

# TRAVELER'S REFERENCE TO THE HISTORY OF MEXICO

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## PREFACE

The main feature that distinguishes this work is the inclusion of as many names, dates, and places as possible. That may give the impression that such information is known more exactly than it really is. Most knowledge of Mexican history depends on archaeological inference, eyewitness accounts written long after the events occurred, and newspaper accounts. These last were no more reliable than newspaper accounts are today. Sources often give conflicting information; in this work, the author favored the sources that seemed to be more authoritative. If you encounter historical information that differs from what is shown here, you are invited to use your own judgement.

Battle statistics are especially suspect, since bodies were not usually counted. When viewing the accounts given here, the reader should consider that inflated numbers redounded to the reputations of the victors.

The advantage of presenting the events in chronological order is that readers can appreciate better the confusion and competing pressures with which the principals had to contend. Such a presentation interferes with understanding the underlying political machinations, but sketchy descriptions of the background politics are sufficient for most travelers.

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## TRAVELER'S REFERENCE TO THE HISTORY OF MEXICO

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### **THE ARCHAIC PERIOD** 25,000 B.C. - 1800 B.C.

The oldest firmly-dated human artifacts and remains in North America were laid down 13,000 years ago, as Earth was warming from 100,000 years of ice age. During the ice age, the Bering Strait was above sea level, owing to the locking up of ocean water in landborne glaciers. Very likely, an infusion of immigrants crossed over from Asia into Alaska, following animal prey.

Later, when glacial masses parted, they moved south through Western Canada.

There isn't any firm evidence for it, but it's reasonable to suppose that maritime people also populated the Siberia-Alaska region soon after the ice age ended. It's easy to imagine groups of culturally-adapted people living in fishing camps all along the Pacific Rim, relocating as opportunities arose. It's even possible that people adapted to cold conditions much as Inuits did, and some of them were living along the northwest coast of North America while the ice age was in full force.

What we see today among native Americans is a wide variation in physiognomy and language. That suggests migration from Asia happened over a long period, while populations in the donor continent were shifting about in response to their own survival pressures.

30000-25000 B.C. ± Nomadic groups cross the Bering land bridge from Siberia to Alaska.<sup>BK</sup> About the same time, seafaring people are living in the North Pacific.<sup>BL</sup>

15000 B.C. ± Nomadic groups cross Western Canada through an ice-free corridor.<sup>BK</sup>

9000 B.C. Farmers are raising crops at the shoreline of Lake Chalco, between present Mexico City and Puebla.<sup>M</sup>

5000-3000 B.C. First permanent villages.<sup>AJ</sup>

3000 B.C. Dogs are domesticated.<sup>AJ</sup>

## **THE PRE-CLASSIC PERIOD 1800 B.C. - 200 B.C.**

Mainly, the Pre-Classic period represented a shift toward less hunting and gathering and more intensive agriculture. Farm settlements grew into towns with hereditary rulers and ceremonial centers.

In the middle of this grew the Olmec culture, centered in southern Veracruz and western Tabasco, but extending as far north as Pánuco, near Tampico, and as far west as El Opaño, near Uruapan, including Tlatilco, near Mexico City. Its trading network covered north and central Mexico and extended south into Guatemala. The Olmecs probably invented writing and the long-count calendar. Olmec artwork impresses viewers even today with its skill and imagery.

Toward the end of the period, El Mirador, now across the border in Guatemala, grew into the largest, most elaborate capital in the Maya area, indicating it clearly was the most important polity of the time.

1800 B.C. By now, Cuicuilco is settled.<sup>AO</sup>

1300 B.C. By now, Tlatilco is settled.<sup>AO</sup>

1200 B.C. The Olmec civilization rises from pre-classic village life.<sup>M</sup>

1150-900 B.C. San Lorenzo (Olmec center) flourishes.<sup>AJ</sup>

900-400 B.C. La Venta (Olmec center) flourishes.<sup>AJ</sup>

800 B.C. Cuicuilco has a population of about 40,000.<sup>AO</sup>

500 B.C. Zapotecs establish themselves in Oaxaca.<sup>J</sup>

400 B.C.± Chontals move from Yucatán to Oaxaca.<sup>AK</sup>

## **THE CLASSIC PERIOD 200 B.C. - 900**

Borrowing from the Olmecs, polities grew up all over Mesoamerica, with elaborate ceremonial centers based on kingship cults. As the polities flourished, the prestige and power of the kings grew, and smaller polities aggregated to larger ones.

The most important empire was that of Teotihuacan, near Mexico City. Its political influence spread through most of Mesoamerica.

In Guatemala and the adjoining area of Mexico, Maya kingdoms competed and fought with each other. As El Mirador's power shrank, Calakmul and Tikal grew. At the height of the period, Tikal was the richest and most prestigious of the rival kingdoms.

In Oaxaca, the Zapotec state dominated lesser polities.

The period began when the climate changed from wet to moderate and ended during a time of extended drought.<sup>AF</sup> Bands of nomads invaded Central Mexico from the north, and the Teotihuacan Empire folded, presumably because the imperial defense forces failed. Shortly after, the Maya ceremonial centers were abandoned; the kingship cult ended, owing to declines in the land's productivity, which undermined the kings' claims to control rainfall and soil fertility.

But the culture persisted, and new polities grew up to take the places of those that had depended on the magic powers of kings.

200 B.C.<sup>M</sup>-250 A.D. Monte Albán II: Zapotecs build the acropolis complex.<sup>AK</sup>

200 B.C.<sup>M</sup>-600 A.D. Teotihuacan is the most influential polity in Mesoamerica.<sup>J</sup>

84 The Zapotecs drive the Chontals into the mountains of Oaxaca.<sup>AK</sup>

100 Teotihuacan builds the Pyramid of the Sun. Population = 60,000 (est).<sup>AJ</sup>

250-700 Monte Albán III: The Zapotecs operate independently of Teotihuacan.<sup>AJ</sup>

553 Tikal (Guatemala) conquers Caracol (Belize).<sup>AT</sup>

562 Apr 29: Calakmul and Caracol conquer Tikal and kill the ruler.<sup>AT</sup>

600 The Teotihuacan population peaks at 150,000 (est).<sup>AJ</sup>

620 A new ruler of Tikal, Nuun Ujol Chaak, begins a long-term conflict against Calakmul, involving all the surrounding city-states.<sup>AT</sup>

679 Apr 30: Nuun Ujol Chaak's younger brother, B'alaj Chan K'awiil, leads a successful revolt against him and allies with the ruler of Calakmul.<sup>AT</sup>

682 May 10: Loyalists install a new king at Tikal.<sup>AT</sup>

695 Aug 5: Calakmul attacks Tikal, but loses. Calakmul never recovers.<sup>AT</sup>

700 Zapotecs abandon Monte Albán.<sup>AJ</sup> About this time, Olmeca-Xicalanca, a Maya people living in Tabasco and Campeche, expand into central Mexico, dominating the area around present Tlaxcala and Puebla.<sup>AW</sup>

800± The ceremonial precinct of Teotihuacan is burned. Over the next 100 years, ethnic groups abandon Teotihuacan. Its satellite city, Cholula, shrinks. Xochicalco and El Tajín become the dominant polities in mainland Mexico.<sup>U</sup>

800-850 Uto-Aztecan-speaking nomads called Toltecs enter central Mexico from the north and absorb elements of Teotihuacan culture; when Teotihuacan breaks up, the Toltecs control the major polities.<sup>B</sup>

810 Palenque is abandoned.<sup>AJ</sup>

825 Yaxchilán is abandoned.<sup>AJ</sup>

850-900 A faction of Putún Maya known as Itzá are driven out of Champotón (Campeche). Led by Kakupacal, who is related to the ruling family of Palenque, they found Chichén Itzá and conquer the surrounding area, notably Izamal and Motul. Then they conquer Champotón.<sup>X</sup>

869 The last dated monument at Tikal is erected.<sup>Q</sup>

860± Construction begins on Pueblo Bonito, the first "great house" at Chaco Canyon in the Four Corners area of the US. Basketmaker culture is overlaid by the more elaborate Chaco culture, which dominates trade and culture. The population in Chaco Canyon swells with Uto-Aztecan speakers.<sup>AV</sup>

## THE POST-CLASSIC PERIOD 900 - 1511

The polities of the Post-Classic period rarely reached the ostentation of those of the Classic period. Chichén Itzá and its rival, Uxmal, both on the Yucatán Peninsula, were impressive by Classic standards, but for the most part polities were smaller and their monuments were smaller and more crudely built. Generally, rulers were controlled by councils.

In central Mexico, the Toltec hegemony grew, until a wave of northerners invaded the Central Valley, similar to what occurred in the 9<sup>th</sup> Century. One band, the Mexica, achieved dominance as the senior partner in the Aztec Triple Alliance.

900± The climate in the Four Corners area of the US turns warm; the Anasazi population increases.<sup>W</sup>

● Toltecs under the ruler Ixcóatl (or Mixcóatl) build a capital at Culhuacán (in those days, on a peninsula between Lakes Texcoco and Xochimilco; now the Colhuacán district in Mexico City).

909 Jan 20: last recorded date at Toniná.<sup>Q</sup>

967 Ixcóatl's son **Topiltzin**\* leads the Toltecs to Tula and builds a new capital. The Nonoalca people, Gulf Coast natives trained in arts and rituals, join the Toltecs.<sup>U</sup> Topiltzin tries to supplant the warrior cult with his own priest cult, and is overthrown by the warriors. He flees to Cholula,<sup>B</sup> which at the time is controlled by Putún Maya.

987 **Topiltzin** takes over the Putún Maya capital Chichén Itzá, which becomes the dominant capital on the Yucatán Peninsula. Then he builds a new capital at Mayapán and makes all the tributary kings live there.

Mainland Mexicans called Xius settle at Uxmal.<sup>X</sup> Drought conditions on the Peninsula ease.<sup>AF</sup> Tribes from the north, known collectively as Chichimeca, move into central Mexico, gathering at Chicomostoc before invading the altiplano. The Xochimilca and the Chalca settle in the south of the lakes district. The Tepaneca settle at Toluca. The Acolhua settle at Tetzcotzingo. The Tlahuica settle in Morelos. The Tlaxcala settle in the state of that name. Small independent bands of Chichimeca settle where they can.<sup>M</sup>

1130-1140 Chaco Canyon depopulates because of extended drought.<sup>AV</sup>

\* Names in **bold-type** signify entries in the Biographical Section.

1168 The Toltecs abandon Tula after being attacked by Chichimeca; some return to Culhuacán and are known thereafter as Culhua.

1200± By this time, Mayapán is under the control of an Itzá lineage known as the Cocom. A rebellion led by the Xius of Uxmal against the Cocom results in the near extinction of the Cocom and the destruction of Mayapán. (Some scholars disagree, saying that Chichén Itzá was destroyed in 1221 and that Mayapán was built as a replacement and was occupied until about when the Spaniards landed.)<sup>X</sup>

13<sup>th</sup> Century († designates still-extant place names, usually districts in Mexico City, otherwise nearby municipalities)

- The climate in the Four Corners area of the US turns cold; there is intensive warfare and depopulation.<sup>W</sup>

- More Chichimeca move into the lakes district. One band, led by Xolotl, settles at Tenayuca (on the western shore of Lake Texcoco, north of Tenochtitlan, which now is downtown Mexico City; the pyramid at Tenayuca still exists). Xolotl's son, Nopaltzin, marries a lady from Chalco<sup>†</sup> (in the southern end of the lake district). Their son, Tlohtzin, grows up in Chalco and learns about intensive cultivation.<sup>Y</sup>

- In 1230, Tepaneca, from the Toluca Valley, settle at Atzacapotzalco<sup>†</sup> (west of Lake Texcoco).<sup>AM</sup>

- Acolhua move to Texcoco<sup>†</sup>.<sup>Y</sup>

- Mexica** The most likely homeland (12<sup>th</sup> C) of the original Aztecs is an island in Lago Mexcaltitlan (west of Tuxpan), in Nayarit. They take part in a general southward migration.<sup>Y</sup>

- One faction splits off to settle in Malinalco<sup>†</sup> (west of Cuernavaca).<sup>Y</sup>

- At Coatepetl, the earth mother Coatlicue gets pregnant from a ball of feathers. Her daughter Coyolxauhqui and 400 sons rebel against her and gather to kill her. Coatlicue quickly gives birth to Huitzilopochtli, who kills Coyolxauhqui and scatters the 400 sons (his brothers). Later, the Mexica give the temple of Huitzilopochtli the name Coatepetl.<sup>Y</sup>

- At Chapultepec<sup>†</sup>, the Mexica are attacked by a coalition led by Copil, king of Malinalco<sup>†</sup>. The Mexica are defeated, but kill Copil and throw his heart onto the island near the shore.<sup>Y</sup>

1292 Chichimeca invade Cholula, ending Olmeca-Xicalanca rule there.<sup>B</sup>

14<sup>th</sup> Century († designates still-extant place names, usually districts in Mexico City, otherwise nearby municipalities)

- At Chapultepec again, the Mexica are attacked by Tepanecs supported by Culhuacán<sup>†</sup>; the Mexica are defeated and dispersed. Later, they ask Coxcox, ruler of Culhuacán, for refuge and are given land in the rocks at Tizaapan (now covered by Iztapalapa).<sup>Y, AM</sup>

- In 1318, Quinatzin, great-grandson of Xolótl, founds Texcoco<sup>†</sup>.<sup>AM</sup>

- In 1325, the Tarascans conquer their neighbors around Lake Pátzcuaro.<sup>AO</sup>

- The Mexica ally with Culhuacán<sup>†</sup> against Xochimilco<sup>†</sup>. In 1325 or 1345, they invite Achitometl, a Culhua magnate (King Coxcox in some versions), and his daughter to attend a special ceremony; the Mexica kill her and a priest dances around in her flayed skin. Achitometl is furious and the Culhua drive the Mexica into the lake; the survivors settle on the uninhabited islands. A priest has a vision, in which the place where Copil's heart landed would be marked by an eagle perched on a cactus, eating a snake. They find it and build the temple of Huitzilopochtli there. They found Tenochtitlan (now the center of Mexico City, around the main square) and invade Tlatelolco<sup>†</sup>, on the adjacent island, and build chinampas (raised garden beds on marshlands) on the west side of the island. The ruler Tenoch lives another 25 years.<sup>Y, AM</sup>

- Around 1350, the Mixtecs start infiltrating the area around Oaxaca and by 1500 have taken it over.<sup>J</sup>

- In 1359, Huexotzingo conquers Cholula.<sup>AN</sup>

- In 1370, the Tepanecs conquer Tenayuca.<sup>AO</sup>

- In 1376, Tenochtitlan installs a Culhua noble, Acamapichtli, as its ruler.<sup>F</sup>

- In 1396, Acamapichtli dies and his son, Huitzilihuitl, becomes ruler and marries Tezozómoc's

granddaughter.<sup>Y</sup>

15<sup>th</sup> Century († designates still-extant place names, usually districts in Mexico City, otherwise nearby municipalities)

- The Mexica pay tribute and soldier levies to Atzacapotzalco<sup>†</sup>, the dominant kingdom in central Mexico (Atzacapotzalco's ruler's name is Tezozómoc).<sup>Y</sup>
- Texcoco<sup>†</sup> ruler Ixtlilxóchitl attacks Atzacapotzalco<sup>†</sup> c. 1417, but is driven back and defeated by the Tepanecs and the Mexica in 1418. Ixtlilxochitl is killed and the Mexica get Texcoco<sup>†</sup> as booty.<sup>Y</sup>
- In 1426, Tezozómoc dies and his son, Maxtla, takes over. Maxtla doesn't trust the Mexica. The Mexica under Itzcóatl rebel. **Netzahualcóyotl**, the son of Ixtlilxochitl, is living in Huexotzingo, hiding out from the Tepanecs. He joins the Mexica and Huexotzingans in besieging Atzacapotzalco<sup>†</sup>, helped by Tepanec rebels from Tlacopan (present-day Tacuba) plus soldiers from Xaltocan and Tlaxcala<sup>†</sup>. Tenochtitlan and Tlatelolco<sup>†</sup> form an alliance with Texcoco<sup>†</sup> and Tlacopan<sup>†</sup> (the Triple Alliance = the Aztec Confederation).<sup>Y</sup>
- In 1428, Itzcóatl orders all the history books to be burned and a new history version to be written.<sup>BE</sup> The Aztecs begin warfare against Culhuacán<sup>†</sup>, Xochimilco<sup>†</sup>, Cuitláhuac, Mixquic (both southeast of Xochimilco), Taxco<sup>M</sup>, Iguala<sup>M</sup>, etc. **Netzahualcóyotl** conquers Huexotla<sup>†</sup> and Coatlinchan<sup>†</sup>, both south of Texcoco<sup>†</sup>, plus some towns on the northwest lakeshore in 1431. He moves to Texcoco in 1433 and conquers Tollantzin. After that, the Aztecs conquer Cuauhnahuac (=Cuernavaca).<sup>Y</sup>
- In 1440, Montezuma I succeeds his uncle Itzcóatl as the Mexica ruler and expands the empire.<sup>AM</sup>
- In 1468, Axayácatl succeeds his father Montezuma I. More expansion follows.<sup>AM</sup>
- In 1472, Nezahualpilli succeeds **Nezahualcoyótl** as the King of Texcoco<sup>†</sup>.<sup>AM</sup>
- In 1473, Tlatelolco<sup>†</sup> King Moquihuíx revolts against Tenochtitlan because he doesn't like his wife Chalchiuhenetzin, Axayácatl's sister. Axayácatl attacks Tlatelolco and Moquihuíx kills himself.<sup>BE</sup>
- During 1478-1480 Tarascans beat back an Aztec invasion.<sup>BE</sup>
- In 1479, 40,000 Aztecs attack 24,000 Tarascans but are defeated, almost all being killed.<sup>AM, AO</sup>
- In 1481, Tizoc succeeds his brother Axayácatl.<sup>AM</sup>
- In 1486, the Aztecs conquer Tlapa (northeast of Acapulco) and take 24,000 Tlapanec prisoners back for sacrifice.<sup>AK</sup> In the same year, Ahuítzol succeeds his brother Tizoc. Ahuítzol conquers Oaxaca and part of Guatemala.<sup>AM</sup>
- In 1487 Tenochtitlan inaugurates a new temple to Huitzilopochtli.<sup>BE</sup>
- Late in the century: the Aztecs defeat 60,000 Zapotecs and Mixtecs at Quiengola.<sup>AK</sup>

1501 A rainstorm causes the lake to flood Tenochtitlan; the entire city has to be rebuilt.<sup>BE</sup>

1502 **Montezuma** II, Axayácatl's son, succeeds Ahuítzol. He consolidates the empire.<sup>B, AM</sup>

1504 A ceremonial "flower war" between Tenochtitlan and Tlaxcala turns into a real battle and Tlaxcala defeats Tenochtitlan. Tenochtitlan imposes economic sanctions on Tlaxcala, which give rise to Tlaxcalans' hatred of Aztecs.<sup>BE</sup>

## THE CONQUEST 1511 - 1522

Queen Isabella died in 1504, leaving Spain impoverished. In the preceding twelve years, she and Ferdinand, their Catholic majesties, drove Jews and Moslems from the country. Spain was left an agrarian nation, short on craftsmen and merchants. A few aristocrats owned most of the land, exploiting a vast peasantry. A surplus of titled gentlemen competed for salaried positions or entered the clergy. A pompous, unpleasant Italian sea captain named Columbus had found some islands on the west side of the great ocean but still hadn't found a way to earn a profit from them. That same year, 19-year-old Hernán **Cortés** sailed to the colony on Santo Domingo Island.

By 1519, Cortés and his fellows had mastered the skills of conquest in Cuba, had grown wealthy from their colonial holdings, and were ready for Mexico. The new king, **Carlos I**, instructed the colonists to turn the savages of whatever that place was into tax-paying Christian subjects and liberate any valuables they found.

Mexico, as Cortés learned, was not an island inhabited by naked coconut hunters. Powerful rulers

built cities more splendid than those of Europe and commanded armies whose soldiers revered war as a personal lifepath and as a ritual devoted to the creators of the universe. To conquer this vast land, Cortés bullied, cajoled, and betrayed everyone around him, natives and Spaniards alike, in order to gain power over the allies he needed in order to conquer the biggest empire of them all, the Aztec Triple Alliance, ruled by **Montezuma** from his capital at Tenochtitlan-Mexico. From Cortés's first landing at Cozumel to the final destruction of Tenochtitlan took two years and six months.

Cortés succeeded where Columbus failed. He made the Americas profitable by stealing whatever precious metals the natives had smelted and sending them to Spain in the form of ingots. Then he opened mines and dug out whatever minerals were left.

1511 Spaniards traveling from the Darién to Hispaniola<sup>A</sup> are shipwrecked on the Caribbean coast, south of Tulum. Most are killed by the natives, but Gonzalo Guerrero and Jerónimo de Aguilar survive.<sup>M</sup>

1513 Juan Ponce de León lands at Yucatán after discovering Florida.<sup>BE</sup>

1517 Feb 8: Francisco Hernández de Córdoba leads an expedition west from Cuba. The ship's pilot is Antón de Alaminos, who had sailed with Columbus.<sup>B</sup> First, they land at Isla Mujeres They sail to Cape Catoche and get in a fight with the natives there. The same thing happens at Campeche, Champotón (25 Spaniards die<sup>AU</sup>), and Florida. Finally they return to Cuba after being gone about two months.<sup>M, BE</sup>

1518 May 3: Juan de Grijalva lands at Cozumel Island. The pilot is Alaminos.<sup>BE</sup> He stops at places on the Gulf coast, including ten days at what now is Veracruz, and returns to Cuba.<sup>M, BE</sup>

1519a Feb 18: Hernán **Cortés** sails from Cuba to Cozumel Island with 11 ships, 110 sailors, 553 soldiers (including 32 crossbowmen and 13 arquebusiers), 200 Cuban natives, 10 heavy cannons, 4 falconets (light cannons), and 16 horses.<sup>C</sup> Alaminos was one of the pilots. He picks up Aguilar, who has learned to speak Mayan. He sails to Potonchan (now La Victoria) on the Tabasco River and fights many thousands of natives there Mar 25 and at Centla a few days later, killing hundreds and losing 2 dead and under 100 wounded. The rulers give him some women including Malinche (Mallinalli,

Marina, Malintzin), a slave woman who can speak both Mayan and Náhuatl, as war booty.<sup>M, BE</sup>

1519b Apr 25: **Cortés** founds La Villa Rica de la Vera Cruz.<sup>F</sup> Its first location was a camp on San Juan de Ulúa Island, off present Veracruz. Jun 28: Cortés moves La Villa Rica de la Vera Cruz to a place at or near the present town of Villa Rica.<sup>BE</sup>

1519c Jul 15: **Cortés** moves to Zempoala, capital of the Totonacs, and forms an alliance with them. A

### Cortés Lands in New Spain

Governor Diego Velásquez, in Cuba, sent Cortés to Mexico to proselytize and make some trading connections, but changed his mind about Cortés's being in charge. Cortés sailed with the forces he could round up in a hurry before Velásquez could stop him. When he landed at San Juan de Ulúa Island (off present Veracruz), he and his followers founded a city, which they called La Villa Rica de La Vera Cruz. Under Spanish law, cities were governed by their citizens, though subject to the King. That gave Cortés a pretext for bypassing Velásquez and the colonial administration.

Learning that the Totonacs hated the Aztecs, who extorted heavy tribute in materials and sacrificial victims, Cortés created a crisis. He persuaded the Totonacs to arrest and beat five Aztec emissaries. Then he effected the escape of two of them, and sent word with them to Montezuma that he was Montezuma's friend. But, when an Aztec garrison at Tizapancingo seized Totonacs in retaliation, Cortés attacked and defeated it to show solidarity with the Totonacs.

Tlaxcala was in a defensive war against the Aztecs and was suspicious of the Totonacs, who paid tribute to the Aztecs, and hostile to the Cholulans, who were Aztec allies. The Tlaxcalans resisted the Spaniards and their Totonac allies but, when they saw how effective the Spaniards were, they decided to enlist them in their fight against the Aztecs.

few men plot to steal a ship and return to Cuba. Cortés orders the hanging of two ringleaders, Juan Escudero and Diego Cermeño. Then he orders all but one of the ships dismantled, blaming it on wood-beetles. Aug 16: Cortés leaves for Tlaxcala with 400 infantry, 15 cavalry, 1300 native warriors, 1000 native porters, and 7 cannons. Sep 1: the allies defeat some thousands of Otomies, clients of Tlaxcala. The Tlaxcalans forced to Otomies to fight so that they could deny involvement if the battle turned out badly. But then a war chief called Xicotencatl Axayacatzin persuaded the council to fight alongside the Otomies. Sep 2: the allies fight many thousands of Tlaxcalans and Otomies and allies from nearby Ocoteculco and Tepetiopac, all under the command of Xicotencatl Axayacatzin. At night Tlaxcala's allies desert, so the Tlaxcalans decide to cooperate with the Spaniards. Sep 23: the allies enter Tlaxcala.<sup>C, F, AQ, BE</sup>

1519d Oct 14: Spaniards and some Tlaxcalans enter Cholula. Oct 18: Spaniards learn of a sneak attack by Cholulans, call the Cholulan rulers together and massacre their retainers. Other Cholulans attack the Spaniards, but are caught between the Spaniards and the Tlaxcalans; thousands die. Nov 8: Spaniards meet **Montezuma** (Moctezuma, Motecuhzoma, etc.) in Tenochtitlan (Mexico City), who invites them to stay as guests in his palace. Meanwhile, 6 Spaniards and many Totonacs die in a battle with Aztecs at Nautla on the coast which began with a dispute over tribute owed the Aztecs. Nov 15: Using the battle as a pretext, the Spaniards imprison Montezuma. Later, the Aztec officials involved in the battle are burned alive in the capital's main square as punishment, while Montezuma looks on. Cacama, the King of Texcoco, plots either to free Montezuma (his uncle) or to overthrow him, but is betrayed and turned over to **Cortés**, who imprisons him. Cortés also imprisons the rulers of Toluca, Iztapalapa, Tacuba and some other places. Then he persuades all of them to swear loyalty to the Spanish King and Cortés. While the Spaniards are rounding up gold, silver, and jewels and sending it to King **Carlos I** in Spain, Cortés has all the idols removed from the main temple and turns the temple into a church.<sup>C, F, BE</sup>

1520 Velázquez sends Pánfilo de Narváez to arrest **Cortés** for conquering Mexico without permission. Apr 19: Narváez reaches San Juan de Ulúa. Early May: Cortés sets out to confront Narváez. May 16: Alvarado is convinced by reports from Tlaxcalans that the Mexica (the people of Tenochtitlan) are planning to revolt and liberate **Montezuma**. On the day of the Toxcatl festival honoring Huitzilopochtli (the Mexica's main god), Spaniards attack and kill two or three thousand unarmed people until the Mexica organize a counter-attack. Back at the palace, Spaniards kill many nobles, including King Cacama of Texcoco.

### The Mexica Revolt

The Mexica came to resent the Spaniards' presence in the capital and the Emperor's allowing himself to become their prisoner. While Cortés was at Zempoala dealing with Narváez, an incident involving some Spaniards' rude treatment and robbery of Mexica nobles blew up into a full-scale resistance by the time Cortés returned. Ultimately, the allies were driven out of the city by a well-planned attack and had to conquer it outright ten months later.

Alvarado forces Montezuma to order the people to stop fighting and the fighting diminishes. May 29: Cortés defeats Narváez at Zempoala and recruits his soldiers, about 500, including one with smallpox.<sup>AM</sup> While the reinforced Spaniards are moving back to Tenochtitlan, Mexica and Texcocans attack and kill a contingent of 45 to 50 Spaniards near Tepeaca. Jun 24: Cortés returns to Tenochtitlan with over a thousand Spaniards and over 2000 Tlaxcalans. Jun 25: Cortés frees **Cuitláhuac** (Montezuma's brother and ruler of Iztapalapa) and orders him to re-open the market at Tlatelolco so the Spaniards can buy food. Instead, Cuitláhuac organizes military action against the Spaniards. Mexica close off the streets and attack the palace. The fighting continues for several days, with many Spaniards wounded and some killed. Mexica losses are much higher. Jun 26: Cortés has Montezuma make another appeal for peace. The people throw stones at Montezuma, wounding him. Then the Spaniards try to break out using wooden structures for protection but are driven back to the palace. Fighting continues as the Spaniards try to clear a safe area around the palace. Jun 30: Montezuma dies from his injuries. The Spaniards murder the twenty or so

remaining captive nobles. That night (Noche Triste), the Mexica drive the allies from Tenochtitlan; most of the allies are killed, including probably 600 Spaniards, as are many Mexica. Cuitláhuac becomes Emperor.<sup>B</sup> Jul 8: Battle of Otumba: the allies kill thousands of native resisters. Jul 12: the allies return to Tlaxcala.<sup>C,F</sup> Early August: Cortés defeats Tepeaca and the nearby towns of Quechula, Izúcar, Tecamachalco, and Acapetlahuacan. Huexotzinco and Cuetlaxtlan surrender without a fight. Ostensibly, all this is punishment for the killing of Spaniards near Tepeaca in June. Cortés's rivals, including Velázquez in Cuba and Francisco de Garay in Jamaica, send expeditions, but the men, about 200 in all, join Cortés. Meanwhile, smallpox is killing large numbers in Yucatán. It also starts in Zempoala at the house where Francisco de Erguía is staying. By September it spreads to Chalco and by October to Tenochtitlan. Among the thousands of victims is Cuitláhuac, who is succeeded by his nephew, **Cuauhtémoc**. Also, factional fighting breaks out between militants and those who had collaborated with the Spaniards. Dec 31: Cortés enters Texcoco, on the shore of the lake surrounding Tenochtitlan. From there he conducts expeditions around the lake, subduing cities such as Iztapalapa, Chalco, Tenayuca, Atzacapotzalco, and Tacuba. Antonio de Villafaña, a friend of Velázquez, plots a rebellion, but is found out and hanged. Also, a ship captain named Diego Díaz is hanged for agreeing to help Narváez escape.<sup>BE</sup>

1521 Apr 13: **Cortés** with 300 infantry, 30 cavalry, and many Tlaxcalans and Texcocans captures Cuernavaca. Then the allies conquer Xochimilco and Coyoacán. Apr 28: the Spaniards muster at Texcoco: 818 infantry (including 118 crossbowmen and arquebusiers), 87 cavalry, 3 heavy cannons, 15 falconets, and 12 boats. The 12 boats are launched, each equipped with sails and cannons. Cortés calls on the allies to send hundreds of thousands of men. They assemble, but Xicoténcatl Axayacatzin deserts and goes home to Tlaxcala. Cortés has him brought back and hanged. Jun 1: the allies begin daily incursions into Tenochtitlan, using the causeways, accompanied by the boats and by allies' canoes. At night the Mexica dig breaches in the roadways. In the daytime, the allies fill them with rubble from the buildings they tear down, while fierce fighting goes on. Jun 30: the Mexica open a breach behind the allies; in the ensuing panic many allies are killed or captured for sacrifice. Most of the allies escape but most of the native allies abandon the effort. Then Cuernavaca asks for help against Malinalco, which had attacked it. Cortés sends a Spanish detachment under Andrés de Tapia to defeat Malinalco. He also sends Gonzalo de Sandoval to punish Matalcingo for supporting Tenochtitlan and defeats a hostile army from Tula. Meanwhile, Tenochtitlan is losing manpower because of disease and starvation. The Spaniards and Tlaxcalans resume their attacks on Tenochtitlan. Aug 13: the Spaniards and Tlaxcalans defeat the defenders. Over 30,000 allies and over 200,000<sup>B</sup> Mexica die.<sup>C,F</sup> **Cuauhtémoc** surrenders.<sup>B</sup> The surviving Mexica are permitted to leave and the city is razed.<sup>C,F</sup> October: Sandoval sets out to claim Tuxtepec and Coatzacoalcos for Cortés, Francisco de Orozco, goes to Oaxaca, Diego de Pineda and Vicente López go to Pánuco (around Tampico), Juan Álvarez goes to Colima, Juan Rodríguez de Villafuerte goes to Zacatula, Cristóbal de Olid goes to Michoacán, and Pedro de **Alvarado** goes to Tututepec (near Ayutla).<sup>BE</sup>

1522 Cortés begins building Mexico City on the ruins of Tenochtitlan. Then he firms up his control over Pánuco. Cristóbal de Olid conquers the Tarascans.<sup>AO</sup>

## THE COLONIAL PERIOD 1523 - 1808

**Carlos I** abdicated in 1556 in favor of his son, Felipe II. Felipe's greed in squeezing wealth out of his colonies to pay for continual warfare in Europe was matched only by his religious zeal. He introduced a system of government-by-bribery that persists in Latin America even today. Social stratification by skin color was the rule, with natives and imported Africans exploited ruthlessly for the benefit of whites and their mixed-race relatives.

Some conquistadors and other early colonial officials were awarded encomiendas, large properties with resident natives. The properties were essentially fiefdoms and the natives serfs, obligated to pay tribute and perform labor for the owner, the encomendero. Some natives were owned outright as slaves. Other natives were organized into towns, the forerunners of ejidos, communally-owned estates operating today, supervised then by Spanish officials.

Because of reports made by Dominican Friar Bartolomé de **las Casas**, the King freed some of the slaves and reduced the labor and tribute requirements laid on encomienda residents. But a new requirement was imposed on natives: the repartimiento, under which all natives were obligated to labor forty-five days per year, theoretically with pay. The repartimiento continued until the seventeenth century.

To acquire the cheap labor they needed, the Spaniards instituted debt peonage; they lent money to impoverished natives, which obligated the debtors to work under harsh conditions for the lenders at whatever wages the lenders chose. In good times the peons lived miserably; in bad times they starved. Haciendas, large landholdings, relied mainly on debt peonage for labor up until the Revolution of 1910.

At the same time, Felipe burdened the colonies with the onerous expense of supporting a Church that never considered limiting its demands even on the poorest of its congregation. The Church had monopolies on schools, hospitals, and cemeteries. It was the principal moneylender and by far the biggest landowner. Tithing was enforced by law and priests were allowed to charge as much as they pleased for sacraments and for recording births, marriages, and deaths. Priests could engage in private commerce and could be sued only in special ecclesiastical courts. Church property and income were exempt from taxation.

Spain early established a mercantile system, under which the colonists were allowed to export only minerals and agricultural products to Spain or its customers.

The 300 years of colonial rule were marked by continual revolts of natives against Spanish authority, answered always by iron-fisted retaliation. The highest officials were Spaniards, which unsettled some of the locally-born whites, called Creoles, who resented missing out on the best opportunities for embezzling wealth from the colonial government. In time, resentment toward Spaniards became the rule among most Mexicans because trade monopolies and import duties diminished their economic opportunities; the only employment available for most Mexicans was low-paid mining and manual labor.

1523 Three Franciscan monks arrive at Mexico City. More follow.<sup>M</sup>

1524 Oct 24: **Cortés** departs for Honduras to arrest an insubordinate officer, Cristóbal de Olid, taking **Cuauhtémoc** with him.<sup>B, AM</sup>

1525 Feb 28: **Cortés** executes **Cuauhtémoc** for plotting a revolt against Cortés's expedition.<sup>F</sup>

1526 Twelve Dominican monks arrive at Mexico City. More follow.<sup>M</sup>

1527 An expedition led by Pánfilo de Narváez is shipwrecked in Florida. After being held captive, Alvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca leads a group of survivors to Culiacán (Sinaloa)<sup>F</sup>, where they meet some Spaniards in 1536.<sup>M</sup> Spaniards set siege to the Chiapa capital at Nandiumé, population 5000.

Rather than surrender, 3000 Chiapas jump to their deaths from Tepetchi Cliff in Sumidero Canyon.<sup>AK</sup>  
1529 **Cortés** goes to Spain to answer charges. December: Nuño Beltrán de Guzmán embarks on an expedition into present Nueva Galicia (now Michoacán) and Sinaloa with a large force of Spaniards plus some thousands of Mexica and Tlaxcalans as bearers and auxiliary soldiers. For two years he systematically attacks native armies. Whether native rulers (Tarascan King Caltzontzi, for example) submit or resist, he tortures and kills them for treasure, enslaves their subjects as bearers to take the place of Mexica and Tlaxcalans who die, and burns their cities. The hanging of insubordinate Spaniards is routine. The natives revert to paganism and plan a revolt but are pacified by a priest named Vasco de **Quiroga**.<sup>AK, AM, BM</sup>

1531 The Cocoms, descendants of the rulers of Chichén Itzá in Yucatán, murder the Xius to avenge the rebellion of 1200. A series of wars ensues that leaves the Maya unable to defend against the Spaniards.<sup>X</sup>

1533 Augustinian monks arrive at Mexico City. More follow.<sup>M</sup>

1535 Oct 15: the first Viceroy, Antonio de Mendoza, arrives.<sup>F</sup>

1538 Nuño de Guzmán is recalled to Spain to answer charges.<sup>AM</sup>

1540-1542 Francisco Vázquez de Coronado explores as far north as Utah, leaving a trail of destruction.<sup>M, AM</sup>

- 1541 Jun 29: Indians in Nochistlán and Mixton revolt.<sup>F</sup> Indians attack Guadalajara but are repulsed by 85 Spanish soldiers with horses and artillery, losing 15,000 dead and others captured. In response, 600 Spaniards and some Indian allies enter the region (known then as Nueva Galicia) to put down the revolt, but are only partly successful.<sup>S</sup>
- 1542 King **Carlos I** and the Spanish Parliament issue the New Laws, freeing some slaves and reducing the labor requirements laid on encomienda residents.<sup>AM</sup> Jul 2: Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo reaches Baja California. He names it California, after an island named in the novel, *Las sergas de Esplandián* by Ordóñez de Montalvo. He explores north beyond present San Francisco but dies on the voyage back.<sup>BP</sup>
- 1545 The King reverses the New Laws of 1542.<sup>AM</sup>
- 1546-7 Cupul Uprising: Maya rebel, kill hundreds of Spaniards and loyal natives, and set siege to Valladolid (Yucatán) until they are defeated by Spaniards and loyal natives from Mérida.<sup>Z</sup>
- 1547 Dec 2: **Cortés** dies in Spain.<sup>F</sup>
- 1549 The King orders that encomenderos can't require labor from encomienda residents.<sup>AM</sup>
- 1551 La Real y Pontificia Universidad de México is founded.<sup>M</sup>
- 1552 Lacandón Maya sacrifice two Spanish priests.<sup>AK</sup>
- 1556 **Carlos I** abdicates in favor of his son, Felipe II.
- 1559 Spanish soldiers, with 800 Chiapas and 1000 Indians from Guatemala, burn down Lacandón villages.<sup>AK</sup>
- 1566 Jul 16: **Cortés's** sons are arrested and tortured on suspicion of having plotted to overthrow the government.<sup>F</sup>
- 1568 Sep 17: English pirate John Hawkins and his cousin, Francis Drake, sail into Veracruz Harbor, needing to repair their ships after a bad storm. They take over San Juan de Ulúa Island. Sep 21: the Spanish merchant fleet arrives. Sep 23: the Spaniards attack the pirates, driving them off and capturing nine ships and destroying another.<sup>AS</sup>
- 1569 Felipe II creates the Tribunal de Santa Oficio en México (Spanish Inquisition).<sup>M</sup>
- 1571 Pedro Moya de Contreras arrives to take over the inquisition program, which had been managed by local and provincial Church officials.<sup>M</sup>
- 1572 Sep 25: the first Jesuits arrive in Mexico City.<sup>F</sup>
- 1574 First Auto de Fe: five persons are executed by order of the Tribunal.<sup>M</sup>
- 1595 and 1600: Indians revolt in Topia, Durango.<sup>F</sup>
- 1604 Viceroy Luis de Velasco begins the work of draining the lakes around Mexico City.<sup>B</sup>
- 1605 The population bottoms out at one million, 4% of its pre-conquest level.<sup>AI</sup>
- 1609 Feb 9: Negro slaves revolt near Córdoba, Veracruz, led by Antonio Yanga and Francisco de la Matosa, and kill 200 Spaniards and mestizos.<sup>S,F</sup>
- 1610 Apr 25: 40 Spanish soldiers and 4000 Indians put down the Negro revolt. Viceroy Luis de Velasco grants the slaves their liberty and allows them to found the town of Yanga.<sup>S</sup>
- 1612 Apr 12: 33 Negroes are hung at Mexico City for plotting an insurrection.<sup>S,F</sup>
- 1616 25,000 Tepehuan Indians led by Quautlatas<sup>Z</sup> rebel in Sonora and murder Jesuit missionaries, dozens of other Spaniards, and 60 Negro slaves. Spaniards defeat them at Cacarcía, killing 15,000.<sup>S,AK</sup> Violence continues until 1623.<sup>Z</sup>
- 1624 Jan 15: priests persuade the poor people in Mexico City to riot after Viceroy Diego Carrillo Mendoza y Pimentel arrests Archbishop Alonso de Serna, which occurs after the Archbishop refuses to give up a criminal suspect who had taken refuge in a church. Rioters invade and burn the Viceroy's palace; both rioters and soldiers are killed. The Viceroy barely escapes and leaves the country.<sup>S</sup> Dutch pirates loot Acapulco.<sup>B</sup>
- 1648-51: Tarahumaras led by Tepórame<sup>Z</sup> revolt, killing some Spaniards.<sup>S</sup>
- 1650 Poor people die on the Yucatán Peninsula because of a corn famine.<sup>S</sup>
- 1652 Tarahumaras revolt again. Tepórame is executed.<sup>Z</sup>
- 1660 Feb 7: Albuquerque, NM, is founded.<sup>F</sup>
- 1680 Aug 10: Indians led by Popé<sup>Z</sup> revolt in New Mexico and kill over 300 Spaniards. The survivors flee to El Paso del Norte, San Gabriel, and Santa Fe. Aug 15: Indians attack Santa Fe; 100 Spanish

soldiers counter-attack and kill hundreds of Indians; then the Spaniards evacuate to El Paso.<sup>S</sup>

1683 Pirates led by Lorencillo pillage Veracruz, kill over 300 people, and carry off 3000 Negro slaves and treasure.<sup>S</sup>

1685 Lorencillo raids Campeche: more deaths, more treasure.<sup>S</sup>

1687 Chol Indians move from the mountains of Chiapas to the jungle around Palenque to evade Spanish control.<sup>AK</sup>

1688 Popé dies. Indians in New Mexico fight against each other.<sup>Z</sup>

1690 Tarahumaras revolt again.<sup>Z</sup>

1692 Jun 8: food riots in Mexico City. Rioters burn government buildings, including the Viceroy's Palace, and kill some Spaniards until the city militia is organized. Indians are killed in retribution.<sup>S</sup>

1694 June: the government sends an expedition to New Mexico to settle Santa Cruz.<sup>S</sup>

1695 Pimas revolt in Sonora.<sup>S</sup>

1696 Indians revolt in New Mexico again.<sup>S</sup> Another Tarahumara revolt.<sup>Z</sup>

1712 Tzeltal Indians, around Palenque and Toniná and centered at Cancuc (Chiapas)<sup>Z</sup>, revolt, killing Spaniards in Chilón. Nov 18: 600 Spaniards from San Cristóbal defeat 20,000 Tzeltal and Tzotzil rebels at Huixtán.<sup>AK</sup>

1712-1718 Indians revolt in the Huasteca Region, killing over 1000 Spaniards.<sup>S</sup>

1716 The Church founds missions in Texas.<sup>P</sup>

1726 A corn famine on the Yucatán Peninsula kills hundreds.<sup>S</sup>

1733 The Spanish drive the English out of the Yucatán Peninsula and burn Belize City.<sup>S</sup>

1735 Indians revolt in Baja California. Yaquis from Sonora put down the revolt.<sup>S</sup>

1740 Yaquis revolt, killing 2000 Spanish troops at Río Tampos. Spaniards defeat the rebels at Atoncahue Mountains, killing over 2000.<sup>AL</sup>

1750 Pimas and Papagos revolt, killing over 1000 Spaniards.<sup>S</sup>

1761 Nov 20: Maya revolt at Sisteil, Yucatán. 1500 Maya fight 2000 Spaniards. The Maya leader, Jacinto Canek, a baker, is tortured and executed at Valladolid (Yucatán).<sup>S,F</sup>

1763 Spain takes Louisiana from France.<sup>P</sup>

1767 Carlos III expels the Jesuits because of political meddling.<sup>P, AM</sup>

1769 Junípero Serra starts missions in Alta California.<sup>S</sup> In the following 64 years, 21 missions are built in which the native people are settled. Two thirds of the natives die from old-world diseases.<sup>BP</sup>

1785 Drought, famine and epidemic kills 300,000.<sup>Z</sup>

1795 Napoleon Bonaparte extorts Santo Domingo from Carlos IV of Spain and forces Spain to ally with him against England. Carlos's minister at this time is Manuel Godoy.<sup>S</sup>

1801 Jan 1: an Indian named Mariano starts a rebellion in Tepic, intending to install an indigenous monarchy.<sup>F</sup>

1801 Napoleon extorts Louisiana from Spain.<sup>S</sup>

1803 Napoleon sells Louisiana to the US.<sup>E</sup>

1804-1809 Spain takes over all church loans and demands immediate payment, which bankrupts many wealthy families.<sup>K</sup>

1805 Mar 5: under pressure from Napoleon, Carlos IV declares war on England.<sup>F</sup>

1808 Mar 19: Carlos IV abdicates in favor of his son Fernando VII because of popular discontent over his handling of France. Both are imprisoned in Bayonne, France by Napoleon Bonaparte, who then invades Spain. Apr 20: Napoleon appoints his brother, Joseph, King. Juntas form at Seville and Oviedo, unconquered cities. In New Spain, Viceroy José de Iturrigaray supports the liberals, who favor self-rule while Fernando is imprisoned.<sup>P,F</sup> Night of Sep 15: conservative businessmen led by a sugar grower named Yermo<sup>B</sup> arrest Iturrigaray, appoint Pedro de Garibay, a former Viceroy, and jail their liberal opponents. Oct 4: they hang the liberal leader.<sup>S,F</sup>

## THE WAR OF INDEPENDENCE 1809 - 1817

Events in Europe, not in Latin America, ended the colonial period in Mexico. Napoleon Bonaparte imprisoned the Spanish King and invaded Spain in 1808. Some Creoles rebelled against the weakened colonial government and its conservative supporters. The original conspirators argued that

the colonists owed loyalty to the King, not to the Spanish juntas ruling in his absence. **Hidalgo** and **Morelos** went further to claim that Viceroy Xavier Venegas was in league with the French and therefore it was every colonist's duty to defend the King's interests by rebelling against the Viceroy. Under Hidalgo, and led by now-memorialized leaders such as **Allende**, **Aldama**, and **Abasolo**, a vast mob of the poor and disenfranchised swept a wide swath north and west from the capital but failed to dislodge the colonial government.

When Hidalgo was captured and shot, the rebellion's leadership devolved to Morelos. Morelos developed the view that the monarchy ended when King Ferdinand was imprisoned, and New Spain should be independent. A brilliant administrator, commander, and leader, Morelos succeeded only in making the war endure longer than it otherwise would have. When he was captured and shot, the rebellion continued briefly under a Spanish renegade named Francisco **Mina** but then it slowly, reluctantly faded away and almost ended.

1809 Jul 19: the new Viceroy, Archbishop Francisco Javier Lizana y Beaumont, takes office. Sep 13: a pro-independence conspiracy is discovered. The Viceroy releases the conspirators, so the conservatives have him removed from office.<sup>F</sup>

1810 The Spanish juntas send a new Viceroy, Francisco Venegas.<sup>P</sup> Sep 15 & 16: Miguel **Hidalgo** starts the War of Independence.<sup>B</sup> Sep 28: Hidalgo's followers murder hundreds of Spaniards who have taken refuge in the Alhóndiga de Granaditas in Guanajuato. Oct 18: Hidalgo's followers loot Valladolid (now Morelia). Oct 30: Battle of Monte de las Cruces: 80,000 poorly armed rebels defeat royalist forces between Toluca and Mexico City. Over 2000 royalists are killed, and many more rebels. Hidalgo marches to 15 km SW of Chapultepec (now in Mexico City), but stops and turns west. Nov 11: Hidalgo is defeated at San Jerónimo de Aculco; 10,000 out of 40,000 rebels are killed, wounded, or captured; the royalists lose 95 dead and 43 wounded. Nov 13: rebels murder 80 royalists at Guadalajara. Nov 23: Hidalgo's followers attack Guanajuato, losing 300 dead. Nov 24: Hidalgo's followers murder 138 Spanish prisoners inside the Alhóndiga de Granaditas in Guanajuato. Nov 26: royalists commanded by Félix María Calleja enter Guanajuato and kill 78 residents in retribution. Dec 6: rebels issue the Guadalajara Manifesto: abolition of taxes and tributes imposed on the Negroes and mestizos, emancipation of the slaves and surrender of lands to the Indians and Negroes.<sup>AX</sup> Dec 12: rebels at Guadalajara murder 350 royalist prisoners.<sup>S</sup>

1811a Jan 4: Battle of Tres Palos: a sneak night attack by Morelos nets 800 prisoners, 700 muskets, and 5 cannons. Jan 6: **Hidalgo** captures Saltillo. Jan 17: Battle of Calderón Bridge (near Guadalajara): royalists under Calleja defeat 93,000 rebels, including 20,000 cavalry and 95 cannons; the rebels lose thousands of dead and wounded, plus 86 cannons, and disperse; the royalists lose 500 dead and wounded. Jan 18: royalists enter Guadalajara. Mar 21: Battle of Baján: 340 royalists, including 300 Lipan Indians, defeat 1500 rebels when Colonel Ignacio Elizondo, a rebel commander, betrays Hidalgo to the royalists; the rebels lose 40 dead and 800 prisoners, including Hidalgo and his generals, Ignacio **Allende**, **Juan Aldama**, and Mariano **Abasolo**. Ignacio López **Rayón** takes over Hidalgo's army, but gets bogged down in administrative details and annoys **Morelos**. Mar 27: rebels repulse royalists at Colotlán.<sup>S</sup>

1811b Apr 1: López **Rayón** defeats royalists at Piñones, Coahuila. Apr 7: royalists defeat rebels at Colotlán, killing 1500. May 22: rebels win in the mountains near Zitácuaro, taking 700 prisoners and 3 cannons. May 24: **Morelos** occupies Chilpancingo. May 6: Morelos defeats royalists and occupies Tixtla. Jun 22: rebels repulse royalists at Zitácuaro and drive the royalists back to Toluca. Jun 26: Ignacio **Allende** and **Juan Aldama** are shot at Chihuahua City.<sup>S</sup>

1811c Jul 30: **Hidalgo** is shot at Chihuahua City.<sup>F</sup>

1811d Nov 26: rebel Albino García bombards Guanajuato from San Miguel Hill, without capturing the city, but loots nearby Dolores, San Miguel, and San Felipe. Dec 4: **Morelos** defeats royalists at the San Agustín Convent in Chiautla, winning 4 cannons and 200 muskets; the death toll is high on both sides. Dec 10: Morelos enters Izúcar without resistance. Dec 17: Morelos holds royalists off at Izúcar and chases them to the La Galarza Hacienda, on the way to Atlixco, where there is more fighting. Morelos wins 100 muskets and many prisoners. End of December: Morelos wins at

Taxco.<sup>S</sup>

- 1812a Jan 2: royalist general Félix María Calleja del Rey, with 2800 infantry, 1000 Indian sappers, 23 cannons, and 2200 horses, captures Zitácuaro, which is defended by 700 men with muskets, 20,000 auxiliaries, mostly unarmed, and 36 cannons. About the same time, royalists fight off rebels at Yanhuitlán (Oaxaca). Jan 22: **Morelos** relieves the rebel defenders at Tenango. Feb 19: Morelos, with 12,000 men and 30 cannons, defeats 5000 royalists under Calleja at Cuautla. Hundreds die on both sides. Royalists enter homes and kill hundreds of civilians, until the rebels drive them out of the city. Feb 23: rebel Vicente **Guerrero** defeats Brigadier Ciriaco de Llano at Izúcar. Mar 10: Calleja bombards Cuautla and starts a siege. Mar 18: Miguel Bravo attacks a royalist supply convoy near Ozumba. Mar 28: Calleja sends troops to attack Bravo at Mal Pais. Royalists kill approximately 100 rebels and take weapons and prisoners; Bravo retreats. Mar 31: royalists raid the market at Alfajayucan, kill 150 civilians, and steal all the merchandise.<sup>S,F</sup>
- 1812b April: 2000 rebels capture Huamantla (Puebla). Apr 5: 1500 royalists with 14 cannons besiege Huajuapam, where Valerio Trujano commands the rebels. Apr 10: royalists begin bombarding Huajuapam. Apr 23: 500 rebels with 2 cannons capture Pachuca. May 2: down to 1000 effectives, starving and low on ammunition, **Morelos** fights his way through royalist lines to escape from Cuautla, losing 150 men and 2 cannons. May 22-27: at Santa Catarina Bridge, 10 miles from Orizaba, 500 rebels defeat 130 royalists; the royalists retreat to Córdoba. May 24-28: rebels besiege Tulancingo, but give up after losing a cannon to the royalist defenders. Jun 4: rebel Hermenegildo **Galeana** defeats Gabriel de Armijo at Citlala, taking 300 prisoners and 200 muskets. Jun 5: royalist Agustín de **Iturbide** with 170 men raids Albino García with 300 men at Valle de Santiago; they kill 150 in combat and execute the survivors. Jun 6: royalist Joaquín del Castillo y Bustamante defeats Ignacio **Rayón** near Tenango.<sup>S</sup>
- 1812c July 23, 24: **Morelos** relieves the siege at Huajuapam; 400 die, but the rebels win 1000 muskets, over 300 prisoners, plus horses and ammunition. August: in Texas, Bernardo Gutiérrez de Lara with 450 mercenaries, mostly American, occupies Nacogdoches, Trinidad, and Espíritu Santo. Texas Governor Manuel Salcedo besieges Espíritu Santo. Aug 10: Morelos occupies Tehuacán. Aug 19 & 20: **Nicolás Bravo** defeats 370 royalists at San Agustín del Palmar; 40 royalists die and 200 fall prisoner while the rebels gain 300 muskets and 3 cannons. Sep 30: the Spanish junta writes a liberal constitution.<sup>S,F</sup>
- 1812d Oct 26: royalist Pedro Celestino Negrete with 800 men defeats José Sixto Berduco with 1000 men and 7 cannons at Uruapan; all the survivors are shot. Oct 29: **Morelos** captures Orizaba, killing 300 royalists and winning 1000 muskets, 9 cannons, and a shipment of silver. Nov 25: Morelos captures Oaxaca; this is the high-water mark for the rebels.<sup>S</sup>
- 1813a Feb 1: in Texas, royalist Manuel Salcedo gives up the siege of Espíritu Santo and moves to Béxar (present San Antonio); Gutiérrez follows.<sup>S</sup>
- 1813b Apr 1: Salcedo surrenders at Béxar. Apr 6-12: **Morelos** attacks Acapulco, driving royalist defenders to the fort on San Diego Island. Apr 16: royalist **Iturbide** with 1000 men defeats Ramón Rayón with 400 men and 14 cannons at Salvatierra, killing 300, capturing 74 (of whom 16 are executed), and winning all 14 cannons. Jun 20: in Texas, rebel Ignacio Elizondo moves to Béxar, where Gutiérrez defeats him; Elizondo retreats to Presidio de Río Grande.<sup>S</sup>
- 1813c Jul 4-6: Liberals win the election for the Spanish Parliament in New Spain (Mexico). Aug 17: royalist Colonel Joaquín de Arredondo with 2000 men and 12 cannons arrives at Béxar, Texas to find that Juan Alvarez de Toledo has replaced Gutiérrez. The same day, rebel **Galeana** captures San Diego Island in Acapulco Bay. Aug 18: at the Medina River, 14 miles south of Béxar, Texas, the royalists defeat the rebels, killing hundreds, and capture 112 (all shot) while losing 55 dead and 343 wounded. Aug 19: the royalists on San Diego surrender, giving up 500 muskets and 90 cannons. Aug 24: royalists enter Béxar and kill 215 prisoners. Sep 5: 2000 royalists besiege 600 rebels at Coscomatepec. Sep 12: at Nacogdoches, Texas, royalist Elizondo kills 71 prisoners before one of his lieutenants kills him.<sup>S</sup>
- 1813d Oct 4: rebels sneak out of Coscomatepec. Oct 14: rebels led by Lt. Gen. Mariano **Matamoros** attack a convoy led by Maj. Juan Cándano near Agustín del Palmar; the rebels kill 215, take 378

- prisoners and 521 muskets, while losing 14 dead and 72 wounded. Dec 23: **Morelos** captures Valladolid (present Morelia). Agustín de **Iturbide** and Brigadier Ciriaco de Llano counter-attack at Lomas de Santa María, destroying the rebel force<sup>S</sup>. Dec 23: Iturbide defeats Morelos at Valladolid (present Morelia).<sup>F</sup> In Texas, American mercenaries under Gutiérrez capture Goliad and Béxar (present San Antonio).<sup>L</sup>
- 1814a Vicente **Guerrero**, under orders from **Morelos**, begins guerrilla warfare against the royalists. Jan 5: royalists under Llano defeat rebels under **Matamoros**, killing 600 and taking 1000 muskets, all their cannons, and 600 prisoners, of whom 18 are shot. The royalists lose 14 dead and 72 wounded. Feb 3: Matamoros is executed in Valladolid (now Morelia). Mar 7: Napoleon, feeling pressure from his enemies, releases Fernando VII from prison. Mar 29: royalists enter Oaxaca against little resistance.<sup>S</sup>
- 1814b Apr 11: royalists enter Acapulco, which **Morelos** had abandoned, and find 26 executed royalist prisoners. Morelos executes 42 more prisoners in Tecpan and moves on to Petatlán. Apr 20: royalists besiege El Veladero, a fortified hill. May 4: Fernando VII suspends the Spanish Constitution. May 5: royalists drive the rebels out of El Veladero. September: Vicente **Guerrero** begins guerrilla operations in Oaxaca.<sup>S</sup>
- 1814c Sep 25: 2000 royalists attack Zacatlán, killing 200 and taking 50 prisoners (all shot), 200 muskets, and some cannons. Oct 22: rebels sign a constitution at Apatzingan.<sup>S</sup>
- 1814d Nov 2: royalist **Iturbide** attacks Puruándiro, killing 146 and capturing 81 (all shot). Nov 7-12: royalist Llano with 2000 attacks rebels under Ramón Rayón at Jungapeo, but loses 300 dead; rebels lose 31.<sup>S</sup>
- 1815 Mar 4: royalist **Iturbide**, under orders of Llano, leads a surprise charge against Cópore Hill, near Jungapeo. A dog belonging to a Capt. Filisola chases after the attackers, barking and warning the rebels; the royalists lose 400 men. May 12: royalist Colonel Cristóbal Ordóñez defeats Ramón Rayón at Jilotepec, killing 100 and taking 121 prisoners (all shot). Nov 5: at Texmalaca (Puebla), 700 royalists kill 300 rebels, shoot 30 prisoners, and capture **Morelos**.<sup>S</sup>
- 1816 Aug 18: José López de **Santa Anna** attacks rebels at Corral de Piedra, near Mexcala, killing 300. Nov 4: Francisco Javier **Mina** lands at Galveston.<sup>S</sup>
- 1817a Pro-independence leaders Manuel de Mier y Terán, Ramón and Ignacio López **Rayón**, and José Francisco Osorno surrender.<sup>S</sup>
- 1817b April 15: **Mina** lands at Soto la Marina with 300 men to fight for independence. End of May: Mina steals 700 horses from royalists at Horcasitas. Jun 11: 700 royalists under Joaquín de Arredondo, with 19 cannons, attack a fort Mina has built at El Sombrero, near San Felipe. The 113 rebels repel the attack, even though Mina is gone with most of the men. Jun 15: royalists attack El Sombrero successfully, losing 300; the 37 rebel survivors are not shot. On the same day, rebels defeat royalists at Peotillos, near Valle del Maíz. Rebels lose 50 dead and wounded, but kill or wound 116 royalists and win 50 muskets and a cannon. Late June: Mina re-occupies El Sombrero, and royalist Ordóñez arrives at San Felipe with 250 infantry and 400 cavalry, against Mina's 240 infantry and 140 cavalry. Jun 28: Mina ambushes Ordóñez, killing 300, including Ordóñez, and takes 152 prisoners and 2 cannons, while losing 8 dead and 20 wounded.<sup>S</sup>
- 1817c Jul 26: **Mina** with 400 men attacks León, which is defended by 1000; Mina retreats, losing 108. Aug 1: 2600 royalists with 14 cannons bombard 700 rebels at El Sombrero. Aug 4: royalists attack El Sombrero. Aug 8: Mina sneaks out of El Sombrero to get help, but other rebel commanders have none to give. Aug 19: after repeated attacks, out of food and water and low on ammunition, the rebels try to sneak out of El Sombrero but are detected; 400 rebels die, including prisoners shot. Sep 11: Mina attacks San Miguel but is repulsed. Sep 25: Mina attacks Guanajuato but is repulsed. Mina disbands his force. Sep 27: Mina is captured.<sup>S</sup>
- 1817d Nov 11: **Mina** is shot. Dec 10: royalists capture Berdusco at Purechucho. Dec 11: royalists capture Ignacio **Rayón** at Patambo. Dec 22: royalists capture **Nicolás Bravo** in the mountains near San Miguel Amuco.<sup>S</sup>
- 1818 In California, Argentine rebels against Spain plunder and burn Monterey and San Juan Capistrano, in California's only independence-related incident.<sup>BP</sup>

## THE AUGUSTINIAN EMPIRE 1820 - 1823

In 1814, King Fernando VII returned to Spain and asserted his authority there and in the colonies. But in 1820, a revolutionary movement in Spain defeated the King and installed a liberal government. The conservatives in Mexico changed their collective mind about independence and joined with the remnant rebel forces and Mexico asserted its independence with virtually no loss of life.

The leader of the new independence movement, Agustín de **Iturbide**, appointed himself Emperor. Budget problems arose immediately. The economy was in poor condition, but Iturbide squandered money on himself and on army supporters. Critics conspired against him and he had the leaders arrested. Congress objected and he dissolved it. Antonio López de **Santa Anna** revolted against him, with wide popular support, and Iturbide fled the country less than nine months after his coronation.

1820 A revolution in Spain forces the restoration of the constitution.<sup>P</sup>

1821 Conservatives, led by **Iturbide**, favor independence.<sup>K</sup> Mar 1: Iturbide proposes the *Plan de Iguala* and makes Viceroy Juan de Apodaca (and his replacement, Juan O'Donojú) accept it (Treaty of Córdoba).<sup>B, F, AM</sup> Sep 27: Iturbide enters Mexico City.<sup>F</sup> Oct 3: A governing junta for Central America in Guatemala City accepts Iturbide's invitation to be part of Mexico. The idea is unpopular in Central America.<sup>H</sup> Oct 27: The Spanish garrison abandons Veracruz and moves to Fort San Juan de Ulúa.<sup>M</sup>

### *Plan de Iguala*<sup>S</sup>

1. Roman Catholicism would be the only religion allowed.
2. New Spain would be independent.
3. New Spain would be a constitutional monarchy.
4. The Emperor would be Fernando VII or another aristocrat.
5. A junta would govern provisionally.
6. Europeans, Africans, and Indians would all be legally equal and able to compete for employment equally.
7. Personal and property rights would be respected and churchmen would retain their special privileges.
8. The national army would be called the Army of the Three Guarantees (*trigarantes*: religion, independence, and equality between the races).
9. Soldiers in the Royal Army would be admitted into the national army.

1822 Apr 3: Stephen Austin gets permission to settle 300 Catholic Americans in Texas. Jul 20: **Iturbide** becomes Emperor Agustín I. Oct 26-27: Mexicans attack Fort San Juan de Ulúa. Oct 31: Iturbide dissolves Congress.<sup>F</sup>

1823 **Santa Anna** pronounces against **Iturbide** (*Plan de Casamata*). Mar 7: Iturbide abdicates and is banished.<sup>F</sup> Jul 1: Central America withdraws from the Mexican Republic, although Chiapas stays.<sup>H</sup> Sep 21: Mexicans attack Fort San Juan de Ulúa. Oct 8: Mexicans begin a blockade of Fort San Juan de Ulúa.<sup>M</sup>

## THE NEW REPUBLIC 1824 - 1835

Lacking a strong national figure, the newly-independent nation suffered because of political rivalries. Two factions developed. A conservative, centralist faction, centered on York-Rite Freemasons, favored preserving the prerogatives of the Church and the Army. A liberal, federalist faction, centered on Scottish-Rite Freemasons, was more concerned with promoting business interests.

After a few years of ineffectual governance and budget failure, a dictator named **Santa Anna**, who was weak on ability but strong on brutality, brought order, or at least fear.

1824 Jul 14: **Iturbide** returns. He is captured at Soto La Marina and, Jul 19, is shot at Padilla (Tamaulipas).<sup>F</sup> Oct 4: A federal constitution is adopted (weak central government).<sup>H, F</sup> Oct 10: **Guadalupe Victoria** becomes the first President.<sup>K</sup>

1825 Yaqui Indians begin a war of resistance against the central government.<sup>K</sup> Oct 5: Mexican and

Spanish naval ships face off at Fort San Juan de Ulúa, but no shots are fired. Nov 5: the Spaniards ask for a truce. Nov 21: Mexicans occupy Fort San Juan de Ulúa. Nov 23: The Spaniards depart.<sup>M</sup>  
 1827 January: Joaquín Arenas foments a rebellion in Jalisco, Veracruz, and Mexico State, intending to restore Mexico as a colony to Spain.<sup>M</sup> Dec 29: **Nicolás Bravo**, a Liberal, revolts against **Guadalupe Victoria**.<sup>F</sup>  
 1828 Jan 7: **Guerrero** defeats **Nicolás Bravo** at Tulancingo. Bravo is exiled to Ecuador.<sup>F</sup> All the Spaniards are expelled.<sup>K</sup> General Manuel de Mier y Terán surveys Texas and finds too many Americans.<sup>L</sup> Gómez Pedraza, a conservative, wins the presidential election.<sup>P</sup> Sep 16: **Santa Anna** revolts against Gómez Pedraza, but is chased to Oaxaca, where he hides out in a monastery. Oct 29: Mexico State Governor Lorenzo de Zavala joins the revolt.<sup>B,F</sup>  
 1829 Jan 12: Vicente **Guerrero** takes over as President and Anastasio Bustamante as Vice President<sup>F</sup> Guerrero outlaws slavery, bans further immigration from the US to Texas, and cancels Texans' privileges.<sup>P</sup> Jul 24: 2600 Spanish troops land at Tampico, intending to recover the former colony; **Santa Anna** sets siege to Tampico.<sup>M, AM</sup> Sep 10: Spaniards surrender at Tampico.<sup>F</sup>  
 1830 Jan 1: Bustamante overthrows **Guerrero**.<sup>F</sup>  
 1831 Jan 15: **Guerrero** is captured at Huatulco. Feb 14: Guerrero is shot at Oaxaca.<sup>F</sup>  
 1832 Jan 2: **Santa Anna** revolts against Bustamante and in favor of Gómez Pedraza.<sup>F</sup> In Texas, William Barret Travis and Patrick Jack are arrested by Colonel Juan Bradburn at Anáhuac (on Galveston Bay). Texans besiege Anáhuac, demanding release of Travis and Jack. Stephen Austin seeks negotiations with Santa Anna.<sup>L</sup> End of December: Bustamante resigns; Gómez Pedraza takes over.<sup>F</sup>  
 1833 Mar 25: **Santa Anna** wins the presidency. Apr 1: Santa Anna takes office and appoints Valentín **Gómez Farías**, a Liberal, Vice President; Santa Anna retires to his ranch and leaves Gómez Farías in charge.<sup>F</sup> Missions fall into disuse and the Indians are freed.<sup>BF, BP</sup>

#### Gómez Farías's Reforms<sup>AM</sup>

- Reduced the size of the Army
- Abolished the military fueros (rights of Army officers to be sued only in military courts)
- Limited Church pronouncements to religious matters
- Secularized education
- Clerics to be appointed by the government
- Tithing made voluntary
- Allowed priests, nuns, and monks to resign
- Missions in California were secularized and their property nationalized

1834 May 16: **Santa Anna** returns to Mexico City and nullifies **Gómez Farías's** reforms.<sup>F</sup>  
 1835 Jan 1: **Santa Anna** resumes the presidency, expels **Gómez Farías**, and assumes dictatorial powers.<sup>F</sup> May: Santa Anna puts down a Liberal uprising in Zacatecas<sup>T</sup> while other states revolt.<sup>H</sup>

#### **THE TEXAS WAR OF SECESSION** 1835 - 1836

Texas never attracted many Mexicans. The East is humid and the West is dry. Both are hot in summer, and the West is cold enough in winter to get snow. Apaches attacked Mexicans mercilessly. But Americans and some Europeans saw flat, fertile soil and that was enough for them. In 1822, **Iturbide**, then acting as head of state, reasoned that admitting immigrants would discourage the US from seizing the unsettled territory. It could well be that the first immigrants intended to be loyal to their adopted country, but later newcomers seem not to have had such intentions. In any case, **Santa Anna's** dictatorship impelled them all to separate Texas from Mexico. Mexicans living in Texas were split on the issue and many fought for independence.

The war was brutal and short, roughly a half-year. Santa Anna was within one day of complete victory and lost the war in a moment of supreme carelessness. In personal command of the Army, he trapped Sam Houston and the main Texan force in a grove of trees. Then he napped while waiting for reinforcements, without posting pickets to keep track of the Texans. At sundown, the Texans attacked

across the high ground separating the two armies and destroyed the Mexican force.

1835 June: William Travis captures the fort at Anáhuac (in Galveston Bay). The Texans apologize. Mexicans cruise to Copano (near Corpus Cristi) and march to Béxar (present San Antonio). Oct 2: Texans win a confrontation at Gonzales, keeping a cannon the Mexicans want. Oct 9: Texans capture Goliad. Oct 11: Texas volunteers elect Stephen Austin commander.<sup>T</sup> Nov 1 - Dec 9: Texans defeat General Martín Perfecto de Cós, **Santa Anna's** brother-in-law, at Béxar. Texans loot Goliad.<sup>L</sup> Nov 3: The Texas Consultation names Sam Houston commander of the Texas Regular Army.<sup>T</sup>

1836 Feb 23: **Santa Anna** leads an army north, leaving the acting presidency to Miguel Barragán, who dies shortly, and José Justo Corro.<sup>F</sup> The Texans abandon Béxar (present San Antonio) and fortify the Alamo. On leaving San Luis Potosí, Santa Anna has 6000 men.<sup>AY</sup> Feb 28: General José Urrea captures San Patricio and massacres the defenders on Santa Anna's order. Mar 2: Texans declare their independence and name Samuel Houston President and Commander-in-Chief and Lorenzo de Zavala (a major Mexican politician) Vice President.<sup>F</sup> Mar 6: the Alamo falls; all 253 Texan defenders and a larger number of Mexican soldiers are killed. Mar 13, 14: Urrea defeats a small Texan force at Refugio and massacres the prisoners. Mar 21: Urrea defeats a Texan force at Coleto Creek (9 miles northeast of Goliad) and, Mar 27, massacres 342 prisoners at Goliad. Sam Houston moves the Texans east.<sup>L</sup> Apr 21: 1200 Texans defeat Santa Anna's force of 1400 men at San Jacinto (near present Houston) and capture Santa Anna; over 600 Mexican soldiers die, as do 2 Texans. May 14: Santa Anna agrees to the Río Grande as the border and orders the rest of the Mexican Army to withdraw.<sup>AP</sup>

### Americans Quarrel Over Mexico

As Mexico and the US slid relentlessly toward full-scale warfare, the British were arguing to the Mexicans that they should offer to recognize an independent Texas on the condition that it would never become a US state. Some Americans favored that settlement as a way to avoid a war. Other Americans wanted to negotiate the border for the same purpose. Americans also were divided on the question of whether slavery should be allowed in Texas.

In contrast, if there were any Mexicans who favored negotiating a peaceful settlement, they were drowned out by the majority who refused to give up any territory and demanded the return of Texas.

By this time, Americans knew about the splendid harbor at San Francisco and the rich farmlands in the great valleys of California. Many of them, including President Polk, wanted to buy at least Alta California.

Soon after Texas became a state, Mexico commenced military action against US forces in Texas. Meanwhile, Santa Anna persuaded the US officials that he would, given the chance, help them buy California. So when Gómez Farías overthrew Paredes and invited Santa Anna to return from exile in Cuba, the US let the ship carrying him through its blockade.

As the war escalated, pacifists in the US fumed over the injustice they perceived in Polk's actions. Abolitionists, who almost always were also pacifists, saw Polk's acquisition of Mexican territory as part of a plot to increase the number of slave states. But Polk was able to use the Mexican attacks in Texas to justify a retaliatory invasion and pacifist/abolitionist denunciations had no significant effect.

### THE SANTA ANNA YEARS 1836 - 1846

With Texas lost and **Santa Anna** out of power, Mexico fell back to quarrels between political rivals. Conservative centralists led by Anastasio Bustamante quarreled with liberal federalists led by Valentín **Gómez Farías**. Santa Anna returned to power and brought order again, but only temporarily.

Too disorganized and disunited to take effective action, Mexico fumed over the loss of Texas and the

US's plans to admit Texas as a state. Tax revenues never kept up with spending.

Federalist sentiment in the Yucatán began a long train of violence that would develop into the War of the Castes. The ruling class armed and trained natives to fight the Mexican Army. Later, the natives would use their training and weapons against the white residents of the Peninsula.

1836 Dec 30: Congress passes "Seven Laws" altering the constitution (single legislative chamber, strong central government, states replaced by departments), demanded by **Santa Anna** before the war started.<sup>M</sup>

1837 Jan 19: after being captured in Texas, **Santa Anna** meets with US President Andrew Jackson; soon after, he returns to his home at Manga de Clavo, Veracruz.<sup>G</sup> Apr 19: Bustamante is restored as President.<sup>F</sup> In California, Juan B. Alvarado and José Castro overthrow the provincial government.<sup>BF</sup>

1838 May: In Tizimin, Yucatán, Santiago Imán starts a rebellion against the centralist government. He recruits Maya natives, who resent being drafted into the Mexican Army.<sup>AG</sup> Nov 27: in an episode known as the Pastry War, French ships bombard the fort at San Juan de Ulúa at Veracruz, with the intention of landing troops to force the Mexican government to pay reparations to French citizens for losses they suffered in Zavala's revolt in 1828. Dec 4: **Santa Anna** comes out of retirement and drives the French back to their ships.<sup>B,F</sup>

1839 Mar 30: Bustamante pledges the country's customs duties to pay off the French claims.<sup>B</sup>

1840 June: At Campeche, Santiago Imán drives the last Mexican Army units from the Yucatán.<sup>AG</sup> Jul 15: Valentín **Gómez Farías** leads a military revolt and takes over the presidential palace and seizes Bustamante, but releases him. Jul 27: Bustamante rallies the army to his support and puts down the revolt; Gómez Farías flees the country.<sup>F</sup>

1841 Mar 31: Santiago Imán proclaims the Yucatán Peninsula independent and allies with Texas.<sup>B</sup> Sep 22: **Santa Anna** leads an attack on Mexico City, drives Bustamante out, and becomes a dictator on Oct 11.<sup>F</sup>

1842 Oct 19: US Navy Commodore Thomas Catesby Jones, believing mistakenly that war had started between the US and Mexico, forces Monterey, California to surrender. He apologizes the next day.<sup>BF</sup> November: in the Yucatán, Mexicans land 5000 troops at Champotón. Yucatecans defeat Mexicans at Mérida.<sup>AG</sup> Dec 25: Mexicans and Texans clash at Mier, Tamaulipas. Mexicans lose 600 dead and 200 wounded and Texans lose 30 dead and wounded. Surrounded, the remaining 231 Texans eventually surrender.<sup>BG</sup>

1843 Feb 11: Texan prisoners from the Mier expedition escape while on the way to Mexico City, but 176 of them are recaptured. Seventeen are executed on the orders of **Santa Anna**; the remainder do forced labor for three months and are imprisoned at Perote, from where all are released a few at a time by 1844.<sup>BG</sup> In California, General Manuel Micheltorena and 300 troops restore Mexican authority.<sup>BF</sup> Mexicans recover Ciudad del Carmen. Yucatecans agree to join Mexico and Mexico recognizes special rights for Yucatán: self-government, external trade, and a rule that no conscripts will be sent out of the region. Campeche revolts against the Yucatán government.<sup>AG</sup>

1844 January: **Santa Anna** wins the Presidency.<sup>AP</sup> In California, Juan B. Alvarado and José Castro lead another uprising against the provincial authorities.<sup>BF</sup> Nov 2: Mariano Paredes y Arrillaga revolts against Santa Anna.<sup>P</sup> Dec 2: Congress replaces Santa Anna with José Joaquín de Herrera.<sup>F</sup>

1845 Feb 21: in California, José Castro defeats Micheltorena outside Los Angeles. Micheltorena returns to Mexico. Pio Pico becomes Governor. Mar 1: US Congress approves statehood for Texas.<sup>F</sup> Jun 3: **Santa Anna** sails to Cuba, banished.<sup>F</sup> Dec 10: Army Captain John C. Frémont leads a US mapping expedition to Sutter's Fort in California. He and his men abuse the Mexicans and kill local Indians.<sup>BP</sup>

## THE US-MEXICAN WAR 1846 - 1847

When the US Congress approved statehood for Texas, John Slidell went to Mexico City as US envoy to negotiate the Texas border and possibly buy California and/or New Mexico. Under political pressure, President José Joaquín Herrera refused to meet with Slidell. When Texas officially became a US state, Mexico attacked across the Texas border. US President James Polk escalated the combat to total defeat of the Mexican forces, even the capture of Mexico City. As reparations, the US not only settled

the Texas issue, but seized California and New Mexico as well.

While that was going on, the War of the Castes erupted in the Yucatán. Through 1847, centralists and federalists fought against each other while natives attacked whites.

1845 Dec 14: Paredes revolts against Herrera.<sup>F</sup>

Dec 29: Texas becomes a US state.<sup>E</sup>

1846a Jan 2: Mariano Paredes y Arrillaga overthrows President Herrera.<sup>F</sup> US General Zachary Taylor fortifies a camp (Fort Texas) opposite Matamoros.<sup>N</sup> March: in California, José Castro and Pio Pico begin raising armies against each other.<sup>BF</sup>

1846b Apr 17: Governor Pío Pico orders all foreigners to leave California. Frémont continues to kill Indians, mainly Klamath.<sup>BP</sup>

Apr 23: Mexican General Anastasio Torrejón leads 1600 cavalry across the Río Grande.<sup>G</sup>

Apr 25: Mexican troops ambush 63 American soldiers at Carrizaleño: they kill 11 and wound 5 and capture all the survivors.<sup>N,G</sup> Apr 28: Torrejón attacks a Texas Ranger camp, killing five Rangers and capturing four.<sup>BF</sup> May 3: The Mexicans shell Ft. Texas. May 8: Mexican General Mariano Arista with 4500 men crosses the Río Grande between Ft. Texas and Point Isabel, Taylor's supply point, while Taylor is getting supplies.<sup>BF</sup> The Americans rush back toward Ft. Texas and defeat the Mexicans in an artillery duel at Palo Alto: 3000 Americans against 8000 Mexicans; Americans lose 5 dead, 43 wounded; Mexicans lose 250 dead and wounded.<sup>N</sup> May 9: The Mexicans retreat to Resaca de Guerrero. 1700 Americans attack across Resaca de Palma (the Americans capture cannons and turn them on the Mexicans, who retreat); the Mexicans lose around 4000 dead, wounded, and deserters; the Americans lose 29 dead, 70 wounded. May 11: the US declares war against Mexico.<sup>F</sup> May 17: Arista gives up Matamoros.<sup>N,G</sup> May 20: Valentín **Gómez Farías** overthrows President Paredes, restores the Constitution of 1824<sup>BA</sup>, and declares **Santa Anna** President.<sup>F</sup> The US builds up forces at Camargo, Tamaulipas; out of 20,000, 1500 die of disease.<sup>N</sup> Meanwhile, the US Navy blocks Mexico's seaports.<sup>BA</sup> Jun 14: 34 Americans, who called themselves Osos, led by Ezekial Merrit take over Sonoma, California without incident, capturing 9 cannons, 250 muskets, and 140 horses, plus ammunition.<sup>BP</sup>

1846c Jul 7: US Commodore John D. Sloat, guessing war has started, occupies Monterey, California and claims Alta California to be a US possession.<sup>BP</sup> Aug 18: Brig. Gen. Stephen W. Kearny with 1650 men reaches Santa Fe, New Mexico.<sup>N</sup> Aug 19: Taylor's force starts marching south.<sup>G</sup>

● *Battle of Monterrey*: Mexican forces total 10,000, Americans 6640. Sep 21: Taylor's western force (2000 men under Brig. Gen. William J. Worth), after circling around to the southwest, defeats the Mexicans on Federation Hill on the south side of the Saltillo road. At first, Taylor's eastern force is repulsed at the Black Fort and the Tannery, both fortified buildings north of the city. Then, the eastern force captures the Tannery and (Sep 22) the western force captures Independence Hill on the north side of the Saltillo road.<sup>N</sup> Sep 25: General Pedro de Ampudia withdraws from the city after two days of house-to-house fighting.<sup>N,G</sup> American losses: 800 dead and wounded.<sup>N</sup> Sep 24: In Los Angeles, Mexicans rebel due to strict rules issued by US Marine Lieutenant Archibald Gillespie. Sep 29: Gillespie's small force surrenders to Captain José María Flores and leaves by ship.<sup>BP</sup>

1846d Oct 8: Flores and about 200 men defeat a landing force, over 350 men from USS Savannah commanded by Captain William Mervine, near Los Angeles. The Americans re-board the ship at San Pedro and leave.<sup>BP</sup> Nov 14: The US Navy captures Tampico.<sup>N</sup> Dec 6: **Santa Anna** assumes the presidency. He appoints **Gómez Farías** Vice President and leaves him to manage the government.

## Mexico's Handicaps

Two main factors stand out as the reasons for the overwhelming defeat of the Mexican Army. First was the disunity among Mexicans. All the time the war was underway, Mexicans were rebelling against the government. The Church openly called for rebellion because of its resentment at having to pay taxes.

The second factor was the superiority of American weapons, which could shoot farther and more accurately than Mexican weapons.

A third factor could be that Santa Anna was a poor general. Vain, stubborn, and unimaginative, he discouraged suggestions from commanders and never followed them.

In the Yucatán, whites fight over the issue of independence from Mexico. Both sides recruit Maya natives.<sup>AG</sup> Dec 6: In California, Brigadier General Stephen Watts Kearny, coming overland with 150 dragoons, attacks San Pascual, and drives out about 100 lancers commanded by Andrés Pico. Dec 7: Pico traps Kearny on a hill on the way to San Diego. Dec 11: 215 sailors and marines from San Diego rescue Kearny.<sup>BP</sup> Dec 30: US troops under Gen. John Quitman occupy Cd. Victoria.<sup>BF</sup>

1847a January: in the Yucatán, Antonio Trujeque leads a revolt and captures Tekax, Peto, and Valladolid, killing at least 85 whites, portending the War of the Castes.<sup>AG</sup> Jan 11 (and again Feb 4): acting President Valentín **Gómez Farías** levies the Church to pay for the war with the US and seizes Church property to sell for cash.<sup>BA</sup> Jan 12: John C. Frémont and Andrés Pico sign an armistice at Cahuenga Pass, near Los Angeles, ending hostilities in California.<sup>BP</sup> Jan 19: 1500 Mexicans and Indians revolt at and near Taos Pueblo in New Mexico and kill 15 US soldiers. Jan 24 to Feb 3: 479 US soldiers from Santa Fe put down the revolt; Americans lose 7 dead and 45 wounded, rebels lose 170 dead plus 16 hanged.<sup>N,G</sup> At Saltillo, over half of Taylor's force moves to Tampico for an invasion force under Winfield Scott.<sup>AH</sup>

- *Battle of Buena Vista* Feb 23: Taylor with 4759 men fights **Santa Anna** with 20,000 men to a draw at La Angostura, south of Saltillo; Americans lose 673 dead and wounded, Mexicans lose approximately 1800 dead and wounded plus 7000 deserters. After the battle, Santa Anna withdraws and Taylor moves to Monterrey.<sup>N</sup>
- *Battle of Sacramento* Feb 28: Col. William A. Doniphan and 850 men defeat 3700 Mexicans at a fortified town near Chihuahua City; the Americans lose 2 dead and 7 wounded, the Mexicans lose 300 dead, 300 wounded.<sup>N,G</sup>
- Mar 9: Gen. Winfield Scott with 12,000 men lands on Collada Beach, a few miles southeast of Veracruz, out of range of the fortress at San Juan de Ulúa, and besieges the city.<sup>N,G</sup> The Church encourages militia members in the capital, mostly upper-class young men known as Polkos, to rebel against the government instead of fighting the Americans at Veracruz.<sup>BA</sup> Mar 21: **Santa Anna** nullifies the levies **Gómez Farías** had laid on the Church in exchange for 20 million pesos cash.<sup>G</sup> Mar 29: After 4 days of bombardment, Veracruz and the 2500 men at San Juan de Ulúa, with 300 cannons, surrender.<sup>N</sup> Americans lose 13 killed and 54 wounded; Mexicans lose over 1000 killed, mostly civilians.<sup>AM, BF</sup>

1847b Apr 17, 18: Scott with 8500 men defeats **Santa Anna** with 12,000 men at Cerro Gordo (near Veracruz). The Americans lose 64 dead and 353 wounded; the Mexicans lose 1000 dead and wounded and 3000 captured, plus 4000 muskets and 40 cannons.<sup>N,G</sup>

1847c Jul 30: in the Yucatán, Maya rebels led by Cecilio Chi begin the War of the Castes by attacking Tepich, Yucatán and killing about 100 whites. Whites begin attacking rebel settlements.<sup>AG</sup> Aug 15: **Santa Anna** takes up a position on Peñon Hill (at the present Mexico City Airport) to block the main eastern road. Americans take a different road south around Lakes Chalco and Xochimilco to San Agustín (Tlalpan). To the north, San Antonio Gate (at the present Nezahualpilli train stop) was heavily defended.<sup>N</sup>

- *Battle of Mexico City* Aug 20: 4500 Americans cross Pedregal Hill to find General Gabriel Valencia with 7000 troops at Padierna (present Jardines en la Montaña), just northeast of Contreras (present La Magdalena Contreras). Americans follow a ravine under cover of night to a position behind Contreras and attack, killing 700 and capturing 813; American losses total 60. Americans bypass San Antonio, prompting the Mexicans there to flee toward Churubusco. There, major battles take place at a bridgehead, which the Mexicans have fortified with 7000+ men, and at the convent, which the Mexicans have fortified with 1500 men, including some American deserters. Between the battles at Churubusco and San Antonio, the Mexicans lose 4300 dead and wounded, 2600 captured, and some thousands of deserters; Americans lose 131 dead, 865 wounded, and 40 missing. Aug 21: **Santa Anna** asks for a truce for peace negotiations; Scott grants the truce but Santa Anna uses the time to organize his forces and construct fortifications. Sep 6: the truce ends. Sep 8: Americans capture Molino del Rey and nearby Casa Mata, an old slaughterhouse (both near Chapultepec; the Molino attack was supposed to be a night raid to destroy a supposed weapons foundry); of 3447 men, the Americans lose 117 killed, 658 wounded, and 18 missing; the Mexicans lose 2000 dead and 2000

wounded. Sep 12: Americans bombard Chapultepec Castle. Sep 13: Americans capture Chapultepec Castle, Belén Gate (present Cuauhtémoc Metro Station), receiving fire from the Citadel, and San Cosmé Gate (present Hidalgo Metro Station). On that morning, the Americans lose 450 dead and wounded; the Mexicans lose 1800, including 6 cadets at Chapultepec (they are immortalized later as the **Niños Héroes**). Sep 14: General John Quitman captures the Citadel (Ciudadela) at Belén and the National Palace at the Zócalo (main plaza).<sup>N,G,AM</sup> Insurgents in Mexico City attack US troops for several days, killing and wounding 200. American reprisals leave many Mexicans dead. The trouble ends when insurgents kill a Texas Ranger; the Rangers kill over eighty Mexicans.<sup>BF</sup> Sep 16: Santa Anna resigns the presidency and Supreme Court Chief Justice Manuel Peña y Peña takes over.<sup>F</sup>

1847d Oct 6: in the Yucatán, centralist Colonel José Cetina captures Mérida while Maya rebels build strength and attack small towns. 3-way fighting continues for the rest of the year until the whites join against the Maya rebels.<sup>AG</sup> Oct 9: Americans defeat **Santa Anna** at Huamantla (25 miles northeast of Puebla), then loot the town, on their way to relieve 400 Americans trapped at Puebla. Nov 2: Santa Anna flees to Colombia.<sup>N</sup>

### THE POST-WAR YEARS 1848 - 1857

While the War of the Castes raged in the Yucatán, a broken and embittered Mexico returned to political quarreling, sometimes with and sometimes without **Santa Anna's** firm hand. Liberals continued to loosen the grip of the Church over Mexico's people and its economy. As civil war neared, politicians formed rival governments.

1848 Jan 3: Congress appoints Herrera President. Feb 2: Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo: Mexico gives up its Northwest in return for US\$18,250,000.<sup>F,AM</sup> Mar 19: whites abandon Valladolid, Yucatán. Many refugees are killed.<sup>AG</sup> May 30: ratified copies of the treaty are exchanged in Querétaro, officially ending the war.<sup>BF</sup> Rebellions take place in Querétaro, San Luis Potosí, and Guanajuato.<sup>M</sup>

1849 Jan 8: Mariano Arista is elected President.<sup>F</sup> Rebellions occur in Juchitán, in the Huasteca (Tamaulipas, Hidalgo, and San Luis Potosí States), and in Mezquital (Hidalgo State).<sup>M</sup> In the Yucatán, fighting continues; whites recover strength.<sup>AG</sup>

1850 Rebellion spreads to Guerrero.<sup>M</sup> During a low moment in the Maya rebellion, a Maya leader named José María Barrera installs a "talking cross" in a grotto at present Felipe Carrillo Puerto. The cross promises victory to the rebels.<sup>AG</sup>

1852 Colonel Francisco Bahamonde revolts in La Piedad, Michoacán, calling for **Santa Anna's** return.<sup>F</sup>

1853 Jan 4: Arista resigns in favor of Juan Bautista Ceballos. Jan 19: Ceballos dissolves Congress.<sup>F</sup> Rebellions occur in Mexico State and Tlaxcala.<sup>M,F</sup> Apr 20: Santa Anna returns as dictator.<sup>F</sup>

September: Maya rebels in the Yucatán sign a peace treaty at Chichenhá. Whites resume fighting each other. Maya rebels unaffected by the treaty attack towns. The Yucatecan Army continues to fight Maya rebels, but loses strength because of losses and because of fighting with Campeche.<sup>AG</sup>

Nov 3: William Walker, an American filibuster, arrives at La Paz (Baja California) with 45 men, imprisons the Governor, and declares BC and Sonora independent.<sup>AA</sup>

1854 The Gadsden Purchase takes place: the US buys 30,000 sq. miles of land for US\$10,000,000.<sup>P,AM</sup>

Mar 11: Ignacio Comonfort and Juan Alvarez publish the *Plan de Ayutla* calling for a new constitution.<sup>F</sup> William Walker and 130 men march to the Colorado River in Sonora; most of them desert on the way. There, the remaining 34 reconsider their options and return to Baja California and cross into the US on May 8.<sup>AA</sup>

1855 The *Plan de Ayutla* gains popularity.<sup>P</sup> Aug 13: banished, **Santa Anna** sails to Cuba again. A convention at Cuernavaca declares Juan Alvarez President and Benito **Juárez** Minister of Justice. Nov 23: Juárez abolishes the legal privileges of the Church and the military (*Ley Juárez*). Dec 11: Alvarez resigns and makes Comonfort President.<sup>F</sup> The Yucatecan Army withdraws from the Maya area and the Speaking Cross cult solidifies its control over southeastern Yucatán.<sup>AG</sup>

1856 Apr 26: Comonfort decrees that the government will no longer enforce laws that make religion mandatory. Jun 5: the Jesuits are expelled.<sup>M</sup> Jun 25: the Lerdo Law (*Ley Lerdo*) is imposed:

confiscation and sale of Church property and Indian common land; the government pays 6% of the appraised value per year.<sup>P,E</sup> The Church excommunicates all government officials and anyone who buys Church land.<sup>BB</sup>

1857 January: the Church loses control over civil registrations and cemeteries.<sup>AM</sup> Feb 5: A new constitution is imposed (strong legislature, basic civil rights). Conservatives, especially the churchmen, reject freedom of religion; they revolt and take over the country, except Veracruz.<sup>P,K</sup> Aug 7: in the Yucatán, Campeche and Mérida sign a treaty by which Campeche becomes a separate state.<sup>F</sup> Maya rebels continue attacking towns.<sup>AG</sup> Dec 1: Under the new Constitution, Comonfort is elected President and **Juárez** Vice President and President of the Supreme Court. Dec 17: Comonfort accepts the *Plan de Tacubaya* and puts Juárez and Isidoro Olvera (President of the Congress) in prison. Dec. 17: Félix Zuloaga fires cannons in Mexico City to announce his support of Comonfort. Dec. 25: a liberal convention at Querétaro rejects the *Plan de Tacubaya* and appoints Juárez President.<sup>M</sup>

#### *Plan de Tacubaya*<sup>M</sup>

1. Suspend the Constitution
2. Appoint Comonfort head of state
3. Call a new constitutional convention
4. Elect the President through a popular vote
5. Form a governing council

#### **THE WAR OF THE REFORM** 1858 - 1862

During a long, bloody civil war, the Church and its conservative supporters faced off against the liberals who dared to limit the Church's prerogatives. In the end, better generalship and control of the port at Veracruz fixed separation of Church and State as a bedrock political principle.

1858 Jan 18: liberal troops under Anastasio Parrodi leave Guadalajara.<sup>M</sup> Same day: Comonfort escapes to the US after freeing **Juárez**.<sup>F</sup> February: Tekax and Bacalar, the last two settlements of whites and peaceful Maya in the Yucatán south and east of Valladolid, are sacked and the residents slaughtered.<sup>AG</sup> Mar 10: liberal troops under Parrodi defeat conservatives at Salamanca. Mar 11: liberals under Manuel Doblado surrender to conservatives at Romita. Mar 23: Parrodi surrenders to Luis Osollo at San Pedro Tlaquepaque. Apr 17: conservatives under Miguel Miramón defeat liberals under Juan Zuazua at Puerto de Carretas. Apr 27: Zuazua wins at Zacatecas. May 15: Campeche becomes a separate state.<sup>AG</sup> Jun 21: liberal Santos Degollado escapes from Guadalajara, under siege by Miguel Miramón and Indians under Manuel Lozada. Jun 30: Zuazua wins at San Luis. Sept. 21: liberals under Sóstenes Rocha and José Silverio Núñez defeat conservatives at Techaluta. Oct 29: conservatives at Guadalajara surrender to Degollado after a long siege.<sup>M</sup>

1859 February: conservatives appoint Miguel Miramón President. Apr 11: Leonardo Márquez defeats liberals under Santos Degollado at Tacubaya; Miramón orders the execution of civilians there for not opposing the liberals. Conservatives under Miramón defeat liberals under Santos Degollado at Estancia de las Vacas, Querétaro.<sup>M</sup> Liberals in Veracruz, claiming to be the rightful government, pass laws written by Melchor **Ocampo** that restrict and regulate the Church and expropriate its property.<sup>K</sup>

#### *Reform Laws*<sup>M</sup>

Jul 12: Nationalization of Church property.

Jul 23: Civil marriage authorized.

Jul 28: Civil register for births, marriages, and deaths created.

Jul 28: Personal rights guaranteed.

Jul 31: Secularization of cemeteries.

Aug 11: Church functions denied official sanction; religious holidays reduced in status to festivals.

1860 Kickapoo Indians settle in Mexico, from where they raid into Texas.<sup>AK</sup> March: conservatives hire two warships from Cuba to blockade Veracruz, but they are intercepted by the US Navy. Liberals under Jesús González Ortega defeat conservatives under Miramón at Lagos de Moreno. Sep 25-Oct 30: Battle of Guadalajara: liberals under Ignacio Zaragoza defeat conservatives.<sup>m</sup> Aug 10: liberal troops under Degollado defeat conservatives under Miramón at Silao.<sup>K,P,F</sup> Dec 4: the government passes a religious freedom law.<sup>M</sup> Dec 22: the final battle takes place at San Miguel Calpulalpán, where the liberals under General González Ortega win.<sup>H,F</sup>

1861a Jan 11: **Juárez** enters Mexico City as President.<sup>K,AM</sup> Feb 2: the government secularizes hospitals and charities.<sup>M</sup> Liberal troops plunder churches and murder some Bishops and expel most of the rest. Conservative bands rove as bandits and murder some liberals, notably Melchor **Ocampo** and General Santos Degollado.<sup>M,BB</sup> Juárez is elected President.<sup>M</sup>

## THE FRENCH INTERVENTION 1862 - 1867

Emperor Napoleon III viewed Mexico, weakened by years of civil war, as ripe fruit. Misled by self-interested advisors such as Archbishop Labastida of Puebla and Gen. Juan N. Almonte, Napoleon enlisted Archduke **Maximilian** of Austria to bring modern imperial government to the suffering Mexican people. Ordinarily, the US would have intervened under the terms of the Monroe Doctrine, but at the time was distracted by its own civil war. After five years of intense warfare, as the US was recovering its strength, Napoleon withdrew his support for Maximilian and the invasion collapsed.

1861d December: Spanish, French and British ships arrive at Veracruz, ostensibly to collect some debts, under an agreement called the Treaty of London.<sup>B,BB</sup>

1862 Jan 25: **Juárez** signs an order authorizing the execution of pro-French collaborators.<sup>K</sup> Mar 6: French troops disembark at Veracruz. Spanish and English troops land as well, but quickly leave when they understand Napoleon III's motives.<sup>M</sup> Almonte declares himself President.<sup>BB</sup>

● *Battle of Cinco de Mayo*: May 5: 5432 Mexicans under Ignacio **Zaragoza** block 6000 French under Count Charles Ferdinand Latrille de Lorencez at Puebla. First attack: four French battalions attack Forts Loreto and Guadalupe from the northeast; Mexican infantry, supported by artillery in the forts, drives them back. Second attack: five French battalions attack Guadalupe; same result. Third attack: two French battalions sweep around to the east of Guadalupe; Porfirio **Díaz** leads a counter-attack and stops the French advance.<sup>M,AB</sup> The French lose 476 dead, 345 wounded; the Mexicans lose 83 dead, 132 wounded, 12 missing. Napoleon sends more troops.<sup>M</sup>

● Nov 23: the French occupy Tampico. Between 1862 and 1865, military actions occur in every state except Baja California.<sup>K</sup>

1863 Feb 26: the government excludes religious communities.<sup>M</sup> Mar 16-May 17: Siege of Puebla: French under General Elie Forey capture 26 generals, including González Ortega, 303 senior officers, 1179 junior officers, 9000-11,000 enlisted men, and 150 cannons, the bulk of **Juárez's** army. The officers are sent to France; 5000 enlisted men are put in Márquez's pro-French forces and the rest are put to work on the rail line between Veracruz and Mexico City.<sup>K</sup> May 31: Juárez moves the government to San Luis Potosí. Jun 10: French forces enter Mexico City with cheers from the Church and the conservatives.<sup>BB</sup> General Achille Bazaine replaces Forey. June: French forces enter Pachuca. July: French forces enter Toluca, Tulancingo, and Cuernavaca. August: French forces enter Tampico. Nov 17: French forces under Douay enter Querétaro. Nov 24: French forces under Castagny enter Acámbaro. Nov 30: Pro-French forces under Márquez enter Morelia. More French victories in Uruapan, Aguascalientes, and Guanajuato.<sup>M</sup> French Imperial forces take over the governments of Yucatán and Campeche but make no headway against the Maya rebels.<sup>AG</sup>

1864 Jan 9: **Juárez** moves the government to Saltillo. Apr 3: Juárez moves the government to Monterrey. May 17: French under Aymard and pro-French Mexicans under Tomás Mejía defeat Mexicans under Doblado at Matehuala. French win at Tampico, but lose to Porfirio **Díaz** at Minatitlán and San Juan Bautista (present Villahermosa), then win at San Blas, Acapulco, and Manzanillo. Jul 4: French under L'Herillier enter Durango. Aug 20: French under Castagny enter

- Saltillo. Aug 26: French under Castagny enter Monterrey. Same day: Juárez moves the government to Chihuahua City. Sep 26: French naval forces take Matamoros, giving them control of all the Gulf ports.<sup>M</sup> **Maximilian** is persuaded to become Emperor of Mexico, based on a plebiscite rigged by conservatives, who expect him to agree with them.<sup>H</sup>
- 1865 At the beginning of the year, Imperial forces include 36,500 French, 20,000 pro-French Mexicans, 6000 Austrians, and 1300 Belgians. **Juárez**, claiming to be the legitimate head of state, unilaterally extends his own term of office. Jul 11: French forces enter Tacámbaro. Jul 29: French forces enter Hermosillo. Aug 11: French forces enter Acapulco. Aug 14: Juárez moves the government from Chihuahua City to El Paso del Norte (now Ciudad Juárez). Aug 15: French forces enter Chihuahua City and Ures. Aug 22: French forces enter Río Florido. Aug 23: French forces enter Villa de Allende. Oct 23: **Maximilian** orders the execution of captured resisters.<sup>M</sup>
- 1866 Jan 5-25: African-Americans from Texas attack and occupy Bagdad, near the mouth of the Rio Grande; they devastate the town and transport the French soldiers to Clarksville, Texas. January: Napoleon III informs **Maximilian** that he'll be cutting off support in the autumn. The US begins supporting **Juárez's** government. French begin leaving cities, under fire.<sup>M</sup> Anti-French rebels, the same ones who opposed Yucatán independence and favored Campeche's separation from Yucatán, begin a campaign against Mérida and Campeche City.<sup>AG</sup>
- 1867 Feb 5: French forces leave Mexico City. Feb 13: **Maximilian** moves to Querétaro. Mar 8: republican forces arrive at Querétaro. Mar 11: the last French troops leave Mexico.<sup>M</sup> Apr 2: Porfirio **Díaz** defeats imperial forces at Puebla. May 15: Maximilian is betrayed and captured on the Hill of the Bells, at Querétaro. Jun 15: the imperialists surrender in Yucatán.<sup>AG</sup> Jun 19: Maximilian is shot at the Hill of the Bells. General Porfirio Díaz enters Mexico City. Jul 15: **Juárez** moves the government back to the capital. He orders an election in which he defeats Díaz.<sup>K</sup>
- 1868 Socialists led by Julio Chávez López start a revolt in Mexico State and occupy villages and attack haciendas there and in Morelos State. General Ramón Cuellar destroys rebel villages and eventually captures Chávez López.<sup>BH</sup>

## THE RESTORATION 1868 - 1876

When the French invaders had left, **Juárez** began the reconstruction of Mexico while others planned for his replacement. Porfirio **Díaz**, the most eminent general at the end of the war, gathered support among army units for his own presidency. Díaz lost two elections, but made himself President anyway.

- 1869 Tzotzils revolt in Chiapas, killing hundreds of Spaniards and Ladinos, but lose over a thousand.<sup>AK</sup>  
 Sep 1: Julio Chávez López is executed by firing squad in Chalco.<sup>BH</sup>
- 1870 Revolts take place in Chiapas, Puebla, and Michoacán.<sup>M</sup>
- 1871 Porfirio **Díaz** publishes the *Plan de la Noria*: (a) claims **Juárez** stole the election and that Congress is in his pocket, (b) proposes to evict Juárez from office, and (c) proposes to revoke the Constitution of 1857. Díaz flees to Cuba, then to the US. May 2: Colonel Máximo Molina rebels against Juárez in Tampico. Jun 11: Gen. Sóstenes Rocha defeats Molina and executes 245 prisoners. Colonel Arturo Mayer and Major Tomás Almendares revolt at the Ciudadela in Mexico City. Rocha defeats them and kills 181, losing 11. Sep 29: Jerónimo Treviño, Governor of Nuevo León, declares against Juárez. Oct 20: General Donato Guerra declares against Juárez in Zacatecas. More rebellions occur in Huitzilac, Tulancingo, Atlixco, Atlamajac, Michoacán, Mexico State, and Puebla.<sup>P</sup> Dec 1: Juárez is reelected.<sup>AP</sup> Dec 5: Treviño takes Saltillo.<sup>P</sup>
- 1872 Mar 2: Rocha defeats rebels at Zacatecas, then suppresses the rebellion.<sup>M</sup> Jul 18: **Juárez** dies of a heart attack. Sebastián Lerdo de Tejada succeeds him. **Díaz** lands at Manzanillo and marches to Chihuahua City, where he learns that Juárez is dead.<sup>P</sup> Dec 20: the railroad between Mexico City and Veracruz is completed.<sup>AM</sup>
- 1873 US Cavalry destroys the main Mexican-Kickapoo village at Nacimiento.<sup>AK</sup> Manuel Lozada, political boss of the Cora and Huichol Indians, rebels against the Governor of Jalisco because of abuses of poor people's property rights. He is captured at Guadalajara by Rocha and, on Jul 19,

shot at Tepic.<sup>M</sup>

1876 **Díaz**'s supporters publish the *Plan de Tuxtepec*: replace Lerdo with Supreme Court President José María Iglesias and hold new elections; presidential reelection not to be allowed; names Díaz as head of the revolt. General Mariano Escobedo defeats Díaz in the north, so Díaz moves to Oaxaca. Lerdo wins the presidential election, but Iglesias rules the election invalid because some parts of the country couldn't participate, owing to the revolt. Díaz gets the support of the Governors of Guanajuato, Jalisco, Guerrero, Sinaloa, Durango, and Sonora. November: Lerdo leaves Mexico City and Díaz enters.<sup>M</sup>

## THE PORFIRIATO 1878 - 1909

**Díaz** stimulated development by offering generous terms to wealthy Mexicans and foreign investors, and employed the Army and the police to protect their interests. Middle-class Mexicans resented the privileges afforded the foreigners and the oppressive way Díaz dealt with dissidents and unions. Poor people, rural and urban, suffered economically, which led to numerous revolts in indigenous areas. Large landholders accelerated their practice of extra-legally acquiring small landholdings, both to enlarge their own holdings and to increase the labor pool. Toward the end, foreigners owned 20% of the privately-owned land, 97% of the mining properties, 98% of the rubber industry, and over 90% of the petroleum industry.<sup>BC</sup>

1878 January: Lerdo departs Acapulco for the US. Iglesias departs Mazatlán for the US.<sup>M</sup>

1880 After 6 revolts in 60 years, the government starts relocating Yaquis to plantations in Yucatán.<sup>AL</sup>

1883 January: in Pinos Altos, Chihuahua, mineworkers stage a strike. Violence erupts, leaving a miner, a guard, and the company manager dead. The Army puts down the strike and executes five strikers and sends sixty to hard labor in prison.<sup>BH</sup> **Díaz** gets Congress to pass the Law of Colonization and Surveying Wastelands: survey companies get to keep 1/3 of the land they survey and designate as wasteland. Companies survey land belonging to poor people, dispossess the owners, and keep 1/3.<sup>M</sup>

1885-87 Thousands of Yaquis revolt in Sonora, led by Cajeme and Tetabiate.<sup>B</sup> Maya revolt in Quintana Roo.<sup>M</sup>

1889 Peasants revolt in Pihuamo.<sup>M</sup>

1891-92 Rebellions in Sonora and Quintana Roo.<sup>M</sup>

1896 **Díaz** and Congress make feeble efforts to correct abuses.<sup>M</sup>

1901 In the Yucatán, Mexican General Ignacio Bravo builds a road into the Maya rebel area, putting down any resistance he encounters. With the Mexican Navy blocking escape to Belize, the rebels are driven from Chan Santa Cruz (present Felipe Carrillo Puerto) and Bacalar. Bravo runs eastern Yucatán like a fiefdom, but never subdues the rebels, and finally is deposed when Madero becomes President in 1911.<sup>AG</sup>

1902 Troops suppress the Yaqui resistance in Sonora and deport Yaquis to the sisal plantations of the Yucatán.<sup>K</sup> Nov 24: eastern Yucatán is made a separate territory, called Quintana Roo.<sup>AG</sup>

1903 The **Flores Magón** brothers, Ricardo, Enrique, and Jusús, newspaper publishers, openly accuse **Díaz** of violating the constitution.<sup>K</sup>

1905 The Mexican Liberal Party (PLM), led by the **Flores Magon** brothers, begins publishing the newspaper, *La Regeneración*, from within the US, where the brothers are exiled. In Chihuahua, followers agitate against the **Díaz** regime. In response, Governor Enrique C. Creel orders troops to seal the border and maintain order in the mining towns. He hires spies and censors mail, and hires American detectives to track down dissidents.<sup>AZ</sup>

1906 Jun 1: copper miners go on strike at Cananea, Sonora. Company guards and rural police put down the strike and hang the leaders.<sup>AM</sup> When railway workers go on strike in Chihuahua, Enrique Creel (who is a major partner in the railway company as well as state Governor), hires American railworkers.<sup>AZ</sup> Dec 4: textile workers go on strike in Puebla and Oaxaca States. Dec 24: the textile companies declare a lockout.<sup>BH</sup>

1907: Jan 5: **Díaz** outlaws unions and forbids strikes. Jan 7: textile workers defy the no-strike order in

Veracruz. The Army wounds and kills hundreds of strikers. Jan 8: the two main organizers, Rafael Moreno and Manuel Juárez, are shot dead by soldiers. A world-wide recession begins, throwing miners out of work.<sup>BH</sup> The next few years see high unemployment and inflation. In an interview with Pearson's Magazine, Díaz promises to allow opposition parties in 1910 and to retire in the same year.<sup>K</sup>

1908 Francisco **Madero** publishes *The Presidential Succession of 1910*, calling for **Díaz** to fulfill his promises of 1907.<sup>K</sup>

1909 **Madero** forms the National Anti-Reelectionist Party and announces his candidacy for 1910.<sup>K</sup>

### THE REVOLUTION 1910 - 1924

The Revolution of 1910 started out modestly. After some 31 years as President, **Díaz** offered to allow free elections and step down. Francisco **Madero**, an idealist, ran for President and spent election day in jail, as did thousands of his supporters. Enough resentment had grown up in the country that large numbers of middle-class, working class, and farmworker Mexicans rebelled. Díaz left the country within a year and Madero won a new election and became President. Madero was never able to control the government officials and generals, who continued to oppose the rebels. His support splintered and, after General Victoriano **Huerta** had him murdered, different revolutionary factions fought each other over control of the government. Incessant warfare continued for ten years.

**Carranza**, **Villa**, and **Obregón** fought against Huerta. When Huerta was gone, Carranza made himself President with Obregón's support, but **Zapata** and **Villa** rebelled against him. When Zapata was killed and **Villa** was bought off, Obregón overthrew Carranza and emerged at the end of the war as the strongest man in Mexico.

1910 Jun 21: presidential election takes place with **Madero** and his supporters in prison.<sup>AM</sup> Pancho **Villa** and Pascual **Orozco** revolt against **Díaz** in Chihuahua. Emiliano **Zapata** revolts in Morelos.<sup>P</sup> More rebellions in Tlaxcala, Sinaloa, and Yucatán. Oct 5: Madero leaves San Luis Potosí for the US. There he publishes the *Plan de San Luis Potosí*, calling for a general uprising on Nov 20. Nov 19: In Puebla, soldiers and police shoot up the house of Aquiles Serdán, a shoe manufacturer who organized workers in support of Madero. Serdán kills Chief of Police Miguel Cabrera, but Serdán,

### A Fragmented Revolution

Villa and Zapata never trusted Carranza. In July of 1914, representatives of Carranza and Villa signed the Torreón Pact, in which Villa recognized Carranza's authority and Carranza recognized Villa as Commander of the Division of the North. But Carranza never signed the pact and repudiated it. It only was a ploy to gain time for Obregón to capture Mexico City. Zapata refused even to negotiate with Carranza owing to Carranza's opposition to land reform.

In September, Obregón went to Chihuahua to mediate between Villa and Carranza, and narrowly escaped being executed by a firing squad.

In October, Obregón presided over a convention at Aguascalientes between representatives of Carranza and Villa. Then, representatives of Zapata joined and in November they and the Villa representatives voted Carranza out and adopted Zapata's land reform known as the Plan de Ayala. On December 4, Carranza had fled to Veracruz, Villa's and Zapata's armies occupied Mexico City, and Villa and Zapata met in Xochimilco.

Villa and Zapata made a strategic mistake. Zapata took on the task of opposing Carranza and Obregón while Villa took his more powerful army north where Carranza's forces were weak.

Meanwhile, Carranza had control of Veracruz, so he could import supplies, and of the coastal oilfields and the Yucatan hemp plantations, so he could pay for them. Then he reversed his earlier policy and promised land reform. By the end of January, Obregón had recaptured Puebla and Mexico City. In the capital he laid taxes on the merchants and the Church and won the support of the unions by empowering them. Then he was ready to move north to meet Villa.

his brother Máximo, and 19 other supporters die and his sister Carmen is wounded. By Dec 20, most of the country is seeing rebellion.<sup>M</sup>

1911 Apr 1: **Díaz** announces his intention to pass a no-reelection law and to promote land reform.<sup>M</sup> Apr 18: **Madero** enters Mexico from the US and besieges Juárez City with the help of Pancho **Villa** and Pascual **Orozco**. Early May: Díaz starts negotiations with Madero. May 10: Juárez City surrenders to Madero.<sup>K, F</sup> May 19: **Zapata** takes Cuautla. May 25: Díaz resigns the presidency in favor of Foreign Minister Francisco León de la Barra.<sup>BN</sup> May 31: Cuernavaca surrenders to Manuel Asúnsulo, a revolutionary from Guerrero.<sup>BN</sup> Same day: Díaz leaves the country. Jun 7: Madero enters Mexico City.<sup>K, F</sup> July: Abrahám Martínez and some revolutionary soldiers supporting Zapata occupy the bull ring in Puebla. On the 12th, they arrest some politicians on suspicion of plotting the assassination of Madero. Federal soldiers storm the bull ring; 50 people die, including some women and children.<sup>BN</sup> October: Madero wins the presidential election; José Pino Suárez is elected Vice President. Nov 6: Madero takes office and orders Zapata to disarm. Nov 25: Zapata publishes the *Plan de Ayala*: restores land claims and water rights to peasants, gives 1/3 of hacienda land to landless peasants, rejects Madero's presidency and appoints Pascual Orozco head of the movement. Rebellions occur in Tlaxcala, Michoacán, Guerrero, and Oaxaca.<sup>K, F</sup> In Chiapas, 50,000 Tzotziles revolt, losing over 1000 dead.<sup>AK</sup>

1912 Mar 25: Pascual **Orozco** publishes the *Plan Orozquista*: accuses **Madero** of corruption and demands social reforms. May: Victoriano **Huerta** defeats Orozco at Relleno. Oct 16: Félix Díaz, the nephew of Porfirio **Díaz**, revolts in Veracruz but is arrested and sent to Lecumberri Prison in Mexico City.<sup>M, AM</sup>

1913a *Ten Tragic Days*. Feb 9: Félix Díaz's supporters, led by General Manuel Mondragón, revolt in Mexico City, free him, and attack the main plaza. Félix Díaz and rebellious army units take over the Ciudadela (Citadel). For five days the two forces exchange cannon and machine-gun fire. Some 5000 people die, including pro-Madero rural militiamen sent by Huerta in suicidal attacks. Then, Félix Díaz makes a deal with Victoriano **Huerta**, **Madero's** military

## The US Reacts to the Revolution

President Wilson of the US watched the war in Mexico attentively, concerned that it could spill over into the US and that harm to Americans living in Mexico would reflect poorly on his administration. He started out imposing an embargo on both sides, but soon changed to allow arms shipments to Carranza and his allies. Huerta was an alcoholic murderer. Carranza, propertied, moderate and with experience in politics, was obviously the better choice.

In 1914, Wilson sent a small naval detachment to Tampico to create a pretext for intervening. *The Tampico Incident*: Some US sailors strayed into a restricted area of the port and were arrested. The naval commander, Admiral Henry Thomas Mayo, demanded their immediate release, plus an apology, plus a twenty-one gun salute. The regimental commander, Ramón Hinojosa, released the men and apologized. General Morelos Zaragosa went further and arrested Hinojosa, but he and Huerta demurred at saluting trespassers with cannonfire. In retaliation for such a grievous insult, the US bombarded and occupied Veracruz, preventing a shipload of weapons intended for Huerta's forces from being delivered. Indeed, the loss of Veracruz and its port revenues led Huerta to resign a few months later.

When Carranza was struggling against Pancho Villa and Emiliano Zapata, Wilson cooperated with Carranza by selling him arms and by allowing his troops to travel by rail within the US.

In 1916, Pancho Villa attacked Columbus, New Mexico, giving Wilson another opportunity to intervene. Wilson sent General George Pershing with a large contingent of troops to track Villa down. Pershing did not catch Villa and, in fact, Villa defeated Federals at Satevó and looted Chihuahua City in September of 1916 and captured Torreón December 22. Pershing was unable to overcome the hostility of Mexicans on both sides and finally withdrew after accomplishing nothing.

commander. Feb 17: Madero, learning about the deal, has Huerta arrested, but Huerta convinces Madero he is innocent. Feb 18: Félix Díaz and Huerta sign the Pact of the Citadel (or Pact of the Embassy, since they signed it in the US Embassy in front of Ambassador Henry Lane Wilson). The agreement is that Huerta will serve as provisional president and help Félix Díaz's election. Then they arrest Gustavo Madero, Francisco's brother, at the Restaurant Gambirinus and announce their pact. Feb 19: Félix Díaz and Huerta torture and kill Gustavo Madero. Francisco Madero and José Pino Suárez resign to Congress, which appoints Pedro Lascurain President. Lascurain appoints Huerta as his successor and resigns after less than 1 hour in office. Huerta orders the arrest of Madero and Pino Suárez, who are murdered on Feb 22 while being taken to the Federal District penitentiary.<sup>M</sup> Wealthy Mexicans and foreigners and the Church celebrate Huerta's success and offer money loans. Félix Díaz accepts an embassy post in Japan and Mondragón flees to the US. Mar 13: Alvaro **Obregón** captures Nogales. Mar 26: Obregón occupies Cananea. Venustiano **Carranza**, Governor of Coahuila, publishes the *Plan de Guadalupe* and attracts the support of Obregón, Benjamín Hill, Plutarco Elías Calles, Pancho **Villa**, and José María Maytorena.<sup>M, AM, BJ</sup>

### *Plan de Guadalupe*<sup>M</sup>

- 1) Rejects **Huerta's** presidency
- 2) Rejects legislature and judiciary
- 3) Rejects state governments that cooperate with Huerta
- 4) Names **Carranza** head of Constitutionalist Army
- 5) Names Carranza executive head of Mexico City
- 6) Promises elections as soon as peace is restored
- 7) Declares martial law in states that cooperate with Huerta

1913b April: **Obregón** captures Naco, Agua Prieta, and Santa María.<sup>M</sup>

1913c Jul 13: Congressmen (Diputados) Néstor Monroy and Adolfo C. Currión are murdered at **Huerta's** order. Aug 22: Congressman Serapio Rendón is murdered at Huerta's order. Aug 27: Nicaraguan writer Solón Argüello is murdered at Huerta's order. Same Day: US President Wilson announces the US will be neutral on the war in Mexico and orders an arms embargo on both sides. Sep 29-Oct 1: **Villa** captures Lerdo, Avilés, Gómez Palacio, and Torreón.<sup>M, BJ</sup>

1913d Oct 8: Senator **Belisario Domínguez** is murdered at **Huerta's** order. October: All the Members of Congress are arrested and Huerta dissolves Congress and orders a new election. Nov 15: **Villa** captures Terrazas. Nov 20: **Obregón** captures Culiacán.<sup>M</sup> Huerta's government drafts men into the Army by sweeping them in off the streets.<sup>BJ</sup>

1914 **Obregón** captures Guaymas, Mazatlán, Acoponeta, Tepic, Guadalajara, Colima, Manzanillo, and Querétaro. Pancho **Villa** captures Lerdo, Gómez Palacio and Torreón again, then Juárez, La Cruz, Santa Rosalía, and Chihuahua City. Pablo González and his Army of the Northeast capture Monterrey and Tampico. **Zapata** and his Liberation Army of the South capture Milpa Alta, Iguala, Chilpancingo, Xochimilco, Cuernavaca, and Contreras. Apr 9: The Tampico Incident: US Sailors are detained after trespassing at the Port of Tampico. Apr 21: The US Navy bombards Veracruz; sailors and Marines occupy the city in retaliation for the April 9 incident; Americans lose 17 dead and 63 wounded; Mexicans lose 126 dead and 195 wounded.<sup>M, BJ</sup> Jun 23: Villa and the Division of the North defeat 12,000 federal troops at Zacatecas.<sup>BH</sup> Jul 14: **Huerta** resigns to Congress and flees to the US. Aug 13: Obregón enters Mexico City.<sup>M</sup> Aug 20: **Carranza** is made acting President. Villa and Zapata revolt against Carranza and Obregón.<sup>P</sup> Oct 16: a revolutionary convention meets at Aguascalientes; it approves Zapata's *Plan de Ayala* and votes to replace Carranza with Eulalio Gutiérrez. Nov 2: Carranza departs Mexico City for Veracruz which he declares to be the capital.<sup>B</sup> Nov 23: US Marines leave Veracruz.<sup>BH</sup> Nov 24: Zapata enters Mexico City; Villa enters soon after.<sup>B</sup>

1915 Jan 4: **Obregón** captures Puebla.<sup>BH</sup> Eulalio Gutiérrez flees Mexico City for San Luis Postosí, carrying most of the government's treasury.<sup>BJ</sup> The Revolutionary Convention appoints González Garza, a **Villa** supporter, President. Jan 31: Obregón captures Mexico City.<sup>BH</sup> Apr 6: Obregón defeats Pancho Villa at Celaya. Villa loses 4000 dead, 5000 wounded, and 6000 captured.

Obregón loses 138 dead and 227 wounded.<sup>AM</sup> Apr 13-15: second battle of Celaya: Obregón defeats Villa decisively. Apr 29-Jun 5: Obregón defeats Villa at Trinidad. Out of food, water, and ammunition, Obregón launches a desperate attack on Villa at Aguascalientes and drives Villa's army out, capturing a large supply of stores. This is Villa's last major battle. Oct 15: US recognizes **Carranza's** government and prohibits arms sales to his opponents.<sup>BH</sup> Nov 1: Plutarco Elías Calles defeats Villa at Agua Prieta.<sup>F</sup> The Carranzas government turns Quintana Roo Territory over to the rebels to govern.<sup>AG</sup>

1916 Jan 9: on orders from Pancho **Villa**, a force led by Gen. Pablo López kills 15 Americans on a train at Santa Isabel (present General Trías).<sup>AM, BH</sup> Mar 9: Villa sends 500 men to attack Columbus, NM. Mexicans kill 10 civilians and 8 US soldiers, but lose 90 to gunshots and 6 to hanging. Mar 14: US General George Pershing with 12,000 men enters Mexico to hunt Villa.<sup>AC, F, BH</sup> May 2: **Carranza's** forces under Gen. Pablo González capture Cuernavaca and soon after capture the cities and major towns of Morelos State. Then they begin to systematically terrorize and rob the residents.<sup>BH</sup> Jun 21: A shootout at El Carrizal (near Villa Ahumada) between US and Mexican armies results in 14 American dead, 26 wounded, 23 prisoners; 45 Mexican losses include the commanding general, Félix Gómez.<sup>AC, F, BJ</sup> Apr 12: American soldiers kill 40 Mexicans at Parral.<sup>B</sup> May 6: 60 Pro-Villa soldiers attack Glen Springs, Texas. Two Mexicans, two US soldiers, and one US civilian are killed.<sup>BJ</sup> Jul 31: electricians go on strike in Mexico City, leaving the city without electricity. Carranza arrests some union spokesmen. Aug 1: Carranza issues a decree mandating the death penalty for any strikers. Aug 2: Carranza has union leader Ernesto Velasco arrested. The strike ends and Velasco stays in prison until February, 1918. December through January: **Zapata** drives the Carranza forces out of Morelos.<sup>BH</sup>

1917 Feb 5: a new Constitution (land reform, controls on the Church, and workers' rights) is promulgated at Querétaro. Feb 6: Pershing returns to the US unsuccessful. May 1: **Carranza** is elected President.<sup>F, AM</sup> May 30: **Villa** attacks Ojinaga and drives the Federal garrison into Texas. Then Villa loses badly in Chihuahua City, losing many dead plus 250 prisoners who all are hanged.<sup>BJ</sup> Jun 14: Villa attacks Juárez City with 1200 men but stray bullets kill some soldiers in Fort Bliss. US troops cross over and destroy his forces.<sup>BJ</sup> **Obregón** retires to his farm in Sonora.<sup>BH</sup>

1918 May: A union federation, dominated by **Carranza** and known as CROM, is formed.<sup>P</sup> November: the Spanish Influenza epidemic reaches Mexico. Morelos State is especially hard-hit, owing to poor living conditions. December: Pablo González leads an invasion into Morelos and finds the cities mainly deserted.

1919 February: Zapata recognizes Emilio Vásquez Gómez as head of the revolution and reverts to harassment operations against the **Carranza** government.<sup>BH</sup> Apr 10: **Zapata** is trapped and shot at Hacienda de Chinameca.<sup>P, F, AM</sup> Sep 4: revolutionary leaders in Morelos meet in Huautla and elect Gildardo Magaña as chief. Nov 28: Magaña surrenders to Carranza, effectively ending the revolution in the South.<sup>BH</sup>

1920 March: Ignacio Bonillas, who had played no part in the revolution, announces for the presidency with **Carranza's** support. April: **Obregón** is nearly trapped by Carranza henchmen while in Mexico City. He announces his opposition to Carranza and Bonillas (*Plan de Agua Prieta*); virtually the entire Army supports him because of Bonillas's coolness to the military clique. May 7: Carranza flees the capital with the government's treasure, intending to sail from Veracruz. May 21: Carranza is murdered at Tlaxcalatongo by some former bodyguards. May 24: Congress appoints Adolfo de la Huerta Provisional President. Jul 28: Pancho **Villa** retires with amnesty and a payoff which includes a hacienda at Canutillo.<sup>F, BH</sup> Oct 26: Obregón is elected President, imposes land reform, and builds schools.<sup>K, F</sup>

1923 Jul 20: Pancho **Villa** is murdered. Dec 15: Adolfo de la Huerta rebels.<sup>P</sup> President **Obregón** puts the rebellion down; 7000 die.<sup>K</sup>

1924 March: de la Huerta escapes to the US.<sup>F</sup> Dec 1: Plutarco Elías Calles is elected President and acts as a populist dictator.<sup>P, F</sup> CROM gains in power and corruption. The Church organizes anti-CROM unions.<sup>P</sup>

## THE CRISTERO REBELLION 1926 - 1927

After **Obregón's** term ended, his friend and fellow general, Plutarco Elías Calles, became President. Calles enforced church/state separation strictly, more so than Obregón had. The Church responded by encouraging Christians to rebel against the government. The priests went on strike and the two sides inflicted considerable violence against each other, culminating in the assassination of Obregón. The fighting ended under a brokered agreement during the term of Portes Gil, a protege of Calles, under which the Church would limit its activities to church buildings and the government would not interfere.

1926 The government enforces laws limiting the influence of the Church. Jul 31: priests go on strike for three years.<sup>P</sup>

1927 April: Catholic partisans kill over 100, terrorizing government officials, murdering teachers, and blowing up a train. The Army shoots Catholics, banishes six bishops, and jails 60,000 peasants.<sup>P, AM</sup>

1928 Jul 1: **Obregón** is re-elected President. Jul 17: Obregón is assassinated before taking office by a Cristero named José de León Toral.<sup>F</sup>

## THE CALLES YEARS 1928 - 1936

Instead of running for re-election as President, Calles managed the elections so that his choices won, and set national policy through them. His fourth appointee, Cárdenas, assumed real power and exiled Calles.

1928 Calles destroys CROM and dominates his successors until 1935.<sup>P</sup> Dec 1: Congress appoints Emilio Portes Gil President.<sup>F</sup>

1929 Mar 4: Calles forms *el Partido Nacional Revolucionario (PNR)*, later renamed *el Partido de la Revolución Mexicana (PRM)* and, later, *el Partido Revolucionario Institucional (PRI)*.<sup>F</sup>

1930-1932 Presidency of Pascual Ortiz Rubio, nominated and then fired by Calles<sup>R</sup>

1932-1934 Presidency of Abelardo Rodríguez, appointed by Calles<sup>R</sup>

1934-1940 Presidency of Lázaro Cárdenas, nominated by Calles. Cárdenas replaces Calles's cronies.<sup>D</sup>

## THE PEMEX REPUBLIC 1936 -

Cárdenas's main contribution was to take over the holdings of foreign oil companies, which he accused of taking oil without paying sufficient royalties and of discriminating against Mexican employees. Then he used oil revenues to finance social-support programs to benefit ordinary Mexicans. This reform has been enormously popular among Mexicans, but it also financed a patronage system so corrupt that it kept one party in power for seventy years. The government applied the same principle to most of the essential industries and created a business empire under the control of the main political party, the PRI.

During the Salinas presidency, government holdings were sold off in order to privatize business in Mexico. However, the process was corrupt at an unprecedented level; Salinas and his brother Raul took in huge amounts in bribes, and their cronies bought businesses for much less than their fair value. The oil monopoly continues, however.

1936 Cárdenas exiles Calles and begins 4 years of land reform.

1938 Mar 18: Cárdenas nationalizes all the oil companies into a government monopoly.<sup>R, AM</sup>

1940-1946 Presidency of Manuel Avila Camacho, in which land reform is halted.<sup>R</sup>

1942 Nazis sink two Mexican oil tankers. May 24: Mexico declares war and cooperates with the Allies.<sup>AM</sup>

1946 The main political party is renamed *el Partido Revolucionario Institucional (PRI)*.<sup>P</sup>

1946-1952 Presidency of Miguel Alemán Valdés. Promotes infrastructure development and corruption.<sup>R</sup>

1952-1958 Presidency of Adolfo Ruiz Cortines. Ruiz Cortines reduces graft and slows spending.<sup>R</sup>

1958-1964 Presidency of Adolfo López Mateos. López Mateos, strongly pro-Cuba, advances land reform.<sup>R</sup>

1964-1970 Presidency of Gustavo Díaz Ordaz. Business interests get the support of the government.<sup>R</sup>

1968 Popular protests for democracy take place in the capital. Oct 2: soldiers and police shoot hundreds of demonstrators at Plaza de las Tres Culturas in the Tlatelolco district of Mexico City. Oct 12: the Olympic Games open.<sup>R</sup>

1970-1976 Presidency of Luis Echeverría Alvarez. Replaces old officials with leftists. Capital flight causes currency devaluation. Echeverría expropriates land in Sonora for land reform.<sup>R</sup>

1976-1982 Presidency of José López Portillo, a pro-communist. His term starts with an austerity program, but Mexico sees an oil boom. 1981: Oil bust causes devaluation. 1982: López Portillo nationalizes the banks.<sup>R</sup>

1982-1988 Presidency of Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado, an anti-corruption pro-communist. Mexico sees more austerity.<sup>R</sup>

1988-1994 Presidency of Carlos Salinas de Gortari. Government-owned businesses are sold off to investors.<sup>R</sup>

1992 Changes to the Constitution: the Church can own property and operate schools. Priests can be foreign nationals.<sup>AM</sup>

1994 Jan 1: North America Free Trade Agreement goes into effect.<sup>O</sup> Same day: 300 armed peasants, calling themselves the Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN), enter San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chiapas early in the morning.<sup>A,O</sup> Others enter Las Margaritas and kill a civilian and a policeman. 500 enter Ocosingo and kill 5 policemen. The Army responds, sending in 12,000 troops. 14 people, mostly passengers, die in a shootout between the Army and rebels who have commandeered a bus. The Army kills 30 suspected rebels in Ocosingo, including 6 whose hands have been tied.<sup>O</sup> Total deaths are estimated between 100 and 400<sup>AD</sup>; no deaths are reported among the soldiers. Mar 23: A deranged man kills Luis Donaldo Colosio, the PRI presidential candidate and presumed next President, in Tijuana.<sup>O,I</sup> Sep 28: A farm worker named Daniel Aguilar assassinates José Francisco "Pepe" Ruiz Massieu, a Congressman and PRI General Secretary, in downtown Mexico City. Aguilar implicates PRI officials. Dec 1: Ernesto Zedillo takes office as President.<sup>O</sup>

1994-2000 Presidency of Ernesto Zedillo. Zedillo takes over an economy in crisis: high unemployment, massive deficits, and uncontrolled inflation. By the end of his term, the economy is strengthened, the currency is stabilized, emergency loans are paid back, and payments are being made on long-term debts.<sup>R</sup> Prosecution of police and officials reduces corruption to the lowest level in Mexican history. Mexico restores diplomatic relations with the Vatican and relaxes restrictions on the Catholic Church: priests and nuns are allowed to vote and to wear clerical clothing in public.

1995 Feb 28: Federal Judicial Police arrest Raúl Salinas de Gortari, billionaire brother of former President Carlos Salinas and ex-brother-in-law of Ruiz Massieu, for commissioning Ruiz Massieu's murder.<sup>O</sup>

1999 Jan 21: A federal judge convicts Raúl Salinas for commissioning Ruiz Massieu's murder.<sup>AE</sup>

2000 Jul 2: National Action Party (PAN) candidate Vicente Fox wins the presidency and PAN takes a plurality of seats in Congress, ending 71 years of PRI dominance.

2006 Sep 7: PAN candidate Felipe Calderón wins the presidency in a court-challenged election.<sup>BO</sup>

## Selected Biographies

### Mariano **Abasolo** 1783-1816 Independence General<sup>AQ</sup>

Born in Dolores (present Dolores Hidalgo) to a wealthy family, he became a career soldier. As a Dragoons captain in San Miguel, he joined the pro-independence conspiracy centered in Querétaro. On the night the revolt started, he opened the armory to the rebels. He supported the revolt with his personal wealth. He was captured, along with **Hidalgo** and other rebel leaders, in Acatita de Baján. Instead of being executed, he was sent to a prison in Cádiz, Spain, where he died five years later.

### Lucas **Alamán** 1792-1853 Politician<sup>AQ,BD</sup>

Born to well-off Spaniards in Guanajuato, Alamán saw the horrors of **Hidalgo's** rebellion firsthand and grew up a dedicated conservative. He studied mining in Mexico city and in Europe and tried to recruit European investors in Mexican mining operations. Returning to Mexico in 1822, he involved himself in politics while managing mining businesses.

Alamán was Minister of State, a kind of working executive, under **Iturbide**, until General José María Lobato forced his resignation. Alamán became Minister of State again in **Victoria Guadalupe's** administration until driven out in September 1825 by liberals with the encouragement of American diplomat Joel Poinsett.

Alamán was Minister of State again under Bustamante but went into hiding when **Gómez Farías** took over. He did it again for Santa Anna in 1853 but died a month later on June 2.

### Ignacio **Aldama** 1780-1811 Independence Conspirator<sup>AQ</sup>

The brother of Juan Aldama, he was trained as a lawyer. He joined the independence conspiracy centered in Querétaro and during the revolt served as **Hidalgo's** administrative advisor.

In 1811 he went north with money to buy weapons in the US and ask for help, but was captured at Béxar (present San Antonio, Texas) and executed by firing squad at Monclova.

### Juan **Aldama** 1774-1811<sup>AR</sup> Independence General<sup>AQ</sup>

He was born in San Miguel el Grande (present San Miguel de Allende) and became a career soldier. As a cavalry captain in San Miguel, he joined the conspiracy centered in Querétaro. During the revolt, he was one of the main military commanders. He was captured, along with **Hidalgo** and other rebel leaders, in Acatita de Baján and executed by firing squad.

### Ignacio **Allende** 1779-1811 Independence General<sup>AQ</sup>

Son of a wealthy Spaniard, he was born in San Miguel el Grande (present San Miguel de Allende) and educated for military service. As a cavalry captain in San Miguel, he joined the conspiracy centered in Querétaro. During the revolt, he was **Hidalgo's** military advisor, but Hidalgo seldom took his advice, with disastrous consequences. He was captured, along with Hidalgo and other rebel leaders, in Acatita de Baján and executed by firing squad.

### Pedro de **Alvarado** 1485-1541 Conqueror<sup>AQ</sup>

In 1518 he commanded one of the ships in Grijalva's expedition. He landed at the river which bears Grijalva's name and founded the town of Alvarado, Veracruz.

In 1519 he sailed with **Cortés**, being Cortés's second-in-command and was one of his toughest soldiers during the many battles. He was called Tonatiuh ("Sun") by some natives because of his blond hair<sup>B</sup>

In June of 1520, Cortés left Alvarado in charge of Tenochtitlan (Mexico City) while he went to deal with a force under Pánfilo de Narváez sent to arrest him for conquering Mexico without permission. While Cortés was defeating Narváez, Alvarado murdered and robbed some Aztec nobles, provoking a revolt. Cortés returned and the revolt subsided but restarted after a few days and after a short siege the Spaniards and their allies had to fight their way out of the city with heavy losses.

In 1523 Alvarado led the force that conquered Guatemala. He went to Peru in 1535 with 1500 men and some horses. In Quito (now in Ecuador) Francisco Pizarro bought him out for 100,000 castellanos and he went back to Mexico.<sup>Bl</sup> Later, in 1541, while putting down a revolt in Guatemala, he died from injuries caused when a horse slipped and fell on him.

**Pedro María Anaya** 1795-1864 19<sup>th</sup> Century General<sup>AQ</sup>

Born in Huichapan (Hidalgo), he enlisted in the rebel army and rose to high rank in the Mexican Army after independence.

When war began with the US in 1846, Congress appointed him Acting President during **Santa Anna's** absence. He commanded the defenses of the convent at Churubusco.

After the war Anaya served again as acting President, refusing to agree to any of the terms offered for a treaty.

**Ponciano Arriaga** 1811-1865 Reformist Politician<sup>AQ</sup>

Born in San Luis Potosí, he studied law and went into politics, serving as a congressional representative 1843-46 and then as a cabinet minister for President Arista. He went into exile when **Santa Anna** came to power and conspired with **Juárez** and other liberals. When Santa Anna left office, Arriaga presided over the Congress for the 1857 Constitution.

During the War of the Reform, he accompanied Juárez to Veracruz and during the French Intervention he accompanied him as he evaded the imperialist forces. Arriaga died in San Luis Potosí, fighting against the French.

**Lucas Balderas** 1797-1847 19<sup>th</sup> Century Artilleryman<sup>AQ</sup>

Born in San Miguel el Grande (present San Miguel de Allende), he joined the royalist army during the war of independence. After independence he joined the Mexican Army. He died during the battle at Molina del Rey during the US invasion.

**Nicolás Bravo** 1786-1854 19<sup>th</sup> Century General and Politician<sup>D, F</sup>

Born in Chilpancingo (Guerrero), he was an important general under Morelos, fighting at Cuautla and Valladolid (present Morelia). He retired to Chilpancingo after **Morelos** was executed, but was arrested in 1817 and released in 1820. He supported Iturbide's *Plan de Iguala*, and in 1822 served on the Triumvirate (the other members were Vicente **Guerrero** and Pedro Celestino Negrete, a Spaniard who fought against independence but supported the *Plan de Iguala*). When **Iturbide** became Emperor, Bravo revolted and joined Guerrero but in 1827 he revolted in favor of centralist Manuel Gómez Pedraza against federalist **Guadalupe Victoria**. Defeated, he was exiled to Ecuador in 1828. Bravo was in and out of politics and the military until 1848, including two short terms as President (10 days in 1839 and Oct 26, 1842 to Mar 4, 1843) and as commander at Chapultepec<sup>G</sup> during the Battle of Mexico City in 1847. He probably died of poisoning.

**Carlos I** 1500-1558 King of Spain and Holy Roman Emperor (Charles V)<sup>E, BE</sup>

Ferdinand and Isabel had a son, Juan, who died young. A daughter, Catalina, married Arthur Tudor of England and, when he died, his brother Henry and was Queen of England for 24 years. Another daughter, Juana, married Philip Habsburg, who inherited the Netherlands from his mother. Carlos was Juana's and Philip's son and grew up in Flanders, speaking French. Isabel died in 1504 and Philip became King of Castile but died two years later. By this time Juana was insane so Ferdinand, who was King of Aragón, ruled Castile as regent until Carlos (his grandson) reached 16.

Three years later, 1519, Carlos's other grandfather, the Holy Roman Emperor, Maximilian Habsburg, died. Carlos and his advisors knew who to bribe and how, so he became Emperor at the age of 19. He immediately faced the Comunero revolt in Castile and the Lutheran Reformation in Germany. Trapped in an alliance with the hopelessly corrupt Church in order to fight the invading Turks, he brought in Spanish armies to suppress reformist and separatist movements within the Empire, without success. He had almost no interest in the New World, except as an income source. He retired in

**Carranza** 1859-1920 President <sup>K</sup>

Son of a Coahuila landowner who supported **Juárez** financially when Juárez was in exile in 1866 and benefitted when Juárez returned to power. Venustiano Carranza became involved in local and state politics with Porfirio **Díaz**'s permission, but lost his bid for the governorship in 1909 when Díaz supported his opponent. Carranza then joined **Madero**'s revolution and won the governorship in 1911. Starting in 1913, following Madero's murder, he led the rebellion against **Huerta** (*Plan de Guadalupe*). When Huerta fled the country in July, 1914, Carranza took over as Provisional President, but **Zapata** and **Villa** broke with him in September. At that point, Carranza announced his approval of land reform (*Plan de Ayala*), but in practice not much happened. He became the constitutional President in May, 1917, but reversed Huerta's reforms and quarreled with just about everyone, including the US Government. In April, 1920, **Obregón** and his Sonora supporters declared against Carranza (*Plan de Agua Prieta*), and, on May 20, Carranza was killed while trying to escape to Veracruz.

**Cortés** 1485-1547 Conqueror <sup>B, AM</sup>

Born Hernando (or Hernán) Cortés de Monroy in 1485 in Extremadura, Spain, into the family of a squire, he studied law for two years before sailing to Santo Domingo at the age of 19. In 1511 he took part in the conquest of Cuba and at 33 was a grower and a colonial magistrate there. Then, in 1519, Governor Diego Velásquez commissioned him to lead an expedition to Mexico. Cortés snuck out of Cuba when Velásquez changed his mind. By recruiting the soldiers Velásquez sent after him and by manipulating the tribal hatreds in Mexico, he conquered or recruited all the people of the Gulf coast and central Mexico, plus Guatemala. In 1529, he went to Spain to answer charges before **Carlos I**. He was exonerated, and his titles and properties were confirmed, but he was denied the power to govern New Spain. He managed his estates until 1540, when he returned to Spain, where he died.

**Cuauhtémoc** 1502-1525 Aztec Emperor<sup>AQ</sup>

Younger brother of **Montezuma II** and **Cuicláhuac**, he became Emperor when Cuicláhuac died in 1520. He commanded Tenochtitlan's (Mexico City's) defense when **Cortés** besieged and attacked it. When the city fell, he and other notables fled but were captured. He was imprisoned and tortured until 1525, when Cortés had him executed by hanging.

**Cuicláhuac** 1476-1520 Aztec Emperor<sup>AQ</sup>

Younger brother of **Montezuma II**, he assumed the throne when Montezuma died. He and his brother, **Cuauhtémoc**, drove the Spaniards from Tenochtitlan (Mexico City), but he died of measles five months later.

**Díaz** 1830-1915 General, President

Born José de la Cruz Porfirio Díaz into a working-class family in Oaxaca, his uncle was the Bishop there. His father died when Porfirio was three, so Porfirio started earning while still young, as well as attending school. He was a unit commander and a military governor of the Isthmus zone during the War of the Reform. He emerged from the French Intervention as Mexico's leading general. After losing two presidential bids against **Juárez**, he raised an army with the support of some wealthy landowners, especially Americans, who didn't get the favorable treatment some of President Lerdo's friends did. Lerdo didn't put up much of a fight. Díaz served as President 1876-1880 and 1884-1910. His terms in office were notable for (1) peace and a startling reduction in crime, (2) economic and infrastructure development, especially railroads, (3) ruthless oppression of his political opponents, and (4) extreme corruption, through which his cronies became wealthy. When the Revolution began, he was already 80 so he left the country within a year to retire to a villa in France.<sup>K</sup>

**Belisario Domínguez** 1863-1913 Doctor and Politician<sup>AQ</sup>

Born in Comitán, Chiapas he trained as a doctor and then spent thirteen years in France doing

specialized studies. Back in Chiapas, he practiced medicine for rich and poor alike. He met **Madero** while in Mexico City and enlisted in his cause.

Later, as Senator from Chiapas, he headed the opposition to **Huerta**, who had him murdered.

**Miguel Domínguez** 1756-1830 Independence Conspirator<sup>AQ</sup>

**Josefa Ortiz de Domínguez** "La Corregidora" 1768-1829 Independence Conspirator<sup>AQ</sup>

Miguel trained as a lawyer and was Corregidor of Querétaro when he married Josefa, who was a native of Mexico City. The two joined the independence conspiracy and hosted meetings in their house. When Miguel learned that the conspiracy had been betrayed, he locked Josefa up in their house while he went to search for arms as ordered by the Viceroy. She was able to tell the jailer, Ignacio Pérez, another conspirator, what was happening so he could warn the others.

The two of them were arrested. She was confined in a convent in Mexico City until she accepted amnesty in 1817. He was freed but lost his job. After independence he served in high government positions, including President of the Supreme Court.

The **Flores Magón** Brothers: Revolutionary Newspaper Writers<sup>AQ</sup>

Jesús	1872-1930	Born in San Simón (Oaxaca)
Ricardo	1874-1922	Born in San Antonio Eloxochitlán (Oaxaca)
Enrique	1877-1954	Born in Teotitlán del Camino (Oaxaca)

They were the sons of Teodoro Flores, an officer who had fought against US and French invaders.

The joined the opposition to **Díaz** in 1892. In and out of prison or exile, they published *Regeneración*, a socialist newspaper, as they could. Jesús abandoned the revolution in 1902. The same year Ricardo and Enrique fled to the US, continuing to publish *Regeneración* and spending more time in prison. Ricardo was assassinated in 1922 while a prisoner at Leavenworth, Kansas.

Hermenegildo **Galeana** 1762-1814 Independence General<sup>AQ</sup>

Born in Tecpan (Guerrero), he joined the rebellion in 1810. He served with distinction under **Morelos**, most notably at El Veladero, Tixtla, and Cuautla. He died in an ambush at La Salitral, near Coyuca.

Valentín **Gómez Farías** 1781-1858 19<sup>th</sup> Century President<sup>AQ</sup>

Born in Guadalajara to wealthy Spaniards, he studied and practiced medicine. During the war of independence he raised and paid for a rebel battalion.

He supported **Iturbide's** emperorship, but when Iturbide abdicated Gómez Farías supported **Santa Anna**. Four times, he served as Acting President when Santa Anna was away. During his terms of office, he supported liberal reforms that did away with special privileges, promoted public schools, and ended capital punishment.

**Guerrero** 1782-1831 Independence Leader<sup>D</sup>

Born Vicente Ramón Guerrero Saldaña in Tixtla (in present Guerrero State), he worked as a mule driver until joining the rebels in 1810. **Morelos** ordered him to conduct guerrilla operations in the south. After Morelos died, Guerrero became the main rebel leader. On Feb 24, 1821, he agreed to **Iturbide's Plan de Iguala**. After independence, Iturbide made Guerrero military chief of southern Mexico, but, when Iturbide became Emperor and dissolved Congress, Guerrero supported the *Plan de Casamata*, which demanded the reinstatement of Congress but left Iturbide in place. In 1828, federalist Guerrero ran for President, but was cheated out of the office by supporters of centralist Gómez Pedraza. Guerrero's supporters revolted, forced Gómez Pedraza to flee the country, and forced Congress to install Guerrero as President, as of Apr 1, 1829. But then, Dec 4, 1829, Vice President Bustamante revolted and made Congress appoint him President on Jan 1, 1830. Guerrero went into hiding in the state now named for him; he was captured Jan 15, 1831 by an agent of Bustamante's and assassinated in Cuilapan (Oaxaca) Feb 14.

### **Hidalgo** 1753-1811 Independence Leader<sup>K</sup>

Born Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla May 8, 1753 on the Hacienda de Corralejo, near Pénjamo (Guanajuato), a hacienda near Valladolid (now Morelia)<sup>F</sup>. Professor and Rector at San Nicolás Seminary in Valladolid 1782-1792. His family suffered from the loan expropriation of 1804. While he was officiating as a priest in Dolores (Guanajuato) he associated with a group of intellectuals. He and some others of them, including **Ignacio Allende** and **Juan Aldama**, plotted a rebellion against the Spanish juntas, but not against the King. Late on the night of Sep 15, 1810, they learned that they had been betrayed to the authorities. Early the next morning, the plotters announced the rebellion from the steps of the church in Dolores. Then they stole a picture of the Virgin of Guadalupe from the church in nearby Atotonilco to use as a standard. However, the rebellion attracted more poor people bent on killing Spaniards than it did pro-independence fighters. After some initial victories, his huge army, mostly made up of poorly-armed peasants, started losing. He was captured in the desert at the Norias de Baján, near Monclova (Coahuila) on Mar 21, 1811. After a trial and an inquisition in Chihuahua City, he was shot July 30.

### **Huerta** 1845-1916 General

Born in Colotlán, Jalisco, Victoriano Huerta attended the Colegio Militar in Mexico City. In 1910-11, he defended **Díaz** against **Madero** and **Zapata**. When Madero became President, he appointed Huerta military chief against Pascual **Orozco**. In 1912, Huerta created the División del Norte, and, in 1913, Madero made him Military Commander of Mexico City. After Huerta ordered the murder of Madero and Pino Suárez, he made himself President and started social reforms and land redistribution. Nonetheless, he faced stiffened opposition from the revolutionaries and finally fled to the US in 1914. On Jun 25, 1915, he was arrested with Orozco in Newman, NM, for plotting with German agents to regain power. He was released from the Ft. Bliss prison in November and died the next year from cirrhosis of the liver.<sup>D, AM</sup>

### **Iturbide** 1783-1824 Emperor<sup>K</sup>

Born Agustín de Iturbide Sep 27, 1783<sup>S</sup> into a wealthy landowning family which took advantage of the loan problems of 1804 to buy up land cheaply. At 22, he joined the Provincial Infantry as a cadet. Apparently he excelled as an officer, because at 27 he was offered a lieutenant generalship by **Hidalgo**, which he refused. Instead, he worked his way up to commanding general of the royalist army. Iturbide was notable for his ability as a commander and for his cruelty; he ordered the mistreatment and murder of thousands of non-combatants. In 1816, a Dr. Antonio Labarrieta accused him of war crimes and corruption; he was acquitted but not exonerated, so he quit the army. Then, in 1821, after Spain became a constitutional monarchy, he made a deal with Vicente **Guerrero**, the commander of the remains of Morelos's army, to make New Spain (Mexico) a separate constitutional monarchy. Also, Creoles and Spaniards would have equal rights and Roman Catholicism would be the state religion: these three points were the *trigarantes*. The plan was popular with conservatives who had opposed independence before because they resented the new Spanish constitution. Iturbide took over as provisional chief executive while he looked for a king. Well, he just couldn't find a suitable candidate so finally he accepted the job himself and, on July 21, 1822, became Emperor of Mexico. But he couldn't get along with Congress and dissolved it. **Santa Anna** raised an army against him and he fled to Italy May 11, 1823. Hearing that Spain was planning to invade Mexico, he landed at Soto la Marina, thinking he would offer his services. Instead he was arrested and, on July 19, 1824, he was shot at Padilla<sup>P</sup> at the order of Tamaulipas officials.

### José Mariano **Jiménez** 1781-1811 Independence General<sup>AQ</sup>

Born to a mining family in San Luis Potosí, he studied mining engineering in Mexico City. He commanded part of **Hidalgo**'s army in the early battles and oversaw the defense of Guanajuato in November 1810. After that he took charge of the rebellion in the northern provinces. During Hidalgo's

flight north, Jiménez joined him at Saltillo and was captured, along with Hidalgo and other rebel leaders, in Acatita de Baján and executed by firing squad.

### **Juárez** 1806-1872 President <sup>K</sup>

Benito Juárez was an orphan who lived in Guelatao with his uncle until he moved to Oaxaca at 11, where he learned bookbinding and gained an education. At 22 he started studying law. After years of work in city and state politics, he became Governor in 1847. In 1848 he denied **Santa Anna** permission to enter the state. In return, Santa Anna imprisoned and exiled him when Santa Anna became President again. Juárez served 15 years as President, six of them without the benefit of an election, and died of a heart attack while in office.

### Bartolomé de **las Casas** 1474-1565 Bishop<sup>AQ</sup>

He sailed to Cuba in 1502 to convert the natives to Christianity. There he protested against the abuse of the natives by the landowners. In 1544 he became Bishop of Chiapas, where he continued to struggle for the rights of native people. As part of his campaign he wrote polemics for publication in Spain. He was called to Spain to give evidence for his accusations and died there.

### **Madero** 1873-1913 President<sup>K</sup>

Born Francisco Ignacio Madero into a wealthy landowning family in Chihuahua City. After attending the Colegio de San José in Saltillo, he traveled abroad and became interested in Spiritualism. At home, he was very successful in farming and business, and became known for treating and paying his workers well. He turned into a vegetarian and a teetotaler and studied Eastern religion. He believed that spirits directed him in promoting the revolution. He became President after **Díaz** resigned, which happened after a minimal amount of bloodshed. After Díaz left, Madero allowed a Díaz crony, León de la Barra, to serve as interim President, which cost him the confidence of the rebels.<sup>AM</sup> His timidity on the question of land reform cost him the support of Emiliano **Zapata** and **Pancho Villa**. Finally, he was murdered on the orders of his military commander, Victoriano **Huerta**.

### Mariano **Matamoros** 1779-1814 Independence General<sup>AQ</sup>

Born in Mexico City, he was a well-respected priest at Jantetelco (Morelos). He was arrested as an independence sympathizer but escaped and joined **Morelos**. He fought with distinction at Cuautla and in Chiapas. He was captured at Puruarán and shot.

### **Maximilian** 1832-1867<sup>E</sup> Emperor<sup>K</sup>

Born Archduke Ferdinand Maximilian von Hapsburg in Austria as younger brother to Franz Josef, who became Emperor of Austria and Hungary. Educated, modern and liberal, Maximilian was misled into believing that the Mexicans wanted a foreign monarch. In fact, poor people appreciated his efforts to protect their rights and the steps he took toward land reform, but the support of poor people didn't help him any. Conservatives expected him to protect their privileges and the Church's prerogatives. Liberals didn't want any monarch, liberal or conservative. When the venture was falling apart, his friends advised him to go home but pride and pressure from his wife and his mother made him stay. After losing his last battle at Querétaro, he was found guilty of ordering the execution of prisoners and shot.

### José Mariano **Michelena** 1772-1852 Independence Conspirator<sup>AQ</sup>

Born in Valladolid (present Morelia), he was educated as a lawyer but went into the Army. Later, he joined the conspiracy centered in Querétaro. He was found out in 1810 before the revolt started but was sent to a post in Jalapa instead of prison. After the revolt started on December 16, he was arrested and sent to the dungeon of San Juan de Ulúa.

In 1813 he was taken from the prison and sent to Spain to fight Napoleon's army. He stayed in Spain and sided with the revolutionaries against the royalists in the 1820 revolution.

In 1822, when Mexico had achieved independence, he returned and, as a Brigadier, helped

overthrow **Iturbide** and replace the imperial government with a republican one. He served as a foreign diplomat in numerous countries until retiring.

#### **Mina** 1789-1817 Independence Leader<sup>D</sup>

Born Francisco Javier Mina in Navarra, Spain, he studied law for a while, but fought as a guerrilla colonel against the French in Spain, until he was captured Apr 1, 1810. He was released from imprisonment when Fernando VII was and fought on the side of the Spanish Constitutionalists but decided to join the Mexican rebels. With financial backing from some English investors who expected to share whatever loot he stole, he recruited American mercenaries and French deserters and landed at Galveston in November of 1816. Fresh recruits replaced the men he lost. His very short campaign revitalized the rebel cause, but the royalists overpowered and defeated him.

#### Francisco de **Montejo** 1479-1553<sup>AR</sup> Conqueror<sup>AQ</sup>

He sailed to Mexico with **Cortés** in 1519, commanding one of the ships. But then Cortés sent him to Spain as his representative.

In 1526 the King granted him authorization to conquer the Yucatán Peninsula and Cozumel Island, where he arrived in 1528. He also served as Governor of Honduras from 1536-44.

In 1550 he went to Spain to answer charges and died that same year.

#### Francisco de **Montejo y León** 1508-1565<sup>AR</sup> Conqueror<sup>AQ</sup>

Arrived in the Yucatán with his father, Francisco de **Montejo**, in 1528. In 1540 his father put him in charge of the conquest of the Peninsula. Between conquering the territory assigned to him and putting down rebellions, he took the time to found Mérida and Valladolid.

#### **Montezuma II** 1475-1520 Aztec Emperor<sup>AQ</sup>

Called Moctezuma Xocoyotzin, with numerous spellings. Son of Emperor Axayácatl, and trained to be both a military commander and a high priest, he assumed the throne upon the death of his uncle Ahuizotl in 1502. He was successful as a military general, with many successes in the Gulf-Coast region. After the capital was flooded by a rainstorm in 1501, he directed its rebuilding.

He feared **Cortés**, believing him to be a godly reincarnation of **Topiltzin** Quetzalcóatl and was unable to mount a defense against him. In 1519, Cortés marched into Tenochtitlan (Mexico City) and occupied Montezuma's palace and after a few days took him prisoner.<sup>AM</sup> He died during the revolt against the Spaniards, probably from wounds caused when a mob threw stones at him.

#### José María Luis **Mora** "Doctor Mora" 1794-1850 Politician and Historian<sup>AQ</sup>

Born in Chamacuero (Guanajuato), he was ordained as a priest. In 1824 he went to prison for speaking against **Iturbide's** emperorship. When the empire dissolved he served as a representative in the Mexico State Legislature.

In 1834, when **Gómez Farías** left office, Mora fled to France, where he wrote about Mexico's history.

In 1847 he became Mexico's ambassador to England, but died of illnesses he contracted there.

#### **Morelos** 1765-1815 Independence Leader<sup>K</sup>

Born José María Morelos y Pavón Sep 30, 1765<sup>F</sup> in Valladolid (now Morelia, Michoacán). Priest/businessman in Michoacán. In 1810, he volunteered to lead a rebellion in the south in conjunction with **Hidalgo's** in the north. A much better commander than Hidalgo, he had more successes and fewer atrocities. In 1813, he deposed Ignacio **Rayón**, who had taken over Hidalgo's army, and had himself made supreme executive and military commander. But then he started losing battles to **Iturbide** and, on Sep 29, 1815, he was captured at Texmalaca. He was tried and inquisited in Mexico City and shot at San Cristóbal Ecatepec (now Ecatepec de Morelos) on Dec 22.

Luis **Moya** ?-1911 20<sup>th</sup> Century Revolutionary<sup>AQ</sup>

Born in Nieves, Zacatecas, he fought against **Díaz**, campaigning successfully in Zacatecas and Durango. He died from a stray bullet fired by a drunken, celebrating revolutionary soldier.

**Netzahualcóyotl** 1391-1472 King of Texcoco<sup>AQ</sup>

Son of King Ixtlilxóchitl and Metlalcihuatzin, daughter of Aztec King Acamapixtli, he was given the name Acolmiztli. He went into hiding when Tepaneca soldiers from Atzacapotzalco killed his father in a battle. He changed his name to Netzahualcóyotl ("Hungry Coyote") and organized a resistance among other tribute states, including the Mexica, and defeated the Tepaneca king Maxtla in 1426<sup>Y</sup>. He claimed the throne in 1431. As one of the partners in the Aztec Confederation, Texcoco took part in numerous successful campaigns to conquer other polities. But Netzahualcóyotl is also remembered as a builder, a patron of the arts, and a writer of philosophical poems.

**Niños Héroes** de Chapultepec<sup>AQ</sup>

Young men who died during the Battle of Mexico City, defending Chapultepec Castle.

Juan Escutia	1827-1847
Vicente Suárez	1833-1847
Francisco Márquez	1834-1847
Fernando Montes de Oca	1829-1847
Agustín Melgar	1829-1847
Juan de la Barrera	1828-1847

**Obregón** 1880-1928 Revolutionary General, President<sup>K</sup>

Born on his family's Hacienda Siquisiva in Sonora the year his father died, Alvaro Obregón grew up impoverished because the family had sympathized with the wrong side during the French Intervention. However, Obregón showed remarkable ingenuity as a businessman, inventor, and grower, and had achieved a level of affluence and respect by the time of the Revolution. In April, 1912, he recruited 300 men and helped put down Pascual **Orozco**'s revolt against **Madero**. Then, in February, 1913, following Madero's murder, he joined in the revolt against **Huerta**. By the end of the Revolution, he was the country's highest-ranking and most-esteemed military officer. He served one term as President, introducing reforms and distributing over 2 million acres of land. He sat out a term, during which he commanded an army of 15,000 to put down a revolt of Yaqui Indians, and then won reelection, but was assassinated at a restaurant before taking office.

Melchor **Ocampo** 1814-1861 Reformist Politician<sup>AQ</sup>

Born in Pateo (Michoacán), he studied law but inherited wealth and never practiced. Instead he went to Europe and studied science, which he didn't practice either.

He returned to Mexico and applied himself to politics, serving as a congressional representative and, 1846-47, Governor of Michoacán. Then he held some cabinet posts at the federal level.

When **Santa Anna** came to power, Ocampo went into exile and conspired with **Juárez** and other liberals.

Later, he served on the editorial committee for the congress for the 1857 Constitution. When Juárez became President, Ocampo served on his cabinet and accompanied him to Veracruz when Juárez moved the government there. During that time, he wrote the reform laws that greatly restricted the wealth and power of the Catholic Church.

In 1861, when Juárez was back in Mexico City, Ocampo retired but was soon thereafter murdered by political opponents led by Leonardo Márquez and Félix Zuloaga.

**Orozco** 1882-1915 Revolutionary Leader<sup>D</sup>

Born Pascual Orozco at La Hacienda de Santa Isabel, Chihuahua. A mule driver, he joined the revolt against **Díaz** in 1910. In May, 1911 he captured Ciudad Juárez against **Madero**'s orders. In March, 1912 he revolted against Madero (*Plan de la Empacadora*). Defeated by **Huerta**, he fled to the

US. With Madero dead in 1913, Orozco joined Huerta and fought against Pancho **Villa**. He fled to the US when Huerta did and was arrested with him. In August, 1915 he was shot and killed while stealing horses.

Juan José Martínez “**El Pípila**” 1782-1863 Independence Fighter<sup>AQ</sup>

Born in San Miguel el Grande (present San Miguel de Allende), his nickname means “turkey”; he was called that because his freckles supposedly looked like the flesh of a plucked turkey. He worked as a miner around Guanajuato.

When the rebels took Guanajuato, most of the Spaniards took refuge in the Alhóndiga, a stout stone granary only recently constructed. **Hidalgo** asked him to burn down the door so he covered his back with a stone slab and, so protected from gunfire, set the door on fire with a torch. That enabled the rebels to murder the Spaniards.

He took part in many battles and survived the war, resuming his work as a miner when it was over.

Andrés **Quintana Roo** 1787-1851 Independence Advocate<sup>AQ</sup>

He was born in Mérida (Yucatán), the son of publisher José Matías Quintana, who was imprisoned in the dungeon of San Juan de Ulúa for advocating independence. Andrés studied law but joined the rebellion as a writer of pro-independence newspapers. He served in the Congress of Chilpancingo, a device the rebels used to show legitimacy, and presided over the Constitutional Assembly of 1814.

He accepted amnesty in 1818. When the war was over he served in a number of high-level posts, including President of the Supreme Tribunal of Justice.

Vasco de **Quiroga** 1470-1565 Government Official and Bishop<sup>AQ</sup>

He went to Veracruz in 1530 as a magistrate (“Oidor”) and then to Tzintzuntzán in 1532 to pacify natives who had been infuriated by atrocities committed by Nuño Beltrán de Guzmán. There he was made Bishop. He spent the rest of his life in Michoacán, building schools and hospitals and improving the region’s agricultural and manufacturing wealth.

Ignacio López **Rayón** 1773-1832 Independence General<sup>AQ</sup>

Born in Tlalpujahua (Mexico State), he studied law and worked in the mining business. He joined the rebellion and served as **Hidalgo**’s secretary. When Hidalgo and his generals fled north after losing at Calderón Bridge, they left Rayón in charge. He commanded rebel operations in the northern part of the country until February of 1812, when the rebel council fired him and confined him at Patambo. The royalists captured him there and he was in prison until the war ended, after which he served in high-level government posts.

Bernardino de **Sahagún** 1500-1590 Friar<sup>AQ</sup>

He sailed to Mexico in 1529. He converted natives to Christianity and wrote about the history, folklore, and languages of the people in Central Mexico.

**Santa Anna** 1795-1876 General, President, and Dictator<sup>H</sup>

Born into a wealthy family in Veracruz, Antonio López de Santa Anna enlisted in the Royal Army at fourteen and fought against **Hidalgo** and **Morelos**. After decades in and out of politics and warfare and despite losing a leg to French gunfire at Veracruz in 1838, he was expelled in 1855; he returned in 1872 and lived his last years in poverty.

**Topiltzin** 947-? Toltec King<sup>B</sup>

Born Ce Acatl Topiltzin in Tepoztlán (Morelos) to exiled Queen Chimalma<sup>Y</sup> after his uncle Ihuitmal had murdered his father Ixcóatl. He trained for the priesthood in Xochicalco (Morelos) and became the high priest there, earning the title Quetzalcóatl, after the Plumed Serpent god, because of his prestigious lineage. Then he went to Culhuacán to avenge his father’s murder by killing his uncle and assumed the kingship there. In 967, he founded Tula as the new Toltec capital and tried to supplant

the warrior cult devoted to Tezcatlipoca with the priest cult devoted to the Plumed Serpent. The warriors rebelled and drove out Topiltzin and his followers, who took refuge at Cholula, which at that time was controlled by the Putún Maya (also known as the Olmeca-Xicalanca). 20 years later, Topiltzin went to the Putún Maya capital at Chichén Itzá and became the dominant ruler of the Yucatán Peninsula. The Mayan version of his name was Kukulcán. Some legends say he sailed to the east, promising to return; others say he returned to Tula.

**Leona Vicario** 1789-1842 Independence Advocate<sup>AQ</sup>

Born in Mexico City, she lost both parents when young and grew up in the home of her uncle, a committed royalist. She, however, was strongly pro-independence. When he had her confined in a convent, she escaped and married Andrés **Quintana Roo**, whom she had known from when he worked for her uncle.

She assisted Andrés in his work and in the rebel cause until their first child was born in 1818, when they accepted amnesty.

After the war, she feuded with President Bustamante because of disagreements she and Andrés had with Bustamante's policies.

**Guadalupe Victoria** 1786-1843 Independence Leader, First Mexican President

Born José Miguel Ramón Aduco Fernández y Félix in Tamazula (Durango), he joined Morelos in 1811. He fought at Oaxaca Nov 25, 1812, and after that commanded operations in Veracruz. He was jailed for pro-republican remarks he made during **Iturbide's** emperorship, but escaped; he supported the *Plan de Casamata* and joined Santa Anna. After Iturbide left, he served on the Triumvirate and helped **Santa Anna** fight the Spanish at Veracruz. Congress named him President for the term Oct 10, 1824 to Apr 1, 1829. After that, he retired to his hacienda, El Jobo, in Veracruz. He died in Perote while being treated for epilepsy.<sup>D</sup>

**Pancho Villa** 1878-1923 Revolutionary General

Born Doroteo Arango to a sharecropper's family in San Juan del Río, Durango. Maybe he was a bandit, or maybe he worked as a meat cutter in Hidalgo del Parral, but later on everyone thought he had been a throat-cutting, cattle-rustling bandit, starting around 1891. He joined **Madero's** revolution and afterward took a money grant and opened a butcher shop. In 1912, he joined the Revolution again under **Huerta**, but Huerta was afraid of him and almost had him executed. Villa escaped and fled to El Paso. After Madero's murder, he returned to fight Huerta. When **Carranza** became President, he appointed Villa Commander of the División del Norte (September 1913). Villa was best known for his mass charges that frightened his enemies away. Once in control of Chihuahua, he imposed land reform. He resented Carranza's meddling in Chihuahua and resigned rather than obey Carranza's order to send part of his division to reinforce a mediocre general named Pánfilo Natera at Zacatecas (June 1914); Carranza backed down when Villa's generals resigned with him. Villa split with Carranza soon after Huerta's defeat, but Alvaro **Obregón** sided with Carranza; Villa's mass charges didn't work against Obregón. Villa started losing, especially at Celaya, and he had to hide out in the mountains while recovering from a serious leg wound, after which he resumed raiding Federal positions. On July 28, 1920, Villa agreed to retire in return for a cash payment to his remaining soldiers as well as a hacienda at Canutillo for himself. Three years later, on July 20, he was gunned down as he drove through Parral. The shooters were led by a cattle dealer named Melitón Lozoya. A man named Jesús Salas Barraza claimed to have hired Lozoya. Only Salas Barraza was convicted. He spent less than a year in prison and then got an army commission; later he became a congressman.<sup>K, BJ</sup>

**Zapata** 1879-1919 Revolutionary Leader<sup>K, B, BH</sup>

Born Emiliano Zapata in Anenecuilco, Morelos to working-class parents. After elementary school, he farmed and drove mules. When the Revolution started, he took advantage of the timing to redress some illegal land usurpations by wealthy landowners, which attracted many farmers to his cause. Then, when **Madero** was President but failed to implement meaningful land reform, Zapata turned

against him. He wrote the *Plan de Ayala*. Madero's murder revitalized Zapata's campaign when Madero's supporters joined him. When **Carranza** came to office, Zapata didn't trust him any more than he had Madero and continued running Morelos independently. On April 10, 1919, a Colonel Jesús Guajardo murdered Zapata after carrying out an elaborate ruse in which he had 59 government soldiers, all deserters from anti-Carranza forces, killed to make Zapata believe he was switching to Zapata's side.

Ignacio **Zaragoza** 1829-1862 19<sup>th</sup> Century General<sup>AQ</sup>

Born in Bahía del Espíritu Santo (Texas), he studied for the law and for the priesthood but failed at both so he became a salesman, at which he also was unsuccessful. He then joined the National Guard for Nuevo León.

In 1854, as a captain, he led his men to Monterrey to fight for the overthrow of **Santa Anna**, during which fighting he rose to Colonel.

In the War of the Reform he rose to General, owing to successes in Guanajuato and Jalisco. After, he was Minister of War for **Juárez**.

During the French Intervention he commanded the Mexican forces, and his successful defense of Puebla on May 5, 1862 is still considered Mexico's greatest victory. He died of typhus on September 8 of that year.

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## Indigenous Groups of Mexico

Group name: Chiapa<sup>D</sup>

Major Ethnic Division: Other

Location: Mountains of Chiapas State

Language, language family: not related

History: Originated in Paraguay, where they dominated nearby Charrúas, Guaraníes, and Boanes. In 1390, the subject states revolted. Some Chiapas moved to Nicaragua and then to Chiapas State. There, they dominated nearby Zoques, Mames, Querenes, and Tzeltzales. In 1527, Spaniards set siege to their capital at Nandiumé, population 5000. Rather than surrender, 3000 Chiapas jumped to their deaths from Tepetchi cliff.

Religion: Pagan

Group name: Chol<sup>D</sup>

Major Ethnic Division: Lowland Maya

Location: Chiapas, around Tumbalá

Language, language family: Chol, Maya

History: Lived in the Alta Verapaz area of Guatemala in precolumbian times. In 1620, they moved to the mountains to evade the Spaniards. In 1687, they revolted and moved to the area around Palenque.

Religion: shamanism; unenthusiastic Catholicism

Group name: Chontol<sup>D</sup>

Major Ethnic Division: Lowland Maya

Location: Eastern and southern Oaxaca; also, northern Oaxaca, Tabasco, and Guatemala

Language, language family: Chontol, Maya

History: Originated in Nicaragua and moved to Yucatán. Around 400 BC, they moved to Oaxaca. In 84 AD, they were driven into the mountains and to the coast by the Zapotecs. They allied with the Aztecs against the Zapotecs.

Religion: mixed Catholic and pagan

Group name: Cora<sup>D</sup>

Major Ethnic Division: Northwest

Location: mountains of Jalisco and Nayarit

Language, language family: Cora, Aztecoidan

History: Stayed independent of the Aztecs and Spaniards until 1722. In 1858, they supported the Church in the War of the Reform. In 1873, they rebelled against the state government.

Religion: pagan/Catholic

Group name: Cuitlatec<sup>D</sup>

Major Ethnic Division: Southern Highland

Location: Guerrero, but only scattered remnants remain

Language, language family: not clear; may be related to Mayan

History:

Religion:

Group name: Huastec<sup>D</sup>

Major Ethnic Division: Huastec

Location: centered in Northern Veracruz, but spill into the surrounding areas

Language, language family: Huastec, Maya

History: Paid tribute to Texcoco in the 15th Century. Cortés defeated them in 1521 at Tampico and sold 40,000 of them as slaves to the Antilles. Conversion to catholicism began in 1749.

Religion: Catholic

Group name: Huave<sup>D</sup>

Major Ethnic Division: Southern Highland

Location: Eastern and southern Oaxaca, especially on the coast, near Lagunas Superior and Inferior

Language, language family: no connections

History: Originated in Central America, probably Nicaragua. Were subjugated by the Aztecs.

Religion: Catholic

Group name: Huichol<sup>D</sup>

Major Ethnic Division: Northwest

Location: Jalisco and northern Nayarit; also Zacatecas

Language, language family: Huichol, Aztecoidan

History: Remained independent of Aztecs. Signed a peace treaty with Spain in 1721.

Religion: pagan/Catholic

Group name: Kickapoo<sup>D</sup>

Major Ethnic Division: Other

Location: <sup>B</sup> Coahuila, near the Texas border

Language, language family: Kickapoo, <sup>B</sup> Algonquian

History: Kickapoos moved around a lot. In the 17th Century, they lived in Wisconsin. In 1763, they joined in Pontiac's Rebellion in the upper midwest. They took part in the Black Hawk War of 1832 in Illinois, then moved south. By 1860, some were settled in Mexico, from where they raided towns in Texas. In 1873, US Cavalry destroyed the main Mexican-Kickapoo village at Nacimiento.

Religion: pagan

Group name: Lacandón Maya<sup>D</sup>

Major Ethnic Division: Lowland Maya

Location: Eastern Chiapas

Language, language family: Lacandón Maya, Maya

History: Remnants of the Yucatec Maya nation. In 1552, they sacrificed 2 Spanish priests. In 1559, the Spaniards, supported by 1000 Indians from Guatemala and 800 from Chiapas, ravaged their villages in retribution.

Religion: pagan

Group name: Mam<sup>D</sup>

Major Ethnic Division: Lowland Maya

Location: around Tonalá and Soconusco, on the Pacific coast in Chiapas State

Language, language family: Mam, Maya. Related to Zoques.

History: Subjugated by the Olmecs. Moved to the coast from inland Chiapas in the 7th century.

Subjugated by the Aztecs in 1505.

Religion: Catholic or Protestant

Group name: Mayo<sup>D</sup>

Major Ethnic Division: Northwest

Location: Sonora. In colonial times, they were concentrated along the Río Mayo. Since then, they have dispersed and intermarried with other Mexicans.

Language, language family: Mayo, Cahitan (sub-family), Taracahitan. The Mayo are closely related to the Yaquis.

History:

Religion: Catholic/pagan, some witchcraft

Group name: Mazahua<sup>D</sup>

Major Ethnic Division: Central Highland

Location: western part of the state of Mexico and in a few adjacent villages in Michoacán

Language, language family: Mazahua, Otomian

History: In the 13th century, they were part of the Chichimeca migration into central Mexico from the north. They affiliated with the Acolhua kingdom, whose capital was Texcoco. In 1409, they betrayed the Acolhua to join King Tezozomoc of Atzacapotzalco. The Aztec Emperor Axayácatl defeated and subjugated them. After the defeat of the Aztecs, they accepted Spanish rule peacefully. In 1810, they joined Hidalgo's revolt.

Religion:

Group name: Mazateco<sup>D</sup>

Major Ethnic Division: Other

Location: around Mazatlán

Language, language family: not related

History: Subjugated by Texcoco, but asserted their own independence. The Aztecs invaded them in 1455 and they remained subjugated until the conquest.

Religion: Catholic

Group name: Mexica: see entry on Nahuatl

Group name: Mixe<sup>D</sup>

Major Ethnic Division: Southern Highland

Location: northeast Oaxaca

Language, language family: Mixe, Macro-Mayance

History: Moved to Oaxaca from the coast. Resisted the Zapotecs and Chiapas. The Zapotecs allied with the Mixtecs and burned the mountains where the Mixes lived but failed to defeat them. The Mixes still hate the Zapotecs. During 1524-1570, the Mixes revolted numerous times; subduing them took large Spanish/Indian armies. The Mixes moved into the mountains to evade the Spanish.

Religion: Catholic

Group name: Mixtec<sup>D</sup>

Major Ethnic Division: Southern Highland

Location: northwest Oaxaca

Language, language family: Mixtec, Macro-Mixtecan

History: probably moved into Oaxaca when the Zapotecs did, since they are linguistically related. Got involved in Zapotec politics and partly displaced the Zapotecs; even used Monte Alban as a cemetery. See Zapotec history section. The Mixtecs allied with Cortés against the Mexica.

Religion: pagan

Group name: Nahuatl<sup>D</sup>

Major Ethnic Division: Central Highland

Location: northwest Mexico State, western Hidalgo, northeast Querétaro.

Language, language family: Nahuatl, Uto-Aztecan

History: In antiquity, Uto-Aztecan speakers lived as far north as Utah. Nahuatl speakers moved into central Mexico from the north over a long period. Teotihuacán may have been built by Nahuatl speakers; a Nahuatl name glyph was found there. The Toltecs, who immigrated in the 10th century, likely were Nahuas. Other bands of Nahuas took part in the Chichimeca invasions during the 13th century. Texcoco was settled by Chichimecas. Later in the same century, a Nahuatl band that called itself the Mexica moved in. After numerous vicissitudes, they settled on the islands of Tenochtitlán and Tlatelolco and, in time, became the dominant polity in the Aztec Confederation,

which included them, Texcoco, and Tlacopán. During the conquest, most Nahuas sided with Cortés against the Mexica, even the Texcocans.

Religion: pagan/Catholic

Group name: Opata [OH-pa-ta] (subfamily)<sup>D</sup>

Major Ethnic Division: Northwest

Location: northeast Sonora

Language, language family: Opatan (subfamily), Taracahitan

History:

Religion: Shamanism

Group name: Otomi

Major Ethnic Division: Central Highland

Location: eastern slopes of the Central Plateau; western part of the state of Mexico; the Mezquital Valley of Hidalgo

Language, language family: Otomi, Otomian

History: In antiquity, populated much of central Mexico, but Nahuatl invaders drove them from the richest lands to the poorest, although they retained Querétaro. At the time of the conquest, they were tributaries to Tlaxcala. As such, they fought against Cortés in 1519 but, once defeated, they joined his alliance against the Mexica.

Religion:

Group name: Pápagayos<sup>D</sup>

Major Ethnic Division: Northwest

Location: Around Casas Grandes, Chihuahua

Language, language family: Pima, Piman; related to Taracahitan.

History:

Religion: Pagan: worship sun and stars; include some Catholic elements.

Group name: Pima<sup>D</sup>

Major Ethnic Division: Northwest

Location: Sonora. In colonial times, they were concentrated along the Río Magdalena and Río Mátape. Since then, they have dispersed and intermarried with other Mexicans.

Language, language family: Pima, Piman; related to Taracahitan.

History: Converted by Padre Kino in 1687. Revolted 1751-53 and 1840.

Religion: Catholic/pagan.

Group name: Popolocan<sup>D</sup>

Major Ethnic Division: Southern Highland

Location: eastern Puebla, near Oaxaca and Veracruz

Language, language family: Popolocan, Macro-Mixtecan (now only speak Spanish)

History: Cortés couldn't defeat King Xopanatl, but Xopanatl died of battle wounds and Cortés bribed his successor, who was baptized Juan Pacheco.

Religion: pagan

Group name: Popoluca<sup>D</sup>

Major Ethnic Division: Lowland Maya

Location: near Sotepan and Sayula, near Coatzacoalco, in Veracruz

Language, language family: related to Zoquean

History:

Religion:

Group name: Seris<sup>D</sup>  
Major Ethnic Division: Northwest  
Location: Tiburón Island, off the coast of Sonora  
Language, language family: Kuunkak, Seriana  
History: Genetically and culturally isolated  
Religion: worship sun, moon, and animal spirits; shamanist.

Group name: Tarahumara (sub-family)<sup>D</sup>  
Major Ethnic Division: Northwest  
Location: southwestern Chihuahua; Copper Canyon area.  
Language, language family: Tarahumara (sub-family), Taracahitan  
History:  
Religion: nominally Catholic

Group name: Tarascans (Purépecha)<sup>D</sup>  
Major Ethnic Division: Western  
Location: west central section of Michoacán (around Lago Pátzcuaro and between Zacapu and Zamora)  
Language, language family: Tarascan, Taracahitan  
History: Moved into Mexico during the Nahua immigration (Taracahitan is related to Nahuatl). The capital was founded at Pátzcuaro about 1325, moved to Ihuátzio, then to Tzintzúntzan. The Tarascans were strong enough to stay independent of the Aztecs. During the conquest, they refused to ally with the Mexica against the Spaniards. After, they accepted Spanish rule and converted to catholicism. But in 1529, Nuño de Guzmán rode into Nueva Galicia (now Michoacán) with a force of Spaniards, took King Caltzontzi prisoner, and tortured him until he gave them all his gold. Then they burned him to death. The people reverted to paganism and were ready to revolt when a priest named Vasco de Quiroga went to Pátzcuaro and built some hospitals and schools and taught modern farming methods. His hard work and compassion defused the hostility against Spanish rule.  
Religion: Catholic

Group name: Tepehua<sup>D</sup>  
Major Ethnic Division:  
Location: northern Veracruz  
Language, language family: Tepehua, Totonacan  
History: Subjugated by Texcoco in 1350, and thus by Aztecs later on.  
Religion: Catholic/pagan

Group name: Tepehuan<sup>D</sup>  
Major Ethnic Division: Northwest  
Location: two groups: southeast corner of Chihuahua and south end of Durango.  
Language, language family: Tepehuan, Piman  
History: In 1616, 25,000 Tepehuans rebelled against Spanish rule, marching from Santiago Papasquiaro toward Durango. The Spaniards met them at Cacaría and killed 15,000 of them.  
Religion: pagan/Catholic; some shamanism.

Group name: Tlapanec<sup>D</sup>  
Major Ethnic Division: Southern Highland  
Location: Guerrero: Tonaya, Malinaltepec, Tlacoapa, Zapotitlán  
Language, language family: Tlapanec, Macro-Mixteca  
History: In precolumbian times, they settled around Tlapa (northeast from Acapulco). In 1486, the Aztecs defeated them and took 24,000 prisoners to Tenochtitlán for sacrifice. They moved into the

Mixtec areas when the Spaniards arrived. In 1531, they revolted and killed all the Spaniards in the area. By 1533 they were subdued and began conversion to Catholicism. In 1842-44, they revolted over land rights; Nicolás Bravo put the revolt down. They revolted again in 1857.

Religion: pagan

Group name: Tojolabal<sup>D</sup>

Major Ethnic Division: Highland Maya

Location: Chiapas, around Comitán.

Language, language family: Tojolabal, Maya

History: Part of Guatemala's Quiché nation, which warred against the Yucatec Maya.

Religion: Catholic

Group name: Totonac<sup>D</sup>

Major Ethnic Division:

Location: centered around Papantla and east of Jalapa, in Veracruz.

Language, language family: Totonac, Totonacan

History: Their oral history claims they were the builders of Teotihuacán. When the empire broke up, they moved to Veracruz, where they built Tajín and Cempoala. They were subjugated by the Aztecs until the conquest, when they joined Cortés's alliance.

Religion: Catholic/pagan

Group name: Tzeltal<sup>D</sup>

Major Ethnic Division: Highland Maya

Location: Chiapas, around Ocozingo.

Language, language family: Tzeltal, Maya

History: Built Palenque and Toniná. Revolted against the Spaniards in 1712 because of harsh treatment by the Bishop. In Chilón, the Catholics were in church, celebrating the Festival of the Trinity; Indians surrounded the church and stabbed everybody who was inside. 20,000 Indians marched toward San Cristóbal, but 600 Spaniards from there met and defeated them at Huixtán on Nov 18. Spaniards from Tabasco and Guatemala tracked down and defeated the remnants.

Religion: mostly catholic.

Group name: Tzotzil (Zinacantecos)<sup>D</sup>

Major Ethnic Division: Highland Maya

Location: Chiapas, around San Cristóbal de las Casas

Language, language family: Tzotzil, Maya

History: Dominated by the Chiapas Indians. Aztecs invaded in 1484. In 1524, the Tzotziles fled into the mountains to evade the Spaniards. In 1712 they joined the Tzeltales in revolt. In 1869, they revolted and killed hundreds of Spaniards and Ladinos, but lost over a thousand dead. In 1911, they revolted again, 50,000 strong. The revolt was put down by neighboring towns; thousands died.

Religion: mixed pagan and Catholic

Group name: Yaqui<sup>D</sup>

Major Ethnic Division: Northwest

Location: The Yaqui homeland is along the Yaqui River in Sonora. Some Yaqui live in the southwest US.

Language, language family: Yaqui, Cahitan (sub-family), Taracahitan

History: Repelled attacks by the Spanish and their indian allies in 1609-1610, and signed a peace treaty with Spain in 1610. They rebelled in 1740, following disputes with Spanish settlers over land, when they killed 2000 Spanish troops at Río Tambos between Tacaipa and Suague. Then they lost in the Atoncahue Mountains, losing 2000 dead. There were more revolts in 1764. After

independence, the Yaqui rebelled against the Mexican government in 1826, 1832, 1842, 1875, 1877, and 1887; in 1880 the government began to relocate Yaquis to the Yucatán Peninsula. Between then and 1920, some Yaquis fled to southern Arizona. During the revolution, they fought for both Pancho Villa and Alvaro Obregón, although they took Obregón prisoner for a few days in 1926, when the revolution was over.

Religion: pagan/Catholic

Group name: Yucatec Maya<sup>D</sup>

Major Ethnic Division: Lowland Maya

Location: Yucatan, Campeche, and Quintana Roo, plus Belize, Guatemala, and northern Honduras

Language, language family: Yucatec Maya, Maya

History: In the Mexican part of the area, the known history relates to Chichén Itzá's dominance during the post-classic period.

Religion: varying mixtures of Catholic and pagan.

Group name: Zapotec<sup>D</sup>

Major Ethnic Division: Southern Highland

Location: Eastern and southern Oaxaca

Language, language family: Zapotec, Macro-Mixtecan

History<sup>D,F</sup>: Established Monte Albán by 500 BC, under Olmec influence. By 300 AD, the surrounding areas were under Teotihuacán influence. Zapotec power declined after 750. The Zapotecs abandoned Monte Albán and moved to Mitla, Zaachila, and Quiengola. In the late 15th Century, some Zapotecs killed some Aztec merchants (Pochteca) at Mitla. In reprisal, the Aztecs burned Mitla and executed many of the residents. The Zapotecs formed an alliance with the Mixtecs, raising an army of 60,000, and defeated the Aztec garrison. They fortified Quiengola, but the Aztec army defeated them there, anyway, so they submitted to Aztec rule. Early in the 16th Century, they allied again with the Mixtecs to throw off the Aztecs, but treated the Mixtecs unfairly, so the Mixtecs left. Then, the Zapotecs allied with Cortés against the Mexica.

During the War of Independence, the Zapotecs controlled the countryside. In 1829, the government drafted some Zapotec men into the Army. In protest, their wives stormed the government buildings and liberated the men. In 1896, Zapotecs revolted against the "Ley de Hacienda", one of Díaz's abuses of Indian land rights. They looted and pillaged until the Army restored order.

Religion: mixed Catholic and pagan

Group name: Zoque<sup>D</sup>

Major Ethnic Division: Southern Highland

Location: around Tuxtla, Chiapas

Language, language family: Zoquean, Macro-Mayance

History: Have lived in Chiapas since antiquity. In 1695, they revolted against the provincial Governor and burned him and his Sheriff. The Spaniards put the revolt down and hung 30 Zoques. The Zoques fought for independence and for the government in the War of the Reform. In 1911, they defended themselves against attacking Chamulas from Guatemala.

Religion: Catholic

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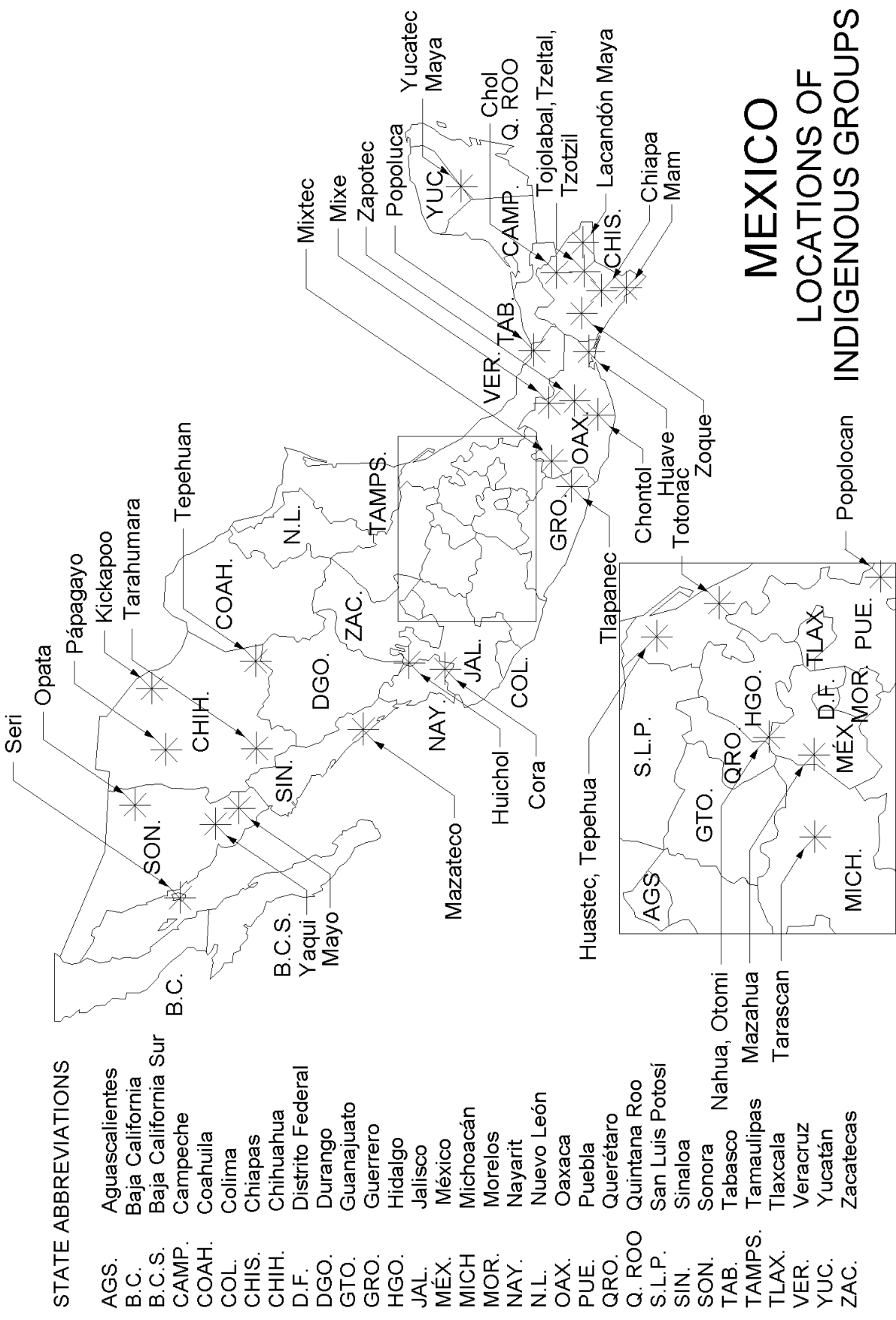
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