

Localized Voices within the Mexican Oil Industry



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Thesis

- Oil's role in shaping Mexico-US relations
- Multiplicity of perspectives towards US oil imperialism in Mexican oil industry
 - Conducive versus detrimental
 - No single narrative
- Brought to light processes different actors engaged in to exploit or preserve oil wealth



Image Description: map of US and Mexico

Mexican Political Voices

- Mexican political voices viewed US imperialism within the oil industry with disdain
 - Venustiano Carranza's message to the National Congress in 1919
 - referenced US imposed double standard on Mexico
 - US willing to apply pressure on Mexico in order to achieve its goals if Mexico did not comply

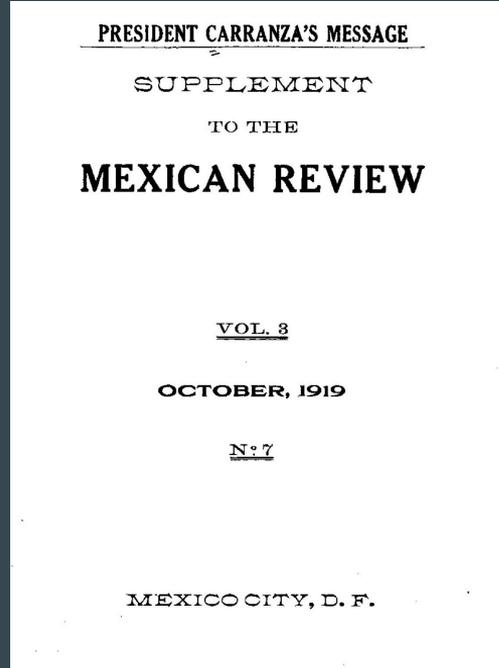


Image Description: Screenshot of copy of President Carranza's address to Mexican National Congress

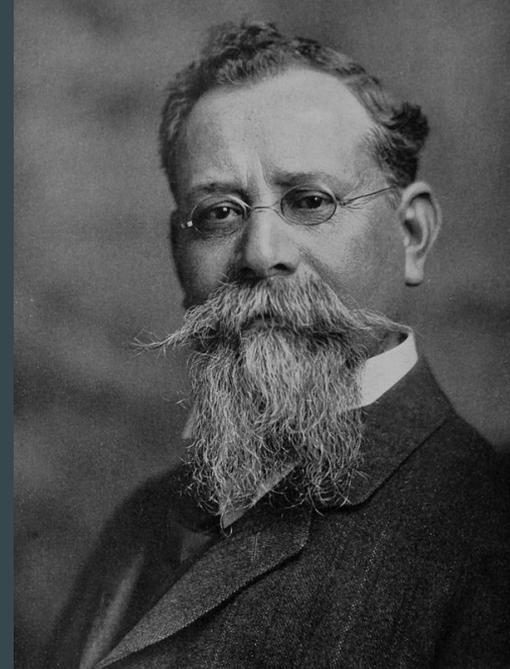


Image Description: Photograph of Venustiano Carranza

US Journalist's Position

- US journalist Stephen Bonsal portrayed how US imperialism in Mexico benefited the United States
- Bonsal hinted at US imperialism through migrations of US citizens to Mexican soil
 - Mexico could be exploited by US for purpose of oil wealth
- Discussion is framed to distance readership from the notion of the detrimental aspects of US imperialism and painted it as beneficial for the US economy



Image Description:
Portrait drawing of
Stephen Bonsal

US Scholar Position

- David Thomas, a professor of history at the University of Arkansas, highlighted the inequality in regards to the United States' relationship with Mexico and its oil industry
 - exposed Woodrow Wilson's administration's hypocrisy
 - demonstrated the contradictions that existed between the United States' claims and their vested interests



Image Description:
Photograph of David
Thomas

Indigenous Voices

- Teenek are the Indigenous people of the Huasteca region in northern Veracruz
 - tricked out of their land by United States oil land agents, who used vague language to give the impression that the Indigenous peoples retained control over land
- Not until the halt of the Mexican oil boom in 1921 that the Teenek were able to express their distress to a wide audience, particularly via newspapers
 - Teenek received temporary recognition but their voices were seldom recorded



Image Description:
Photograph of Teenek
women in traditional
clothing

Mexican Women Voices

- Mexican women demonstrated their viewpoint through engagement within and outside their traditional roles
 - began employing themselves so that they may earn enough money for their families
 - protested their husband's unfair wages
 - illuminated Mexican women's discontent with how US oil companies treated their husbands
 - However, protested so that they could maintain their traditional gendered roles within the household
 - Engagement in activism changed Mexican women's outlook on their roles permanently

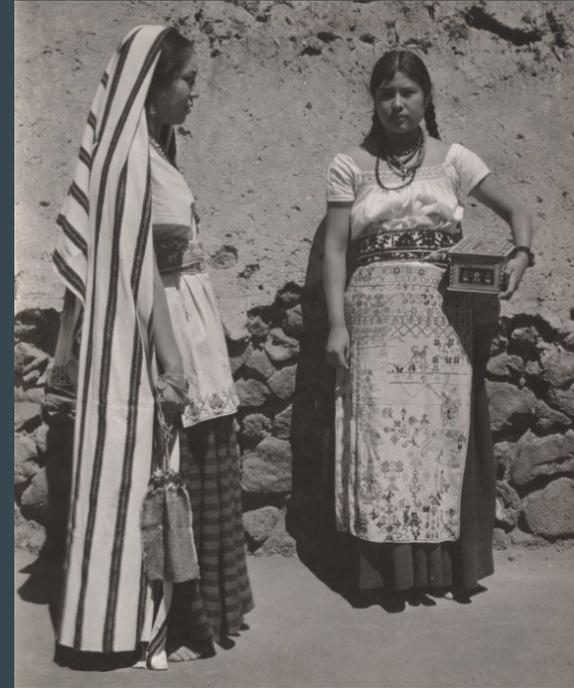


Image Description:
Photograph of
Mexican women in
traditional clothing

Conclusion

“Mexico has been compared to an ignorant beggar sitting on a bag of gold. The figure should now be extended so as to include the men fetching the gold from the bag”
(Thomas 224)



Image Description:
Photograph of
discarded oil barrels

Contact

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