

I CAN BEAT YOU



WITH ONE ARM

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Alvaro Obregon

Background

- Came from a huge family; faced tragedy at 27
- Successful chickpea farmer by 1910
- Lighthearted, genial, romantic, likeable, creative, alert; amazing memory
- Dark side: Obsessed with death (376)



Reluctant Revolutionary

- Initially supported Diaz & didn't join Madero → regret
- 1912 – Broke into military for Madero; amazing tactician (379)
- 1913 – Chief of the War Department in Sonora → Carranza named him Army Chief in NW
- Not flashy like Villa; Got Yaqui to follow him (380)
 - First to use air attacks EVER in 1914
- 8/11/14 – Entered MC w/ 18K troops; Revenge!



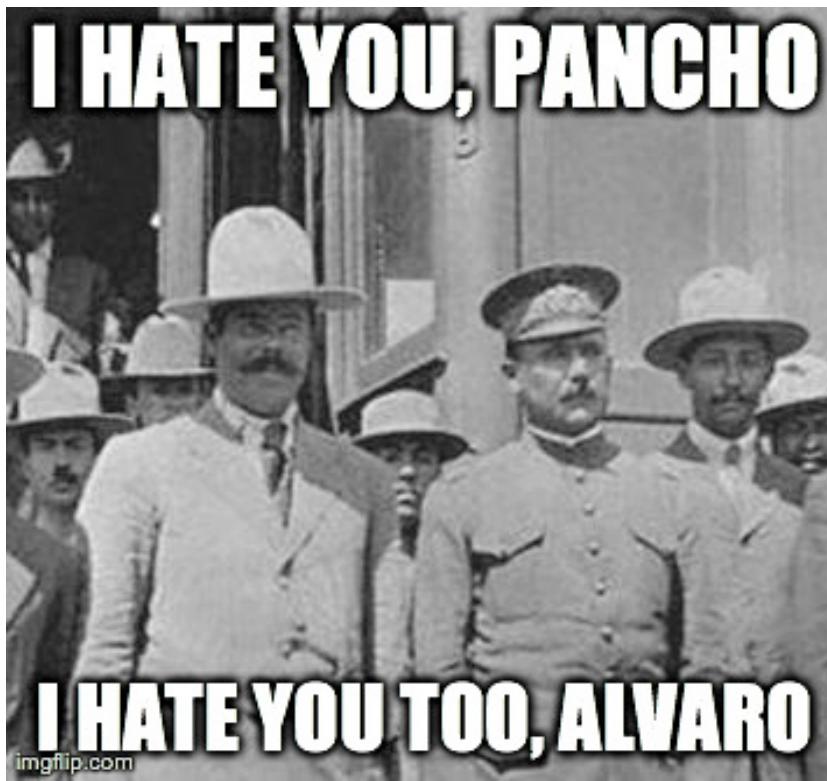
Mexico City under Obregon

- Punished Church & clergy (382)
- Punished rich Huertistas (382-83)
- Punished foreigners (383)



Villa

- After Carranza/Villa falling out, Obregon became Villa's enemy
 - Visited him alone twice & left with his life b/c of his brilliant manipulation
 - 3rd time, he escaped death by switching trains



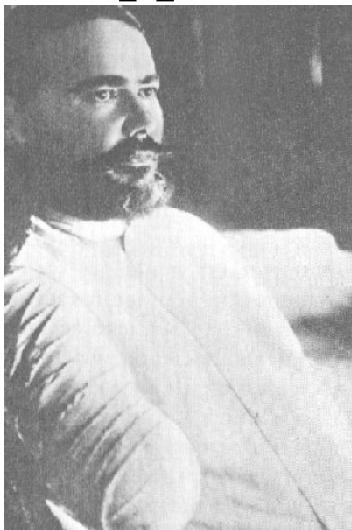
Brilliance

- 1914 – Attended Aguascalientes & made many friends from Convention, Villistas & Zapatistas
- Master in manipulating minorities
 - Recruited Red Battalions for Carranza → KRAUZE: “Halo of legitimacy from the proletariat” (384)
- 1915 – Easily defeated Zapatistas & crushed Villa at Celaya (200 casualties to 10,000)



“8000km Campaign” (387)

- June 1915 – Obregon lost his arm → attempted suicide, but was unsuccessful → decides to move on
- Trek against Orozco, Huerta, Zapata, Villa & Convention
 - Famous. Believes he won the Revolution, not Carranza
 - Goal to create a professional army
 - At **Queretaro**, est. himself as “most radical caudillo”; opportunist who supports what will win wins him accolades



Once a Chickpea Farmer...

- After 1917, he settled, remarried got fat, and rich
- Didn't take himself seriously & told a lot of jokes
- Always looked toward Presidential Chair...



Et Tu? (389)

- ...But Carranza wanted to end militarism, so he didn't choose Obregon
- **CROM** – Umbrella labor union; allied w/ Obregon
- When Carranza supported Bonillas & plotted against Obregon → Obregon staged coup
- 4/23/1920 – Carranza flees Mexico City; dies → **Adolfo de la Huerta** becomes interim president



Obregon for Presidente!

- 6/1/19 – Manifesto for candidacy made no mention of Constitution; practicality > ideology (391)
 - Revolutionaries had become reactionaries w/ power
 - Need valid voting; peace at risk b/c the country couldn't "liberate itself from the Liberators"
- National plebiscite to support his presidency
 - No social platform; econ – just encourage foreign inv.
 - Role of gov in econ: worker rights, but preserve capital



End of the Revolution

- De la Huerta brings peace, gets all revolutionaries to lay down guns; exiles return (**Jose Vasconcelos**)
- Dec. 1920 – Obregon becomes President
 - Socially liberal, economically conservative; more Porfirian than radical



Presidente Obregon

1. Department of Public Education – led by Vasconcelos & impacts remain today
2. Growth of fine arts & celebration of MEX identity
 - Diego Rivera, Frieda Kahlo, Jose Orozco, etc.



3. Lost favor with CROM (which was beyond Obregon's control in the end) b/c he didn't fully honor 1919 agreement
 - Respected strikes, Sundays off, etc.
4. Followed Constitution more than Carranza
 - Redistributed 5x more land than predecessors
5. Tense relations with Church, but wasn't as bad as Calles



6. Conceded to foreign economic pressure & didn't enforce Article 27 → sell-out (396)
7. Centralized power & suppressed opposition parties
 - Probably murdered his nephew, **Benjamin Hill** (PLC)
 - Hypocrite: Handpicked Calles to succeed him (397)
 - 1923 – More than half the army fought against him for de la Huerta
 - Essentially hunted his friends in Rebellion (398)



End of Obregon

- Went back to the farm when his term ended
- Allowed to run again in 1926 (for '28) when Senate gives way to his ambitious maneuverings
- Essentially assassinated his opposition (401)
- 1928 – Re-elected & prepared for death (402)
- 7/17/1928 – Assassinated by radical Catholic

