

Tenochtitlan Marketplace by Diego Rivera 1345-1521

1345 Founded by the Aztecs in the middle of the Lake Texcoco.

By 1502 under Moctezuma II was huge city connected to mainland by bridges with many temples and pyramids

Were fierce warriors who took over most of Mexico



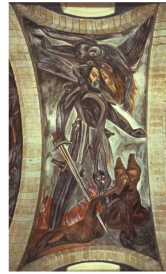
Conquest

Jose Clemente Orozco 1521

Conquistador- Hernan Cortes arrived in 1519 and conquered the Aztecs in 2 yrs.

The mural shows what allowed him to conquer so quickly: Catholic church, swords, heartless, fire, and machinery.

Was seen as the god-king Quetzalcoatl and so had little resistance and much help from those that had been conquered and the Spanish technology and diseases.



Cortez and Malinche
Jose Clemente Orozco 1500s

Depicts the story of Cortez and Malinche- first his interpreter, then secretary, and finally mistress.

Shows an unintended but important consequence of Spanish conquest: creation of the Mestizo- Spanish and Indian.

Cortez is shown in a partnership- but at the same time restraining and destroying the same population



The History of Cuernavaca and Morelos- The Enslavement of the Indian
Diego Rivera 1500s-1800s

Spanish colonial practices were cruel and barbarous. The Catholic Church justified the involvement by giving the reason of conversion and educating the ignorant Indians.

The goals of the Church were overcome by the desire for gold by the Spanish. The Spanish used the Indians as forced labor.

Many Spanish were granted land and came to live on the land becoming the powerful class of Gauchupines or Peninsulares

Disease, inhumane conditions, and brutal work had reduced the Indian population from 25 million to 1 million by 1700.



Hidalgo
Jose Clemente Orozco 1810-1821

Many Criollos (Mexican born Spanish) who did not have as much power as the Peninsulares, want to revolt and reclaim power from them.

Peninsulares found out about the plot to take over the military.

First person they were going to arrest was a priest in the of Delores who had always been friendly with the Indians and Mestizo- Father Miguel Hidalgo and was one of the leaders of the revolt.

He found out, called upon the large Mestizo and Indian populations to rise up and he declared Mexico's independence leading an army of these men into battle against the army to take over Mexico City

They won some battles but caused many deaths and Hidalgo fled the military but was caught in 1811 and executed.

The rev. continued under Jose Maria Morelos who wanted equality for all but he was also captured and executed in 1815.

The rev ended in 1821 when napoleon set up a liberal government in Spain and Agustin Iturbide worked with the Criollos to create a compromise with King Ferdinand to gain Mexican independence created a very conservative government that benefited only the Criollos



Juarez and the Fall of the Empire
Jose Clemente Orozco 1831-1872

Iturbide is over thrown and Santa Anna's time begins (Mexican American War- Texas, Alamo).

Santa Anna is a harsh military dictator partnered with the Catholic Church.

Together they control all of the land, education, and politics. 1855 he is over thrown and a constitutional democracy is created with the goal of freedom of education, speech, and press, and control over the powers of the Church.

Church and military do not like reforms = War of Reform- civil war between conservatives and liberals

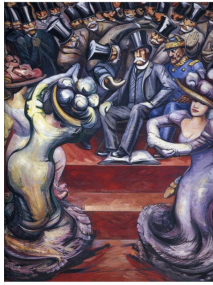
Liberals are lead by Benito Juarez- a Zapotec Indian from Oaxaco who was a lawyer and dedicated to helping the poor and protecting them from corruption in the Church. Liberals won in 1861 and he was elected president and then started making legal and liberal reforms.

France invaded in 1862 and won with Archduke Maximilian of Austria becoming emperor.

1867, Juarez lead a rebellion against Maximilian conquering Mexico city, executing him and regain control of the country. he made Mexico into a more democratic and just nation until his death in 1872.



Revolution Against Porfirian Dictatorship
David Alfaro Siqueiros
1876-1910



1876 Porfirio Diaz came to power overthrowing the weak government created after Juarez's death. Mexico was in a bad shape (no money, social strife, etc). His solution was to be a dictator for 34 yrs.

He invited foreign business into the country which did bring in new technology and improved roads, ports, mines, farms but all the profits from these went outside of Mexico leaving it poor with only a few wealthy Mexicans. The improvements were also only in big cities.

An free election is held and Diaz rigs the voting to stay in power. Nov. 10 1910 Francisco Madero (his opponent) leads a revolt and loses.

1911 Madero tries again with the help of Emiliano Zapata, Pancho Villa, and Jose Orozco and win making him president

This is considered the start of the Mexican Revolution

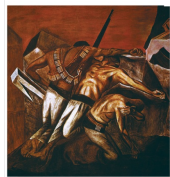
History and Perspective of Mexico
Diego Rivera
1876-1910

Diaz used rurales (govt. forces) to enforce "peace" in the countryside because poor peasants kept demanding rights and change. The Campesinos (peasants) were basically slaves.

Campesinos no longer owned their own land and worked on large haciendas for owners who were never there



The Trench
Jose Clemente Orozco
1910-1920



General Victoriano Huerta was Madero's general but he plotted a coup against Madero. He was supported by the US ambassador who wanted to protect US business interests. Madero was killed by Huerta and he became president.

Emiliano Zapata in the south and Pancho Villa in the north along with Venustiano Carranza and Gen. Alvaro Obregon, start revolts against Huerta.

Huerta is defeated and Venustiano Carranza with the help of Obregon comes to power but Villa and Zapata do not recognize his power and drive him from the capital. They are then ousted by Carranza when they do not form a govt. quick enough and Villa is completely defeated

Obregon is elected president next but Carranza does not want to give up power and stages a coup but Obregon escapes and then returns, attacks, and kills Carranza as he flees.

While that is happening, Villa is trying to get US support to stop Carranza and so is invading and killing people in small border towns. Does not work and he retires becoming a farmer and then killed in 1923 car bomb. Zapata is later killed in an ambush but govt. soldiers in 1919.

The Land Reform
Diego Rivera
1920- Today

Obregon becomes president but is probably killed by Calles who creates the political party Partido Revolucionario Institucional (PRI), the current ruling party.

Most widespread result of the revolution was land distribution that broke up the large haciendas and gave land back to the campesinos.

Also, Mexico started to make heroes and honor it's indigenous population and not just it's Spanish heritage.

1934 Lazaro Cardenas was elected president and made sure that land distribution actually happened. His presidency was also one of the first peaceful one's in Mexico's history and he willingly gave up power to a new leader when his time was up
Problems: 1. the land was not good for farming, 2. PRI is dominated by criollos, 3. many indigenous Mexicans were not given land, and 4. many people have to leave Mexico for the US to find work since that was still hard to come by.

