



**The Old Man & the Constitution**

# Venustiano Carranza

- Bridge quotation (341)
- Encyclopedia on Mexican History; Idolizes Juarez
- Pragmatism > Idealism (338)
- From northern state of Coahuila; wealthy family
  - Studied in Mexico City during Diaz coup in 1870s
  - Madero supports him as governor of Coahuila in 1909
- 1910 Coup – Carranza suggests Madero needs a real revolution (337) → Maderistas did not listen



# Appearance & Impact (340)

- Age – 54 in 1914 = “Old Man of the Revolution”
- Height & Composure – 6’ 4” & very proper
- Beard = Respect. Slow & deliberate manner



# Plan de Guadalupe (342-43)

- 3/26/1913
- Overthrow of dictator & restoration of const. gov.
  - No social reforms → restore law, then help the masses (343)
- Results: New Constitution, national bank, laws for peasants & workers, international relevance



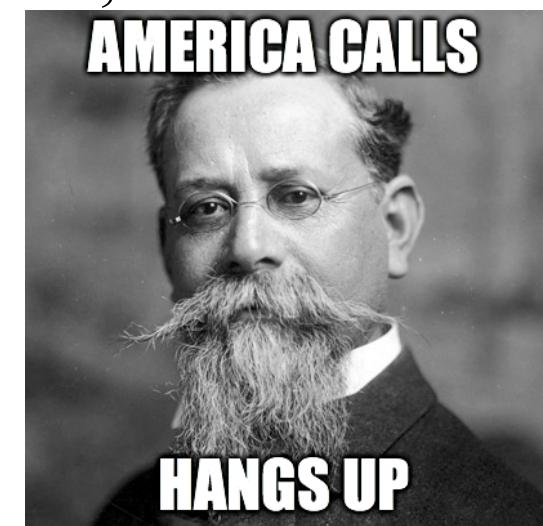
# Primer Jefe

- “First Chief” of the Constitutional Army
  - Supported by Villa & **Alvaro Obregon**
- HQ in **Sonora** → Villa leads troops in East, Obregon in West, to Mexico City →
- **7/15/1914** – Huerta flees to Europe → Carranza becomes provisional leader



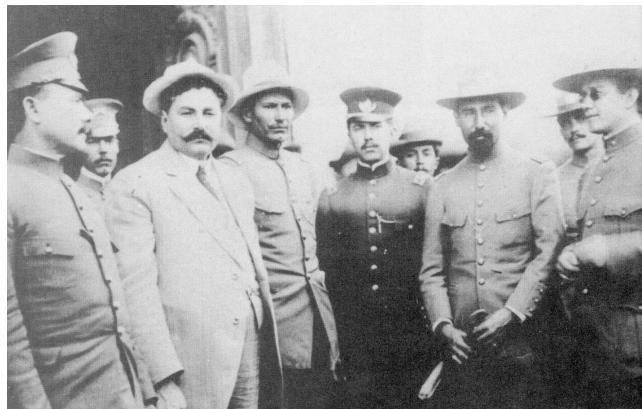
# Seeds of Discontent

- Really hated America (346)
- US Marines land at Veracruz (4/21/1914)
  - Mexican sovereignty violated
- “Not the only *jefe*”
  - Zapata breaks with him September 5
  - Villa disavows him September 23
  - **KRAUZE** – “Power belonged to no one, and almost no one was loyal to anyone but himself”



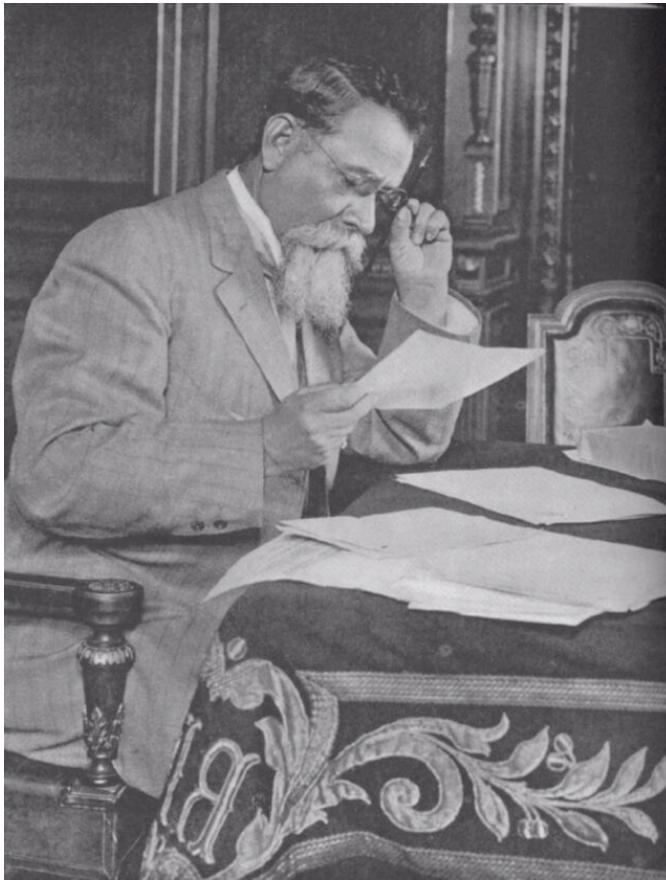
# Aguascalientes & After (349-51)

- October 1914
- Youth calls for Carranza's resignation
  - Carranza's conditions 1. Effective pre-constitutional regime, 2./3. Resignation & exile of Zapata & Villa
  - Distrusts “assemblyism” → only he can do it (350)
- Moved government to Veracruz
  - Negotiated unconditional US withdrawal
- US recognizes him (Oct.1915) → Back to MexCity



# Road to Constitution (351-52)

- **Laws of Reform** (1915)– constitutional liberalism
  - Discussion to break up estates, but only through const.
  - Result: Slow, tedious process that ends in more violence than land redistribution



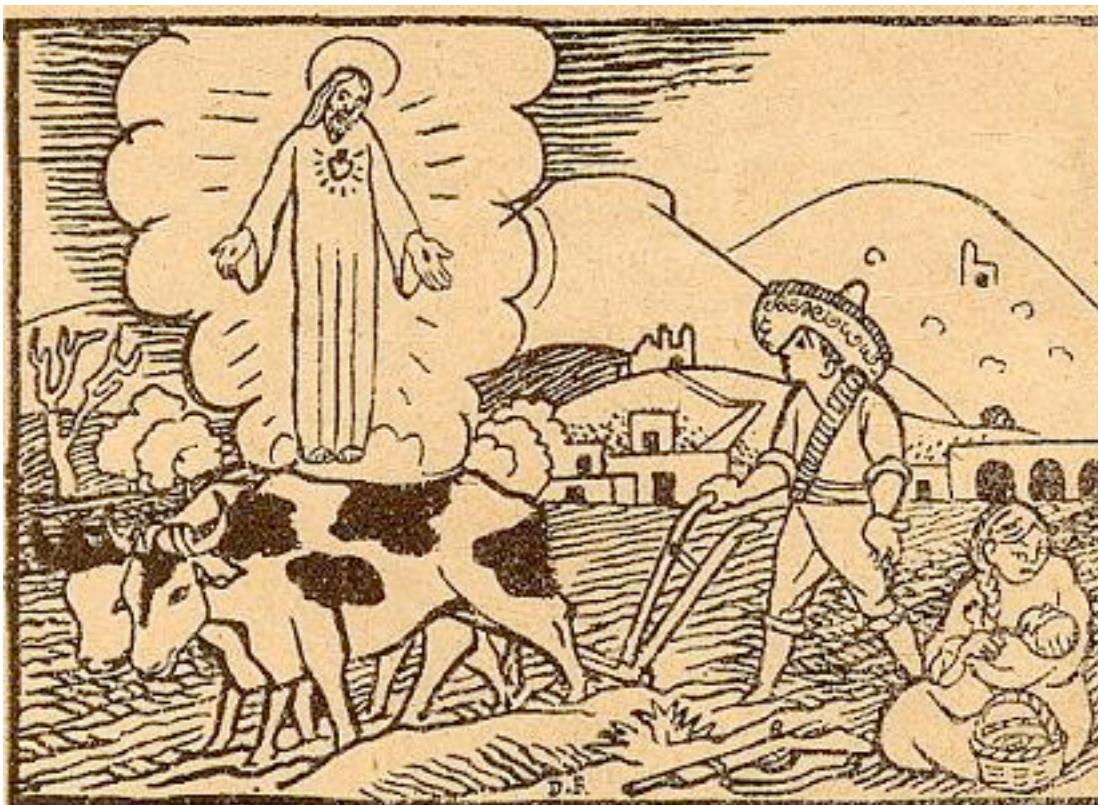
# Reds & Foreigners (353-356)

- “**Red Battalions**” – Workers join up with Carranza to take on Villa & Zapata →
  - 1916 – Carranza has reactionary response to strikes, drafts all the workers, abolishes right to strike/unions
  - Workers figure they’ll wait for someone better
- Tries to reclaim natural resources by taxing UK/US oil/mining → refuses diplomacy & never repeals



# Church & State

- Followers commit acts of sacrilege →
  - Carranza did not denounce their actions →
  - Puts Church under Ministry of Finance (357)



# Constitutional Convention (1916)

- Carranza (Reform) vs. Radicals (Revolution) (359)
  - 85 Conservatives & 132 Radicals attend
  - Radicals, led by **Mugica** wanted social reform in text



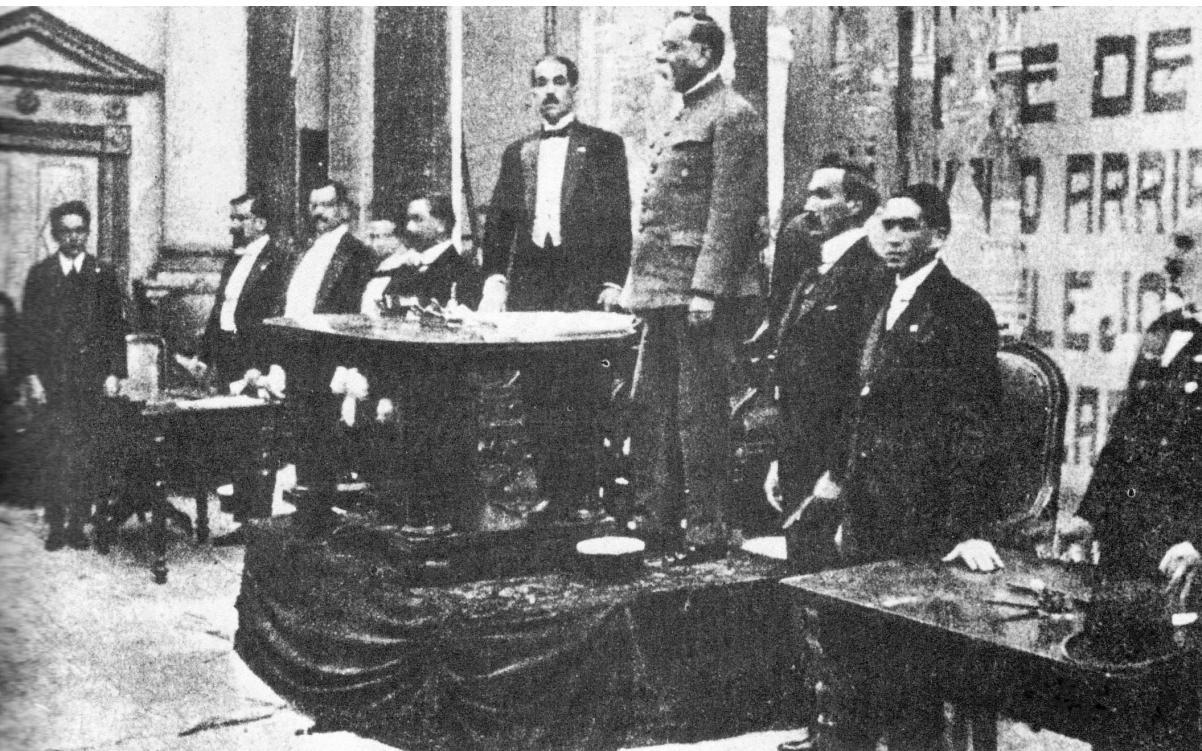
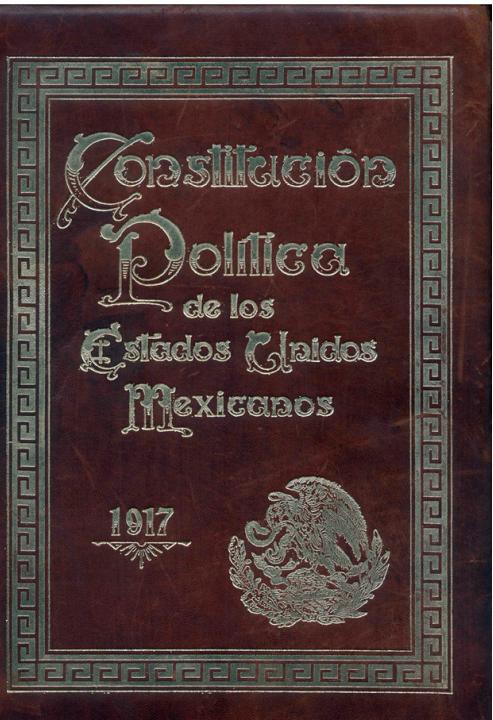
# Notable Articles

- #27 – Land Reform (359-60)
  - Small, private ownership vs. collectivization of land & natural resources by the Nation (W)
  - Only Mexicans can own property in Mexico
  - Only government could issue property to foreigners
    - Not anti-capitalist → State capitalist (Keen)
    - KRAUZE: Only Bolsheviks would go further

- #123 – Labor Relations (360-361)
  - Minor changes to rights, but NOT right to strike vs. 8hr. Workday, no child labor, protection of women, holidays, fair pay in cash, arbitration, unemployment, day care & prenatal care(W)
    - KEEN – Most advanced labor code in the contemporary world
- #3 & #130 – Church & State (361-62)
  - “The customs of people don’t change overnight” vs. “The clergy is the most dismal, most perverse enemy of the fatherland” (W)
  - Deny church legal rights, priests must register, religious education forbidden, rituals denied outside Church, religious property = national property

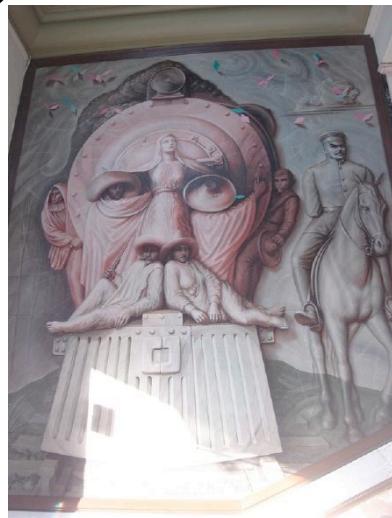
# Birth of 20<sup>th</sup> Century Mexico (365-366)

- Politically, Carranza gains w/ new Constitution
  - Executive power strengthened, No VP, legislature weakened, judges appointed for life as check on leg.
  - Women denied citizenship & political rights
- 5/1/1917 – Carranza legally elected President



# Some Bad Stuff Happened...

- Carranza very conservative → didn't abide by Const.
  - No education reform, only helped foreign business, neutral in WWI (flirtation w/ GER) (368)
- Debt, unemployment, destruction of infrastructure, black markets, disease, crop failures, etc.
- No mercy toward enemies (Angeles, Villa, Zapata)
- KRAUZE – History would blame him, and with reason (367)



# Fall of Carranza

- 1920 – “A man whose time had passed” (369)
- Constitution barred reelection → puppet **Ignacio Bonillas** was rigged to win election (370)
- Sonora generals, led by Obregon, opposed him w/ *Plan de Agua Prieta* when rigging was clear →
  - Leads coup to depose Carranza
- While on the run, Obregon’s henchmen catch up to him → it is likely he took his own life (373)

