



# **Causes of the Mexican Revolution**

# Porfirio Diaz (Krauze)

- Ruled 1876-1911 – 8 Presidential terms; New Creole
  - Begins as a liberal reformer (ala Juarez), but becomes more authoritarian with time
- Reforms: Separation of powers & new civil liberties
- Like a Habsburg viceroy; feudal (Krauze 217)
- Pure liberal, but lacked passions of a Jacobin (226)
- 34 years of order, peace, and progress? (232)



# Krauze's Social Situation under Diaz

- Still “country of inequality” (Humboldt)
  - Supported by rich, intellectuals & technocrats (*científicos*)
  - Diaz promised financial support & public education
- Diaz tried to work with **Yaquis** Indians, but doesn’t work; ends up slaughtering & deporting them south
- Two Majesties: Church & State (229)
  - Restored Church & national heroes revered side-by-side



# Toward Conservatism

- Economic Pressure → Returns to *hacendados*
- *Pan o palo* (bread of the club) – (Keen 221)
- Bribes officials & arrested opposition
  - 1888 – opposition essentially eliminated
- Congress = *caballada* → stable of horses
- Army – Just like Santa Anna; special favors
- Church – Gets support through repealing liberal anti-clerical laws



# Land Ownership (Keen)

- Mexico 70% rural; 50% infant mortality (Krauze)
- Fewer than 1000 families owned all of MEX (Burns)
- 1883 – Survey law = more land for Diaz supporters
- 1890 – Law to give natives more land → *hacendados* duped them (much like Reconstruction) & most left land fallow to drive down supply/increase prices
  - Food shortage by 1900



# Economics & Labor

- US/UK companies dominate MEX oil & mining
- 12-15hr. workday; 11¢/day unskilled-75¢ high skill
  - Strikes in 1906 & '09 → lead to inflexible unions, anarchism, syndicalism, deaths
- *Intelligentsia* – teachers, lawyers, journalists call for reform → even *científicos* lose faith in Diaz



# Short Term Causes

- 1906-07 – Depression spreads from US → unemp ↑
- 1907-10 – Crop failures → food prices ↑
- 1908 – Diaz turns 80
- June '10 – **Francisco Madero** arrested for “preparing armed insurrection” → jailed
- 6/21/10 – Diaz wins “election” by “landslide”

