

CHAPTER

27

Nationalism and Revolution Around the World 1910–1939



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WITNESS HISTORY AUDIO

Revolution in Mexico

This Mexican peasants' song from the early 1900s reflected many Mexican's desire for change under the rule of the dictator Porfirio Díaz:

“Our homes and humble dwellings
always full of sadness
living like animals
in the midst of riches.
On the other hand, the hacendados,
owners of lives and lands,
appear disinterested
and don't listen to our complaints.”

Listen to the Witness History audio to learn more about the Mexican Revolution.

◀ General Carranza with some of his rebel forces during the Mexican Revolution

Chapter Preview

Chapter Focus Question How did nationalism and the desire for change shape world events in the early 1900s?


Section 1
Struggle in Latin America

Section 2
Nationalism in Africa and the Middle East

Section 3
India Seeks Self-Rule

Section 4
Upheavals in China

Section 5
Conflicting Forces in Japan

Use the  **Quick Study Timeline** at the end of this chapter to preview chapter events.



Mexico's Coat of Arms



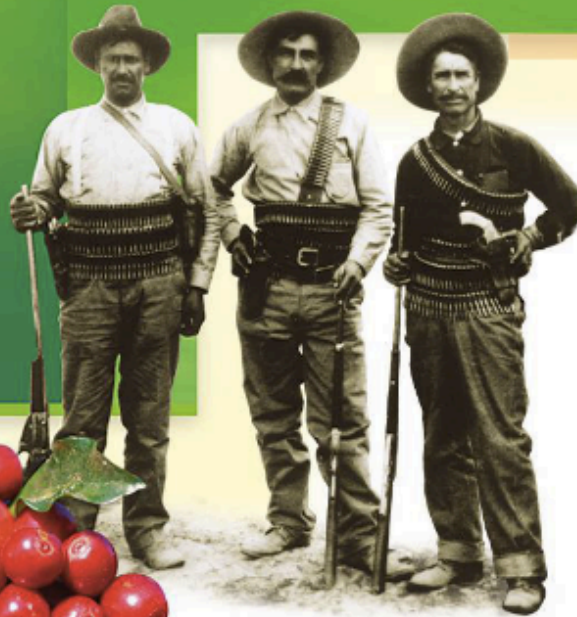
Beaded elephant mask from Africa



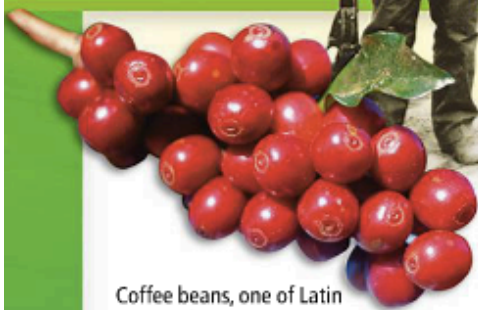
Japan's naval flag

 **Concept Connector ONLINE**

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Mexican peasant revolutionaries



Coffee beans, one of Latin America's major export crops

WITNESS HISTORY AUDIO

Fighting for an Ideal

Zeferino Diego Ferreira, a peasant soldier at the time of the Mexican Revolution, describes his feelings on fighting with the rebel leaders Pancho Villa and Emiliano Zapata:

“I am glad to have fought in the same cause with Zapata . . . and so many of my dear revolutionary friends who were left behind in the hills, their bones eaten by animals. I wasn't afraid. Just the opposite, I was *glad*. It's a *beautiful* thing to fight to realize an ideal.”

Mexico's revolution was a dramatic fight for reform, with mixed results.

Focus Question How did Latin Americans struggle for change in the early 1900s?

Struggle in Latin America

Objectives

- Identify the causes and effects of the Mexican Revolution.
- Describe the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) and the reforms it introduced in Mexico after the revolution.
- Analyze the effects of nationalism in Latin America in the 1920s and 1930s.

Terms, People, and Places

haciendas cultural nationalism
nationalization Good Neighbor Policy
economic nationalism

Note Taking

Reading Skill: Identify Causes and Effects

As you read, note the causes and effects of the Mexican Revolution in a chart like the one below.



In the early 1900s, Latin America's economy was booming because of exports. Latin Americans sold their plentiful natural resources and cash crops to industrialized countries. In return, they bought products made in those countries. Meanwhile, foreign investors controlled many of Latin America's natural resources.

Stable governments helped to keep the region's economy on a good footing. Some Latin American nations, such as Argentina and Uruguay, had democratic constitutions. However, military dictators or small groups of wealthy landowners held the real power. The tiny ruling class kept the economic benefits of the booming economy for themselves. The growing middle class and the lower classes—workers and peasants—had no say in their own government. These inequalities troubled many Latin American countries, but in Mexico the situation led to an explosive revolution.

The Mexican Revolution

By 1910, the dictator Porfirio Díaz had ruled Mexico for almost 35 years, winning reelection as president again and again. On the surface, Mexico enjoyed peace and economic growth. Díaz welcomed foreign investors who developed mines, built railroads, and drilled for oil. However, underneath the surface, **discontent** rippled through Mexico. The country's prosperity benefited only a small group. Most Mexicans were mestizos or Indian peasants who lived in desperate poverty. Most of these peasants worked on **haciendas**, or



large plantations, controlled by the landowning elite. Some peasants earned meager wages in factories and mines in Mexico's cities. Meanwhile, the growing urban middle class wanted democracy and the elite resented the power of foreign companies. All of these groups opposed the Díaz dictatorship.

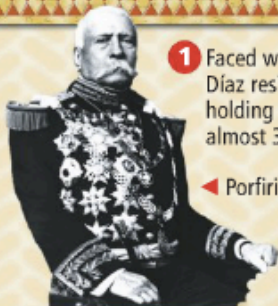
The unrest boiled over in 1910 when Francisco Madero, a liberal reformer from an elite family, demanded free elections. Faced with rebellion in several parts of the country, Díaz resigned in 1911. Soon a bloody, complex struggle engulfed Mexico. (See below.)

✓ Checkpoint What political and economic factors helped to cause the Mexican Revolution?

● INFOGRAPHIC

THE MEXICAN REVOLUTION

Fighting raged across Mexico for over a decade. Peasants, small farmers, ranchers, and urban workers were drawn into the violent struggle. Women soldiers called *soldaderas* cooked, tended the wounded, and fought alongside the men. The struggle took a terrible toll. When it ended, the Mexican economy was in shambles and more than one million people were dead.



1 Faced with rebellion, Díaz resigned after holding power for almost 30 years.

◀ Porfirio Díaz

2 Madero, a liberal reformer, was democratically elected in 1911. But within two years he was assassinated by one of his generals, Victoriano Huerta.

Francisco Madero ▶

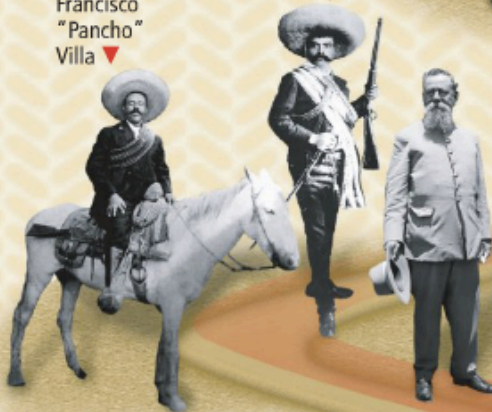


◀ Victoriano Huerta

3 Huerta lost no time setting up his own dictatorship.

Francisco "Pancho" Villa ▼

Emiliano Zapata ▼



4 Villa, Zapata, and Carranza formed an uneasy coalition against Huerta. Villa and Zapata, peasants themselves, wanted to make broad changes to improve peasants' lives. Carranza, a rich landowner, disagreed. After defeating Huerta, Carranza turned on Villa and Zapata and defeated them.

◀ Venustiano Carranza

Venustiano ▶ Carranza

5 Carranza became president of Mexico in 1917. A new constitution passed, but reforms were slow to materialize.

Thinking Critically

- 1. Sequence** Describe the events of the Mexican Revolution.
- 2. Draw Inferences** Why might Carranza feel that it was in his best interests to eliminate Zapata and Villa?

In 1917, voters elected Venustiano Carranza president of Mexico. That year, Carranza reluctantly approved a new constitution that included land and labor reform. With amendments, it is still in force today.

The Constitution of 1917 The Constitution of 1917 addressed three major issues: land, religion, and labor. The constitution strengthened government control over the economy. It permitted the breakup of large estates, placed restrictions on foreigners owning land, and allowed **nationalization**, or government takeover, of natural resources. Church land was made “the property of the nation.” The constitution set a minimum wage and protected workers’ right to strike.

Although the constitution gave suffrage only to men, it did give women some rights. Women doing the same job as men were entitled to the same pay. In response to women activists, Carranza also passed laws allowing married women to draw up contracts, take part in legal suits, and have equal authority with men in spending family funds.

The PRI Controls Mexico Fighting continued on a smaller scale throughout the 1920s, including Carranza’s overthrow in 1920. In 1929, the government organized what later became the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI). The PRI managed to accommodate many groups in Mexican society, including business and military leaders, peasants, and workers. The PRI did this by adopting some of the goals of these groups, while keeping real power in its own hands. It suppressed opposition and dissent. Using all of these tactics, the PRI brought stability to Mexico and over time carried out many desired reforms. The PRI dominated Mexican politics from the 1930s until the free election of 2000.

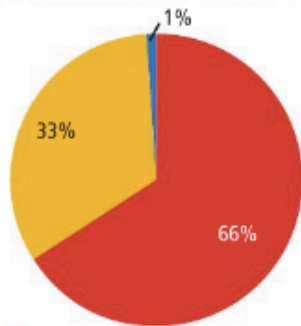
Reforms Materialize At first, the Constitution of 1917 was just a set of goals to be achieved in the future. But in the 1920s and 1930s, as the government finally restored order, it began to carry out reforms.

In the 1920s, the government helped some Indian communities regain lands that had been taken from them. In the 1930s, under President Lázaro Cárdenas, millions of acres of land were redistributed to peasants

A President of the People

Mexican President Lázaro Cárdenas greets people at a train station in the 1930s (below). Between 1915 and 1940, nearly 75 million acres of land was distributed to Mexico’s people, fulfilling one of the goals of the Mexican Revolution. Which president distributed the most land?

Land Distribution in Mexico by President, 1915–1940



- Lázaro Cárdenas, 1934–1940
- Five presidents, 1920–1934
- Venustiano Carranza, 1915–1920

SOURCE: Michael C. Meyer and William L. Sherman.





under a communal land program. The government supported labor unions and launched a massive effort to combat illiteracy. Schools and libraries were set up. Dedicated teachers, often young women, worked for low pay. While they taught basic skills, they spread ideas of nationalism that began to bridge the gulf between the regions and the central government. As the revolutionary era ended, Mexico became the first Latin American nation to pursue real social and economic reforms for the majority of its people.

The government also took a strong role in directing the economy. In 1938, labor disputes broke out between Mexican workers and the management of some foreign-owned petroleum companies. In response, President Cárdenas decreed that the Mexican government would nationalize Mexico's oil resources. American and British oil companies resisted Cárdenas's decision, but eventually accepted compensation for their losses. Mexicans felt that they had at last gained economic independence from foreign influence.

Checkpoint How did the Constitution of 1917 try to resolve some of the problems that started the revolution?



Nationalism at Work in Latin America

Mexico's move to reclaim its oil fields from foreign investors reflected a growing spirit of nationalism throughout Latin America. This spirit focused in part on ending economic dependence on the industrial powers, especially the United States, but it echoed throughout political and cultural life as well.

Economic Nationalism During the 1920s and 1930s, world events affected Latin American economies. After World War I, trade with Europe fell off. The Great Depression that struck the United States in 1929 spread around the world in the 1930s. Prices for Latin American exports plunged as demand dried up. At the same time, the cost of imported consumer goods rose. Latin America's economies, dependent on export trade, declined rapidly.

A tide of **economic nationalism**, or emphasis on home control of the economy, swept Latin American countries. They were determined to develop their own industries so they would not have to buy so many products from other countries. Local entrepreneurs set up factories to produce goods. Governments raised tariffs, or taxes on imports, to protect the new industries. Governments also invested directly in new businesses. Following Mexico's lead, some nations took over foreign-owned **assets**. The drive to create domestic industries was not wholly successful. Unequal distribution of wealth held back economic development.

Political Nationalism The Great Depression also triggered political changes in Latin America. The economic crisis caused people to lose faith in the ruling oligarchies and the ideas of liberal government. Liberalism, a belief in the individual and in limited government, was a European theory. People began to feel that it did not work in Latin America. However, ideas about what form a new type of government should take varied.

In the midst of economic crisis, stronger, authoritarian governments of different types rose in Latin American countries. People hoped that these governments could control, direct, and protect each country's economy more effectively.

Analyzing Political Cartoons

Nationalizing Oil In 1938, Mexican President Cárdenas nationalized foreign-owned oil companies. In response, some nations boycotted Mexican oil.

1. Why is Cárdenas shown standing on a pile of oil barrels?
2. Do you think the cartoonist is Mexican? Why or why not?

Vocabulary Builder

assets—(AS ets) *n.* things of value

Note Taking

Identify Effects As you read, identify the effects of nationalism in Latin America and record them a chart like the one below.

Effects of Latin American Nationalism		
Economic	Political	Cultural
• •	• •	• •



Mexico's Heritage

This stained glass image shows one variation of the Mexican coat of arms that appears on Mexico's flag today. An ancient prophecy dictated that the Aztec capital should be founded where scouts saw an eagle perched on a cactus growing out of a rock surrounded by water, holding a snake in its beak. Accordingly, the founders of Tenochtitlán were believed to have seen this sign in 1325 at the site of present-day Mexico City. The symbol is an emblem of Mexican nationalism. *Why do you think that an Aztec symbol is included on the Mexican flag?*

Vocabulary Builder

intervening—(in tur VEEN ing) *vi.*
coming between two arguing factions




Cultural Nationalism By the 1920s, Latin American writers, artists, and thinkers began to reject European influences in culture as well. Instead, they took pride in their own culture, with its blend of Western and native traditions.

In Mexico, **cultural nationalism**, or pride in one's own culture, was reflected in the revival of mural painting, a major art form of the Aztecs and Maya. In the 1920s and 1930s, Diego Rivera, José Clemente Orozco (oh ROHS koh), David Alfaro Siqueiros (see KEH rohs), and other muralists created magnificent works. On the walls of public buildings, they portrayed the struggles of the Mexican people for liberty. The murals have been a great source of national pride ever since.

The Good Neighbor Policy During and after World War I, investments by the United States in the nations of Latin America soared. British influence declined. The United States continued to play the role of international policeman, **intervening** to restore order when it felt its interests were threatened.

During the Mexican Revolution, the United States stepped in to support the leaders who favored American interests. In 1914, the United States attacked the port of Veracruz to punish Mexico for imprisoning several American sailors. In 1916, the U.S. army invaded Mexico after Pancho Villa killed more than a dozen Americans in New Mexico. This interference stirred up anti-American feelings, which increased throughout Latin America during the 1920s. For example, in Nicaragua, Augusto César Sandino led a guerrilla movement against United States forces occupying his country.

In the 1930s, President Franklin Roosevelt took a new approach to Latin America and pledged to follow "the policy of the good neighbor." Under the **Good Neighbor Policy**, the United States pledged to lessen its interference in the affairs of Latin American nations. The United States withdrew troops stationed in Haiti and Nicaragua. It lifted the Platt Amendment, which had limited Cuban independence. Roosevelt also supported Mexico's nationalization of its oil companies. The Good Neighbor policy strengthened Latin American nationalism and improved relations between Latin America and the United States.

 **Checkpoint** Describe how economic and political nationalism in Latin America were related.

SECTION 1 Assessment



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Terms, People, and Places

1. What do each of the key terms listed at the beginning of the section, except "haciendas," have in common? Explain.

Note Taking

2. **Reading Skill: Identify Causes and Effects** Use your completed flowcharts to answer the Focus Question: How did Latin Americans struggle for change in the early 1900s?

Comprehension and Critical Thinking

3. **Recognize Causes** Describe three causes of the Mexican Revolution.
4. **Analyze Credibility** How did the PRI fulfill some goals of the revolution but not others?
5. **Identify Central Issues** How did nationalism affect Latin America?
6. **Summarize** How did Franklin Roosevelt change the policy of the United States toward Latin America?

Writing About History

Quick Write: Write a Thesis Statement
A persuasive essay seeks to convince its reader to accept the writer's position on a topic. To be effective, the thesis statement must state a position that provokes valid arguments. Write an effective thesis statement on the topic of economic nationalism in Latin America.