The Mexican Revolution
A Case Study of Latin America in the Early 20th Century

I. Latin American Puzzles

A. Why the ongoing crushing burden of poverty?

B. Why the chronic resort to dictatorship?

II. Dependency Theory

A. Economic and Cultural Dependence

1. Role of junior, dependent economic partner to
   a. Spain and Portugal (to ca. 1825)
   b. Great Britain (ca. 1825 to ca. 1900)
   c. United States (since ca. 1900)

2. Colonial framework, in effect, never abolished

B. Creole elite sold raw materials and foodstuffs to foreign investors for finished goods

1. Central America: bananas and coffee
2. Cuba: tobacco and sugar
3. Brazil: rubber and coffee
4. Mexico: henequen, copper, and silver
5. Argentina: wool, wheat, and beef
6. Chile: copper and nitrate

IV. The Playing Out of the Hand of the Mexican Revolution

A. Major Players

1. Church
2. Cattle Ranchers (north)
3. Sugar Cane Haciendados (south)
4. Farmers and peons
5. U.S. Oil Companies
7. Military leaders (other than dictators)
8. Mexico City vs. Provinces
(Major Players continued)

9. Dictators
   a. Porfirio Díaz (1830–1915), ruled Mexico 1876–1911 “Order and Progress”
   b. Victoriano Huerta (1845–1916), ruled Mexico 1913–1914

10. Reformers
    a. Francisco Madero (1873–1913), President of Mexico 1911–1913
    b. Venustiano Carranza (1859–1920), President of Mexico 1915–1920

11. Rebels and Revolutionaries
    a. Francisco “Pancho” Villa (Doroteo Arango) (1874–1923)
    b. Emiliano Zapata (1879–1919) (> zapatistas, zapatismo), Plan of Ayala (1911)

B. Results

1. Demographic (1921 census: 800,000 fewer people than 11 years earlier)
2. Infrastructure
3. Production
4. Economy

IV. Post-Revolution Politics of Consensus

A. Presidencies

1. Alvaro Obregón (1920–1924) – assassinated in 1928
2. Plutarco Elías Calles (1924–1928)
3. Emilio Portes Gil (1928–1930)
4. Ortiz Rubio (1930–1932) – wounded in assassination attempt at his inauguration
5. Albelardo Rodríguez (1932–1934)
6. Lázaro Cárdenas (1934–1940)

B. Cristero Rebellion (1927–1929)

C. National Revolutionary Party (PNR) —> Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI)

2. Was it merely a reinstitution of Porfirian-style social peace?