

Mexico

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Mexico achieved independence from Spain in 1810. Many different styles of government were used in early Mexico, including monarchies, military leadership, and civilian cabinets. A 1917 revolution eventually put in power the PRI, which would control Mexico from 1929 to 2000 in a single party system. The PRI comes to power as the PNR and changes names twice: in 1938 it becomes the PRM, and in 1946 it changes its name to PRI. No SOLS changes are coded until 2000.

Mexico is classified by Geddes, Wright, and Frantz (2013) as a single-party state for the entire 1919-1945 period, beginning in 1916. This seems odd since the precursor party to the PRI does not come into existence until the late 1920's. However, Liz Zechmeister, who specializes in Mexico, explains that a possible reason why Geddes (2003) codes the single-party system starting before the party was really created is because the people who later created the party were already in charge when Mexico's constitution came in place in 1916. In addition, it does appear that most of the leaders were associated with their predecessors. Thus, we code no SOLS changes for the duration of the single party system.

In 1919, the president was Venustiano Carranza de la Garza, a member of the Liberal Moderate party (L-Mod). He was in opposition to the revolutionary hero, Emiliano Zapata, and was not popular, especially following Zapata's assassination. He did oversee the drafting and ratification of a new, revolutionary constitution that he did not like—but he also ignored many of the restrictions that Constitution placed on his office (Miller 1985, 306). When Carranza announced plans to name the next president, the opposition began a movement called the "Plan de Agua Prieta," which eventually gained widespread support and led to Carranza fleeing (and later being assassinated himself) in June of 1920. Adolfo de la Huerta, one of the leaders of the Plan, was named interim president. This is not a SOLS change. In December 1920, Alvaro Obregon Salido, the leader of the Constitutionalist Liberal Party (PLC) who created the Plan, became the president following an election.

Mexican Presidents, it would seem, were supposed to name their successor, and Obregon eventually settled on his Minister of the Interior, Plutarco Elías Calles, a member of the National Revolutionary Party (PNR, which would later become the dominant party PRI). This is not a SOLS change. Calles was in office from 1924 until 1928. The 1928 elections resulted in another victory for Obregon, but before he could take office, he was assassinated. The presidency was assumed by the Minister of the Interior, Emilio Portes Gil, on a provisional basis until new elections could be held, which is not a SOLS change, either. Portes Gil was in office for 14 months, until February 1930, when he handed over the presidency to Pascual Ortiz Rubio, a member of PNR. This is not a SOLS change, either. Ortiz only remained in office until 1932, when he resigned and was replaced by one of his cabinet members, Abelardo Luján Rodríguez. Rodriguez was in office from September 1932 until November 1934, so he was not a provisional

leader, though some sources note him as such. Regardless, he was also a member of PNR, so no SOLS change is associated with his transition.

The 1934 elections resulted in Lázaro Cárdenas, the PNR candidate backed by Calles, winning the presidency, which is not a SOLS change. It is during this time that Mexico's "official party" consolidated its power, especially in the executive branch. Cárdenas was in office until 1940, during which time PNR changed its name to the Party of the Mexican Revolution (PRM). His designated successor, Manuel Ávila Camacho, who had previously served as Minister of Defense, won the elections of that year and assumed office. It should be noted that Camacho did not run unopposed, as the opposition party PAN (the National Action Party) had been formed for that election, and would continue to be the opposition party for many years. Camacho was in office until 1946, during which time PRM changed its name to the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI).

Camacho left office after the elections in 1946, when a lawyer named Miguel Alemán Valdés came to power. After Valdés' administration became corrupt and started provoking ire towards the party, Adolfo Ruiz Cortines ascended to the presidency. Cortines stayed in office until 1958. Mexico trended towards socialism under the next PRI president, Adolfo López Mateos, who ruled from 1958 to 1962.

Mateos left the office to his Minister of Interior, Gustavo Díaz Ordaz. Protests picked up against the PRI in the 1960s, but they won elections easily again in 1970. Luis Echeverría Álvarez was the next to take power, and he served for a full term before handing over the presidency to José López Portillo. Portillo was in office from 1976 to 1982, when economic boom and then crisis followed the discovery of mass amounts of oil under Mexican soil.

In 1982, Miguel de la Madrid took over the government as Portillo left office in disgrace. De la Madrid was in power until an inglorious exit from office in 1988, when Carlos Salinas was elected. Salinas's election marked the beginning of the loosening of the PRI's hold on Mexico; however, they would go on to secure the next election in 1994 with Ernesto Zedillo. Zedillo served the last presidency under the PRI, which lasted till 2000.

In 2000, Mexico's freest and fairest election ever was held for the presidency. Vicente Fox Quesada of the PAN won the first non-PRI dominated election in 71 years. This was obviously coded as a SOLS change. Six years later, when Fox's term was up, another PAN member named Felipe Calderón won the presidency.

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