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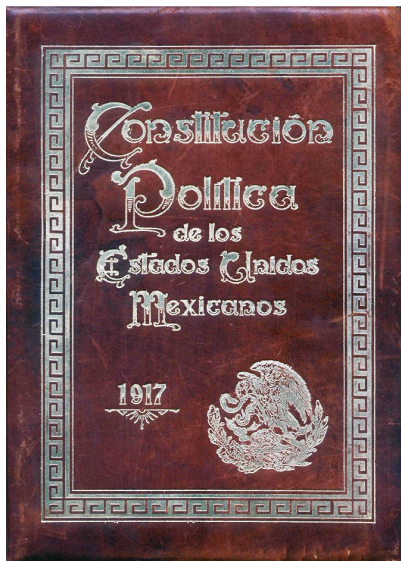
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Development of the Mexican Constitution



In the past year and one-half we have covered how Mexico won their independence from Spain in 1821 and then went through a bloody and vicious revolution ending in 1917. In this next series of articles I will attempt to delve into the organizational makeup of the Mexican Government, how they operate and an overview of their Constitution and laws.

By the end of 1916, Carranza and his armies controlled every Mexican state except Chihuahua and Morelos. It was time to legitimize the Revolution, have a new constitution, and be elected president. In November 1916, he invited Mexico's new political class, mostly middle class reformers, to a Constitutional Convention in Santiago de

Querétaro, Mexico. They met between November 1916, finishing their work on February 5, 1917 when the new constitution was signed into law. Since it was written some 130 years after the U.S. Constitution it has more social and human rights provisions. As you recall the United States Constitutional Convention convened from May 25 until September 17, 1787, when it was ratified.

Half the attendees at Carranza's meeting had attended a university and held professional degrees, with only 30% having fought in the Revolution. They were young, ambitious, and relatively apolitical. Carranza had thought the new constitution would be much like that of 1857 and submitted his plan to them. It was rejected, as most of the delegates were twentieth century liberals, who were considered radicals in Mexico at that time.

The Constitution of 1917 is still in force today 100 years later and contains some 137 articles. Divided into ten topical titles, the Constitution lists human rights, defines national citizenship, outlines associated rights, and specifies freedoms of foreigners residing in the country. It establishes the government, public service and social welfare, as well as designates Mexico City as the capital, with the Federal District a separate entity, apart from state jurisdiction.

The Revolution deeply affected everyone at the convention, and the document reflects their experiences. It contains three essential articles, numbers 3, 27, and 123. Article 3 established free, obligatory, and secular public education free from clerical supervision, and secularized the Mexican state. Article 27 mandated that lands taken from the peasantry during the Diaz Presidency had to be returned, even

January Ways N' Means Event



FOT Surf & Turf

Dinner - Entertainment

January 20th - 6:00 PM

Randy & Linda Lewis Home
21305 Chase St., Canoga Park



Only \$25.00
per person!
Now that is out
of this world!

Yes It Is!
I'll meet you
on planet earth.



**To Purchase Tickets Contact Bobbie Strelow
bobbiejoann2@gmail.com or (818) 388-7801**



Mexican Constitution Continued

if they did not have written titles. The government could also take all land not used “appropriately,” and repurpose it for the public good. It also forbade foreigners from owning land within 100km of a national border or 50km of the sea. Article 123 established an 8-hour workday, a 6-day workweek, a minimum wage, and equal pay for equal work. It gave both labor and capital the right to organize and workers could bargain collectively and strike.

The constitution of 1917 also set the goals toward which presidents were to work. As expected, Carranza was elected president and given recognition by the United States. When Zapata was betrayed and killed in 1919, the last organized opposition to the Carranza-Obregón reorganization dissolved. Villa retired from active campaigning after his raids across the border, especially when the one in Columbus, N.M. (March 9, 1916), had failed to draw the United States into conflict with Carranza. You will recall that Villa was ambushed and killed by political enemies in 1923.

When Carranza failed to move toward immediate social reforms, General Obregón enlisted two other powerful northern Mexican chieftains, Plutarco Elías Calles and Adolfo de la Huerta, to join him in an almost bloodless coup; together they formed the northern dynasty. Carranza was killed as he fled from Mexico City, and Obregón took office as president Dec. 1, 1920.

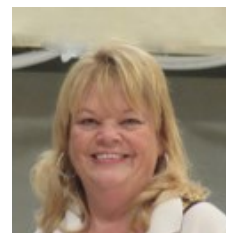
Since 1920 is a good stopping spot I will continue the history of the Mexican Constitution next month and finish it at 1940. Some scholars say 1940 was the true end of the Revolution, but it is not an opinion shared by everyone.

Message From The President

Taxco, The Holidays & Year-End

Taxco-

Wow! That sums up my trip to Taxco in one word. The people, the culture, the history, the food, the drinks, the fun, the hacienda's, the traditions, the mariachi bands, traipsing through the forest in search of jumiles beetles, the murals, the kindergarten classes, the mine, the factories, the silver, the wonderful spirit of a city 488 years old and they've managed all these years with no traffic lights or stop signs! I can go on, but it was a trip that created memories and friendships that will last a lifetime! Our delegation shared some of the memories at the TGIF with FOT and general meetings in November- I hope you had a chance to attend them.



Jo Lamoreaux

The Holidays-

I hope to see you on Sunday December 3 for the holiday card signing. The Board is busy making great appetizers and we'll have some holiday fun. See the flyer for details!

Year-End-

This is my last article as president- it has been an exciting, inspiring two years. I want to thank the membership for their support- we tried new things and repeated some old favorites! Whether you were singing along to Hello Dolly, eating cherry cobbler at the chuckwagon, or betting on your favorite horse- we had a grand time together! Your input, attendance, and volunteering when asked made the events that much better! To the new members- thanks for coming on board- it is a great organization and with your help and ideas it will be even better! To the Board – you kept me on the straight and narrow, your support was over the top and your input and help in guiding the organization was greatly appreciated!

The new officers take the reins in January- please give them your full support as we head into our 55th year in existence! We are kicking off the year in January with a surf & turf celebration. See the flyer for details. It will be a great opportunity to meet the new officers and have some fun!

Thanks again for letting me serve as your president for the last two years- it was a great ride!

Jo

Photos From Taxco Trip 2017



Holiday Card Signing and Gift Donation

Card Signing Party

December 3
From 2 to 4 PM

Bobbie Strelow's Home - 20939 Lanark St., Canoga Park

We are giving back to the community this year

Please Bring A New Unwrapped Gift For A Child 1-18 Years Old

RSVP to Bobbie Strelow
By December 1st
(818) 388-7801 or
bobbiejoann2@gmail.com



Appetizers prepared by
Your Officers
Wine - Beer - Punch
Only \$5.00 per signature



Calendar of Events 2017 & 2018

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| December 3
\$5.00 | Holiday Card Signing - 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM
Bobbie Strelow Home - 20939 Lanark St. |
| December 10 | Joint Board Meeting - 10:00 AM - Potluck Brunch
Barbara White Home - All 2017 & 2018 Officers and Chairmen |
| January 20 | Surf & Turf Dinner & Dance
Canoga Park Elks Lodge - 20925 Osborne St. |
| January 27 | Board Meeting - 10:00 AM - No Brunch
Lewis Home - 21305 Chase St. |
| February 11 | General Meeting - 1:00 PM Luncheon
Canoga Park Women's Club - 7401 Jordan Ave. |
| February 24 | Board Meeting - 10:00 AM - No Brunch
Location TBD |



FRIENDS OF TAXCO
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