

- Main Problem: None of this trickles down to the lower classes. 3% of the population owes 100% of the land
 - Lower classes are essential serfs/sharecroppers
 - Diaz even reappropriates land given as a reward for military service & land given to indigenous people
- Wages are far too little
 - Foreign corporations come in and “steal” more land
- Kids have to start working by age 7/8 in order to be able to feed family
- Bottom line: people are getting hangry

Rise of Madero

- **June 1, 1906** Mexican workers at an American owned copper company go on strike
 - workers end up killing two Americans
 - Diaz allows US Rangers to come in and put it down
- Very unpopular with Mexicans of all classes
- More strikes follow with brutal repression
- Sensing unrest, Diaz promises to finish out his term and retire with the next election...



Rise of Madero

- Urged by this, a rich landowner Francisco I. Madero publishes a book *La sucesión presidencial en 1910* which lays down the problems with Diaz and a military dictatorship
 - Madero tours Mexico planning to run for President*
- Diaz changes his mind, and tries to run for a 6th term, just to make sure it work, he imprisons a bunch of Madero's follower and then Madero himself on election day
- Diaz then claims victory saying he got all but about 200 votes

Villa, Zapata, & Carranza

- Diaz plans election victory party and the amount spent is massive
 - Ex: cost is higher than country's whole education budget while 85% of country is illiterate, etc.*
- Madero escapes from prison and makes his way to the US where he challenges Diaz publicly
 - Done in San Antonio, called Plan de Dan Luis Potosí
 - Calls on all of Mexico to rise up at 6pm on **11/20/1910**

Villa, Zapata, & Carranza

- Mexico guerilla forces start to rise up and rebel-all of the country
 - –**In the Northwest, a bandit Pancho Villa unites the forces**
 - –**In the South a poor worker Emiliano Zapata unites the forces**
 - –**In the Northeast the local governor Venustiano Carranza unites the forces**
- All three begin taking strategic towns and working towards Mexico City; none of them are actually working together or directly with Madero

End of Diaz & Beginning of Democracy?

- As Villa takes over the North, he invites Madero back to set up a provisional government
 - None of the men really trust each other and the peace is tense (they point guns at each other a few times during negotiations)*
- Realizing he was surrounded (and wanting to get out alive) Diaz **resigned on May 25 1911** and goes into exile in Paris
- Madero makes his way to Mexico City via train and is greeted as conquering hero
- Meets with Zapata and rebels in the South who cautiously accept him as President



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Diaz Regime