



CHAPTER 8

Mexico



ESSENTIAL QUESTION

How does Mexico reflect both ancient traditions and the challenges of the modern world?

1

HISTORY & GOVERNMENT

A Struggle Toward Democracy

2

CULTURE

A Blend of Traditions

3

GOVERNMENT & ECONOMICS

Creating a New Economy



1848

CONNECT Geography & History



Use the map and the time line to answer the following questions.

1. What Mexican states are located on a peninsula on the Pacific Coast?
2. What was one result of the Mexican Revolution?

History

◀ **1864** Napoleon appoints Maximilian as Emperor of Mexico. (Maximilian)

Economics

1917 New constitution redistributes land more equally among the people.

Geography

1848 Mexico signs treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo and loses territory to the United States.



History

◀ **1910** Mexican Revolution begins.

115°W 110°W 105°W 100°W 95°W 90°W 85°W

Animated GEOGRAPHY

Present-Day Mexico

[Click here](#) to explore Mexico @ [ClassZone.com](#)



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Government

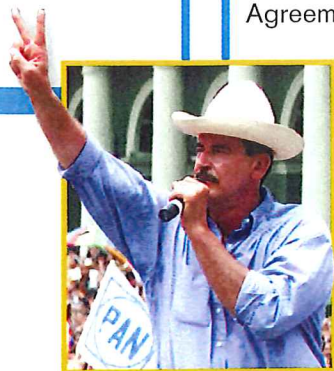
▲ **1929** The Institutional Revolutionary Party (Partido Revolucionario Institucional, or PRI) comes to power.

Culture

1990 Octavio Paz wins Nobel Prize for Literature.

Economics

1992 Mexico signs the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).



Today

Government

◀ **2000** Vicente Fox is elected president of Mexico.

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**SECTION
1**

Reading for Understanding

▶ Key Ideas

BEFORE, YOU LEARNED

Mexico rebelled against colonial rule and gained its independence from Spain in 1821.

NOW YOU WILL LEARN

Mexico had to overcome many obstacles as the country moved toward establishing a democracy.

▶ Vocabulary

TERMS & NAMES

Antonio López de Santa Anna (1794–1876) Mexican general, president, and leader of Mexican independence from Spain

Republic of Texas constitutional government of Texas after independence from Mexico

annex to add to an existing territory

cession surrendered territory

Benito Juárez (1806–1872) Indian who became president and a Mexican national hero

Mexican Revolution a fight for reforms in Mexico from 1910 to 1920

Constitution of 1917 Mexican constitution written during the revolution that is still in effect today

Vicente Fox Mexican president from the National Action Party who was elected in 2000

REVIEW

constitution a formal plan of government

revolution the overthrow of a ruler or government; a major change in ideas

▶ Reading Strategy

Re-create the chart shown at right. As you read and respond to the **KEY QUESTIONS**, look for the effects of the causes that are listed.



See Skillbuilder Handbook, page R8

ANALYZE CAUSES AND EFFECTS

CAUSES	EFFECTS
Mexico and the United States could not agree on the border of Texas.	
Benito Juárez instituted a new constitution in 1857.	
Huge gap existed between rich and poor; most Mexicans did not own land.	
The Constitution of 1917 was created.	



GRAPHIC ORGANIZERS

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A Struggle Toward Democracy

Connecting to Your World

Think what an important part George Washington played in the U.S. fight for independence from Britain. In Mexican history, General **Antonio López de Santa Anna** played a key role in Mexico's fight for independence from Spain. He served as both a soldier and a president. As president, however, Santa Anna was not able to establish a secure government. Several factors made it difficult for the Mexican people to create a stable government.



Santa Anna

War and Reform

KEY QUESTION What challenges did Mexico have in establishing a stable government?

During Spanish rule, Mexicans had little control over their lives. Spain made many decisions for Mexico. As a result, after gaining independence in 1821, Mexico had trouble establishing a stable government. The Mexican people had no experience in governing themselves, and the nation had a weak economy. Invasion by foreign countries also prevented Mexico from establishing a strong government.

Reform Demands

Protests, pictured in this mural by David Siquieros, led to the Mexican Revolution.



The Mexican War Until 1848, Mexican territory included what is now the southwestern part of the United States. In the early 1800s, few Mexicans lived there. To increase the population, Mexico encouraged settlers from the United States to move to Texas. To get land, the settlers had to follow Mexican law and pay a small fee.

Soon, the American settlers wanted more independence. When the Mexican government refused to grant independence, Texans revolted and broke away from Mexico. Santa Anna and his troops won early victories against the Texans, including the Battle of the Alamo in San Antonio, but eventually they were defeated at the Battle of San Jacinto in 1836. That same year, Santa Anna signed a treaty granting Texas independence, and the **Republic of Texas** was established.

Mexico faced another problem when the United States **annexed**, or added, Texas in 1845. The United States and Mexico could not agree on the southern boundary of Texas. By 1846, the dispute led to a war that lasted two years. Then in 1848, Mexico and the United States signed the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. As a result of this treaty, Mexico's surrendered territory, or **cession**, included the northern half of what was once Mexico.

Republic of Mexico 1824–1853



CONNECT Geography & History

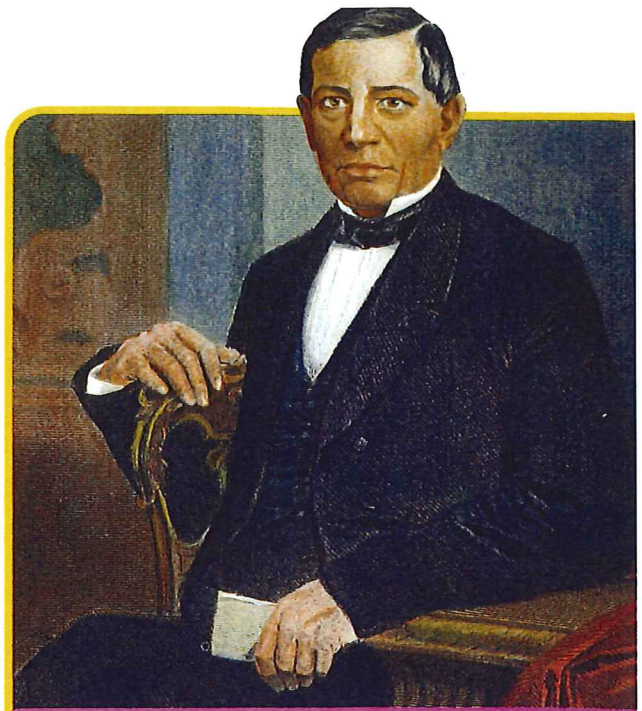
- 1. Location** What river formed the border between Mexico and the United States before the Texas Annexation?
- 2. Region** How did the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo affect Mexican territory?

Fight for Reforms The Mexican War drained Mexico's economy and left the government in disorder. After the war, two groups within the country, the liberals and conservatives, struggled for power.

Conservatives consisted of Mexico's rich landowners and military leaders. The liberals generally consisted of the nation's poor, landless people. A liberal leader, **Benito Juárez**, greatly influenced Mexican politics at this time. He led a reform movement that resulted in a new **constitution** in 1857. Among other things, the constitution guaranteed freedom of speech and called for a federal system of government. But it did not make Catholicism the official religion, as many church officials wanted. Juárez and other reformers fought against the opponents of the constitution. This struggle left Mexico weak and open to foreign invasion.

France, Spain, and Britain sent forces to Mexico in 1861. France captured Mexico City in 1863 and named Maximilian, a European nobleman, as emperor of Mexico. His rule ended when the Mexican people overthrew and executed him. Juárez, who had been elected president in 1861, returned to that office until his death in 1872.

ANALYZE CAUSES AND EFFECTS Explain why establishing a stable government was difficult in Mexico.



HISTORY MAKERS

Benito Juárez 1806–1872

Benito Juárez, an Indian, was born in Oaxaca (wuh•HAH•kuh), where he received a law degree in 1831. Politics became Juárez's life, and he served in many capacities, including governor of Oaxaca and president of Mexico. His work for fairness and equality made Juárez a hero in the eyes of many Mexican people.



ONLINE BIOGRAPHY

For more on the life of Benito Juárez, go to the Research & Writing Center @ ClassZone.com

Revolution and Constitutional Change

KEY QUESTION Why was the election of President Vicente Fox significant?

After Juárez's death, the reform movement weakened. Juárez's successors were more interested in developing the economy than in reform. They believed in government controlled by a small group.

In 1876, General Porfirio Díaz became dictator. Unlike Juárez, he gave land, power, or favors to anyone who supported him. Those who did not support him were shut out of power. By 1910, the gap between the rich and poor had grown huge. Just one percent of landowners controlled more than 90 percent of the land. Most Mexicans owned no land at all. This gap set the stage for the Mexican Revolution.

The Mexican Revolution By 1910, Mexicans from various walks of life were protesting Díaz's rule and calling for reforms. Farmers wanted land, and workers wanted fair wages and better working conditions.

The **Mexican Revolution** began when Francisco Madero, a wealthy rancher, called for a **revolution** to defeat Díaz. Leaders arose in different parts of Mexico and gathered their own armies. Emiliano Zapata led an army in southern Mexico and fought for land ownership for poor farmers. Pancho Villa led forces in northern Mexico. He became popular for his policy of stealing from the rich to give to the poor. Madero became president, but was soon overthrown. The fighting among the various Mexican groups for control of the government continued, turning the Revolution into a civil war. By the time it was over in 1920, more than one million Mexicans had been killed.

CONNECT Geography & History

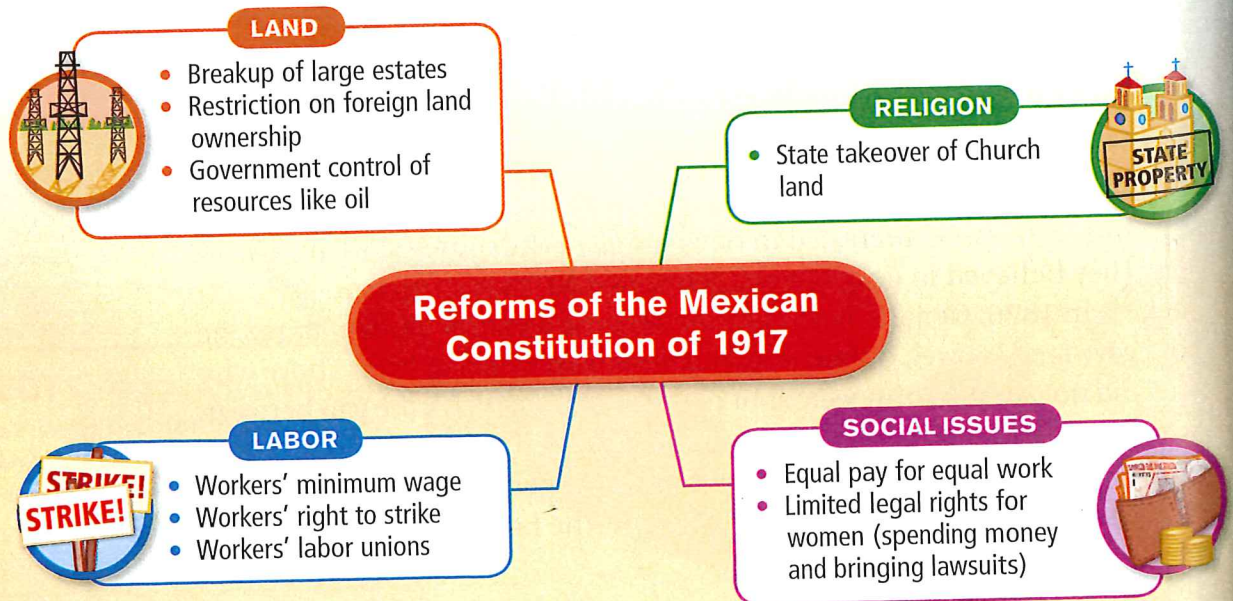
Pancho Villa: Knowing the Land

Pancho Villa's knowledge of northern Mexico's geography helped him to avoid being captured by the U.S. army. In 1916, Villa, angry over U.S. involvement in the Mexican Revolution, led an attack in Columbus, New Mexico, in which 18 U.S. citizens were killed. The United States sent soldiers to capture Villa, but Villa's knowledge of the land and his popularity helped him elude the U.S. army.



New Constitution The **Constitution of 1917** was adopted during the revolution to meet the demands of Mexico's various groups and regions. Land reform was the central issue. Eventually, the government redistributed nearly half of Mexico's farmland to poor people. Millions of acres of farmland were divided into *ejidos*

(eh•HEE•thaws), community farms owned by villagers. The constitution also brought about changes regarding workers' rights and the relationship of the government and the Church. The Constitution of 1917 is still in effect in Mexico today.



Democratic Rule In the 1920s, one political party came to power by making peace among the various armies. Today it is called the Institutional Revolutionary Party (Partido Revolucionario Institucional, or PRI). The party controlled the government from 1929 until 2000. It helped introduce elements of democracy and stability to Mexico. But the party often blocked opposition to its policies and was accused of corruption.

In 2000, **Vicente Fox**, a member of the National Action Party (Partido Acción Nacional, or PAN), was elected president. His election signaled Mexico's move toward a multiparty democracy. In 2006, Felipe Calderon, also a member of PAN, won the presidential election. Today, besides PRI and PAN, there are at least five other political parties in Mexico.

Today, Mexico is a democracy organized much like the U.S. government. Mexico is a federal republic made up of 31 states and a federal district. Mexico also has three branches of government. But the Mexican president has more control than the U.S. president.



Campaign Rally Supporters take part in an election rally for PAN in June 2000.

MAKE INFERENCES Explain the significance of the election of Vicente Fox as Mexico's president.

Section 1 Assessment

ONLINE QUIZ
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TERMS & NAMES

1. Explain the importance of

- Antonio López de Santa Anna
- Benito Juárez
- Constitution of 1917
- Vicente Fox

USE YOUR READING NOTES

2. Analyze Causes and Effects

 Use your completed chart to answer the following question:

What effect did the Constitution of 1857 have on Mexico?

CAUSES	EFFECTS
Mexico and the United States could not agree on the border of Texas.	
Benito Juárez instituted a new constitution in 1857.	
Huge gap existed between rich and poor; most Mexicans did not own land.	
The Constitution of 1917 is created.	

KEY IDEAS

3. What dispute led to war between Mexico and the United States?
4. Why was the Mexican Revolution fought among different groups?
5. How did the Constitution of 1917 help farmers?

CRITICAL THINKING

6. **Analyze Points of View** Before 1910, how did different groups in Mexico view the need for reform?
7. **Make Inferences** Why do you think that Benito Juárez's background might have led him to support reform in Mexico?
8. **CONNECT to Today** How might having more than one political party benefit Mexico today?
9. **TECHNOLOGY Use the Internet** Find out more about a political leader mentioned in this lesson by using the Internet. Then prepare a bulleted list of the top five most interesting facts about the person.