

# Lazaro Cardenas

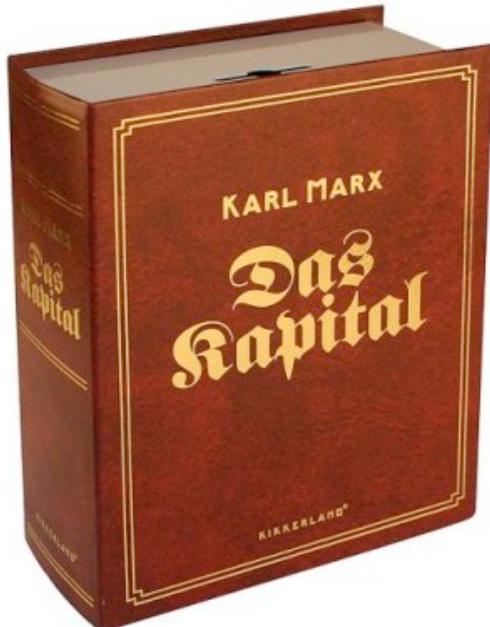
# Growing Up in Michoacan

- Socially & economically liberal
- Middle class; father died at 16 & became head of his household → Mother died soon afterward
- Served under Calles at Agua Prieta
  - Nicknamed “The Kid”: Courageous & reckless



# After the Revolution

- 1920 – Supported Obregon over Carranza
- 1925 – Chief of Military Operations under Calles to support Oil Law against US
- 1926 – Read Marx with Mugica; “amorous anarchy”
  - “Socialism is the appropriate doctrine for resolving the conflicts of Mexico”



# Governor Cardenas

- 1929 – Appointed Governor of Michoacan
  - “Would always listen”; “soothing presence”
  - “Union, Land, Work” – Similar to Lenin & supported by young teachers
  - Electoral freedom & separation of powers not important
    - What really mattered was the Revolutionary and protective mission of the State (447)
    - State has more power when socialism is for/by the masses (448)
  - KRAUZE: Closer to “integral paternalism” of Diaz but with socialist shades.



# Structure

#1: Governor (Cardenas)

#2: United front of workers (CRMDT)

#3: Teachers

- $\frac{1}{2}$  budget to  $\uparrow$ education + socialist teacher training
- Limited clergy regionally to 3 → didn't want religion & ideology to clash
- 141K hectares redistributed among 181 pueblos → a lot more than previous administrations
- Genuine love for Native Americans (452-53)



# Road to President's Chair

- 1930 – Chairman of PNR
- 1934 – Chosen by Calles to be President
  - “Love Cardenas like a son” (456)
- True liberal reforms begun
  - Calles disapproves, threatens coup → Cardenas deported him to US



# Presidente Cardenas

- Opened doors of National Palace
- Centralized power for President & eliminated lifetime appointments for judges (6yr. terms)
- Forced out corrupt Callista senators
- Some press restrictions



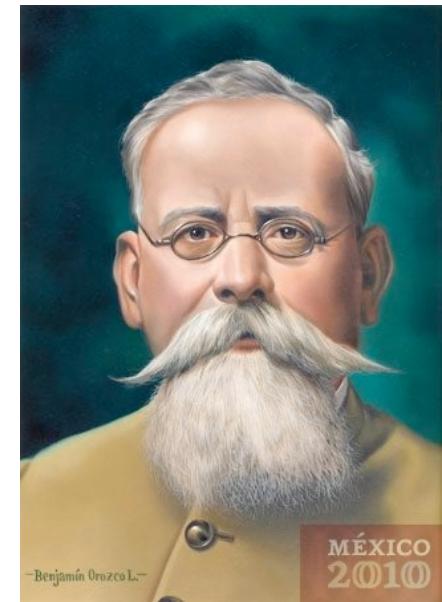
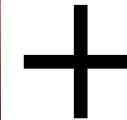
# Labor Relations

- Allowed strikes → 1935 – 500 in 6mos. →
  - Labor rallied to his side & helped him get rid of Callistas
- New labor party formed
- One national union, **CTM**, that would answer to gov't & Cardenas could control (470) → eventually forbade strikes



# Constitutional Concerns

- “Cardenas has the heart of Madero & the character of Carranza!” (459)
- “It is not the government’s job to promote anti-religious campaigns”
- Established **Ejido Credit Bank**



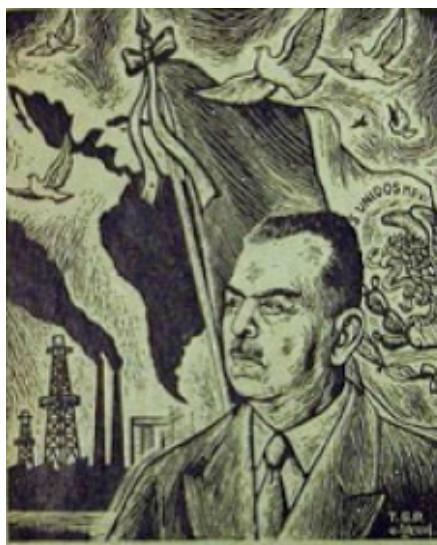
# Land Reform & Public Welfare

- **Ejido** – Could not sell land under most conditions
- **Rancho** – Individual holdings in North
- **Collective Ejidos** – Cash crop regions organized on profit-sharing basis
- 45M acres redistributed; 18M among peasants (469)
  - Peasants' standard-of-living ↑
  - Productivity ↑, but flawed b/c of land quality, gov't bureaucracy, and lackluster agricultural policy (463)



# Other Reforms

- **Department of Indian Affairs** – unsuccessful
- Grassroots militia up, military generals down
- Supported industry through gov't loans, protective tariffs & est. of **National Bank** (472)
  - Expropriated all foreign oil company property (474) →
  - Sanctions by US, UK, but Cardenas endured & reached settlement with FDR when US entered WWII → Hero.



# Into the Sunset

- Created deficit of 87M pesos
- Renames party **Party of Mexican Revolution** (PRM)
- More moderate in the end due to threats from right and communist innuendos
- 1940 – Succeeded by **Avila Camacho**

KRAUZE: 477 & 480

- Paradox: Corporatist State w/ broad social liberties
- Moral conscience of the Revolution

