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REVOLUTION IN MEXICO, THE 1917 CONSTITUTION, AND ITS AFTERMATH: RECORDS OF THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT



This collection of U.S. State Department records consists of political and military documents relating to the Mexican Revolution and its aftermath -1910-1924. These unique and insightful records provide an unprecedented look at the Mexican Revolution, which began in 1910 and continued sporadically until the new Constitution was adopted in 1917, through to and including the election of Calles.

Date Range: 1910-1924

Content: 120,582 images

Source Library: National Archives (U.S.)

Detailed Description:

This collection of U.S. State Department records consist of political and military documents relating to the Mexican Revolution and its aftermath -1910-1924. These documents provide an unprecedented look at the Mexican Revolution, which began in 1910 and continued sporadically until the new Constitution was adopted in 1917, through to and including the election of Calles. There are accounts of major military and political events, such as the growing opposition in 1910 to the regime of Porfirio Diaz; the forced resignation of Diaz in 1911 and the election of the revolutionary leader, Francisco I. Madero, as President; the assassination of Madero in 1913, followed by the military dictatorship of Victoriano Huerta; the growing unrest and the revolt against Huerta that brought about his resignation in July 1914; the Mexican arrest of American marines at Tampico and the military occupation of Veracruz by the U.S. in April 1914; the Convention at Aguascalientes in the latter part of 1914, an unsuccessful attempt by the revolutionary leaders Venustiano Carranza, Francisco "Pancho" Villa, and Emiliano Zapata to settle their differences; the defeat of Villa in 1915 by the Carranza forces under command of Alvaro Obregon and the de facto recognition by the United States of the Mexican Government under Carranza; the U. S. expedition into Mexico under General Pershing to pursue Villa after his raids across the border in March 1916; the revolt resulting in the death of Carranza in 1920 and the election of Obregon as President; the de jure recognition of Mexico by the U.S. in 1923; and the election of Plutarco Elias Calles as President in 1924.

Many of the documents relate to military activities and movements of government and rebel forces. Others concern matters resulting from revolutionary disorder and violence, such as the need for protecting American citizens and their property, the attitude of the Mexican people toward the U.S., food shortages, bandit activity by small rebel groups, disruption of communication and transportation systems, difficulties caused by the occupation and the reoccupation of various towns and states by government and rebel forces, smuggling of arms, and numerous border violations by Mexican rebel forces.

During the early 1920's much of the correspondence concerns problems resulting from the Mexican Government's attempt to introduce various reforms provided for in the Constitution of 1917, some of which related to subsoil rights. Others concerned the expropriation of foreign-owned property, the conflict with the Catholic Church, the attempt to eliminate foreign control of most major industries, agrarian disorders relating to land reforms, bolshevism, and political conditions in various Mexican states.

Source Note: RG 59: Records of the Department of State, Central Files, 1910-1929, Mexico, Political Affairs (812.00)