

Discussion Section Handout: Mexico

I. Contemporary Mexico

	Name of the Institution /Holder of the Office	Term Length <i>(Any Term Limits?)</i>	How are they chosen?
Presidency			
Legislature – <i>Upper House</i>			
Legislature – <i>Lower House</i>			
Judiciary			
Election Organizer			

II. Democratization in Mexico: Important Questions for Thought

1. Under PRI's One-Party Rule, what extra-constitutional powers did Mexican Presidents have?

2. What are PRI's strategies to gather support for its rule from elites/masses? What measures did PRI adopt to guarantee victory in every election before 2000?

3. What are the major reason(s) for the democratization to occur in Mexico, from agent-based, structural, and institutional perspectives?

4. Compared to democratization process in South Africa and Russia, how is Mexico's transition toward democratization different? What are the advantages/disadvantages to Mexico's path to democracy?

(How did the process start? Did the reform happen in a bottom-up, or top-down manner? Is the transition process radical or gradual? Did democratization bring fundamental change to Mexico's political institutions?)