



MEXICO

Political Culture & Social Cleavages

POLITICAL CULTURE

Characterized by...

- Strong sense of national identity
- Mistrust of Government
- Legacy of Authoritarianism
- Patron-Clientalism
- Economic Dependency

SOCIAL CLEAVAGES

- Region: North v. South
- Ethnicity
- Urban v. Rural
- Class

POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

- ACCOMODATION + PCR
Co-optation, Camarillas
- Tradition of Local Civic Organizations
Civil Society, today = more pluralist
- Protests
1994+ Zapatista Uprising (Chiapas state)

OV Teacher Notes Sections 1 & 2 only

- Feel free prompt them with questions to spark involvement they should be able to discuss some of this based upon reading assignments. (i.e. What characteristics lead to a strong sense of nat'l identity in Mexico?)

POLITICAL CULTURE:

- Review the definition of political culture (shaded box on the right)

National Identity: based on a common history, dominant religion & language = Strong nat's identification

Patron-Clientalism: system based on personal connections and has served as the “glue” that holds Mexico together. System known as CAMARILLAS in Mexico.

Economic Dependency: always under shadow & economically dependent on another nation - Spain (colonial “parent”) & United States (economic “parent”)

Legitimacy: Most Mexicans have a deep familiarity with the political system and understand the “rules of the game” = high sense of legitimacy...does NOT mean no cynicism about how the system operates (i.e. Corruption, bribes)

Authoritarianism: Tradition of authoritarian rule...Colonial Spanish Rule, post-colonial Mexico (i.e. Diaz) & many de facto dictators from 1917 Constitution until mid-1990s when the PRI dominated government was “democratic authoritarianism”. However, strong leadership = STABILITY in history of Mexico

SOCIAL CLEAVAGES: (splits/divisions in society)

Urban v. Rural: Political structure created when virtually all of the population was rural. Today Mexico is +75% urban, literacy rate +90%. The “challenges” (i.e. working conditions, pollution, overcrowding, etc) have made urban voters more dissatisfied with the political system & thus less inclined to support the PRI

Mestizo v. American Indian: 10% of Mexicans speak an indigenous language (non-Spanish speakers) but +30% identify themselves as Amerindian. Amerindians are more likely to be rural & live in poverty...this cleavage relates more to CLASS than ethnicity as most of Mexico's wealth is in the hands of Mestizos.

Complete the Article Analysis In Class (finish for Monday)

Read the articles (packet) *Righting the Scales*, *Unreformed*, *Unrepresentative*, *Mexico's Forbidden Songs & Mexico Rape Victims*. For each article:

- (1) Identify and specifically explain ONE aspect of Mexican political culture that is reflected in the article and,
- (2) Identify and specifically explain ONE social cleavage that is reflected in the article.

Be thoughtful and insightful in your responses!