**Shawn Pan**

**POLS57**

**January 29, 2015**

**Think Piece B**: Choose one (400 words maximum) DUE IN CLASS THURSDAY January 29

4. The U.S. opposed both Cardenas and Arbenz—but in different ways. Why did Cardenas survive the pressure while Arbenz fell so easily?

As Cardenas and Arbenz were striving to create reforms to transform the development of their respective country- Mexico and Guatemala, they both faced considerable pressure and even threat from the U.S. to halt their reforms. However, several important factors, such as affiliation with the communist party and compromise with the U.S., led to their significantly different fates since Cardenas survived the pressure and Arbenz was ousted from his own country.

First, the anti-communist fervor was one of determining factors in the U.S. response to the Arbenz and Cardenas administration. As Cardenas held presidency before the Cold War began, his agrarian reforms and expropriation of oil industry elicited strong opposition from the U.S. but not as much as it would if it were labeled “communist” in the post-war era. In contrast, Arbenz closely aligned himself with the communist party leaders and created the U.S. administration’s fear of a Soviet bloc in the Latin American continent. Consequently, the U.S. was more determined to oust Arbenz to prevent possible consequence of Communist penetrations in the continent and to set up an example for Communist supporters in other countries. Next, the negotiation and compromise with the U.S. were also important in shaping their response. As both the Cardenas and Arbenz administration angered the U.S. with their agrarian reform and oil expropriation, the success of their negotiation with the U.S. differed. For instance, as the U.S. State Department pressed for “immediate, effective, and just” compensations for the expropriated companies, the Cardenas administration was able to reach a deal with the U.S. despite the length debate. However, as the Arbenz administration continuously offered the U.S. negotiations on changing its reforms, its invitations were constantly rejects and the U.S. eventually resorted to invasion rather than negotiation to reach its goals.

Cardenas (The limits of state autonomy)