

# Mexican Revolution

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## Causes of the Mexican Revolution



Porfirio Díaz (1876-1910)

- Reign of Porfirio Díaz
  - Ruled as a dictator
    - "New Creoles"
  - Modernized Mexico
  - Masses suppressed
    - Working class wages declined
    - 95% of rural population did not own any land
- Mestizo population grew rapidly after 1850

## Start of the Revolution

- Election of 1910
  - Francisco Madero ran against Díaz
  - Díaz had Madero arrested on election day
- Madero called for Díaz to be overthrown
  - Movement supported by peasants and the middle class
- Díaz forced to resign in May 1911



Francisco Madero (1911-1913)

## Mexican Revolutionaries (1910)



## The Revolution Spreads

- Madero was unprepared
- Lack of land reforms led to open rebellion
  - Emiliano Zapata
    - "Land and Liberty"
  - Pancho Villa
- Madero was overthrown by General Victoriano Huerta in February 1913
  - Madero was eventually assassinated



Mural to Zapata in Cuba

## Map of the Revolution



## The Revolution Continues

- Huerta was opposed by a coalition led by Venustiano Carranza (top), Alvaro Obregón (bottom), Villa, Zapata, etc.
- Huerta was overthrown in 1914
- Carranza appealed to masses
  - Mexican Constitution of 1917
  - Villa and Zapata continued to rebel until 1919 and 1920
- Carranza was overthrown in 1920
  - Replaced by Obregon (1920-1924)



## Timeline of the Revolution



## Women in the Revolution

- Intellectuals
  - Called for equal rights, women's suffrage, and other reforms
  - Often endured threats, imprisonment, etc.
- Soldaderas
  - Served as nurses, cooks, foraged for food, washed clothes and other services
  - Served in the rebel army and the federal army
- Women Soldiers

## Women in the Revolution



## Women in the Revolution



## Aftermath of Revolution

- Over one million people died
- Revolution lacked a plan, a philosophy, intellectual leadership, or political parties
- Farming, ranching, and mining economies were destroyed
  - Oil industry improved during revolution
- No major bank or newspaper survived

## Constitution of 1917

- Conferred strong powers to the president
- Laid basis for land reform
  - No major redistribution until 1934
- Government ownership of mineral and water resources
- New labor laws
  - No major labor laws until 1931
- Placed restrictions on the church and clergy
  - Church went on strike in 1926

## Aftermath Continued

- Alvaro Obregón (1920-1924)
  - Built schools and encouraged nationalism
    - Diego Rivera
- Mexico becomes a single-party system
  - Party of Revolutionary Institutions (PRI)
    - Dominated politics until 2000
- Lázaro Cárdenas (1934-1940)
  - Redistributed 45 million acres of land
    - 253 million would be redistributed by 1984
  - Promoted economic nationalism
    - Nationalized railroads (1937) and oil (1938)

## Diego Rivera



## Diego Rivera

