

LUISS 

Department of
Political Science

**COMPARATIVE HISTORY
OF POLITICAL SYSTEMS**

**Mexico and France :
A Comparative Study on Development and Democracy**

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September, 19th 2023

Morgane Marie Beziau

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ENGLISH ABSTRACT

Through the years, and centuries, Mexicans have lost confidence in their own government to help them grow in every scale. The international cooperation took a huge political space since the last century. So how did we build more trustful and confident democracy between the people and government in France, and how should we use it, in order to adapt our cooperation to the bilateral politics in particular in Mexico, allowing Mexican people to have a better place and rights, and offer the possibility for them to feel safe and comfortable from their everyday lives, to their impact and implication in law and politics, their abilities to internationalize and evolve in business.

Between corruption, poverty, “*enferma de plomnía*”, loss of hope in their own country. Mexican history should be told in a real and right way, when most of the population doesn't trust their government, and at the same time, are so loyally exemplar to their culture and country.

We may ask How have Mexico and France shaped differing democratic systems throughout the last two centuries, and in what areas could Mexican policy see enhancements through its independent growth and collaborative efforts with France? Using a comparative history of political system research.

The objective of my work is to be able to show the evolution of the two political system from 1750 until today aiming to comprehend the current state of affairs in Mexico. Additionally, it seeks to identify the factors that contributed to the divergence between a Latin American nation like Mexico and European countries. By pinpointing the timing of this divergence and understanding the mistakes made, the objective is to propose genuine and fair cooperation that benefits the Mexican population, *juste et honnête sans l'hypocrisie du politiquement correcte*.

FRENCH ABSTRACT

Au fil des années et des siècles, les Mexicains ont perdu confiance en leur propre gouvernement pour les aider à se développer à tous les niveaux. La coopération internationale a pris une place politique considérable depuis le siècle dernier. Alors, comment avons-nous construit une démocratie plus confiante entre le peuple et le gouvernement en France, et comment devrions-nous l'utiliser, afin d'adapter notre coopération à la politique bilatérale, en particulier au Mexique, en permettant aux Mexicains d'avoir une meilleure place et de meilleurs droits, et en leur offrant la possibilité de se sentir en sécurité et à l'aise dans leur vie quotidienne, dans leur impact et leur implication dans la loi et la politique, dans leur capacité à s'internationaliser et à évoluer dans le monde des affaires.

Entre corruption, pauvreté, "*enferma de plomnía*", perte d'espoir dans leur propre pays. L'histoire du Mexique devrait être racontée de manière réelle et juste, alors que la majorité de la population n'a pas confiance en son gouvernement, et en même temps, est si loyalement exemplaire à l'égard de sa culture et de son pays.

Nous pouvons nous demander comment le Mexique et la France ont façonné des systèmes démocratiques différents au cours des deux derniers siècles, et dans quels domaines la politique mexicaine pourrait-elle être améliorée grâce à sa croissance indépendante et à ses efforts de collaboration avec la France ? En utilisant une recherche sur l'histoire comparée des systèmes politiques.

L'objectif de mon travail est de pouvoir montrer l'évolution des deux systèmes politiques de 1750 à aujourd'hui afin de comprendre la situation actuelle du Mexique. En outre, il cherche à identifier les facteurs qui ont contribué à la divergence entre une nation latino-américaine comme le Mexique et les pays européens. En identifiant le moment de cette divergence et en comprenant les erreurs commises, l'objectif est de proposer une coopération authentique et équitable qui profite à la population mexicaine, juste et honnête sans l'hypocrisie du politiquement correct.

SPANISH ABSTRACT

A través de los años, y de los siglos, los mexicanos han perdido la confianza en su propio gobierno para que les ayude a crecer en todas las escalas. La cooperación internacional ocupó un enorme espacio político desde el siglo pasado. Entonces, ¿cómo construimos una democracia más confiada y segura entre el pueblo y el gobierno en Francia, y cómo debemos usarla, para adaptar nuestra cooperación a la política bilateral en particular en México, permitiendo a los mexicanos tener un mejor lugar y derechos, y ofrecerles la posibilidad de sentirse seguros y cómodos desde su vida cotidiana, hasta su impacto e implicación en la ley y la política, sus habilidades para internacionalizarse y evolucionar en los negocios.

Entre la corrupción, la pobreza, la "*enferma de plomnía*", la pérdida de esperanza en su propio país. La historia de México debe ser contada de una manera real y correcta, cuando la mayoría de la población no confía en su gobierno, y al mismo tiempo, son tan lealmente ejemplares a su cultura y país.

Cabe preguntarse ¿Cómo han conformado México y Francia sistemas democráticos diferentes a lo largo de los dos últimos siglos, y en qué áreas podría la política mexicana ver mejoras a través de su crecimiento independiente y de los esfuerzos de colaboración con Francia? Mediante una investigación de historia comparada de los sistemas políticos.

El objetivo de mi trabajo es poder mostrar la evolución de los dos sistemas políticos desde 1750 hasta nuestros días buscando comprender el estado actual de las cosas en México. Además, busca identificar los factores que contribuyeron a la divergencia entre una nación latinoamericana como México y los países europeos. Al precisar el momento de esta divergencia y comprender los errores cometidos, el objetivo es proponer una cooperación genuina y justa que beneficie a la población mexicana, *juste et honnête sans l'hypocrisie du politiquement correcte*.

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INTRODUCTION

Mexico and France, two different way of developing democracy

From the Mexico called New Spain at the time, no independence and under the rules of Spanish rule to the Mexico of today, just under 300 years, the taking of independence, revolutions, coups d'états, dictatorships, the creation of institutions, Mexico has the history of millennia has a very special place within the group of developing countries, a nation that offers a past, a culture and a people that impresses everyone. France, a power since the time of Gaul, with a succession of monarchies, a country that shaped the Enlightenment, the precursors of revolutions, two world wars and 5 republics, the 7th world power, a nation that is nonetheless extremely criticised by its own population. France and Mexico have nothing in common but a long history of relations, from colonial times to the nations we know today, with diplomacy bringing the two countries together and uniting them. However, power, economic and political differences have emerged over time, two different developments that have led to the current situation. Mexico is criticised for its corruption and insecurity, and the French criticise their government for rather similar reasons without having the same arguments. In the course of this work, we'll be able to study these differences in development, with notions of country, government organization and the culture having an important impact on all areas. By comparing opposites, we will be able to point out how the powers of the 19th century had a better chance of development than the countries that are now referred to as developing countries. But this will only be a first step towards a comparison of today's political systems, which are quite distinct and even extremes.

Personal inspiration

For me, enrolling for a master's in international relations was the definition of becoming a player in the globalised world, of being able to analyse the world around us to help improve it. A degree in languages based on the Americas developed my passion for the continent, and Latin America in particular. I can just say that it was above all my encounters with Colombians, Mexicans and Argentines that inspired me. During the last three years, motivated me to discover the local Latin American context, to be able to imagine delicate political and economic situations but also friendships, each one more wonderful than the last.

I applied for an exchange programme on the other side of the Atlantic, and I ended up in Argentina. This exchange that also enabled me to discover Uruguay, Colombia, Mexico and Brazil. I quickly became aware of the beauty of the population, the friendliness and benevolence towards foreigners, the difficulties of keeping hope alive and yet a great deal of nationalism. Even if they are aware of social and economic problems and keep motivated to tackle them. Politics in Europe is often criticised when fundamental rights are preserved, so to discover a new world that politically has lost confidence, but which has managed to convey to me a great aspiration for happiness. If I had to describe Latin America, it would be always knowing how to put things into perspective and find the joy in life.

Add to that my attraction for the global world, helping forgotten nations to grow, understanding others and cultural and historical exchange, and Mexico has been a key destination. From the Maya era to the “Conquista”, via the Mexican revolutions and its history with the biggest cartels, Mexico is a country with a lot to tell, but also a lot of clichés to dismantle, and a lot of reality to tell. In my opinion, the Comparative History of Political Systems is the best way of looking to the future, by studying the past and understanding the present. In order to develop a theme of being able to express the Mexican reality and the public opinion of its population, I needed to be able to compare its history with the history of my roots, in order to be better informed, to know where to do my research and to be able to have arguments with greater credibility.

What's more, I think that politics is still a very narrated and institutionalized aspect of society when it comes to looking at reality, and it is an area that remains complex, with many dimensions and different ways of thinking, proceeding and acting. This phenomenon is particularly acute in Mexico, where the reality is totally hidden and there is little honesty. My main motivation for comparing the evolution of political systems and their impact on the Mexican population was to see people in my country criticising the French government indiscriminately, even going so far as to call the 5th French Republic under the Macron government a 'dictatorship'. I then realised the need to put the information and terms used in the right boxes and the importance of understanding the less revolutionary behaviour of the Mexican people towards a government that is more than open to criticism. The main objective is to be able to define the real challenges facing the population, but this means taking a step back to understand where things have gone in the past. It was also important to be able to demonstrate that Mexico City is one of the potentials of globalisation, that it is a country full

of resources, with many assets, whether in terms of its population or its natural resources, or even its geographical position. It was also necessary for me to use this final piece of master's work to present one of the main traits I've seen in politics, the illegitimate discontent and lack of taciturnity of the populations of developed countries in the way they define their country's problems, when we see countries that are really victims of their government and yet don't go against any small change. If Latin America has taught me one value, one way of behaving, it's the importance of putting things into perspective, of looking at things in a constructive and objective way, of knowing how to balance things out and being satisfied with what has been achieved, such as democratic security.

Methodology of research

The research is based on different types of sources in order to be able to focus all the work on an objective and informative basis. The first source of information will obviously be bibliographical works and history books in Spanish, French and English. This base will enable us to go back in history and continue our chronological thread of events. The work will be supported academically by teacher-researchers who are specialists in the field, or in outside fields related to the countries under study. Our second source of information will be our proximity to the Mexican population, information gathered through personal experience in the country and recounted experiences. Our bibliography will also include current articles published in both local and international news. This combination of primary and secondary sources will be supplemented by economic data shared, for example, by the World Bank.

The type of comparative history of political systems will be chronological. First of all, it will be interesting to compare the last French monarchies with the establishment of the state of Mexico, in order to establish the historical context in which the study will begin. This first chapter will be separated into four time periods from 1750 to 1910, divided by key stages such as the government of the new Spain and the arrival of revolutionary concepts, followed by the application of its new ideologies, the first post-revolutionary political difficulties and finally the entry into the twentieth century. The second chapter will compare the political and socio-economic evolution of the previous century, which was one of the steps towards the world we know today, and will therefore look back at the major stages of this century with the establishment of the revolutionary party in Mexico, the PRI and its hegemony until the 2000s, and on the other hand the two world wars that France had to confront. Secondly, this chapter

will look at the first real bilateral and multilateral political and diplomatic relations. The third chapter will be an overview of Mexico today, based on two points of view. Firstly, a presentation of the economic, social and political organisation. The economic plan will be developed around Mexico's strengths, its treaties in the field, and its generalities in order to understand how the country's financial world is developing. The social context will look at the education and health systems before taking a look at violence and human rights, and politically we will see how the federal republic is organised at different levels and in different ways. The second part of chapter three looks at public opinion, with interviews conducted with different genders, social categories, professions and generations, in order to establish whether the theoretical Mexico is really being applied.

At the end of this work, we should be able to establish a breaking point between the moment when Mexico was plunged into a complicated reality with a high level of inequality and corruption. It will be interesting to compare Mexico's status as a colony and its process leading to the establishment of the nation state, and its arrival as a federal republic with that of France, a European colonial tyrant, accumulating monarchies and attempts at abolition, and to see how these two countries became one ranked as the 7th world power, and the other as a developing country.

The importance of this work lies in raising awareness of the political hypocrisy criticized in France by the French people, but from which a large proportion of Mexicans really suffer.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The history of Mexico before 1750 is a rich tapestry of indigenous cultures, empires, and early European contact. It spans thousands of years, encompassing the rise and fall of powerful civilizations like the Maya, Teotihuacán, and the Aztecs. By the 16th century, Mexico witnessed the arrival of the Spanish, who were intent on conquest and colonization. This paper seeks to provide an overview of this period, touching upon major events and factors that shaped the trajectory of the region.

Indigenous Civilizations

One of the earliest and most influential cities in pre-Columbian Mesoamerica was Teotihuacán, located northeast of modern-day Mexico City. Established around 100 BCE and peaking around 450 CE, this city boasted a population nearing 125,000. Teotihuacán is renowned for its monumental architecture, including the Pyramid of the Sun and the Pyramid of the Moon, its intricate murals, and its far-reaching trade networks.

Further southeast, in what is now Mexico's Yucatán Peninsula and parts of Central America, the Maya civilization thrived. From around 2000 BCE to 900 CE, the Maya created a complex network of city-states, each with its own ruler. They excelled in astronomy, architecture, and hieroglyphic writing, leaving behind striking cities like Chichén Itzá and Tikal.

The Maya civilization is one of the most studied and revered ancient cultures of the Americas. Let's delve deeper into the intricacies of the Maya culture, encompassing their achievements in architecture, astronomy, writing, and their unique societal structure.

The Maya Culture

The Maya civilization spanned a vast region covering present-day southeastern Mexico, all of Belize and Guatemala, and western portions of Honduras and El Salvador. This diverse landscape, from rainforests to mountains, shaped the Maya's agricultural and urban strategies. Notable cities include Tikal, Calakmul, Copán, Palenque, and Caracol. Each city acted as a center of political power, trade, and ritual.

Maya society was hierarchical. At the top were the divine rulers, or *k'uhul ajaw*, who were considered intermediaries between the gods and people. Nobles and priests, who played significant roles in administration and religious rituals, supported these rulers. The majority of

the population comprised farmers, artisans, and merchants. Slaves, often prisoners of war, occupied the lowest rung.

The Maya were keen astronomers. They meticulously recorded the movements of Venus, the Moon, and other celestial bodies. Using this knowledge, they developed two primary calendar systems: the *Tzolk'in* (a 260-day ceremonial calendar) and the *Haab'* (a 365-day solar calendar). These calendars were used not only for ritualistic purposes but also for agricultural and administrative planning.

Mathematically, the Maya utilized a vigesimal (base-20) number system and had a concept of zero, which was a significant advancement not present in all ancient cultures. The Maya script is the only known fully developed writing system in the pre-Columbian Americas. It's a combination of logograms and syllabic symbols. These glyphs were inscribed on stelae (stone monuments), ceramics, and the few surviving codices (folding books). While many Maya texts relate to calendrical and astronomical data, others document historical events, rituals, and the genealogies of their rulers.

Around the 8th and 9th centuries, many southern lowland Maya cities were abandoned. While the reasons aren't entirely clear, theories include environmental degradation, warfare, and political collapse. However, northern cities like Chichen Itzá and Uxmal continued to thrive until the Spanish conquest. The descendants of the ancient Maya still live in their ancestral homeland and continue to practice many traditional customs, weaving the past into the present. The Maya civilization stands as a testament to human ingenuity, resilience, and the profound ways in which cultures can interpret and interact with the world around them. Their legacy, from intricate glyphs to towering pyramids, continues to captivate and inspire.

The Aztecs: Emerging around the 13th century in the Valley of Mexico were the Mexica, who would later establish the Aztec Empire. Their capital, Tenochtitlán, was an architectural marvel built on an island in Lake Texcoco. By the 15th century, the Aztecs dominated the region, extracting tribute from subjugated neighbors.

The Aztecs, or Mexica as they called themselves, formed one of the most impressive empires in the pre-Columbian Americas. Located primarily in the Valley of Mexico, they built a sprawling civilization characterized by its military prowess, vast trade networks, monumental

architecture, and intricate religious practices. Here's a deeper dive into the Aztecs and their contributions to Mesoamerican history.

The Aztecs in Mexico

The Aztecs originated from a mythical homeland called Aztlán. Around the 12th century, they embarked on a southward migration, driven by religious prophecies. According to legend, they were to establish a city where they found an eagle perched on a cactus, holding a snake. This sign led to the foundation of Tenochtitlán. Tenochtitlán was a marvel of engineering and urban planning.

The Aztec Empire was a form of a tributary state that exerted dominance over its neighbors, demanding tribute and captives for rituals. The emperor, known as the 'Huey Tlatoani,' held significant authority. Nobles, priests, and military elites formed the upper class, while farmers, artisans, and traders constituted the majority. Slaves, often debtors or war captives, were at the social pyramid's base. Aztec religion was polytheistic, with deities representing natural forces and concepts. Chief among them were Huitzilopochtli (sun and war god), Quetzalcoatl (feathered serpent god), and Tlaloc (rain god). The Aztecs believed that the gods required nourishment in the form of human sacrifices to continue their duties. Hence, ritual sacrifices, especially atop the Templo Mayor in Tenochtitlán, were common, with captives being the primary victims.

The Aztecs' dominance began to wane in the early 1500s due to internal strife and external pressures. This decline coincided with the arrival of Hernán Cortés and his Spanish expedition in 1519. With superior weaponry, European diseases like smallpox, and alliances with disgruntled indigenous groups like the Tlaxcalans, the Spanish waged a war that culminated in the fall of Tenochtitlán in 1521. The remnants of Aztec culture can still be felt in Mexico today. The ruins of Tenochtitlán beneath Mexico City, the continuation of indigenous traditions, the Nahuatl language, and various festivals pay homage to the rich tapestry of the Aztec civilization. The Aztecs, despite their relatively short-lived empire, left an indelible mark on the cultural, historical, and social landscape of Mexico. Their achievements serve as a testament to their resilience, ingenuity, and profound understanding of their environment and cosmos.

European Arrival and the Collapse of the Aztec Empire

Hernán Cortés and his band of Spanish conquistadors landed on the Mexican coast in 1519. Armed with superior weaponry, aided by indigenous allies, and bringing diseases unknown to the New World, the Spanish were poised to topple empires. While the indigenous peoples had their internal conflicts, none were prepared for the devastation brought by the Europeans.

In a series of strategic alliances, particularly with the Tlaxcalans, a rival of the Aztecs, Cortés began his march to Tenochtitlán. The initial reception by the Aztec Emperor Moctezuma II was peaceful, but tensions escalated, culminating in the massacre at the Templo Mayor and the subsequent siege of Tenochtitlán in 1521. The combination of warfare, European diseases like smallpox, and famine led to the downfall of the mighty Aztec Empire.

Hernán Cortés in Mexico

Born in 1485 in Medellín, Spain, Cortés was of lesser nobility. As a young man, he studied at the University of Salamanca, though he soon developed an interest in exploring the New World. In 1504, he traveled to the Caribbean, settling in Hispaniola (modern-day Haiti and the Dominican Republic). He then participated in the conquest of Cuba and was granted land and encomienda rights over indigenous labor. In 1519, against the orders of the governor of Cuba, Diego Velázquez, Cortés set off on an expedition to explore and conquer the mainland of Mexico with about 600 men, 16 horses, and 11 ships. Upon landing, he famously burned his ships, signifying a point of no return.

Initially, Cortés and his men were welcomed by the Aztec Emperor Moctezuma II, possibly because of a prophecy or misunderstanding of the Spaniards' intentions. However, tensions quickly escalated, leading to the imprisonment of Moctezuma and the notorious massacre during the Festival of Toxcatl. Forced to flee the city after a rebellion, Cortés regrouped, laid siege to Tenochtitlán with his native allies, and captured the city in 1521 after a brutal campaign. Following the conquest, Cortés began the process of colonizing the region, renaming it "New Spain." The native civilizations were subjugated, their vast wealth plundered, and their religions suppressed. Cortés initiated the building of Mexico City atop the ruins of Tenochtitlán, signifying the birth of a new colonial era. He served as the Governor and Captain-General of New Spain until 1524. Hernán Cortés is a pivotal figure in the history of Mexico. His conquest of the Aztec Empire in the early 16th century led to the establishment of Spanish

colonial rule, which profoundly impacted the culture, society, and fate of the region. Here's an in-depth look into Hernán Cortés and his role in the transformation of Mexico.

While many indigenous cultures faced decimation, they also blended with Spanish culture, leading to a unique mestizo heritage that defines Mexico to this day. By the 18th century, New Spain had become one of the most prosperous colonies in the Spanish Empire, setting the stage for subsequent chapters in Mexican history.

CHAPTER 1 FROM NUEVA ESPAÑA AND LOUIS XIV TO THE XXTH CENTURY

1.1 Mid XVIIIth century, monarchy and colony until the XIXth

1.1.A. The Spanish “Virreinato”

1. Administration of the colony

Since 1521, the Mexican colony has been the Virreinato¹ of New Spain. After the fall of the Aztec empire², the kingdom of Spain reigned over the Mexico we know today. Hernan Cortes³ had indeed conquered Mexico, but the Spanish government didn't stop there: they began to establish a colonial system that was well known at the time. They set up an administrative and political centre in Tenochtitlan⁴ so that they could govern the rest of the country according to the rules of Hispano-European rule.

The Spanish colony, known as the Virreinato, was under the orders of a leader called the Virrey. He was supposed to represent the royal family, who ruled through him from Europe to the American continent. As well as representing the crown, he was responsible for the application of Spanish political power and its administration. Unable to rule an entire country from a single political centre, a system of local government was set up, with colonial officials who were members of the crown, such as "alcaldes⁵" or "corregidores⁶".

Local government “El Cabildo”

The "alcades" were chosen by the Spanish kingdom and were members of the government institution known as the "cabildo". They were divided into four hierarchical divisions and were responsible for the administration of the towns, similar to the system of town halls or municipalities. The "Alcalde Ordinario⁷" was the member in charge of general administration, and was the link with the higher authorities, being able to exercise judicial and executive power.

¹ "Virreinato" the translation of "Viceroyalty" in English. It is a political and administrative territorial division or region governed by a viceroy representing the monarch.

² The Aztec Empire was a Mesoamerican civilization during the 14th to the 16th century in the center of Mexico.

³ Hernán Cortés de Monroy y Pizarro Altamirano, 1485-1547, was a Spanish explorer known for the conquest of the Aztec Empire. He led the expedition in 1519 arriving in Mexico and was the chief of the military tactics used at the time. He took the Aztec capital called Tenochtitlan, and eradicated the power in place.

⁴ Located in the center of Mexico, close to the actual Mexico city. It has been the capital of the Aztec Empire. Known for an impressive architecture with temples and palaces.

⁵ “Alcade” is the translation in Spanish for mayor, it is the head of the local government.

⁶ “Corregidores” is the translation for the term Magistrates in English, having an administrative and judicial position

⁷ Ordinary Mayor in English

This president was assisted by a deputy who could take over in his absence, known as the "Alcalde de Primer Voto"⁸. The cabildo also included a group of "regidores"⁹, who were the councillors and also the officers. This group was more or less large, depending on the municipality, and was responsible for local affairs, from administration to justice and management of the economy. Other members were also sometimes found in the larger towns, such as the *sindicos*¹⁰, treasurer or *alguacil mayor*, who was a kind of local minister.

The cabildo had multiple functions in order to take over from national rule at local level. Its primary function was obviously administration in general, but justice in particular. The Alcades acted as judges in resolving local cases. The cabildo was also the institution responsible for maintaining public order and security. Its second function was more political, taking decisions on organisational matters such as the construction of public buildings and taxation. It represented the royal authorities at a more community level, and although the cabildo was governed by civil servants, it remained under the authority of the Virrey, who took the lead on all important decisions. The cabildo was the forerunner of the "ayuntamientos"¹¹.

Economy and society

At this stage, the region's greatest economic asset was first and foremost its natural resources, with its wealth of silver mines. It quickly became the world's leading producer of this raw material, with mining centres such as Zacatecas and Guanajuato¹². This asset quickly integrated the Spanish colony into world trade, bringing free natural resources to the kingdom, which they were able to exploit and export, propelling the wealth of the Spaniards, in addition to the labour and other commodities found locally. Society was unsurprisingly ruled by a Spanish and Spanish-descendant elite, over the natives and Afrodescendants who were at the bottom of the social pyramid. Brought over by the Europeans, the Catholic Church also took root and played a central role in the life of the colony. The first churches saw the light of day, followed by cathedrals and convents. The Spaniards quickly set about evangelising the indigenous populations, a radical change to the culture and religion that had previously been present in Mexican territory. A population exploited and a culture in the process of being eradicated by

⁸ First vote Mayor in English

⁹ Councilors in English

¹⁰ *Sindics* in English

¹¹ Municipal government, as city hall in English

¹² Cities located in the north central Mexico

the Spanish torturers, the indigenous and “mestiza” population decided on several occasions to rebel, not wanting to give in mainly to the customs of Spanish rule. Thus began the first rebellions, such as that of 1733 led by a group of indigenous people, followed by that of the Yaquis¹³ a few years later, in 1740, by a group of Yaqui. These rebellions were accompanied by political instability and rivalries within the organisation of the crown, undermining the Spanish colony.

2. Bourbon revolution

The Bourbon Revolutions is the name associated with a period in a long series of political, social and economic changes. Variations affecting the reigns of the Bourbon¹⁴ dynasty, mainly in France and Spain, an attempt to modernise in the hope of strengthening the royal governments of the time. The name behind these revolutions in Spain is Felipe V¹⁵, king since the beginning of the 18th century and the driving force behind the changes that would shape the course of history throughout the second half of the century.

Changes made

In order to understand the policies introduced by Felipe V, it is important to take a step back in history to study the reason for and form of these reforms. First and foremost, the monarchy and its power were centralised. This involved reorganising the existing administration, creating new decision-making institutions and reducing power and autonomy at local level. An administration that tended to be inefficient, a lack of efficiency caused by significant fragmentation, with autonomous infrastructures divided by province and locality. They therefore retained a certain division, but organised it in such a way that the administrative regions were central and larger than their predecessors, limiting dispersion in the areas of justice, the economy and governance. In addition to this, economic reforms were implemented, modernising the country's financial system in order to gain a firmer foothold in national trade and trade with its colonies, as well as internationally, and to develop its industry and boost

¹³ The Yaquis are an indigenous people who was part of the state of Sonora in Mexico and Arizona in United States of America

¹⁴ The Bourbon dynasty is a Royal Family from Europe, born as the House of Bourbon in France but turned to become monarchs in Spain, Italy and others.

¹⁵ Felipe V, 1683-1746, Spanish King, descendant of Bourbon

agricultural and mining production. These changes were also made to the military, to make the armed forces more efficient and modern, adapted to the conflict situations of the time and thus better protect the crown's kingdom.

Treaties signed

The Bourbon revolutions therefore led to the signing of treaties representative of the change brought about, the power of the crown and witness to the conflict of the time. One of the most important of these was the Treaty of Aquisgran¹⁶ in 1748, a peace agreement designed to halt a major conflict on the European continent, the War of the Austrian Succession¹⁷. This war was fought by several powers of the time, including Austria, Prussia, Great Britain, France and Spain. The latter two were acting as allies against Austria. Spain saw this as an opportunity to recover land and strengthen its bilateral relations. Over and above the relations between the two Mediterranean countries, this treaty made it possible to sign an acknowledgement of peace between the largest parties on the European continent at the time, with restitution of each territory affected by the war. In addition, thanks to the peace between the largest nations, political equilibrium, multi- and bilateral relations and trade in Europe were restored. This treaty marked a renewal in European politics, making the continent stronger than ever and giving it power over the colonies, with peace agreements protecting the territories from future invasions.

The second agreement that makes sense in the Bourbon Revolutions is the “arreglo de la real hacienda¹⁸”. This set of reforms was applied to the Spanish colony of the new Spain. These reforms concerned the fiscal and administrative functioning of the Virreinato in order to improve colonial economic management and increase its efficiency in favour of the crown. The changes made within the European kingdom did not stop at the borders of the Atlantic, but crossed the ocean to the colony in American territory. The administrative centralisation already in place in Spain was repeated, with a centralised system of finances and the creation of an institution responsible for regularising taxes, in charge of customs and controlling the economy as well as the nation's spending. Thanks to this institution, known as the “Superintendencia de

¹⁶ Treaty of Aachen, or Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle, signed on October 18, 1748, signed by Great Britain, France, Spain, Austria, Netherland in Germany

¹⁷ 1740-1748, including Austria, Prussia, France, Spain, Great Britain, Dutch Republic

¹⁸ Arrangement of the Royal Treasury in English

la Real Hacienda¹⁹”, taxes were regularised, resulting in a large benefit for the crown and a significant increase in public finances. The institution present on the colony's mainland enabled a better review and therefore an improvement in the fiscal system across the Atlantic. The customs system was also developed through the modernisation of ports and the establishment of customs procedures and tariffs, generating a greater profit of trade from the colony. After the discovery of mineral resources, it was important to be able to control the industry and trade of this natural wealth. This led to a change in the rules governing the exploitation of these resources, particularly with regard to production taxes. A series of changes that increased the sources of revenue for the crown by improving its organisation.

3. “Las Expulsiones”

One of the significant actions during the 18th century was the repetition of various expulsions from Spanish territories ranging from the kingdom to Europe and including its colonies such as Mexico at the time. Three different groups were expelled. It all began in 1767 with the expulsion of the Jesuits²⁰. A decision taken by Carlos III²¹, King of Spain. A trend that also spread to Portugal and France, as well as other parts of Europe. As an important religious group on many levels, from politics to the economy, it had to face major conflicts accusing them of political conspiracy to disrupt the established order. In just a few months, territories such as Spain got rid of all the Jesuits by deporting them, thereby destroying their influence. A way for monarchies to retain power over their local and colonial populations. This was followed by the expulsion of the gypsies less than ten years later, still led by King Carlos III of Spain. Gypsies being considered as a community threatening the moral and social order. Following this expulsion, restrictive policies were introduced against gypsy communities. This mass expulsion was the culmination of many years of discrimination and persecution. And finally, the third major persecution and expulsion, this time targeting the Moors²². The Moors are the descendants of Spanish Muslims, already expelled by the policies of the 16th century. This forced the Moors to flee to North Africa, resulting in thousands of deaths. We can see, then, that the crown had a strong interest in maintaining its religious, cultural, political and economic

¹⁹ Superintendence of the Royal Treasury

²⁰ Catholic religious order founded in 1540

²¹ 1759 – 1788 King of Spain

²² Group of Muslim people of North African

monopoly. The Spanish reign had the power to eliminate any group, curbing the exaggeration of the powers that be. Treaties, reforms and expulsions from European Spain to their kingdom on American soil.

1.1.B The aftermath of the “Roi Soleil”

1. Louis XV

Louis XIV

Eighteenth-century France was ruled by Louis XV²³, successor to the Sun King, who had left his mark on the kingdom and its future. Louis XIV had, it will be recalled, made the Monarchy in France stronger than ever, centralised and strengthened authority in general, and given considerable power to those at the top of the social pyramid. The administrative centralisation seen earlier in Spain had already been established in France by institutionalising royal power in the provinces in order to strengthen the general control of the State. But Louis XIV mainly left his taste for culture, art, literature and architecture. The Sun King had created a French identity that was exported throughout the world, and inspired by Italy he created the trend towards French classicism. The kingdom handed down to the young Louis XV was at its political, economic and cultural peak. France in the 18th century had a golden image, inspiring neighbouring monarchies but also influencing their colonies. A national and international power in many fields. A brand firmly rooted in history that Louis XV sought to imbue.

Arrival of Louis XV

Louis XV was largely influenced by his grandfather, who had been king before him, and therefore applied the continuity of the famous absolutist policy. However, during his reign, he had to contend with two major wars that put the brakes on the France we knew before him. After the War of the Austrian Succession, he also had to fight the Seven Years' War (1756-1763), two conflicts that caused him to lose face with the population, who saw their finances dwindle. Despite these wars, Louis XV remained a king who promoted a period of peace in Europe, building on his economic progress. Following major losses, Louis XV reorganised and thus contributed to the significant development of trade, industry and agriculture. A rapid rise in the economy helped to improve the daily lives of the population. In response to accusations

²³ 1715 – 1774 King of France

of corruption in particular, and to resolve tensions between the nobility and the Third Estate, reforms were introduced on all levels. These reforms began with the core area of criticism, the justice system. The creation of chambers of justice led to the development of tribunals responsible for ensuring that financial administration ran smoothly, and thus limiting abuse and corruption. This was followed by fiscal, economic and military changes that modernised France, increasing its profit through taxation, promoting trade and industrial development, and reorganising military regiments to make the armed forces more efficient. These politico-socio-economic changes were the response to the great instability in France, marked by an absolute monarchy that experienced mainly financial crises creating social tensions between the social classes but also with the government. Governance was criticised at a time of costly wars and expenses due to shaky management accused of favouritism.

It was on the international stage that Louis XV was able to make the greatest impact, with his significant taste for culture, European influence and a place of intellectual refinement, attracting thinkers from all over the world, philosophers and artists alike, the rendezvous was on French soil. In terms of international policy, colonial expansion was a failure. Explorations were organised in Louisiana and India, but the picture is overshadowed by the loss of Canada. As far as Spain and Mexico were concerned, France was involved through its alliance with the neighbouring kingdom, and was the leading player in trade with the colonies in America. Of course, the major involvement of Louis XV was his support for and openness to the Enlightenment movement, a philosophical revival that was the precursor of many liberalist movements and thought on a global scale. The diffusion of Enlightenment works accepted by the French king at the time led to a turning point in culture, a global rethink and probably the greatest intellectual shift known even today

2. “Les lumières”

General ideas and changes

The Enlightenment was the intellectual movement in Europe in the 18th century, which questioned the ideas disseminated, institutions, the regime in place and traditions. The foundations were reason, science and human rights, leading society to criticise political power and the importance of religion. They were the precursors of the revolutions of the late 18th and early 19th centuries, changing popular opinion, advancing science and promoting knowledge. In response to their criticism of authoritarian regimes, they began to propose popular

representation in politics. In addition, for the first time there was talk of human rights and their importance, with the promotion of freedom of thought, expression and equality at a legal level. It was also a first in terms of criticising the privileges granted to the nobility and the clergy, with the aim of eliminating social inequalities and distributing wealth fairly.

Main personalities

These world-changers had their own names and philosophies, which, taken together, had an impact on the Enlightenment movement. The first to be mentioned is Voltaire²⁴, who openly opposed religion and its total intolerance, exploiting people's beliefs to oppress them through its institutions. Voltaire also defended freedom of expression as fundamental and universal, a step towards his political commitment, criticising it too, as with religion, as an abuse of power engendered by absolute monarchy. The main philosophy behind these ideas is the fight against injustice. The second philosopher who greatly inspired the Enlightenment was Montesquieu²⁵. He showed great political commitment. Firstly, his theory of the separation of powers and the introduction of the famous check and balance system, which reduced the abuse of power by separating the legislative, executive and judicial branches. This theory inspired future constitutions following revolutions to develop fairer and more egalitarian political systems, such as those of the United States. His study of comparative legal systems made it possible to question and improve his criticism of absolute monarchy, which led to tyranny. Rousseau²⁶ continued with a more socially-oriented critique in his work, *The Social Contract*, which argued that sovereignty lay with the people and that the people should be the main political body. A defence of his idea of the natural state and the social inequalities created by the accumulation of wealth and the establishment of private property. A particular approach with the thought of natural education and the valorization of nature, with an ideology that civilization had a negative impact by generalizing ideas and the loss of harmony with human nature. The great work of the “*siecle des lumieres*” was *the Encyclopaedia*, with its main editor, Diderot²⁷. Diderot had a well-defined philosophy concerning human knowledge. Firstly, thought, based on rationalism and empiricism, with an emphasis on observation and experience as the source

²⁴ Born Francois-Marie Arouet, 1694 - 1778

²⁵ Charles-Louis de Secondat, Baron de Montesquieu, 1689-1755

²⁶ Jean-Jacques Rousseau, 1712-1778

²⁷ Denis Diderot, 1713 - 1784

of knowledge, blending these two processes with reason in interpretation. Like many other philosophers, Diderot also set about criticising intolerance within the Church and oppression in society. This thinking was accompanied by his devotion to equality, questioning social inequalities such as societal privileges, for example, with a focus on injustice that undermined humanism and its ideology of rights for all. The Enlightenment was also inspired by foreign philosophers, and it was this body of knowledge that brought together various ideologies and challenged the systems in place at the time.

3. The French Revolution

One of the major revolutions to emerge from the Age of Enlightenment was the French Revolution. As a result of the problems created under the reign of Louis XV(24), combined with a major rethink of the system, France was faced with a general aberration. The population faced a deteriorating economic situation. The cost of the wars led to a heavy budget deficit, a high public debt and problems amplified by the tax privileges protecting the economy of the nobility and the clergy. These privileges were the repercussions of a system based on social inequality. Society at the time was divided between the nobility, the clergy, as described above, and the Third Estate. The latter was the lowest social category in the pyramid, which had a significant fiscal burden, whereas the first two, for example, were exempt from taxation. The third estate could not secure important posts, and had to make do with difficult work. It was in the eighteenth century that the three social categories began to debate and dispute the government, supported by the criticisms already made by the Enlightenment, including absolutism and privileges. These tensions and discussions led to the organisation of the Estates General by Louis XVI²⁸ in May 1789, with a gathering of the three orders of society, and where the Third Estate formed the National Assembly while proclaiming its independence and vowing on the following 20 June to continue with this assembly until a constitution was drafted. It was on 14 July that the revolutionaries seized the Bastille as a symbol of the oppression exercised by the absolute monarchy (being a prison containing various political prisoners). After a fierce struggle, a month later the Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen was drafted and adopted by the National Assembly. This document sets out the fundamental principles and rights of individuals and uses the terms that are now well known in France:

²⁸ King of France 1791 - 1792

"Liberté, Égalité, Fraternité" (Liberty, Equality, Fraternity), reassuring that these were "natural and universal" rights. This was not the end of the French Revolution, which took a violent turn, led by Robespierre, who introduced the Terror, a period of mass executions of both the royal family and political opponents, motivated by the war against the monarchy, which had become a European trend. This temporary regime made a "clean sweep" of the previous categories of "oppressors", but also created numerous divisions at every level of society. To establish a temporary government, the "*directoire*" was set up, but is not relevant in terms of efficiency on politico-economic stability, a revolutionary government that took end on 9 November 1799 after a coup d'état led by Napoleon Bonaparte.

4. Napoleon the first

Napoleon Bonaparte arrived as General of the French People's Army. This event marked the end of the revolution and the end of 18th century politics. Napoleon established a new regime called the Consulate, becoming head of state under the status of "First Consul" in 1802. But it was two years later that he proclaimed himself emperor under the new regime of the "French Empire". This general was very concerned about his international power, particularly in Europe, so he launched a number of so-called Napoleonic wars in order to expand his territories and create a larger and more influential French empire. As far as national policy was concerned, Napoleon was responsible for the well-known Civil Code, which set out a whole reform of the legal system based on the principle of equality governed by law. However, as an emperor bent on conquest, he gradually lost many military battles, leading to his abdication.

1.1.C. France in the New Spain Evolution

1. French politics in Spain, bringing modifications to the New Spain

Wars in europe

Mexico in the 18th century belonged to the Spanish Empire. Although France was not directly involved with the Spanish colony, it remained a neighbour of the crown, where every decision and event had an impact on the other side of the Atlantic. Of course, like all bilateral relations at the time, territorial disputes raged between rivals and sometimes allies. The two neighbouring monarchies may have fought hard on land, but they were allies during the Austrian War, and then rivals again during the Seven Years' War. This war is important to note for the evolution of Franco-Spanish relations, and in particular the interest and risk for the

Spanish colonies. The colonies on American soil became significant to prove its political and economic power, and during the war they became the site of conflict and the taking of territory. France, for example, began to capture the island of Havana in Cuba, a conflict that took 11 years after the signing of the Treaty of Paris and the restitution of the land in 1763. We can therefore consider that France had indirect contact with New Spain through its positions taken in Europe, just like their commercial relationship, which was mainly governed by the Spanish monopoly on American lands.

Franco-Spanish friendship

In Spain, at the very beginning of the 18th century, it was the grandson of Louis XIV, in the same capacity as Louis XV, who became King of Spain. Following the signing of the Treaty of Utrecht, which put an end to the Spanish War of Succession, Felipe V, a member of the French royal family, was appointed successor. A succession that arming the Franco-Spanish alliance and a potential unification. This family relationship enabled the two countries to support each other both politically and militarily. Spain drew inspiration from the policies of Louis XIV and therefore France to govern its kingdom on the continent and across the Atlantic, with, for example, administrative reforms in Spain and throughout Mexico, a reorganisation of the new Spain and a fortification of the monarchy.

2. Divergence of cultures

Mexico was therefore known as "New Spain", while France ruled under its own monarchy. In fact, Mexico was under the colonial rule of Spain and its political system was therefore quite distinct in terms of outlook, but under the European monarchical model. Both countries were ruled by the Bourbon dynasty. However, the local governor in New Spain was a Virrey, who acted as decision-maker and governor for the kingdom. However, like all monarchs, the national governor took legal, legislative and executive decisions without any separation of powers, with a single ruler in charge of all areas. In terms of justice, the new Spain had a court of justice that intervened in administrative and legal matters. In France, the parliaments acted as a judicial body at regional level, governing discussions between the monarchy and the judiciary. In terms of socio-economic organisation, the principle is similar, with the richest people at the top of the pyramid, able to take decisions, gain access to important positions,

govern and reduce the rights of those at the bottom of the ladder. similarly, in terms of conflicts within the territory itself, on both sides we can see an uprising of popular parties, with on the one hand the first rebellions on the part of pre-colonial populations and on the other the revolution initiated by the third estate.

3. French thinking arriving in Mexico

One of the reasons for the last similarity mentioned is the arrival of French ideology in Mexico. After a policy inspired by the kingdom of Louis XIV at the beginning of the century, it was the Enlightenment movement that crossed the Atlantic at the end of the 18th century. *The Encyclopaedia* was published in the middle of the 18th century, a work that changed the world's political thinking. However, when it came out in French, it was only accessible to the richest people, those who could read it in its original language and who could afford to buy it. It was therefore very limited at the very beginning that thoughts began to spread. The work quickly reached a wide audience because it touched on a wide range of subjects, enabling its readers to better understand and, above all, to better reason about the world around them. As well as being a multidisciplinary work, it was also multidimensional in its ability to adapt to space and time due to its universality. What's more, its writing was not the work of a single author, but the pooling of various philosophies from different countries and different points of view. Diffusion was also hampered by the censorship of religious and political organisations, which were primarily targeted by the challenges posed by *the Encyclopaedia*, whose aim was to remedy the inequalities and oppression of the monarchical and colonialist governments in power. It was therefore censored by several parties, creating a clandestine channel for its sale and, in particular, its export, and soon the first translations appeared, just as quickly as its dissemination and impact. Its translation into Spanish had begun while the original version was being written, and was progressively completed, as was the French version.

So it took a few years, and then some, to get an adaptation worthy of the terms and concepts used. What's more, the work was soon censored, particularly under Spanish rule, which made it difficult for it to reach Mexico City. The crown was afraid of the repercussions of open criticism of its monarchical organisation, and a potential uprising on the other side of the Atlantic in particular. But when the first illegal copies arrived on the continent, it was a boom, first of all for its copy. *The Encyclopaedia* arrived by smuggling and clandestine copying, and

secretly made its way to the shores of Mexico, where there was a real demand for it as a means of cultivating and developing one's knowledge of illustrated ideas. The population of the new Spain was thus able to begin to invest itself with the modern European philosophical model. Of course, it was necessary to be able to read, which was not yet an easy feat, but knowledge was able to spread throughout the country thanks in particular to the Mestizos and Criollos, who had fewer rights than the peninsular Spaniards but had a knowledge of Spanish and the ability to read. Colonial society was thus able to take part in new rebellions motivated by those launched in Europe and the science mentioned in *the Encyclopaedia*.

1.2. The independent influence from 1810 to the middle of the XIX century

1.2.A. The will to be independent

1. Independence war

Socio-economic context leading to independence

Mexico was going through a period of economic and social upheaval, which led to an uprising on the part of the population with a view to potential independence. Politically, the Spanish crown had ruled the country for almost 300 years, giving it the name of New Spain. The social situation was fiercely divided between the population of Spanish origin and the rest". Socially, there were several categories, organised according to their relationship with their Spanish roots. Firstly, the Peninsulars, who were Spaniards who had arrived directly from Spain and were born on the Crown Continent, followed by the Criollos, who were Spaniards born on Latin American soil. These first two categories were obviously those in charge of the highest positions in the hierarchy in place at the time, both socially and politically. Despite their origins, the criollos had a lower social status than the peninsulars. They could, of course, hold administrative positions in the colony or own land and wealth in particular, but the most important positions, whether political or involved in the economy, were reserved for Spaniards from mainland Europe. The Peninsulars were well-to-do and their wealth only increased, as they had a monopoly on local wealth, exports, trade and therefore the economy. What's more, as we've already seen, the judicial system was organised with the establishment of courts, and well, the Spaniards were given favourable treatment and special institutions reserved for them. They were also the social category with exclusive rights to knowledge, education and religion. This gave Spain supremacy over educational institutions and the religious academy, allowing

it to be regulated and controlled. Education was also accessible to the criollos, for a basic education, although higher education was only possible for some of them. Obviously, they were subject to social discrimination and racism on the part of the Spanish, which limited their access to everyday life. The criollos were a major force in the rebellions against the Spaniards, aware and victims of social inequality, they still had access to education, knowledge and therefore reflexion. As a result, they were able to take on more socio-political power when things started to change for Mexico.

Then there were the mestizos of mixed parentage, as well as the natives, the pre-conquista population, and the “afrodescendientes”, most of whom came from the generations of slaves imported from Africa with the conquest and the triangular trade. The mestizos were the middle class, like the artisans and merchants, while the rest of the population had to follow orders, live below society, work in agriculture and live in intense poverty. The mestizos were not part of the country's upper class, but some of them had access to a basic education and the right to hold certain low-level administrative, commercial or other positions involving them in the national economy. These members of the new Spain not only wanted independence, but to defend social equality and access for all to justice that was not based on ethnicity.

Politically, there was a general questioning of the abuses and oppression of the crown. This questioning was brought about by intellectuals after the arrival of *the Encyclopaedia* of enlightenment from Europe, and therefore a Spanish crown that was much less powerful, at least in terms of ideological perception. So it was the criollos and mestizos who demonstrated their discontent, victims of a socio-economic situation in favour of the Spaniards, an economic exploitation with a great deal of corruption always in favour of the peninsulars, with the addition of taxes directed towards the bottom of the social pyramid.

1810 - 1821

The first great era of the war was the uprising, therefore, of the two academically educated categories abused by the peninsulars, the first ideas of independence of the criollos and mestizos. The first leader was Miguel Hidalgo²⁹, who openly invited all the criollos to rebel against Spanish domination. He also persuaded some mestizos to support him in this first period of the war for independence. An invitation to fight against Spanish domination through the

²⁹ Born Miguel Gregorio Antonio Ignacio Hidalgo y Costilla in Mexico, 1753 - 1811

"grito de dolores" event on the morning of 1 September, they succeeded in taking the city of Guanajuato³⁰ and continued the war until January 1811, when the capture of the leaders of this struggle halted their advances.

However, after Miguel Hidalgo's death, Mestizo leaders took over, continuing the rebellion and initiating what was known as the resistance phase until 1815. José Maria Morelos ³¹and Vicente Guerrero ³²succeeded in reorganising the movement and organising the declaration of independence two years later, in 1813, with a series of victories. This was a period of great advances that ended after the death of its leader, Morelos, in 1815. The next stage was marked by a weakening of the movement due to internal divisions caused by increased Spanish repression. Following the deaths of several key members, the organisation became unbalanced and the first internal instabilities took place. In addition, the morale of the population, already tyrannised by the Spanish, suffered a drop in motivation until 1820, when the fight entered its final stage.

Stage 1 was a series of events that gradually led to independence in just one year. Firstly, at the beginning of 1821, a Criollo leader, but also a military leader, named Agustin de Iturbide, proposed the creation of a military group called the "Ejército Trigarante³³" with the aim of officially defending the fight for independence and the principles of unity and equality for the new Spain. In August 1821, the Plan Iguala was signed, setting out the elements of an independent Mexico. This plan proposed the creation of a constitutional monarchy that would respect the equality of the different ethnic groups and origins without racial discrimination or segregation. A month later, on 27 September 1821, the *Ejercito Trigarante* arrived in the capital, Ciudad de México, where lengthy negotiations and agreements led to the end of Spanish domination and Mexican independence.

2. State of Mexico

A new state

On 27 September 1821, independence was signed, marking the change from New Spain to the State of Mexico. Mexico then became a political entity and underwent a renewal of its national

³⁰ City on the North-center of Mexico

³¹ Born José María Morelos y Pavón in Mexico, 1765 – 1815

³² Born Vicente Ramón Guerrero Saldaña, 1782 - 1831

³³ Trigarante Army, Army of the Three Guarantees established in Mexico during the Independence to fight for independence, Catholicism and union

organisation. As far as its territory was concerned, it represented the exact boundaries of the new Spain and the border limits established under the virreinato³⁴. However, the question of where to locate the capital of the new country arose, with Toluca ³⁵being the first choice as provisional capital, as it would later be moved to Ciudad de Mexico due to a lack of space and the need for greater centrality. It took almost 3 years to promulgate the first constitution in 1824, promoting the state of Mexico as the "United Mexican States", defining Mexico as a federal nation made up of independent states. Mexico has continued to develop its economy based on the same pillars as in the past, with agriculture and mining being its commercial strength.

New politics and policies

The political organisation was established under the famous check and balance system devised by the French philosopher, dividing executive, legislative and judicial power. A first executive power was set up with a governor as head of power at state level, and his successors were chosen by election. The legislative branch then comprises a congress made up of a number of deputies, also elected by election, who are responsible for creating laws. These laws are applied by the judiciary, which governs the administration and cases of conflict, with a number of courts at its head, the State Court of Justice. First of all, it was important to set up the entire administration of the new state, and an initial election of authorities was held in order to position the first civil servants at national, regional and local level. It was also necessary to administer the secretariats of state (similar to ministries) and the various institutions of the different powers, as well as the first laws and regulations on a variety of subjects such as the education and health system and national security.

New economy

Beyond the political aspect, the country's economic context had to be reorganised, starting with restructuring. The Mexican economy has become more liberal and encourages foreign investment. Agriculture and mining have enabled the country to continue to grow richer thanks

³⁴ 1.1.A. The Spanish "Virreinato"

³⁵ City in the center of Mexico next to the actual capital Mexico city

to the export of its goods and its wealth in raw materials. In terms of agriculture, it concentrated mainly on maize, wheat and coffee. Similarly, global industry began to develop, and so began the construction of factories to enter the market for the manufacture of manufactured goods, increase exports and reduce imports. In order to complete this new organization, it was important to work with the rest of the world, as the colonies were becoming independent and European trade was booming. This is why the first trade agreements were signed, with the United States and European countries as the main partners, in order to increase trade flows and propel Mexico onto the international stage.

1.2.B. Towards a Republic

1. The end of Napoleon

“Bataille de Paris”

Ever since he came to power, Napoleon had a desire to conquer, to gain territory and to extend his power across the continent of Europe. He therefore embarked on a long period of Napoleonic warfare, as described above. His rise to the head of the country had given him great popularity and therefore great confidence in his way of governing. Austria, Spain, Prussia, Russia and Sweden, among others, joined forces under the name of the Sixth Coalition to dethrone the French emperor in 1814. This alliance finally reached Paris to begin the battle that would bring down Napoleon's war era. After losing the battle of Leipzig the previous year, his power and popularity had taken a heavy blow, with the French population and political leaders beginning to question whether his way of governing was really the right way to go. The Battle of Paris began with the arrival of the forces of the Sixth Coalition in Paris. On 30 March 1814 they began to attack the city, a battle that had to be led without the emperor, who was absent from Paris when the streets began to be assaulted, defended by the French ejército and the Paris National Guard, little by little the advance reached the centre of Paris and the first monuments and key points. The population turned against its head of state, threatening a coup d'etat to force him to abdicate.

Abdication

Napoleon therefore abdicated on April 11 1814 after the invasion of Paris, having lost French support within the government and among the people. He therefore signed a treaty stipulating his decision and agreeing to be sent to an island in the Mediterranean. A 1n for the Napoleonic

wars, because in fact, France and its population were tired of this tense situation and very quickly the country diverged towards a peaceful equilibrium. Napoleon was therefore on his island but managed to escape less than a year later to take command of France, supported by several military groups due to general dissatisfaction with the return of the monarchy, and it was on 20 March that he arrived in Paris and dethroned King Louis XVIII³⁶ to restore the Napoleonic Empire. He remained in power for 100 days and began the Battle of Waterloo³⁷ against the allied forces of Austria, Prussia, the United Kingdom and Russia under the Duke of Wellington. Obviously in terms of numerical superiority France could not resist, so it was one more defeat, the third major one under Napoleon, which was too much and he was forced into exile once again, making way for King Louis XVIII and the monarchy.

Context in France

Despite the French Revolution, thirty-two years later, the monarchy was re-established by the Bourbons³⁸ through Louis XVIII. It was a gamble that did not meet with unanimous approval in France, given that the previous king, Louis XVI³⁹, had been guillotined during the revolution, and Napoleon had returned from exile during the 100 days, so the popularity of the government was in doubt. It was in fact the return to constitutional monarchy with the charter constitutional in 1814, which placed all power in the hands of the monarchs and once again suppressed the rights and freedoms of citizens, a socio-political conservative period. Moreover, the wars had taken a heavy toll not only on the economy but also on the population, which had lost not only military personnel but also general morale.

Restoration

The restoration began with the first abdication of Emperor Napoleon in 1814, when King Louis XVIII introduced the Constitutional Charter to re-establish the monarchy and its laws. However, with the return of Napoleon, this first attempt was broken off.

The second attempt at restoration took place in 1815 with the return to the throne of Louis XVIII, but the population had been particularly divided in recent years. A revolution to bring

³⁶ King of France 1814 - 1824

³⁷ June, 18 1815, Waterloo (Belgium),

³⁸ **Bourbon revolution**

³⁹ King of France 1774 - 1792

down the monarchy had set an example for the rest of the world, but the arrival of a warlike emperor and a return to constitutional monarchy did not meet with unanimous approval, especially following Napoleon's seizure of power. So first of all, we find the great fervents of the Napoleonic era with the Bonapartists, who were the first to rise up against the return of the monarchy and in the hope of seeing the 11s of their icon, Napoleon II come to power. Another political group that opposed the re-establishment of an absolutist Bourbon monarchy were the liberals, who wanted socio-political reforms to develop a monarchy with liberal political participation and legislation, an opinion and ideology shared with the modern realists. Next came the republicans, who were fervent about abolishing the crown and their monarchy in order to establish a republic.

The constitutional charter presented earlier referred to the re-establishment of a constitutional monarchy headed by a member of the Bourbon crown. However, this charter confirms the limit of the king's executive powers, and he was to abide by the constitution. A constitution which, it should be remembered, mentions the importance of respecting the rights and freedoms of each of its citizens. As in the previous case, the monarchy followed the changes brought about by the revolution, with particular reference to the separation of powers and the check and balance between the executive, the legislature and the judiciary. Defending revolutionary principles, the charter demonstrated a commitment to rights such as freedom of religion, equality before the law, freedom of the press, property and conscience. The government was also made up of ministers, chosen by the king and confirmed by the chamber. Despite the differences, the Bourbon monarchy was reinstated as soon as Napoleon Bonaparte left the country. However, as the monarchy was not unanimously supported on its own territory, it embarked on a policy of peace and reconciliation towards the other so-called enemy countries of the Napoleonic Wars. First of all, the Seventh Coalition decided to create congresses and treaties to limit invasion attempts and therefore costly armed conflicts. It was therefore at the Congress of Vienna in 1815 that France took part in agreements to restore the borders and balance of Europe. After Louis XVIII, Charles X⁴⁰ continued the steps taken by his predecessor by opting for a policy of reconciliation to maintain peace in the region and general stability through diplomatic relations.

⁴⁰ King of France, 1824 - 1830

2. Revolution of 1830

The revolutionary context

The July Revolution was a short-lived revolution, but it had many political consequences for France until the middle of the 19th century. After an attempt by Louis XVIII, a descendant of the Bourbons, to create a more open monarchy that respected rights, Charles X took over the reins of the French government. The king opted for a more authoritarian policy, adding restrictions that were protected by the so-called constitutional charter, notably on freedom of the press and equality between citizens. It was a return to privileges for the top social categories, and on 27 July 1830 a revolutionary period began.

The days of revolution

On 18 March 1830 the deputies denounced the King's authoritarian policy and he decided to dissolve the Chamber, but during the elections the opposition won the legislative elections. Charles X then promulgated the Ordinances of Saint Cloud on 25 July, decreeing, amongst other things, a new dissolution and the abolition of freedom of the press. An excess that would not go unchallenged, as the very next day the press launched a petition and the workers rioted, joined by employees and students. On 27 July, the movement took on even greater proportions, the protests became massive and surpassed all expectations. From Paris to the provinces, the whole of France was mobilised against their king and the system in place. Against the government, the French began building barricades as a symbol of resistance and the unity of the people. The same groups that had previously opposed the monarchy once again united against the Bourbons, once again bringing together liberals, republicans and Bonapartists demanding freedom and radical political change. Support spread as far as Louis Philippe d'Orléans⁴¹, a member of the royal family joining the protests against the current king. However, despite the national unity, on 28 July the government decided to respond with violence against its people, increasing repression and confrontation with the forces of law and order. Louis Philippe, who had always been there to support the people, began to make a name for himself as a moderate and open-minded leader who could protect the constitutional charter established by Louis XVIII. The press, despite the suppression of its freedoms, continued to play a major role in coordinating the revolution, and enabled the whole of France to step up

⁴¹ Duck of Orléans

resistance. The king had to rely on the army to calm the massive crowds of demonstrators, but several troops in their turn rose up, refusing to attack the people. This was too much for the king and his family, who therefore decided to abdicate. With the king's seat vacant, the Chamber proposed that the famous defender of citizens' rights, Louis Philippe, should become king on 9 August 1830, a position accepted by the Duke of Orléans. The new king was not new to civic life, having taken a stand with the revolutionaries in 1793.

The post-revolution monarchy

In the new days after the revolution, political stability was restored and the constitutional charter put back in place. Louis Philippe d'Orléans was a king in favour of the middle class and economic modernisation, and he took the freedoms and rights defended during the revolution and applied them during his reign. This revolutionary nationalist movement was once again proof of the unity of the French people, and a prime example for his fellow Europeans. Despite this, the working class continued to suffer from social disparities and difficult living and working conditions. Like any monarchy, criticism of the crown was not fully accepted or even tolerated, and in addition to the working class, it was the press workers who found themselves in a bad position, while the bourgeois and upper classes were always favoured at the expense of the rest of the population. These differences led to political instability over the years and rivalries increased. In 1848, these disputes took the form of a new Parisian revolution, extinguishing the monarchy in France and giving way to the Second Republic on 24 February.

1.2.C. Revolutionary culture

1. France, responsible for a revolutionary culture

Above all, the French Revolution launched a trend towards rebellion. Not only because the French people were known to go against the system and have a temperament to fight for their rights and freedoms, but also because of the enlightenment of the eighteenth century. Admittedly, it took a few years for philosophical books and images of the French Revolution to cross the Atlantic, but we can see a reproduction of the facts within a few decades. Despite colonialist policies and the oppression of the crown, it was a Mexico that fought for its freedoms, equality and rights, a reproduction of the path taken by the Men of Mariana some time before. A revolutionary process that affected the global monarchy and the first colonies

to be liberated in the Americas. In Diderot's *Encyclopaedia*, the natural and sacred rights of the individual are mentioned in the same breath as liberty and equality. These were terms that were little known to the people of New Spain, but which arrived with the writings and travellers from Europe, where thought and re-examination took on a real importance. Leaders such as Miguel Hidalgo and Morelos were inspired by images straight from the French Revolution to organise their own political resistance movements for social justice. French publications could be found in the printing presses, bookshops, newspapers and magazines that disseminated this revolutionary ideology. What's more, Mexican intellectuals had a way of exchanging ideas with the European continent and with local intellectuals, allowing them to be passed on across the Atlantic. This was also the time of the first journeys between the Americas and Europe, enabling travellers to see the socio-political differences and Europeans to enjoy exile in the Americas, far from accusations and enemies. All these processes led to the creation of discussion groups for societal debates in Mexico, a place for debates and discussions to consider the changes that needed to be made. Some French works arrived in Mexico in 1800 and 1810, such as Rousseau⁴²'s *"The Social Contract"*, which defends the power and importance of the people in society and social equality. The French declaration "Les Droits de l'Homme et du Citoyen" (The Rights of Man and the Citizen) also crossed the Atlantic and presented the principles mentioned "Liberté, Égalité, Fraternité" (Liberty, Equality, Fraternity) and inspired the freedom of colonialism. However, since the conquest of America, there has been a certain theory in sociology that the peoples of the Americas have a tendency to welcome foreigners more easily, to trust more readily and to ask fewer questions about the unknown. This theory makes sense in view of the rather benevolent and even docile behaviour of these peoples towards Europeans entering their territories, but it is a theory that could potentially be called into question by the independence movements launched after the wave of conquest.

2. Two revolution but two different contexts

During the 18th century, the socio-political and economic situation in Mexico was rather similar to that in France, but was caused by very different factors. So yes, the fight against the monarchy was present on both sides, but one was led by the desire to gain independence from the other, a fight driven by the emperor's desire for grandeur. The fight against absolute

⁴² Born Jean Jacques Rousseau, 1712 - 1778

monarchy was a step towards a shaky political context, with little stability over the years and difficult economic management when you're constantly subject to change. In France, we find a working class that will experience difficulty and a people constantly forgotten by the bourgeoisie and the nobility. In the case of Mexico, it was necessary to create a nation and therefore its socio-economic organisation, and the difficulties between running a country and forgetting no-one. After years of tyranny by the representatives of the crown, it was important to make room for the forgotten people of the last three hundred years, a first half-century marked by conflicts, battles and, above all, achievements: Mexican independence, the abolition of the monarchy and the exile of the tyrannical emperor. However, if on the one hand we are convinced by the check-and-balance theory, on the other we remain on this empirical model of the appropriation of the three powers in a single entity, despite attempts to limit them, the years of monarchy adopted a system of a single ruler.

1.3. Fifteen years of wars post revolutions

1.3.A. Mexico still revolutionary

1. Guerra de reforma

Mexico of 1857

Mexico was ruled by the conservative President Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, but was overthrown by a liberal revolution in 1855. When looking for his successor, Mexico elected army general Ignacio Comonfort as president. In 1857, the President promulgated the famous Constitution, signed by the Constituent Assembly on February, the 5th in Veracruz. Its aim was to establish the legal principles of Mexico's political and legal system. The constitution was deemed too progressive by conservative political groups and the Church, which were considerably affected by these decisions. The most relevant of these was the separation of Church and State, which meant that the Church would have no power in political or civil decision-making. At the decision of the government in power, they also decided to embark on a federalist policy and establish it officially in Mexico, the question of the division between estatal power and central power with a constitution specific to each state their autonomy. The constitution, valid at national level and therefore superior to local constitutions, established the individual guarantees and civil rights of its individuals, with a catalogue of these freedoms

applicable and favourable to Mexican citizens. It also abolished slavery throughout Mexico. In addition to significantly limiting the role of the Catholic Church in political life, the constitution also established the possible redistribution of church assets, decisions that reinforced the political divisions between liberals and conservatives and their struggle for power.

Civil war

So there was a conflict between liberals and conservatives, one party defending the constitution they had put in place and the other doing its utmost to cancel these new reforms and maintain order in favour of Catholic influence in politics. The two parties therefore decided to form armed groups and engage in battles throughout Mexico. The "Guerra de Reforma", named for the reasons that led to the civil war, took shape all over the country, particularly in the regions of Oaxaca, Puebla, Veracruz and the capital. As with any war, the economic and human cost is terribly high. After the first so-called "stage" of this conflict with the disclosure of the new terms of the Mexican constitution of 1857, the opposition uprising known as the "Tacubaya plan" took place. Just after the first stage, two names, Félix Zuloaga⁴³ and Miguel Miramón⁴⁴, called to arms the members of their conservative and religious parties in favour of the previous constitution of 1824, which promoted their interests. It was a month later that the armed conflict took place, the battles on one side defending the liberal leader Benito Juárez and the maintenance of order of the 1857 constitution, while on the other side, those who had decided to open fire in favour of preserving the old regime. One man, Benito Juárez⁴⁵, was fond of the liberalist policies of this period of civil war, and in 1858 he also became President, resisting the French intervention that brought the war to a halt, or at least played an important part in the battles of the "guerra de reforma". Benito Juárez succeeded in establishing a degree of political stability during his term of office, as well as federalism in favour of social justice, equality and the fight for civil rights.

Consequences of a conservative reaction

The liberals finally won their cause in 1851 when they succeeded in consolidating their power, defeating foreign invasions and, above all, the conservative policies advocated by the

⁴³ Born Félix María Zuloaga Trillo, 1813 - 1898

⁴⁴ Born Miguel Gregorio de la Luz Atenógenes Miramón y Tarelo, 1831 - 1867

⁴⁵ Born Benito Pablo Juárez García, 1806 - 1872

opposition, marking the beginning of a secular and modern state. The reforms set out in the 1857 constitution were implemented, in particular the rights and freedoms of individuals, favouring Mexican citizens. Unfortunately, tensions continued with federalism and the decentralisation of power, which was difficult for the opposition to accept, and these internal political divisions complicated stability.

2. “Batalla de Puebla”

As a result of the previous conflict, a four-year civil war broke out, with internal divisions and a considerable cost to Mexico in terms of human and economic losses. This economic crisis in 1881 froze the payment of the debts Mexico owed to various European nations such as France, Spain and the United Kingdom, which had therefore decided to send their troops to Mexico as a response. Over and above the economic debt, France tried to use this factor to gain political influence, an abuse of power that was seen as an opportunity by the opposition to topple Benito Juarez, who therefore allied themselves with the French military forces facilitating the advance of the invasion. The battle took shape in favour of defending national sovereignty against French foreign occupation of Mexican territory, but the French troops managed to reach the strategic point of Puebla, which was perfectly located as it allowed them to enter via the port of Veracruz up to a hundred kilometres from the capital. The battle of Puebla was not the conflict itself, but is representative of it, a landmark event in the Mexican defence against France. The conflict took an official turn when the first battle broke out on 5 May 1862, when the first Mexican cannon sounded against French forces in the Puebla countryside trying to reach the city. In fact, when Benito Juarez announced the suspension of payments, all the countries threatened to send in their men, and France took his threats seriously and sent six thousand men to Mexico, an invasion that went much further than economic issues, but rather a desire to establish a French empire in the Americas. The first tactic was to take Puebla in the hope of then reaching the capital. France attacked in an offensive manner on the Mexican troops, who reacted with defensive behaviour with the aim of blocking the French advance, which they thought would surprise the Mexicans. The Mexicans showed the strength of their resolve to keep the French away from Puebla, despite the long hours of fighting with a first battle below the expectations of the European troops. A change in tactics was made in view of the strong resistance, so France decided to launch offensive attacks with the aim of tiring out

the Mexican troops and breaking through their defences. Having failed, the French continued to take the city, but in vain. The "Assedio⁴⁶" is an important stage that brings together the French attacks to take Puebla mentioned above. Once completed and unsuccessful, the Mexicans decided to launch the counterattack after hours of fighting by opposing forces. Taken by surprise, the French retreated sharply in the face of the Mexican attacks that followed, with the Mexicans once again taking up a defensive position. This battle had a strong impact on nationalism and patriotism, a symbol of potential strength. Mexico's armed forces and, above all, its ability to resist in the name of the nation. Despite everything, this battle was a heavy loss, like all conflict, and marked the beginning of the French pressure that continued, forcing Mexico to remain resistant and strong to protect its country. Politically, Benito Juarez won over his people by proving his loyalty through resistance, and reinforced his status as head of state. This victory also showed Mexican power not only to his own people or to his opponents, but to the rest of the world and to anyone else who might try to conquer Mexico City.

1.3.B. The end of Monarchy

1. Napoleon the third

Napoleon III was born Louis Napoleon Bonaparte and was the nephew of Napoleon I. A French politician, he became head of government after the return of the Republic and the end of the constitutional monarchy of Louis Philippe d'Orléans. He was elected president in 1848, but this did not last more than four years, as the Bonaparte family needed more than just the status of president. As with the beginning of any new regime, instability raged in a number of areas: an assembly mainly made up of monarchists and conservatives who opposed the president's decisions, major economic problems and a social crisis with high unemployment and the problem of class inequality. Nothing less was needed to motivate the tyrannical emperor's nephew to stage a coup d'état, the first of which had failed in May 1851. With a strong desire to seize power, Louis Napoleon decided to prepare a second coup d'état with his supporters, who managed to rally generals and military officers to the cause of absolute power. In order to limit the power of the rest of the government, on the morning of 2 December he dissolved the legislative assembly, his first enemy in the takeover of the state. As for his opponents, they were arrested on the same day to suppress any element that might stop the coup, and despite

⁴⁶ Siege, in english, military tactic

the outbreak of riots, Napoleon had put everything in place to ensure that things did not get out of hand. The empire was proclaimed the same day and the Second Empire ⁴⁷re-established.

2. Another victory for the Bonaparte family

The Second Empire followed in the footsteps of the First Empire⁴⁸, carrying on the example of Napoleon I. The regime was one of imperial authoritarianism, under the orders and sole power of Emperor Napoleon III in all areas of government and society. A progressive policy on the economy and industry was put in place to modernise these sectors. Among other things, he wanted to develop investment in the country's infrastructure, for example to have nationwide railways and develop trade via this means of transport. The second infrastructure project concerned the ports, as we were working with triangular trade and trade with the Americas was developing, so the ports had to be adapted to the import and export requirements of the time. Despite his authoritarian style, he understood that he needed the support of the middle class and below in order to move the country forward but also to ensure a golden return. He therefore introduced social reforms in favour of the working class in order to improve their living and working conditions. It is an authoritarian liberalism, which obviously includes measures of censorship and repression, such as those concerning the press or political freedoms and civil rights. The logical consequence of the emperor's return was his territorial ambitions, as Napoleon I had abused his desire for grandeur and his obsession with marking out territory, which had brought him the whole of Europe at his back, but also the French population, greatly reducing the number of supporters, he had ruined the first republic and his own name, allowing the monarchy to be re-established first and then his own exile, keeping his family away for a few years. But before fate fell on Napoleon III during the Franco Prussian war⁴⁹ in 1870, he tried to make new conquests beyond Europe's borders.

⁴⁷ 1852 – 1870, French empire, Napoleon III

⁴⁸ 1804 – 1814, French empire, Napoleon the first

⁴⁹ 1870 – 1871

1.4. The entrance in the XXth century, 1870 to 1910

1.4.A. A new governor

1. Arrival of Porfirio Diaz

The government before Porfirio Diaz came to power

The Mexico of 1875 was led by Sebastian Lerdo de Tejada, a former lawyer who became a member of parliament, then a member of the judiciary and Minister for Foreign Relations, before taking on the role of President. His primary concern as head of state was economic and political stability and development. Under the term stability, he called for the strengthening of the republic and its institutions, the centralisation of government, and the national unity that had proved its worth during the fighting against the French a few years earlier. In order to make the country more powerful and develop its economy, he concentrated a large proportion of his projects on roads, railways and sea ports. This centralisation of power was perceived as authoritarian, with an excess of reforms that limited access to political life, developing a facility for corruption and strong nepotism in the choice of members of the government.

Overthrow of the government

Criticism began to mount, but the key to his downfall was the violation of the 1857 constitution formally prohibiting the direct re-election of the president, an unconstitutional move that outraged the politico military Porfirio Diaz⁵⁰. Outraged by the authoritarian policies of the incumbent president, a fervent defender of a free Mexico since the Guerra de Reforma, he decided to implement the Tuxtepec plan with the aim of toppling the government of Sebastian Lerdo de Tejada. Following the example of Porfirio Diaz, the plan combined political and armed forces under his command on 10 January 1870 in the Oaxaca region. The main point of the implementation of this plan was the large number of people dissatisfied with the power in place, with a policy based on unconstitutional events, and when the president was re-elected, in a formal announcement, Porfirio Diaz admitted that his elections had not been recognised and proclaimed himself head of the provisional government pending new, uncorrupted elections under constitutional terms. This announcement launched the second stage of the armed forces' uprising against the government of Sebastian Lerdo de Tejada, supported by disgruntled political and military groups. This uprising led to the Tuxtepec revolution in

⁵⁰ José de la Cruz Porfirio Díaz Mori, 1830 - 1915

February, with its various battles between the government and Porfirio Diaz's troops. This revolution came to an end in November following several defeats for the former president and a loss of support across the country, leading to the declaration of new elections.

Politics of Porfirio Diaz

Porfirio, like his predecessor, supported stability and political and economic development. He went even further and wanted to develop a totally centralised government in order to make it more powerful, and to continue developing foreign investment in road and communications construction projects. Little by little, he would refocus power in the hands of a small group of decision-makers, creating a limited and authoritarian government, much more so than in the past. With an authoritarian policy in the hands of the elite, and a widespread increase in social inequalities and neglect of the people, it was a government that was criticised, particularly by the arrival of opposition figures such as Madero⁵¹ and Zapata⁵². However, the Porfiriato government remained in power from its election in 1877 until 1911.

2. “Políticas Porfiriáticas”

Aristocrat Republic

The period of Porfirio Diaz's rule in Mexico between 1872 and 1911 is also known as the "Aristocratic Republic", in reference to the social category that controlled the country. The country was under the control of an authoritarian president who had gathered power around himself and his close associates, an aristocratic Mexican elite that controlled the so-called "republic", which of course was not a republic at all. This elite included oligarchs and business leaders who belonged to the Mexican upper middle class. They had complete power over everything from politics and the economy to land and natural resources.

Economy and aristocratic monopoly

A country that had come close to the United States and Europe in terms of the exploitation of natural resources, including oil, agriculture and mining. The economy was controlled by the aforementioned elite, and employed workers whose working conditions and daily lives were

⁵¹ Francisco Ignacio Madero González, 1873 - 1913

⁵² Emiliano Zapata Salazar, 1879 - 1919

marked by inequality and poverty. The land was also in the hands of the aristocracy, with a policy of land privatisation and the privilege given to foreign companies over mining resources. This was the beginning of the exploitation of resources by foreign companies that had obtained advantages in Mexico. Countries such as Spain, Great Britain and France exploited the country's mineral resources, extracting and exporting zinc, copper, silver and gold, all of which made them rich. Meanwhile, oil was in the hands of the British and Dutch, who were also developing an oil industry on Mexican soil. The forests were exploited for timber and furniture by French and British companies. And in 19th century where many prospered, Germans, French, Spanish, among others, is agriculture and farming, allowing the land to be worked for coffee, sugar or other products to be exported to Europe while promoting Mexican workers, cheap labour, leaving the population in poverty.

Liberal policies favouring the elite

This organisation is an illustration of the economic liberalism undertaken by the Diaz republic by promoting commercial freedoms, private property and policies to protect imports in order to develop local production, industry and trade. Industrial development marked the 19th century with a desire to modernise through new policies, infrastructure and foreign investment. As a result, the aristocratic elite continued to govern the country at the end of the 19th century. These Mexican families had gained all the influence and power they needed through their property holdings and, of course, the monopoly on land, which allowed them to control the entire economy from the grassroots to the international level. However, at the beginning of the 20th century, the first tensions were felt, as the social transformation caused by industrialisation, managed by the elites, did not meet with unanimous approval, particularly among the middle classes made up mainly of shopkeepers. This discontent in search of social justice began to demand its rights through movements of agricultural workers and demands for the redistribution of land.

3. Public administration

Administrative centralization

The centralisation of power is not simply a matter of reducing it to the elites; it is a set of procedures and reforms with consequences at several levels. To begin with the central element of this policy, the President, Porfirio Diaz, control of the country was first of all exercised over

the public administration, with the Presidency placing its religious allies in the top posts of the Republic in order to maintain its monopoly. Thanks to the President's authority, he is able to decide who he appoints as governors and manipulates the entire federalist power. In addition to his choice of governors to apply his laws, also laws and rules on a national basis, supervision from the central government to apply the same and unique standards, by removing local autonomy, he retains general supervision over the whole country.

Political participation

Porfirio Diaz has also decided to limit what is known as citizen participation, leaving only room for his supporters. Political representation of the various parties was non-existent, and those opposed to the government were subjected to repression, with total censorship and prosecution of leaders in order to prevent them from taking part in any political or social movement, and to prevent any new parties. Elections, too, were controlled and totally corrupt, with total exclusion of democracy and transparency of voting. When it came to important decisions, there was no consultation with the people; the immediate government took the important decisions laid down by the President of the Republic. The government was never controlled and had no means of being punished or repressed for its abuse of power. Nevertheless, the power was both limited and stable, as it served to strengthen the institutions and policies in place. Abusive control of the opposition meant that there were no constant reversals of power, as in France between the Bonapartes and the Bourbons⁵³.

Political stability and peace in Mexico, albeit relative, is therefore a strength of the Porfirio Diaz government, since it has enabled the country to put an end to the divergences seen in the past and to gain credibility abroad. A credibility that may have been abusive for the people, but nevertheless attracted foreign investment, allowing a period of enrichment and entry into international trade of great importance for the country. Firstly, the arrival of foreign companies enabled heavy economic investment, which in turn industrialised the country on a par with the rest of the world. In addition, these companies have enabled the expansion of the use of the country's many natural resources, thereby generating interest in investing in Mexico. During this period, Mexico was able to develop its railways, a major challenge for the Latin American continent, which is still struggling to build railways. For an authoritarian leader, it was

⁵³ **Bourbon revolution**

important to establish regulated education, which is why Porfirio Diaz set up major programmes to provide education throughout the country and open primary schools. The results were mixed, with Mexico making great strides as it entered the twentieth century of industrialisation and the arrival of globalisation a hundred years later, but the Mexican people were the main source of pain and great wealth of the top of the pyramid impoverishing the other social categories, added to this, a considerable reduction in rights and freedoms with exploitation on any scale without a say.

1.4.B. From the third republic to the first world war

1. Foreign relations in the 3rd Republic

The failure of the Napoleonic empire, the return to a negative monarchy and the establishment of a new republic for France in 1870 to succeed Napoleon III's second empire. Despite the loss of the emperor, France began with a foreign policy based on the desire to recover the land lost during the Franco-Prussian war. However, having learnt from the mistakes of recent years and this desire for dominance, the priority was to maintain balance on the continent and keep the peace by allying with the major powers. In Europe, the trend was towards African colonialism, with a continent ruled by France, the United Kingdom, Belgium and so on. The wars were therefore not to defend European territories but rather the empire across the Mediterranean or in Asia, leading to conflicts between the major colonial powers. As far as the Americas are concerned, France continues to maintain post-empire relations and Napoleon III's attempts to conquer America. Arriving too late, he alienated Mexico and the United States in particular. In North America, conflict is often present, but economic and commercial interests are at the forefront at this time in history. It is therefore in the interests of both countries to maintain diplomatic relations and avoid any conflict. With Latin America, again there have been complications in international relations due to territorial interests in the past. We have already seen that France participated in the industrialisation of Mexico, a process that was repeated in Chile, Brazil and Argentina, for example. Having realised that the colonial ambitions undertaken in Asia and Africa were not possible in the Americas, France demonstrated its power through investments abroad. By investing in countries with vast natural resources, France was not only able to industrialise and modernise them, but also to enrich itself with resources that were either impossible to find on the continent or had already been exploited.

2. Elections

The Third Republic meant elections at all levels, the reinforcement of a democratic but above all parliamentary regime, and the application of elections at legislative, presidential and municipal levels, which allowed a high level of citizen participation. The legislative elections of the Third Republic took place for the first time in 1871, significant elections in the midst of the fall of the empire and following the Prussian war lost shortly before. In these elections, the French republic elected the members of the national assembly who would later draft the new constitution, so it was essential to make the right choices. The system was very precise, with a single choice and two rounds, with each constituency able to elect a single deputy. The elections were a great success, with a high turnout, reflecting the French people's need to regain their rights after the fall of the Empire. These were the first legislative elections of the Third Republic⁵⁴, with the Republican camp winning the National Assembly. The republicans therefore set about laying the foundations of the new republic.

The various elections

This national assembly introduced a number of changes, starting with the actual establishment of the new regime, marking the transition from an empire to a republic. Following the establishment of the regime, it was necessary to write its constitution in order to define the principles and institutions, including the term of office of the president of the republic, limited to seven years, and the limits of his powers, particularly at parliamentary level, the organisation of parliament divided between the senate and the chamber of deputies, all elected by election. These elections marked the beginning of a long period of stability in the political system, since the establishment of the Third Republic involved a succession of legislative elections, a political structure based on parties and a system that has functioned over time. As the inequalities left by the Second Empire needed to be rebuilt, the National Assembly proposed reforms in areas such as education and labour, but also in defence of social justice in order to reduce poverty and inequality.

Parliamentary democratic system

The system of governance therefore became a parliamentary democratic system, we have seen the legislative elections, but also the president was elected, his election was via an electoral

⁵⁴ French Republic, 1870 - 1940

college, this college was composed of deputies and senators but also municipal delegates. As he was not directly elected, he depended on the legislative elections, which had a direct impact on the presidential elections, hence their great importance. Similarly, municipal elections provided access to local administrative management as well as to the national public administration. There was therefore a great deal of motivation on the part of citizens to participate actively in the electoral life of the Third Republic. In this democratic system, parliament is the central element of the political balance, with a broad scope for decision-making. Moreover, as this political branch is directly elected by the citizens, it reflects the people and is an emblem of the nation's ideals. However, parliament is not the highest decision-maker, since the government is accountable to parliament, i.e. decision 1 is the responsibility of the head of government, who was previously elected by parliament. Nevertheless, he can control the Heads of State and, if possible, overthrow a government that does not comply with the Constitution. Although this system does not operate on the check-and-balance basis seen in many countries, there is a balance of powers between the government, parliament and the judiciary, a balance that is necessary to avoid any abuse of power as perceived in previous government systems. A balance based on collective decision-making and not just by the head of state or a small group, an organisation based on multiple elections giving the French people the opportunity to take part in the changes. A system worthy of the term democracy, giving the first power to the people, to elect their representatives who will then elect the head of state and who together will be the actors in the decision-making process. Furthermore, this system is in favour of anti-corruption, with a large panel of decision-makers but also a need for collectivity, which closes the doors to abuses such as the nepotism era. As we have seen, it is a system that lasted and functioned until the end of the Second World War, when France experienced stability after a series of shifts in power between the Bonapartes and the Bourbons. The democratic system also ensured that citizens did not lose their various rights and freedoms, which were defended and protected by the constitution, with constant checks on the powers that be. The political system of the Third Republic was a guarantee of democracy

1.4.C. French influence from Louis XIV and still in the end of the XIXth century

1. Politics

Infrastructure investment

As we saw earlier, Mexico's development in the latter part of the 19th century depended enormously on foreign investment. This included French investment in various fields, including agriculture and mining, but what really changed Mexico's industrial situation was investment in infrastructure. Mexico's industry and telecommunications sectors are expanding rapidly, and the infrastructure needed to support this growth is essential. France is one of the major players in the development of the Veracruz rail link. Veracruz is a strategic port because of its geographical position. Veracruz is only a few hundred kilometres from the capital and is therefore its main gateway to the sea. What's more, for almost 400 years, Veracruz⁵⁵ has been the gateway between Europe and Mexico, a destination with enormous potential in terms of trade. In the end, France played an important role, enabling Mexico to open the railway and develop trade between the port and the capital, improving and facilitating its import-export economy. This railway was not an easy challenge¹ as its construction depended on the ability to cross the Metlac river, and therefore the construction of its bridge. The challenge was great, as it was the longest railway bridge known at the time. The bridge was manufactured by a French company in 1890. Following this, France continued to be involved in the country's railway projects, linking the city of Chihuahua⁵⁶ in the north of the country to the Pacific coast, as well as the tramway network in Mexico's main cities.

2. Education

French intellectuals in Mexico

Since the Enlightenment, France has really become an intellectual example in Mexico, and after transmitting the ideas of rights and freedoms leading to the revolution, the French influence continued. In addition, French intellectuals began to study Mexico, starting with observations on Mexican society and various cultural analyses written and published by a French politician who had decided to take an interest in the country where he had arrived as a French consul. Scientists, too, began to study biodiversity with the arrival of French farmers in Mexico, and the first doctors of botany arrived in Latin America. It was also the first time that French researchers had studied indigenous cultures and peoples in Mexico, and this was a step forward for minorities that had been exploited and discriminated against until then.

⁵⁵ City located on the east coast of Mexico on the Gulf of Mexico

⁵⁶ City located at the North of Mexico, in the state of Chihuahua at the USA border

Mexican intellectuals in France

It was in the second half of the 19th century that it became common for the Mexican elite to go and study in Europe, particularly in France, in Paris, recognised as a city of intellectuals and renowned universities. Relationship Starting with José Vasconcelos⁵⁷, who, unlike the majority, came from a modest family but benefited from a scholarship to obtain a high-quality education that led him to university. He went on to work for the universities as director and rector, using his intellectual abilities to bring about reforms to the education systems. Inspired by French philosophy and Parisian studies, he sought to revive Mexican culture following the revolutions. The second Mexican intellectual to have benefited from an education in France was Andres Molina Enriquez⁵⁸, a politician but above all an economist steeped in European socialist ideologies. He is at the head of several reform proposals, the best known of which, the “leyenda negra⁵⁹”, aims to reorganize the Mexican economy.

3. Art

During the previous century, Louis XIV's tastes began to influence the whole world in terms of art. Since then, Mexico, like many other parts of the world, has been a great devotee of French art. This passion for art led to a cultural exchange and a growing passion among Mexicans. Artists in particular followed the Barbizon School movement⁶⁰, learning the techniques of French artists and incorporating them into the development of their painting. As for Impressionism, the famous Frida Kahlo⁶¹ and Roberto Montenegro⁶² were Impressionists who were inspired by the French movement and adapted it completely to Mexican art, and the Art Nouveau movement also reached Mexico. This inspiration led France to export its art exhibitions as far as the Americas, offering a genuine exchange and an opportunity to meet the Mexican public. As for the artists, they travelled all the way to Paris to showcase their work, explaining the cultural and technical mix in their works. This influence went far beyond

⁵⁷ Born José Vasconcelos Calderón, 1882 - 1959

⁵⁸ Born Andrés Molina Enríquez, 1868 - 1940

⁵⁹ Black legend in English

⁶⁰ One of the most important art movement of the 19th century issued from France

⁶¹ Mexican painter, known for her artistic quality but also revolutionary personal style and impactful contribution to the world of art but also feminism, 1907-1954

⁶² Mexican painter 1887-1968

painting; it also affected architecture with the neo-classical, a concept created in France with the aim of constructing buildings with an air of antiquity, the Haussmannian also crossed the Atlantic, with this urban style given to the streets of Paris in particular, and just like the painters, the artists came to study architecture in Paris in order to adopt the French trends.

CHAPTER 2 A HUNDRED YEARS OF WORLD WARS

2.I WORLD WARS AND MEXICAN REVOLUTION

2.I.1. FIRST YEARS OF THE XXTH CENTURY

2.I.1.A. The Mexican Revolution

1. Porfirio Diaz, the beginning of the authority

Authoritarian policy

In 1910, Mexico had been plunged into authoritarian politics since 1870. The reason for this was a man called Porfirio Diaz who, behind the great defender he claimed to be before taking office, turned out to be a tyrant who ruled the country by abusing its population. In 1910, the people wanted to put an end to the Porfiriato regime and its authoritarian policies. The so-called republic had been ruled by the same president for 30 years, each time extended by elections that produced the same results over and over again. Thanks to the way it was organised, it was impossible to elect the other non-existent and censored "parties", one of the reasons why Porfirio Diaz had taken power, for an abuse of re-election prohibited by the constitution. The peasants led a major revolt, because despite their involvement in working the land, it was reserved for the Mexican and foreign elites, and they had therefore lost access to what allowed them to live. An example of the various inequalities that the country suffered, since all areas were organised in this way, with a preference and monopoly of the elite over the workers in Mexican industry and the economy. These inequalities have led to the loss of the lower classes and the continual enrichment of the top of the social pyramid. All led by Porfirio Diaz and his repressive policy towards any leader or organisation that wanted to go against his ideas. The people's response to the regime was to call for reforms in every respect, to return to the old constitution which dealt with rights and freedoms that had been totally abolished.

Launch of the Mexican revolution

The political and social movement was launched in 1910, and in 1911 Porfirio Diaz left power. In the meantime, the first uprisings began, called by various members of the opposition to Porfirio Diaz. Despite censorship and the arrest of anyone who rose up against the government in power, the first signs of discontent arrived in Mexico, and little by little groups began to gather in various regions. Support for the president grew considerably, forcing Porfirio Diaz to leave power and go into exile in France. When the President left the country, his entire political and personal entourage moved to the Côte d'Azur to escape the revolts, which were taking a

revolutionary turn. The people nevertheless remained divided, a kind of satisfaction finally at seeing the country politically stable and with an economy experiencing growth the likes of which Mexico had never seen. It was a division that was to have a major impact on the Mexican vision of political ideals, a population that was abused but won over by the idea of success, even if this only represented certain aspects of it. The country was under a kind of dictatorship but was a growing international power, a sociologically very Mexican relativism since it was a concept that was repeated from the beginning of the conquest and would be repeated in the following years. Despite certain intellectuals who try to perceive what's going on outside the country and take a step back, there's this laissez-faire attitude on the part of a section of the population that sees the glass as half full rather than half empty. This vision has made it possible to Mexican history and this "laissez faire" attitude, which has always been a source of joy and a zest for life. But in the context of 1910, it became difficult to put things into perspective, due to the considerable impoverishment of the population and its freedoms. This movement would not have taken place without the arrival of key players to stir up the population, including Madero⁶³, Zapata⁶⁴ and Pancho Villa⁶⁵.

2. Francisco Madero, from revolution to presidency

Actor of the Mexican revolution

Madero had no background in politics; he was a landowner and businessman. However, faced with the terror waged by the president on the population, he was one of those who decided to raise the first ideas of social justice with a view to democracy. A loyal enemy of Diaz, he wrote a book before the start of the revolution against the president and called on Mexicans to follow his fight against the regime in place, in particular the continual re-election. He even created a national anti-re-election party in order to defend justice in the 1910 elections. It should be noted that Francisco Madero ran in the election, and his campaign based on bringing down the regime and writing it off won him a very large number of supporters, enabling him to win the presidential election. However, given the context of the time, and the manipulation of the elections, it was Porfirio Diaz who came out on top. Once in power again, it was necessary to limit the scope of the voice of the man who had succeeded in arousing the majority of the

⁶³ Francisco Madero, Mexican revolutionary 1873 - 1913

⁶⁴ Emiliano Zapata, Mexican revolutionary, 1879 - 1919

⁶⁵ Francisco Villa, Mexican revolutionary 1878 - 1923

population against the government, and he was arrested during the revolution until the fall of Diaz. Madero was nonetheless responsible for the plan that got the revolution off the ground, with the San Luis plan and the ambition not to recognise the elections, rise up against the government and an armed uprising in 1910. Among his supporters were, of course, the workers and peasants who had been left in poverty by the regime in power, but also the middle classes who were seeking to regain their rights and freedoms.

Presidency

When Diaz left for France, new elections were held and Madero was elected president under the party he had created during the revolution, the National Anti-Reelectionist Party⁶⁶. When he came to power, the majority of the people were won over, a fact that is not surprising and in line with the election results. Madero continued to be a great defender of democracy by creating a constitutional regime. He decided to restore rights and freedoms such as freedom of expression, freedom of the press and civil rights. This post-dictatorship neo-freedom was quickly abused, and Madero was soon met with an upsurge in various forms of opposition. In fact, he put an end to the Diaz dictatorship and wanted to reform the laws and the distribution of agricultural land, a form of social justice that divided people, judged to be too slow and not sufficiently effective. Madero tried as best he could to give the people as much freedom as possible and the right to speak, so the various parties began to attract more and more supporters according to their dissatisfaction, and political instability due to lack of control took hold in Mexico. Madero's attempt to use soft power, to re-establish a free Mexico and to do away with all strict authority led him to lose his ability to govern and Mexico began to descend into total chaos. His delighted revolutionary allies Emiliano Zapata and Pancho Villa turned against his policies and his way of governing, demanding in turn new reforms such as the total restitution of land, in which Madero chose not to take part. Madero had appointed a general to head the army in order to maintain order, and once again his choice of ally had dramatic consequences turned against him and launched a coup in 1913. A coup that led to the imprisonment and assassination of Francisco Madero.

⁶⁶ "Partido Antirreeleccionista"

3. Victoriano Huerta, the comeback of the authority

Against Madero

Victoriano Huerta joined the government at the same time as Francisco Madero, who appointed him General of the Armed Forces when he came to power. However, the general also had political aspirations and hoped to become an important figure in Mexican politics. Madero's excessive liberalism had begun to annoy not only his own people, but also his government, who saw things taking a revolutionary turn once again, with uncontrolled and multiple uprisings. Like all Mexicans involved in politics, Victoriano Huerta had his own ideals about governance, and he didn't hide them; he made them known and thus began to gain supporters of these ideas, who were themselves opponents of Madero's government. Huerta, who represented conservatism and authoritarianism, was attracting more and more crowds. In 1913, Huerta had enough allies and therefore enough power to arrest the president and start his coup d'etat, which became a new stage in the Mexican revolution.

When Maduro took over from Diaz, it was the entire elite that was threatened with the loss of its wealth, a powerful elite that had already supported the dictator for 30 years and which now sees itself falling. With the arrival of Huerta's policies, it was an opportunity for them to re-establish the dictatorial order. So it was the start of a new politics divided and polarised between the top and the bottom of the social pyramid. But it is also the return of violence, with major repression of citizens' freedoms and rights, human rights violations and high levels of corruption. We are only two years on from the fall of the previous dictator, so supporters of Madero's policies are still aware of the importance of defending their rights against authoritarian regimes, an opposition that will take just over a year to bring down the General who was forced into exile

2.I.1.B France against Germany

1. Precepts of the war, polarization and geopolitics

The pre-war world

Before the First World War, the world was polarised into Europe, with the main world powers, developing Latin America and the colonies in Asia and Africa the main focus of European political expansion and conflict. Within Europe, the mainstay of the early twentieth century, there were two alliances: the Triple Alliance of Germany, Austro-Hungary and Italy, and the Entente comprising France, the United Kingdom and Russia. There was a climate of tension

with countries wanting to defend their imperialism at all costs, such as France with Alsace and Lorraine. There was also competition for military power, and the size of the armed forces was an important factor in a nation's credibility, as was the development of weapons and new combat technologies to ensure that it was as well prepared as possible for any conflict. Nothing ever advanced as much as when the army took an interest in it in terms of research and the resources invested before the First World War, to the Agadir crisis⁶⁷ and the Bosnian crisis⁶⁸.

France Germany, the situation

The Moroccan crisis was a question of local interests between France and Germany. France, already established as a colonial power, and Germany, which was seeking to intervene in the region economically and politically. France had begun to launch pre-defence measures even before any attack, a pre-defence to which Germany decided to respond with a pre-attack. Both nations wanted to demonstrate that they were ready for any move. However, the crisis ended with diplomatic agreements and a geopolitical gesture on both sides. In France, the political system was unstable, with the decision to separate church and state and the conservatives, internal political tensions that turned the early years of the twentieth century upside down, and socially, the workers' movement continued to grow, with demands for reform of working conditions and wages. Despite the period of major industrialisation and rapid growth in modernisation, France had been in an economic crisis for several years.

2. World War I

First battles

The European climate was one of diplomatic crisis after another between the two alliances, in particular the declaration of war by Austria-Hungary on Serbia in July 1914, Russia having mobilised, a month later Germany declared war on them, followed by tactics of attacking France by violating the neutrality of Belgium. This was just the beginning of the snowball effect, with all nations declaring war one by one. It was France's turn on 1 August 1914 to mobilise its men for war. That first month saw the arrival of the soldiers and the war of movement, which consisted of moving across the front line to gain ground. It was a tactic that

⁶⁷ Crisis emphasized by the deployment of French troops on the Maroccan territory and arriving of German gunboat creating a crisis of territories repartition in 1911

⁶⁸ Diplomatic and territorial dispute between that appeared in 190

took on to give rise to trench warfare, culminating in France's victory at Marne in September, which kept Paris protected, and much more, as this battle halted the German troops in their invasion. Meanwhile, Russia was fighting in the east against the same German enemy, supported by Austria and Hungary. The offensives in the east began to subside, while the western front increased in tension as both sides positioned themselves in trenches to maintain a stable front line. The land situation was therefore mainly centred around the front line trenches, while the sea situation was also taking a warlike turn with the British blockade at the same time as the start of the air war.

Battles and international positions

France therefore maintained its pre-war alliances during the fighting, with British and Russian support on its side, sharing intelligence and joining forces. However, before the end of the war, Franco-Russian relations came to a halt with the Bolshevik Revolution⁶⁹. At the beginning of the war, the fighting and alliances were essentially European, and then the United States, which took part in the war in 1917 alongside France when the Russians left, took over. The American military troops marked a turnaround in the situation. With regard to the other countries that remained neutral during the war, it was important to maintain diplomatic relations in order to prepare for the future, despite the complications that arose during the war.

These were political and economic links with the enemy. Thanks to colonial policies, France was able to count on the military support of troops from Africa, but at the same time an attempted uprising in favour of independence tried to take advantage of the unstable situation. This war showed great national unity, regardless of region or social class; the French stood up together to defend their country. In order to meet the needs, industrialisation had to be speeded up, allowing women in France to become more liberally involved and to gain status, since they had to work in all areas while the men were concentrated at the front, as workers, nurses, doctors and researchers. The battle was also technological, with military and medical advances to provide the best possible response.

⁶⁹ Revolution led in 1917 by Lenin and the Bolshevik Party in URSS

French personalities

In France, statesmen emerged as leaders of the country during the war. George Clémenceau⁷⁰ took on the position of prime minister in the middle of the world war. He reformed the national organisation to adapt his country to the conditions of war in terms of resources and support, and also had to manage the conditions of scarcity. He took on a motivating role and was able to restore the cohesion that had been lost with the succession of defeats and the long duration of the war. This troop leader was also able to maintain the international relations that played a part in the post-war reconstruction and negotiations. Military coordination was managed by Ferdinand Foch⁷¹, General of the Armies, who was responsible for coordinating military operations, particularly the final offensive that enabled France to defeat Germany. However, the famous battle of the Marne mentioned earlier was planned by Joseph Joffre, another major member of military supervision, as was the battle of Verdun.

Armistice

The armistice is the agreement signed in the aftermath of the end of the war, on 11 November 1918, Germany signed its disoccupation in France, Belgium and, among other things, had to give up Alsace and Lorraine. In order to keep a military peace, she had to return most of her war material and turn to peace. Following the armistice, the allies signed the Treaty of Versailles in 1919, stipulating the conditions for peace, which marked the real end of the war and launched the post-war period.

After war

France suffered great losses, particularly in human terms, with thousands of soldiers dying at the front, so society went through a great period of national mourning, a collective loss and a difficult morale for the French. However, this loss was reflected in growing nationalism and in the mobilisation of citizens, who were committed to their country, making sacrifices in the face of the enemy and showing mutual support among all French people. Throughout Europe, peace was at the forefront, with the collapse of empires giving way to governments based not only on territorial gains but also on disputes between countries. Germany, for its part, had to take

⁷⁰ French politician, prime Minister, 1841 - 1929

⁷¹ French military, 1851 - 1929

responsibility for the war and therefore had to participate in the reconstruction, a financial burden that weakened them enormously.

2.I.1.C. Bilateral relations between a country in revolution and another in World War

1. Neutrality and diplomatic relations

New diplomatic relations

We have seen that France had very close relations with the former Mexican dictator Porfirio Diaz, notably for his economic investments in Mexican industrial development. These bilateral relations ended with the fall of the Porfiriato. In fact, past relations were based on economic interests for France, and with the political change it was foreign investment that was threatened, particularly with the issue of land redistribution and the reduction of corruption. Nevertheless, it should be noted that bilateral relations were in favour of the national interest, and there was never any question of local well-being. On the arrival of President Madero⁷², France sided with democracy and defended its desire for a fairer country, receiving the support of politicians who were stunned by the power wrested from them by Victoriano Huerta⁷³. Although they supported democracy, France did not oppose the leaders of terror, neither Diaz in the past, nor Huerta, since it was one of the first nations to recognise his government after Madero's death. It was only when Carranza⁷⁴ began to have good results in his efforts to dethrone the dictator that France came to disown the general. This was the beginning of bilateral policies based on self-interest, a lack of commitment to peace for the population and political hypocrisy at its worst. As long as economic interests persist, there is nothing to worry about. France has always been one of the first countries to recognise different governments in order to stay on good terms regarding its investments, to get rich no matter what. Huerta, for example, was disloyal, tyrannical, unconstitutional and antidemocratic. He had promised the French government to protect his economic interests in oil, but also to propose agreements to favour French entrepreneurs, so France decided to put its trust in the general to stabilise the political situation.

⁷² 2-Francisco Madero, p.45

⁷³ 3-Victoriano Huerta, p.46

⁷⁴ Venustiano Carranza 1859 - 1920

Mutual neutrality

During the Mexican revolution, France chose not to choose sides, to remain neutral in its positions and, above all, not to send military support, as past relations could have been interpreted as an attempted invasion. During the First World War, Venustiano Carranza's Mexico sided with neutrality, indicating that it would not support either side. Mexico was already experiencing great political instability, with a revolution that had the potential to turn into a civil war, so it could not get involved in international conflicts.

2.I.2. End of the first Half, XXth century

2.I.2.A. The implantation of the PRI

1. Nationalism post revolution

Post-revolution nationalism

As a result of the different stages that Mexicans have gone through, a political and cultural nationalism is taking hold. The aim was to rebuild Mexico, to create a new Mexico based on a fair democracy for all, to put an end to the abuses and violations of human rights and inequalities. The country became more patriotic, developing common values and national unity in the interests of Mexico. For the first time, there was a desire to develop the 1st national pride around more cultural themes like traditions and history, a moral revolution that allows the development of education but also of artistic fields and the promotion of the indigenous and mestizo culture typical of the Mexican population, a return to one's roots and a change in mentalities in order to have one's own identity

A new dominant party

In 1929, a new political party emerged in Mexico, the Institutional Revolutionary Party, known as the PRI. The PRI was an amalgamation of various political parties from the post-revolutionary period. Thanks to President Lazaro Cardenas⁷⁵, the PRI was able to gain a foothold within institutions and politics in general. A party that would dominate the entire country and control all Mexican politics throughout the 20th century. Because of its revolutionary nature, the PRI applied all the ideals expected after the Mexican revolution, proposing that priority should be given to social justice in order to eliminate the inequalities

⁷⁵ Lázaro Cárdenas del Río, 1895 – 1970, Mexican politician and President

suffered by Mexicans. The PRI is proposing a return to democracy as a first step, with socio-economic reorganisation to boost Mexican industry, as well as greater equality in education, health and employment for the population.

2. Economic changes from the PRI

Under the Diaz and Huerta governments, the economy was a sector reserved for the elites. What's more, industrial sectors such as oil, energy and construction were mainly foreign investments. Under the PRI, the aim was to change them and restore them to an estatal level, with government companies controlled by local institutions rather than foreign monopolies. In particular, Pemex and the CFE were created to regulate the oil and energy sectors. An important point that has been discussed and debated for years is the agricultural reforms, with a monopoly of land by the very rich, slave-like labour for the poor, and an economic rhythm of farming that was turning the tide. The land was redistributed, as before, to the peasants and rural communities, and following this redistribution, communal land ownership was created, which increased the efficiency and yield of agricultural production, and therefore also led to a better life for the people from this environment. In order to continue this process of local production and consumption, the PRI introduced a protectionist policy on goods to limit the abuse of foreign investment and instead develop regional production. As part of this drive to develop Mexico, the country's industrial infrastructure grew one by one, as did its trade union policies, with an increase in the number of factories and workers. The economy has taken a turn towards economic nationalism, a concept that makes it possible to develop while stabilising the local economy. The principle is to establish policies that allow for the development of industry, such as the oil industry, and to install protective measures, particularly on international trade, in order to protect national companies.

3. What does the PRI brought?

The PRI brought about a general reconstruction, reforming all sectors and creating the new Mexico, a new socio-economic policy for a new national state of mind, the work established in its first years in office. The greatest change was the cultural promotion of Mexican traditions and roots, which had been trampled underfoot by the Spanish and forgotten over the course of time.

Firstly, a socio-economic revolution that led to the recognition of indigenous peoples. There has been a real awakening and change in the respect accorded to indigenous rights and the guarantee to protect this culture by allowing them political participation, access to land and the promotion of their inclusion in Mexican society. As part of this cultural promotion, the study of indigenous history and societies has been incorporated into schools and curricula to educate people about the cultural roots of their country. These large-scale reforms and developments reflect a political stability that Mexico had lost. After years of revolutions, conflicts and raging violence, the PRI brought a new version of Mexico, with a focus on national development, from mentalities and economic development to fair social policies. So it was all the measures taken by the PRI to change Mexico that enabled real consolidation of the country, starting with a constitution in line with the promises made in 1917. In addition, the nationalisation of the economy enabled Mexicans to develop without having to face foreign competition and its monopoly. The PRI also reformed the political institutions to make the administration more efficient.

4. Critics against the PRI

However, Mexican life was not all positive: like any government, there were disagreements and criticisms. Firstly, there were certain complications when it came to uniting Mexico, which was a country of many ethnicities, cultures and roots, and above all very divergent, so the single party could not be universally representative. Obviously, there is no such thing as a single party without the help of corruption, and despite the evidence and the many accusations, the PRI was far too well protected to be dismantled. Although the dictatorship was less violent than previous ones, or those in Europe or Asia, there was a certain form of authoritarianism through total control of the institution and the obstruction of any other party. The members of the PRI controlled the whole country but above all enjoyed its advantages by maintaining inequalities and their privileges, and these same people from the closed circle of the elite were the only ones to have access to clientelist politics, so the poor remained poor, albeit in a stable way, but they did not have the opportunity to change class, a political organisation that would eventually become "has-been" over time and lead to the downfall of the party.

5. Why does it works ?

In fact, the party was criticised for fraud, authoritarianism and corruption, but for a very long time these criticisms remained low-key and did not go unchallenged. The constant control of all the country's politics enables the party to maintain its monopoly, giving the population a vision of stability. What's more, by bringing together a very broad panel, this helps to retain a large number of supporters from all quarters and create a feeling of general satisfaction. This satisfaction is reflected in Mexico's authoritarian and violent past, so the population loses the feeling of objectivity and settles for the least worst. Nationalism speaks for itself and convinces the people to act in unison for the good of the country, having dislodged dictatorships like that of Diaz or Huerta, in the name of a party encompassing the whole population and not just one person. The media play a role in this control, always in a process of manipulation where convincing is more important than actions. It is true that in 1920, when a new party was announced, the population wanted only one thing: an end to the violence and repression in favour of stability. Moreover, from 1929 onwards, the PRI succeeded in meeting expectations by proposing political, economic and social reforms that improved the population's quality of life.

2.I.2.B. The World War 2

1. "L'entre deux guerres"

The years of post-war reparation passed and the authoritarian German⁷⁶ and Japanese⁷⁷ regimes advanced. Beyond their national authoritarianism, Nazi Germany began to occupy various territories in Europe such as the Rhine, Austria and Czechoslovakia, despite the peace treaties and the distribution of territories following the First World War. The people began to express their annoyance at Nazi imperialism. Beyond Nazism, facism was on the rise. Between Mussolini⁷⁸'s Italy, Franco⁷⁹'s Spain and Hitler's Germany, Europe took a new turn with a taste for the conquest of Europe, a racist and military policy giving way to oppression and endangering democracy. 1930 was therefore the starting point for rising tensions between the

⁷⁶ National Socialist German Worker's Party (Also known as Nazi regime), 1933 – 1945, under the leader Adolf Hitler

⁷⁷ Showa era, 1926 – 1945, under the Emperor Hirohito

⁷⁸ National Fascist Party 1919 - 1945

⁷⁹ Nationalist forces, 1936 - 1973

so-called defenders of human rights and freedoms and authoritarian regimes. In 1940, Italy, Germany and Japan even signed a triple alliance pact to confront France, the United Kingdom and Russia, reflecting the polarisation of the time. The world was thus divided between dictatorships and democracies, one step towards peace and the other towards the new conquest of the world, and the world powers were in constant conflict over their colonies and the territories that belonged to them. The major reasons for the conflict were, of course, ideological issues with extreme powers on the rise, an attempt to counter Nazism and fascism before wanting to fight a nation itself. Added to this and bringing an even more marked division, their interests in Africa and the colonies to be preserved from rivalry in order to maintain their supremacy. And finally we reached a point of no return with alliances already formed, countries prepared for armed war and the Great Depression was too much and took the toll of peace very quickly when war was declared.

2. 1939 – 1945 European war extending to a worldwide scale

The first step in launching the war was the invasion of Poland. Adolf Hitler had held the reins of Germany since 1933 and had made the Nazi party stronger than ever when he decided to invade the neighbouring country. With this invasion, his ambition was the conquest of the East. On 1 September, Poland was attacked from all sides, from the air, sea and land, and the battle was on. During the interwar period, agreements were signed between the various alliances, leading France and the United Kingdom to defend Poland through their pacts. War was declared on 3 September 1939 against Germany, which quickly had to find international support, and the Soviet invasion of Poland also began. In 1939 they signed a pact with Stalin's Soviet Union, which enabled them to gain power and invade the Nordic nations such as Norway and Denmark. They also defeated France and established the Vichy regime⁸⁰ throughout the French-speaking world, as Germany had managed to ally itself with certain French political and military leaders, including Marshal Pétain⁸¹. In 1940, France was attacked by Germany, an attack that surprised by its efficiency and speed, advancing across the entire northern part of the country and forcing the French forces to retreat as they were surrounded. The country was condemned to resign itself and sign the armistice. Marshal Pétain was then governor and collaborated with the German occupation over most of the country. This was not only a national

⁸⁰ Government established in France in collaboration with the Nazi of Hitler

⁸¹ French military and leader under the "Régime de Vichy"

defeat but also for all its allies. This new regime led by the Nazis was the start of Jewish persecution in France, with restrictions, famine and poverty. Wherever the Nazi regime reigned, social, political and economic exclusion of the Jews was quickly put in place. They were locked up in so-called "ghettos" until 1941, when they began to be executed. In 1942, the first concentration camp was opened at Auschwitz. Jews from all over Europe were deported, detained, mistreated, tortured and then gassed. For three years, Europe was the scene of Nazi-led raids aimed at massacring all those considered inferior by Hitler and his dictatorial regime, including not only Jews, but also the disabled, homosexuals and any political prisoners who ran counter to Nazism. Germany therefore continued its invasion of Great Britain in 1940, which led to failure, as did the invasion of the Soviet Union in 1941, Germany's great ally at the time, Japan, which was waging its battle mainly with the United States. In 1941, while Germany, allied with the Fascists⁸² and the Soviets⁸³, was trying to gain a foothold throughout Europe, Japan launched a war in the Pacific zone against the USA, leading to tragedies such as the nuclear bombs. However, France under Vichy regained hope with the involvement of its 1st ally across the Atlantic and its support across the Channel, and began military operations against the Nazis. After Stalingrad, lost by Germany, the Nazis began their downfall, followed by the fall of their power in southern Europe and north Africa through allied invasions, but it was in 1944 that the American landings in Normandy pushed back Hitler's troops, first in France, then in Belgium and finally in the Netherlands, Germany was surrounded and the Soviet Union came to finish the anti-Nazi fight when they arrived in Berlin in May 1945, forcing Germany to capitulate, the first Jewish liberations began, the Vichy regime was abolished, the Nazis and collaborators were judged and punished, and Hitler was dead.

3. After war, reconstruction and new political order

The war was bloody, not only because of the fighting between the armed forces, but also because of the mass extermination of ethnic and religious groups by Nazi Germany. Following the war, Germany was divided four ways between the three allies and the Soviet Union, with Berlin divided between two sides: the allies and the Soviets. The Nazi ideology was eradicated by punishing the members and defenders of Hitler's ideology. They were judged and restrained so that they could no longer work for the cause. However, tensions grew between the Allies

⁸² Spain of Franco and Italy of Mussolini

⁸³ URSS

and the Soviet Union, giving rise to the Cold War, which continued the East-West conflict. Germany's economic reforms nevertheless enabled it to rebuild rapidly, regaining its independence in 1990 and becoming a European leader in politics and industry with its participation in the creation of the European Union. The war made it possible to eradicate Nazism and strengthen the alliances of the West in addition to national solidarity. The war also brought about industrial and technological progress, with considerable advances not only in armaments but also in medicine and the car industry, benefiting the whole world. These advances also enabled women to enter the world of work and research, with an increase in the number of women doctors and nurses, as well as in engineering and industry, an advance that led to the development of feminism, which called for equal rights for women. We can therefore see a change in gender differentiation, with women taking on more and more roles in Western countries, demonstrated by their fundamental involvement in wartime to keep the country going.

The war, and in particular the fact that two wars have been waged in less than half a century, has made the world aware of the need to protect its citizens. The whole world is aware of the need to put peace first, to encourage discussions at conflicts and to be able to act together and not through the alliances of a polarised world. The United Nations was created to work for peace on behalf of all the nations that would gradually join. In the second half of the century, we also saw the general decolonisation of Africa and Eastern Europe, the creation of the European Union⁸⁴ and the emergence of institutions such as the World Bank⁸⁵ to work on new issues such as human rights, peace and the climate.

2.I.2.C. Bilateral & Multilateral Relations

1. The PRI and France

The PRI maintained diplomatic relations with France but took no particular part in the war, wishing to maintain a neutral position towards the world. The PRI had established a foreign policy strategy based on diplomatic relations with all the other parties and leaders in the world. As France had had a political and cultural impact on Mexico for many years, it was important

⁸⁴ ECSC in 1952, Treaty of Rome in 1957

⁸⁵ International financial institution founded in Washington DC in 1944

to maintain this bilateral development through social and economic agreements. Economic cooperation therefore took place and the PRI promoted investment and technological development policies with France.

During the war, the PRI declared itself to be a non-belligerent country, but provided support, particularly humanitarian and exile support, to allies such as the United States and France. Despite this, the country remained neutral and diplomatic, without boycotting countries such as Germany or Italy. Latin America was a popular geographical region for war exiles, whether allied or Axis, such as the Nazis in Argentina.

During the long presidency of the PRI, there was no particular interest in France. We had already seen that France had had an impact on ideologies, particularly political ideologies, but also cultural ideologies, that it was a popular destination for studying all kinds of careers, that there was a certain psychological sovereignty and admiration. French and European philosophers in general had reached the lands and minds of the other side of the Atlantic, art had inspired Mexican works of art, and architecture too, but in the course of the twentieth century the Prista monopoly won out over foreign influences and plunged Mexico into a kind of national bubble limiting foreign ideals. France, for its part, concentrated on its European and North African relations, with the preservation of its colonies and the two world wars. Although it did have diplomatic relations around the world, its main concern was far from being the Americas, apart from its North American ally; it was mainly a question of defending its sovereignty over its territory in metropolitan France with powers such as Great Britain, Prussia and Germany, the rise of authoritarian fascist policies such as in Italy and Spain, and defending its territory on the African continent.

2. International institutions including both of the countries

Mexico and France therefore experienced two very different contexts during the first half of the 20th century, with on the one hand a country enjoying a perfect dictatorship and a degree of national satisfaction, and on the other two bloody wars between the world powers of the time. At the end of the 20th century, despite the Mexican dictatorship, the country decided to align itself with the rest of the world, participating in the creation of various institutions. Mexico therefore had bilateral relations with the European Union, of which France was a founding member, and also participated in the United Nations, of which France was a permanent member, and so their relations continued. The entry into the second half of the 20th

century marked a new type of relationship that was not specific to the two countries but rather to the world order, with alliances and relations becoming multilateral rather than bilateral.

}There was to be a veritable revolution in diplomacy and therefore in ideologies, with a growing awareness of the need for global cooperation, which was to be a driving force behind globalisation. And the first half of the century was to mark this break between Napoleon⁸⁶'s France and Porfirio Diaz⁸⁷'s Mexico for a world turned towards the future and exchange. During the Mexican Revolution⁸⁸ and the Battle of Puebla⁸⁹, there was very little multilateral cooperation, and the various nations did not intervene to defend common values, whereas little by little, thanks to the two world wars, there was a shared fear of conflict and an ambition to generate peaceful attitudes towards each other. There was also a split between the world powers and the so-called Third World, a term used particularly in the post-war period. The polarisation of the second half of the twentieth century would then begin, leaving aside those nations that were neither allies nor part of the Axis, propelling those at the head of the international stage and encumbering the rest of the world. One of the risky bets of the war was whether or not to take part, and with whom. That said, it was also necessary to have the means to offer substantial armed forces in a dangerous conflict. So we have a Mexico that remains on the sidelines and will continue to be so throughout the expansion of globalization, despite its involvement in international issues and particularly institutions, as the world enters a new era of Eurocentrism with a loss of interest in the Third World.

⁸⁶ 4-Napoleon the first, p.17

⁸⁷ 1-Arrival of Porfirio Diaz, p.35

⁸⁸ 1-Independence war, p.20

⁸⁹ 2-"Batalla de Puebla", p.31

2.II. POST WAR AND INDUSTRIALIZATION

2.II.1. Internationalization and industrialization

2.II.1.A. Industrialization and international politics

1. Hegemony of the PRI

Total control

The PRI was “THE” political party of the 20th century, the government also known as "the perfect dictatorship". An authoritarian government that was not repressive towards the population, a popular dictatorship that recurred in the 20th century when an authoritarian regime was defended by the impression of general well-being, as seen in Salazar's Portugal. The PRI's first trump card in staying in power and running the country as a whole was total control of the state, from the presidency down to the administrative bodies, so as to be able to bring together all levels of government and thus leave no room for differences between the head of the country and the body politic. They therefore began by extending the power of the President so that he could be the entity that took the decisions and dominated the entire political administration in Mexico. In order to maintain overall control, the PRI had to have a monopoly in Congress and specifically in the judiciary. With the appointment of its members they had the means to pass all necessary laws and policies without their interests being contradicted or hindered, right down to the municipal administrations. They also took control in other areas, such as the economy and national and international trade.

All categories combined

The PRI has a reputation for embracing the majority of the population by integrating different social groups and interests. This inclusiveness meant that their support was as broad as possible, so that they were not authoritarian but had the ability to convince their supporters. The PRI was very committed to the labour movement and showed a high degree of corporatism, giving pride of place not only to the unions, but also to peasants and entrepreneurs. The principle of unity was crucial to the party's stability, so within the party itself, disputes were settled internally in order to maintain overall coordination. As well as controlling internal recruitment, the PRI also organised opposing parties, using a system of co-optation to select opposition leaders, so that any threat to the party could be avoided. Like all twentieth-century dictatorships, propaganda was the basis of communication, with a technique of disseminating a constantly positive image, whether through messages or promotions of the PRI's actions. Unlike the great European-Asian

dictatorships, where there was a divine personification of the heads of state, the PRI relied on the party rather than a person, a party of confidence rather than a superior identity.

Elections?

The PRI's greatest control over the country would be over elections, with the party consistently winning for almost 70 years. As the sole ruling party in all areas, the PRI was also responsible for organising and supervising the elections, appointing the various candidates and organising the various election campaigns. Added to this was the coercion of citizens by buying their votes in exchange for social and economic benefits. This know-how has set an example for political management even today during election campaigns. With absolute control over the electorate, they were also in a position to add or remove certain votes so that any opponent who did not belong to the PRI was subject to repression and completely removed from the political arena.

2. Industrialization

The 20th century was synonymous with industrialisation throughout the world, and the key to becoming a world player was to industrialise on a par with the great powers. A priority for the perfect dictatorship. What's more, becoming a powerful player on the world stage enabled the government to remain competitive and, above all, coherent and credible in the face of its supporters and even its opponents, to dissuade them from any moves against the party. These almost 40 years of industrial development are also known as the "Milagro Mexicano"⁹⁰, one of the PRI's outstanding achievements. The first step towards industrialisation was to replace imports with local production. The first step towards industrialisation was to replace imports with local production. Financial and labour resources began to be developed to start the domestic production of manufactured goods that had previously been imported, in order to replace the need for investment abroad and the payment of costs, and to use them for the benefit of Mexican development in the race for market competitiveness. Policies were also introduced to support this ideology and the objectives of industrialisation, with tariff protection, in addition to financing policies for national industry. These policies were subsequently reinforced to continue industrial development towards a stronger industry, such as the creation of petrochemical or steel companies and even a foothold in the automotive industry. Once the

⁹⁰ Mexican Miracle translated in English

industry was properly established, the PRI aimed to expand with expansion policies, particularly economic ones, such as import substitution, attracting foreign investment, infrastructure development, and the application of American concepts concerning productivity with human capital and training in techniques adapted to a company's needs. And finally, to complete the stages of the "Milagro Mexicano", the country is entering a necessary phase of consolidation and fortification. This led to the development of competitive environments, with the aim of improving productivity and quality in petrochemicals, for example. It was also necessary to specialise in new industries in order to remain competitive and not fall behind the rest of the world, as in the technology and aerospace sectors. From a competitive point of view, Mexico has entered into a policy of open trade with international agreements and reductions in exports to attract international business. Forty years of evolution to enter the international scene of industry and make the country grow through protectionism, national investment in infrastructure, and the policy of protection.

3. International treaties

The second half of the twentieth century saw the development of international treaties as we know them today, which continue to shape international and diplomatic relations. The first trade agreements were important to establish with the United States, a geographical neighbour and above all an industrial giant at the time, making it a major competitor but also an important ally. What's more, the two countries have enjoyed a conflictual relationship for many years since the Mexican revolution. The Treaty of Bucareli⁹¹ changed the policies between the two countries to regularise both the economic and territorial situation. Mexico has also drawn closer to its allies under the name of Latin America and the Caribbean, a geographical facility sharing the same continent but also a history with the Spanish conquest of the whole territory. The main point of the Latin American agreements was the Treaty of Tlatelolco⁹² signed to eliminate nuclear weapons and the risks of wars of this kind, to promulgate peace and international friendship. In the name of history, it was important to establish a new, peaceful and supportive bilateral relationship. And in the first agreements with the arrival of the European Union concerning trade, trade barriers and investment protection.

⁹¹ Series of agreement between United States of America and Mexico in 1923

⁹² Treaty on nuclear-weapon-free zone, 1967

2.II.1.B. The after war in France

1. Reconstruction

After the Second World War, the damage was extensive and France underwent a period of reconstruction to rehabilitate roads, buildings and infrastructure in general. The reconstruction period went through several phases involving different areas and different players. The first was the Marshall Plan, a programme agreed with the United States to provide economic assistance to European countries as they rebuilt after the war. The plan was introduced in 1947 by Secretary of State George Marshall. The United States provided a great deal of material and financial support, which improved the post-war period considerably, and the main country to benefit was France. The modernisation undertaken thanks to this financing enabled France to grow its economy and return to the international scene very quickly. The plan set an example for bilateral relations between the United States of America and France, and thus initiated new links between the two countries. With the country back on its feet, France was able to quickly resume its economic positions at national and international level by adapting them to the global context. First of all, it needed to renew itself in order to modernise in terms of infrastructure and diversification. It also had to expand its industry, as Mexico had done, and modify its policies, whether in terms of infrastructure financing, investment in research, protection policies, etc. The country took advantage of this to modernise and diversify its economy. The country has also taken the opportunity to introduce social reforms to improve people's lives, with the introduction of social security, development and investment in the education system, and laws to protect workers, the environment and gender equality. In this period of national reconstruction, it is also important to re-establish the international order and the prospect of lasting peace. Just as in Mexico, we are seeing the emergence of international treaties with different approaches, European communities in certain industrial and commercial sectors, treaties on the economy, and the implementation of common policies.

2. Diversification

Like everywhere else in the world at the time, it was necessary to diversify and modernise its economy in order to remain competitive on the international stage. That's why the post-war period was synonymous with a number of political reforms, especially on the economic front. As in Mexico, France decided to nationalise itself, taking control of companies in order to strengthen the role of the state in the economy and improve its stability. It was also a way of

gaining authority by emphasising the importance of public ownership, so companies were bought by the state and moved to government management, increasing the state's economic capital. After the Second World War, France created EDF⁹³, the French electricity producer and distributor, as well as SNCF⁹⁴, the French national railway company, and the French railways. BNP⁹⁵ replaced all the deposit banks, as did AGF⁹⁶ in the insurance sector. Due to Renault's major actions during the war, the company was nationalised. Once it had its hands on industry and the national economy, the State decided to invest its money and organise it as it saw fit. Priority was given to investing in scientific research in order to play a leading role in innovation. This is followed by the establishment of economic clusters of specialised areas grouped together, with the development of vocational training to ensure a skilled workforce in these particular industries. One of the areas that has undergone change is the agricultural sector. In fact, one of the major modernisations of the twentieth century was in the agri-food sector, with the arrival of new machinery and new chemical processes to improve productivity and therefore its impact on industry. Farmers have benefited from policies to protect them at both national and European level.

3. Globalization & durable economy

This industrial and economic modernisation is in line with the ideals of a sustainable economy, a neovalue arrived at after the war with the aim of integrating into a new global era and looking further ahead. The first step was the energy transition, with the aim of shifting the use of natural resources towards renewable energies and away from the idea of resource scarcity. The second half of the twentieth century also saw the beginnings of environmental awareness, with the well-known issue of greenhouse gas emissions and the need to reduce them, as well as stricter standards and the call for recycling. Education plays a major role in the sustainable economy policy in order to develop an educated population and thus be able to develop industry, scientific advances and, in particular, environmental awareness. A policy that is integrated into globalisation projects and the desire to be a leader in various sectors, ecology and the sustainable economy were pillars of the early days of the European Union, and still are today.

⁹³ *Electricité de France*, Electricity of France

⁹⁴ *Société Nationale des Chemin de fer Français*, National society of French Railways

⁹⁵ *Banque Nationale Populaire*, National Popular Bank

⁹⁶ *Assurances Générales de France*, France General Insurances

France was to play a major role as one of the founding members and then one of the most important players in the Union, providing considerable support in setting up projects such as the European Economic Community. A community that will facilitate the rise of multinational companies and free trade at national, European and global level. France will continue its work on the liberalisation of trade throughout the world and will be able to reap the economic benefits that are invaluable in international business.

2.II.2. New wars appearing

2.II.2.A. Grow of cartels in Mexico

1. From Colombia to Mexico

It was in the 1980s that the Colombian cartels began to make inroads into Mexico. With the notable arrival of the Cali Cartel and the Cartel del Norte del Valle, they began to forge alliances and collaborate with local cartels in order to gain a foothold in the Mexican market. Mexico's main advantage is its geographical location, directly linked to the United States, a major consumer of drugs produced in Latin America. During the 20th century, the drug trade developed strongly in Colombia, where the cartels became well known and were able to make a lot of money. In Mexico, the business began before the 1980s but remained limited, with know-how borrowed from the Colombians. The main players in narcotrafficantism were in South America and decided to move to Mexico with the Cali Cartel and the Norte del Valle Cartel. The market exploded when North American demand for cocaine became all the rage, creating a real trade between the Andes and the United States, with a veritable logistical network bringing coca from Peru or Bolivia to Colombia, where it was processed and then sent to Mexico to cross the American border by sea or other methods, such as by air. At that time, the only cartels involved in the cocaine trade were Colombian, so they had the entire market, and the route to Mexico took time, starting with collaboration in Panama between the Cali cartel and the dictatorial governor. In the 90s, the balance of power shifted and the Colombian cartels joined forces and established themselves in Mexico. The Mexican cartels began to take an interest in the cocaine market with the fall of the heads of the Cali and Medellin cartels. For Mexico, it was an easy matter to take over the North American market with the Juarez and Tijuana cartels, which the PRI tried to stop in their first years of trading. Despite the succession

of the PRI, it has been impossible to completely dismantle the cartels, and drug trafficking organisations have multiplied with the arrival of the Gulf and Sinaloa cartels.

2. First cartels wars

The world of narcotrafficantism is based on illegal trade, and so all the acts and members are a reflection of the market to which they devote themselves. Very quickly, wars broke out over a number of issues, firstly wars between cartels, but also government-cartel and US-cartel wars. The cartels brought with them a new form of violence, ways of running the organisation based on fear and settling scores by taking lives, and corruption that made law enforcement agencies lose all confidence. The wars between the cartels are extremely violent, with weapons such as grenades, war weapons and armoured vehicles. Added to this is the proliferation of kidnappings and the increased risk of kidnapping of politicians and members of the security forces, as well as civilians and their families. The cartels have started to take control of municipalities and states, and to frighten people by threatening them if they do not comply with their orders. The first people to be affected were the Mexicans, with entire communities run by drug traffickers, with taxes imposed on the inhabitants of the municipalities and maintained thanks to the various forms of violence mentioned above and to abusive corruption. The second type of violence takes place at state level, with control of a state, its government and its law enforcement agencies through abuse of violence and corruption. This need for a state-wide monopoly enables the cartels to gain control of the central hubs of the economy. In terms of illegal trade, this monopoly leads to wars between cartels, because everyone wants to take power and nothing is yet established, so we are seeing the emergence of real armed wars to eliminate the enemy.

3. Social and employment development

Despite the negative picture painted by the cartels, it was also a social opportunity for various levels of society. Many jobs were created, both legal and illegal, a godsend for some people with no promising ambitions or who had fallen victim to the Mexican system of governance. It should not be forgotten that the cartels began to develop such importance in the final years of the PRI. After years of living under the perfect dictatorship, many would suffer, and this had not lifted its population out of poverty. Among the social benefits, we can only start with the employment opportunities that have developed in Mexico, from drivers to bodyguards to

henchmen. We can also talk about illegal jobs, such as buying and selling weapons and drugs, the logistics of this whole market, and undercover agents, but this has helped to increase the number of jobs. In addition, the cartels have made it possible to develop certain areas into pavilions, and to help out certain underprivileged neighbourhoods.

2.II.2.B. European union and wars

1. E.U.

Bases of EU

The years following the two world wars were a period of national reconstruction, but also of international equilibrium, a change in polarisation and new values with 1s for peace in the world. This desire for a new international organisation led to the creation of institutions such as the United Nations, as we have already seen, but one of France's major international achievements in the second half of the 20th century was its involvement in the creation of the European Union. Today, the European Union comprises 27 States, on the same basis as when it was created by the Treaty of Rome under the name of the EEC in 1957. The concept of the European Union is to facilitate commercial and political exchanges on the European continent with a single market, a single currency, a centralisation of the education system and its recognitions, policies including all its members, and the promotion of peace, against conflict and the protection of human rights. The idea of the European Union dates back to the ECSC in 1951, and its definitive establishment as we know it today took place in 1992 with the Maastricht Treaty. It took a long time for the European Union to become a world power, and France was one of the main players.

France and EU

France's involvement dates back even before the creation of the ECSC. In fact, the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs proposed the idea of a supranational organisation bringing together the major European powers to facilitate industrial development. This was the first step towards the idea of a European Union. When the very first European grouping was created with the EEC in 1957, France was one of the six founding countries taking part in a common market agreement and joining the economic union. Little by little, European policies became more and more important in various sectors. First of all, France was one of the members to defend the

need for a policy on the agricultural world in order to create food security throughout the territory. This was followed by the Maastricht Treaty, in which France took part, in order to develop a union that was not only economic but also political and monetary.

Changes that it made

With the advent of the EU, certain national decisions have become an international issue over which France no longer has full control, and France has extended its decision-making to the European level - a loss of sovereignty for the member countries. Moreover, being one of the EU's main players also means that it is one of its main financial contributors, although we know that France has a number of economic problems and cannot therefore focus on the complexities at national level. French companies have also experienced an increase in competition with the common market and the liberalisation of trade, a competition which has nevertheless enabled them to develop in order to optimise and therefore remain competitive, a way of constantly remaining in the forefront of progress, whether in industry or in research, just like the common policies which are certainly less adapted to the national level but allow for constant evolution and protection of laws, rights and freedoms. However, we can see that this enables the member countries to become part of a global competitiveness and to become a player with greater influence. By associating themselves with the economic rules of the European Union, they have a capacity that becomes global and not just national or regional. Regional trade also increases with the common market, with the potential customer base rising from 60 million to 500 million. The same is true for individual mobility, the ease with which people can travel within Europe, but above all study and work, which is one of the main changes in mentality, awareness on a larger scale, cultural learning, personal development and professional specialisation. France has also been able to cooperate politically with all the member states, thereby strengthening its political and security ambitions, for example in the fight against terrorism and scientific research. And of course, what can make the difference with the rest of the world is the protection of human rights. Despite the creation of the United Nations with the aim of granting the same rights and freedoms to all human beings, unfortunately without management at regional level we can see that human rights are not properly applied, as in Mexico for example. Europe has the opportunity to ensure that these essential values are perpetuated.

2. Algerian war

The Algerian revolution

Since 1830, Algeria has been French, or at least a French colony. Despite its identity, culture and location, France has power over the North African region. The colonies began to emancipate themselves from their tyrannical colonisers, but in France we only talk about human rights in metropolitan France. Indochina, which included Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia, dissolved the French presence on its territory. On the African side, however, there was still no movement until 1954, when war was declared between Algeria and France under the name of the Algerian revolution, demanding independence. On 1 November 1954, the Algerian National Liberation Front called on the population to rise up against French imperialism. The colonial power's first reaction reflected its policy: it responded with force, sending in the armed forces to help with the uprising. They carried out arrests and executions in order to maintain France's repressive power, and in 1955 a state of emergency was declared, increasing the power of the authorities over civilians and adopting a policy of strict control over the population. In 1956, that was enough for Algeria, which decided to strengthen its positions with the start of excessive violence in the war against French repression. A struggle that exploded into a political crisis in metropolitan France, leading to the process of a policy of decolonisation and it was in 1962 that Algeria became independent under the Evian Agreements signed by Charles de Gaulle⁹⁷'s France and the FLN⁹⁸. After applying colonisation policies in Algeria for almost 130 years, with a population that was the victim of racial discrimination, they carried out six years of violent repression on the country, seeking to keep the colony submissive, leaving great trauma as a result of the attacks and massacres carried out, not to mention the violence against women by French troops.

A France of human rights but a coloniser?

France, the leading supporter of the United Nations and the European Union, a key member and so called defender of human rights, has been guilty of major human rights violations. Internationally accused of torturing civilians, arresting and deporting the population and carrying out mass executions, these acts have been denounced on a global scale by international

⁹⁷ French military and president of France during the 5th republic, 1890-1970

⁹⁸ *Front de Libération Nationale*, National Libération Front, revolutionary organization in Algeria pleading for the independence from the French colony, 1954

organisations. More than a military war, it was a war that mainly affected civilians, with massacres and bombings raking the population. They set up camps, leaving the inhabitants to live in precarious conditions, separated from their families and their villages eradicated. They attacked with an excess of violence that was in no way necessary, a force that was totally disproportionate to the Algerian citizens they had in front of them. In metropolitan France, the media were partly censored, or at any rate, controlled so as not to show the state of military violence in North Africa and so as not to arouse the population against the government and thus continue to abuse its political and military power.

This war tarnished France's reputation as a political example, an image of respect for freedoms and rights that was denigrated by the reality of the revolution in Algeria in the eyes of the international community. France was also beginning to criticise the oppressive government, and there was a real division, both internally and nationally, with some French people fervent supporters of this colonial power. However, one thing that did not divide people was the economic cost, both in terms of spending during the war and afterwards. Given the situation of human rights violations, it was France's responsibility to compensate for the necessary reparations, after having spent on artillery and military personnel. However, it also allowed France to question its colonial policies and abusive imperialism, as well as the French colonies in Africa, which were able to follow the independence movement. As for the accusations, they raised global awareness of the violence against the colonies by outspoken supporters who were supposedly defenders of rights and freedoms.

3. Cold war

A war that started out as a conflict between Russia and the United States has turned into a world war without battles on the front line. The United States, yes, but in the wake of the Second World War, American troops have to rely on Westerners, including the members of NATO⁹⁹, and on the Russian side, a Communist front is being created with the association of the countries of the hammer and sickle. And despite their physical distance, the conflict erupted under the pressure of the situation in Korea or Afghanistan for example, between communism and capitalism, between Sputnik¹⁰⁰ and NASA¹⁰¹, a period of war for power between the two

⁹⁹ North Atlantic Treaty Organization, intergovernmental military alliance, 1949

¹⁰⁰ First Artificial Satellite launched by the Soviet Union, 1957

¹⁰¹ National Aeronautics and Space Administration, USA government agency, 1958

superpowers between 1945 and 1991. A conflict that led to the nuclear race or missile crisis, making wars less local but more dangerous, with potential attacks with destructive consequences outside the territories concerned.

Within France, differences between communism and capitalism also emerged within the French population and its policies. In particular, discussions arose when France hosted American military bases, jeopardising national security and the development of anti-American movements. Internationally, there is a great deal of political polarisation, which will threaten economic agreements such as trade between countries behind the United States and those supporting Russia.

CHAPTER 3 THE ACTUAL MEXICO

3.I. OVERVIEW

3.I.1. The Mexican economy¹⁰²

2.I.1.A. Grow of the economy

1. General notions

Mexico has great diversity, abundant natural resources and a favourable geography, which is why it is based mainly on agriculture, livestock, oil industry, services, fishing and foreign trade, many of these activities are managed and controlled by the government, such as energy distribution, exploitation of natural resources and the production of the oil industry, making it one of the fifteen largest economies in the world and the second largest in Latin America. Mexico's economy is in the process of export-oriented development by trading its natural goods, taking advantage of the world's largest silver reserves and the tenth largest oil reserves. Mexico's economy is the 10th largest export-oriented economy in the world as it tries to take advantage of the international treaties it has, being the second country in the world with the highest number of free trade agreements such as the Mexico-United States-Canada free trade agreement, one of the most important for Mexico, exporting mainly automobiles, minerals and industrial goods. Although it has achieved macroeconomic stability, increased per capita income, reduced inflation and interest rates, it has not been able to reduce the large gap between rich and poor, which leaves it underperforming in comparison with similar countries.

2. Gross Domestic Product¹⁰³

The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) shows the monetary value of all finished products and services within a country in a given period, this indicator helps us to understand the development of the economy of a country, this indicator is measured mainly by institutions such as the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) and the Bank of Mexico (BANXICO), generally the GDP is calculated annually, however in Mexico as in many other countries it is also calculated quarterly to see how the economy is behaving within the country during the year.

¹⁰² Participation of the students in finances from the university UNITEC Toluca

¹⁰³ Data from the center of investigation in public politics of Mexico, *Centro de Investigación En Política Pública*

GDP is divided into consumption expenditures, gross fixed capital formation, value of inventories, exports of goods and services minus the value of imports and there are 3 types of GDP which are current or nominal in which is calculated by adding the value of goods and services paid by end users in the period measured, this GDP in the first quarter of 2021 had a growth of 1. This GDP in the first quarter of 2021 had a growth of 1.8% in relation to the year 2020, the real GDP, which eliminates the increase or decrease in prices of goods and services in a period, had a growth of 4.8% in 2021 thanks to its growth in primary and secondary activities, the per capita GDP represents the amount of money that corresponds to each inhabitant of the country if it were distributed to all equally, this is 8,326 dollars per person.

3. Different economic sectors and categories in Mexico

Mexico is a country with great problems of inequality where you can see gaps in economic development between the south and north of the country and between rural and urban areas, but in recent years per capita income has increased and many people have been lifted out of poverty. Mexico's economic system is mixed, where there are markets, but also a state that influences economic decisions, there are private and public companies, the public and private sectors are focused on exports, becoming an alternative for other countries to produce with cheap and well qualified labor. Mexico's income comes from the three economic sectors that group the country's production, which are primary, secondary and tertiary activities.

Mexico has many primary activities thanks to the great biodiversity in flora, fauna as well as diversity of geographical zones, natural resources and climates, some of the agricultural activities are: avocado, green chili, potato, sugar cane, tomato, corn and wheat. The livestock sector is large but is led by the breeding of poultry, cows and pigs. And here is also one of the most important parts for Mexico, which is the extraction of minerals such as lithium, silver, bronze, gold, iron, among others. Its raw material, which has been leading for a long time, is oil, generating great wealth within Mexico.

Its secondary activities are led by the automotive industry, which is recognized worldwide thanks to its high quality standards, being the fifth largest producer of automobiles in the world, another of the productions in which it is also within the top 10, being the sixth is the production of consumer electronics. Textile production, cement, construction, beverages and food are also representative industries of the economy. Having a large oil production within its secondary activities is carried out petrochemicals. Tertiary activities include telecommunications,

transportation, commerce, health, banking, but the most important, being the fourth source of income for Mexico, is the tourism sector, being the eighth most visited country in the world.

4. Treaties related to the economy

Mexico has a network of free trade agreements with 50 countries (FTAs), 30 agreements for the promotion and reciprocal protection of investments (APPRI) with 31 countries or administrative regions and 9 agreements of limited scope (Economic Complementation Agreements and Partial Scope Agreements) within the framework of the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI). Mexico also participates actively in multilateral and regional organisations and forums such as the World Trade Organisation (WTO), the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.

The treaty which initiated all of the above was the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) on 1 January 1994, when Mexico took the initiative of a new economic policy of trade liberalisation. Since then, Mexico's foreign trade has increased sixfold since 1994, achieving success in its administration in the free trade agreements. During the creation of these agreements, there were some asymmetries in the participating countries, Mexico negotiated in conditions of economic and political inequality, it was the time in which it was coming out of the foreign debt crisis, faced a high inflation, a sharp decline in the domestic market and employment, it also had a high dependence on foreign capital as it had a heavy foreign debt. Throughout the time it only had growth in exports, leaving aside the stimulation of economic growth because the data from these dates show us that Mexico grew more when it exported less, some time ago it was believed that exports were harmful for development but the problem is that this interest in growing exponentially in exports has led to take decisions to increase sales abroad, that is why it maintains a low wage level and increasing the imported content of exports, This shows that it is important to implement a new type of policy in the countryside and also to look for social and political stability.

After this research, we can see that from the beginning of these treaties, social issues such as labour mobility, employment, binational compensation mechanisms and the creation of structural funds for regional and rural development have been excluded, as the European Community has done, seeking a balance of growth in foreign trade and exports, but without leaving aside social growth and quality of life.

2.I.1.B, Challenges in the Mexican economical balance

1. Inequalities to face

Rural and urban areas, two different economies

One of the institutions that measures inequality in Mexico is the INEGI, the results of which tell us that inequality continues to be one of the most serious problems for the country, some of the examples are that pensions are concentrated in urban populations, very little in rural populations and almost none in indigenous populations, As well as this example there are others such as relative poverty indicators which measure access to housing, health and social security, on the one hand there is a country that builds many new projects, large amounts of resources destined to real estate companies and on the other hand there are many people without housing. Some average data such as access to water and drainage do not seem to be so low but at the state level there is a big difference, a clear example is that in Nuevo Leon 99% have water every day but in Chiapas and Oaxaca only 40% have this resource, this shows us that although there are improvements there are many regional differences. In the health system we can see that 26% of the population does not have this service, which shows that programs such as "Seguro Popular" have had deficiencies, thanks to the COVID-19 census, the population reported an absence of health services, having localities without any clinic and clinics enabled but with a low health system. In terms of education and the digital divide, it can be seen that the most popular and most disadvantaged populations have increased their educational backwardness, since if they do not have internet, scholarships or a sufficiently updated device, it is very difficult to take classes or have access to information for education. In the pandemic, this problem has affected many communities that do not have access to internet without knowing how many children have stopped studying or participating in school activities, these populations not only lack internet, but also some of them due to lack of resources do not have electricity or television, this left children and young people without opportunities to continue with their studies.

The illustration by the incomes

In this section we talk about the international level and the country level. In terms of international income there are four main activities which are: Agri-food, agricultural and agro-industrial exports, which consist of marketing agricultural products, fruits, vegetables and legumes abroad. Remittances, where remittances are generated by the expulsion of labor in

field activities and other unskilled and low-paying activities, shipments from the economies of Canada and the United States. Oil exports, where income comes from sales of crude oil. Tourism and international travelers accounts for revenues from foreign visitors to beaches, archeological sites and magical towns.

Regarding income at national levels, thanks to surveys such as the national survey of household income and expenditure, it is possible to know how Mexican households receive income and how they spend it at a detailed level. In the most current survey made in 2022, we see that Mexican households have an income of \$53,798 per quarter, \$17,933 per month, most of the income, approximately 58% comes from subordinate work, independent work, wages and salaries, commissions, tips, bonuses, etc.

In Mexico currently in the year 2023 the minimum wages were increased which are divided in two, in the free zone (northern border of the country) where the minimum wage is \$312.41 per day and for the rest of the country is \$207.44, approximately 17.1 million inhabitants in Mexico earn from \$0 to \$3,967, 30.5 million inhabitants earn from \$39,668 to \$18,482 being approximately 2 to 5 minimum wages and only 1.1 million earn more than \$18,483 more than 5 minimum wages, that is why it is a subject of debate in Mexico since due to inflation and other types of expenses that increase with the passage of time the minimum wage is not enough for the expenses of Mexican households.

3.I.2. The social organization in Mexico

3.I.2.A. Healthcare and Educational system

1. The problematic of the healthcare system

The biggest criticism of governance in Mexico concerns its social aspect, from health to education, Mexico has made progress but remains unsatisfactory in view of the worrying figures. In terms of the health system, it is divided between public and private centres, with employers obliged to pay or to take out private insurance in order to be reimbursed for medical treatment. All of this is promoted by the 1983 constitution, which guarantees the right to health under article 4. The public sector is administered by the health secretariat, known as the SSA, which is a government institution that heads up various institutions such as social insurance, services for state workers and family services, and also includes the Institute of Health and Welfare. Both public and private sectors include hospitals, laboratories and medical consultations. The health system is not centralised, as it is organised at both federal and state level, allowing local adaptation to needs and demand. However, there are two national institutions, the IMSS¹⁰⁴ and the ISSSTE¹⁰⁵, which are funded by the federal government. The public sector is generally more limited and less efficient, with less effective care and long waiting times. The healthcare system is not a centralised organisation, since it is organised at both federal and state level, allowing local adaptation to needs and demand.

2. Health insurances

Types of insurance existing

In Mexico, medical insurance varies and is neither universal nor automatic, let alone egalitarian. Everyone's insurance will cover part of their medical expenses, but to different extents depending on the person concerned. These are purchased goods, and their effectiveness will depend on the price paid by the customer. These various goods are known as "plans", and can be individual or group plans, or even plans provided by the government. Group plans are insurances that the individual can take out without having to pay for them, which may be through a professional, religious or voluntary organisation, whereas individual or family plans

¹⁰⁴ *Instituto Mexicano del Seguro Social*, Mexican Social Security Institute, government organization for public health services and social insurance for the employees and their family

¹⁰⁵ *Instituto de Seguridad y Servicios Sociales de los Trabajadores del Estado*, The Institute of Social Security and Services for State Workers

must be taken out by the individual concerned. As we can see, health is covered by a wide range of options, from a mix of public and/or private insurance to meet all needs, to programmes for the uninsured. Group insurance policies offered by employers are deducted directly from employees' salaries, enabling them and their families to be insured. Most of these companies take out the IMSS, which is compulsory to insure their employees, and some go so far as to offer Riesgos mayores insurance, which covers hospitalisation and operations. These policies cover treatment in a public hospital, but if they go to a private hospital, their insurance will only cover part of the cost. The more affluent members of the population can afford to take out excessively expensive insurance policies, so they can benefit from the best doctors without having to wait and have access to the best facilities. In addition to these options, there is also the possibility of accessing medical care via the ISBE, formerly known as secours populaire, which offers uninsured people the chance to receive treatment, although this option is now extremely limited. Mexican workers therefore have access to the public health service when they are employed, which does not include, for example, small family businesses or those who may be self-employed. Within the public sector, the IMSS offers a range of institutions to meet different needs, which means that Mexicans benefiting from the public health service can be directed to specific centres rather than being centralised and generalised. The IMSS hospitals and institutions are semiautonomous and have a board of directors made up of members of the government and employees, with the government funding part of the salaries and social costs. The IMSS is governed by an assembly of thirty members of the federal government and members of various organisations. Being a hybrid system between centralisation and decentralisation, the policies of each institution depend on federal laws, but also on the estatal system. The government at national level applies the Mexican constitution and acts on the general health of the population

Mexican laws to regulate the Healthcare system.

Mexico's healthcare system is regulated by various laws and regulations. Firstly, it must meet the requirements set out in the constitution. This is why the first step to be taken is based on article 4 of the 1983 constitution, which requires access to the health system for all, but there is also a reference in article 1 to human rights, which includes health. In addition, Article 123 ensures the security of social rights for workers in the public sector and the private market, complemented by Article 73, which gives Congress the power to oversee legislation to protect

these rights, surpassing any state government. As a member country of the United Nations, it must therefore also meet the needs and rights set out in its charter. Article 13 of the United Nations Charter refers to the promotion of economic cooperation in the health sector, and article 55, 57, G2 mentions detailed international cooperation in the medical field and the importance of health and physical and mental well-being. At a legal level, the health system is regulated by the General Health Law and other laws and rights established by COFEPRIS¹⁰⁶, the federal health secretariat, and the General Health Law sets out the limits of the powers of the Ministry of Health with regard to social assistance, noting in particular some of the responsibilities assigned when the law was written in 1983, with Chapter II assigning responsibility for organising, operating and supervising. In fact, the Mexican government is responsible for all areas of health except those covered by social insurance, a responsibility that includes not only supervision but also the coordination and establishment of programmes such as HIV, for example.

3. Education organization

Education division

The Mexican education system is divided into three categories before the university stage: primary, secondary and post-secondary, also known as preparatory. Primary school is attended by children between the ages of 6 and 12 on average (6 years) before continuing with the 3 years of secondary school up to the age of 15; these first two categories are compulsory according to SIGED¹⁰⁷, while post-secondary education concerns almost 80% of 15-year-olds, and only 77% of them complete the cycle continuing their studies up to the age of 17. As far as higher education is concerned, around 1 million post-secondary graduates go on to university, which represents almost 35% of the 2.9 million pre-university or “bachillerato¹⁰⁸” graduates. The primary and secondary school completion rates are over 100%, which is an achievement for the country, which is still struggling to provide quality education to its entire population, particularly in rural areas.

¹⁰⁶ *Comisión Federal para la Protección contra Riesgos Sanitarios*, Federal Commission for Protection against Sanitary Risks

¹⁰⁷ *Sistema de Información y Gestión Educativa*, Information System and Educative management

¹⁰⁸ High school

Private - Public school

Education from primary school to university can be provided in either state or private establishments. As far as primary education is concerned, the country has almost 9,000 schools, 90% of which are public and therefore 1 financed by the government, catering for just over 13 million children. However, among the almost 10,000 public schools, prices vary between 2,000 and 8,000 pesos per month. In secondary education, the number of schools has fallen to around 40,000, while the number of private schools has already risen to 14%, with prices ranging from 3,000 to 10,000 pesos per month. The 30% prep schools are private, with a total of 21,000 schools and a budget of between 4,000 and 15,000 pesos. Public schools offer more extensive options, such as bilingual and trilingual education in schools like *Cumbres*¹⁰⁹, as well as extracurricular activities for students, such as sport and music. But the main changes are in the teachers, the number of students per class and the safety of the school in a country like Mexico, where the main concern is the safety of children. This is why families with the least means will prefer the option of studying at low cost, or even free of charge, throughout their child's schooling. These schools only charge a financial contribution towards enrolment fees, and offer an education that is controversial and the subject of debate here in Mexico, particularly by families paying 1G,000 pesos towards their children's schooling through to university.

Mexican laws for the educational system

The Mexican constitution is the federal document that governs all the laws and regulations valid at national level, and includes references to the education system. The first mention occurs in article 2 section B. II, which sets out the basics of schooling in terms of eligibility, rights and obligations. Article 3, which deals with education at federal level, sets out the general principles of Mexican education, including compulsory education in the first two cycles, the importance of free education and the need for it to be equitable and inclusive, This article was last amended in 2019 to bring it into line with the current system and requirements, and specifically mentions the universal right to education for all Mexicans, which is also mentioned in article 4, along with the State's obligation to guarantee children's right to education. Article 31 includes parental responsibility for their children and the educational process, while article 41 concerns the State's responsibility for financing public educational institutions in order to

¹⁰⁹ private school group in Mexico part of the Semper Altius School Network

meet the requirements set out in article 4. The General Education Act is drafted by Mexico's General Congress and approved by the President. The purpose of this text is to define rights, application, principles and standards in order to provide a framework for the country's education system. First and foremost, the law takes up the principles set out in the federal constitution and adds details to the articles that have already been drawn up. The law reiterates secularism, integration, inclusiveness and equality as values of Mexican education. Education is compulsory from primary to preparatory level, and from 6 to 18 years of age, with parents being responsible for applying the law. This text also mentions the importance of being able to offer financial remedies through public programmes in order to guarantee the possibility of access to education for all children until they come of age.

3.I.2.B. Violence and Human Rights in Mexico

1. Violence in Mexico

Violence in Mexico is a serious issue that dates back a very long time, with a bloody twentieth century of homicides, settling of scores within the cartels and a lack of trust with the authorities. Violence is highly diverse, and also varies from state to state, city to city and rural to urban. According to the government and official reports, this violence is a consequence of the country's drug trafficker situation. In Acapulco, for example, it is a matter of determining which family or cartel will take over the town and the reins of traffic there. In Mexico, every state, city and region is controlled by a particular family or group, the best known being *Familia Michoacana* and the Sinaloa cartel (*El Chapo*). However, the attribution of violence to the cartels is debatable, and it is probably also caused by corruption within the legislative, executive and judicial systems, which results in numerous socio-economic inequalities. These inequalities encourage violence in the poorest areas, for example, with an increase in armed robberies, hold-ups and potential kidnappings. Despite the claims of various governments that they are trying to limit this violence, it is their choices and tendentious actions that have led to this complex situation for the population.

According to the figures, the most significant type of violence is homicide, with a rate of almost 30 per 100,000 inhabitants. This violence is perpetrated in particular by organised groups such as drug traffickers. The second type of violence is kidnapping, which has been a problem for a long time, with a figure of around 1 per 100,000 inhabitants, putting constant pressure on the

population, particularly children. In third place is extortion, which is directly linked to cartel groups and affects the community directly, with a figure of 3 to 5 per 100,000 inhabitants, although in reality this type of monetary claim affects anyone who runs a small or large “negocio¹¹⁰”. Robbery is also a major problem in Mexico, with various types of robbery taking place, including the robbery of shops, people and cars. One of the major current concerns is gender-based violence, with a major problem of femicide in Mexico, particularly as a result of domestic violence. Among the most complex regions are Guerrero¹¹¹, Mexico State¹¹², Veracruz¹¹³ and Guanajuato¹¹⁴, which are subject to a large number of different types of violence.

Violence did not just appear in the 21st century. In 1930, the homicide rate was 77 per 100,000 inhabitants, more than double that figure when you consider that it will be 29 in 2020 (according to INEGI), figures that are reminiscent of the homicide situation in Europe 300 years ago. But violence doesn't stop there, it becomes a socio-economic issue, with an increase in aggression in poorer and rural areas, but above all moral violence against people with no future, a form of violence that appears less in the figures but affects many people in Mexico (Scheper Hughes 2004). Another type of violence that persists in Mexico is the institutional and governmental violence that attempts to reduce crime, which has the opposite effect.

2. Protection of Human Rights

Human Rights institutions

Human rights are protected in particular by the Mexican judicial system, both federal and state, both of which are responsible for promoting human rights in the country. The Mexican courts have a duty to apply the law and above all the Mexican constitution, which mentions the importance of respecting the fundamental rights and freedoms of its citizens. Among the rights of its citizens, access to justice is one of them, on an individual basis and with the aim of controlling the application of the constitution. This right must be accessible to all in order to protect the most vulnerable, such as women, children and people with disabilities. There are also specialised human rights institutions, such as the National Human Rights Commission

¹¹⁰ Comercial entity or activity

¹¹¹ State located on the south-west coast known for the city of Acapulco

¹¹² Neighbour state of the capital Mexico City in the center of the country

¹¹³ State located in the gulf of Mexico on the east coast

¹¹⁴ State located in the center-north of the country

(CNDH), a federal institution responsible for defending citizens whose fundamental rights have been violated by federal or state authorities. Like the CNDH, the State Commission for Human Rights is autonomous and responsible for violations within the State to which it belongs. To complement the above institutions there are the 1scality, firstly the the republic's general tax system and the institutions at state level, the 1scalia is made to protect citizens for cases of human rights or not, it also defends for example cases of gender violence. Of course, people living in Mexico can also rely on international bodies such as the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and United Nations bodies.

Laws to protect Human Rights

Human rights are mainly detailed in the Mexican constitution of 1917, the text describes the fundamental principles as legal importance as for example the right to life or freedoms. The federal constitution remains the text with the greatest legal importance in the eyes of the Mexican judiciary and therefore the highest level of laws on fundamental rights and freedoms. In addition, by the participation as member of the United Nations, Mexico accept the articles mentioned in the charter, particularly about Human Rights.

3.I.2.C. Cartels, lower class or higher class

The cartels developed over the course of the twentieth century, and today they are omnipresent in the country. While there is talk of programmes to eradicate the Narcos from the lives of Mexicans by listening to studies and governors, none of this is real and we find diplomatic cooperation with presidents who are obviously obliged to work with the "bandits". The cartels are therefore omnipresent, in politics of course, but above all in the lives of Mexicans and rich narcos, but not at all levels of drug-related organisation. As far as the general population is concerned, they are involved at many levels, with the poorest and the richest alike, each with their own role to play in the sovereignty of the drug trafficking.

Who are they?

The "Narcos", or cartels, are profit-making organisations based on illegal activities, particularly those related to drugs, a dangerous environment but not only for one category of the population, they are an omnipresent sovereignty over the territory. The Narcos are members

of organisations that have been established and developed since the previous century, including well-known families such as *El Chapo and Familia Michoacana*, and employees from all walks of life, from extortionists for the most bloodthirsty, to bodyguards, lawyers and politicians, so that they can find their place in all walks of life. A cartel is headed by an oligarchy, and of the many people involved in the pyramid organisation, the smallest are the dealers, who are often the first victims of the police, and gradually become people of influence in society. Each group will hold a district, a town, a state, in which case the zone's ownership is not established. There is talk of wars between cartels in order to appropriate a town, for example, in terms of sales, sovereignty and responsibilities, as we see in Acapulco and Guerrero. The “Narcos” have a certain form of governance; for example, the regions heavily dominated by the mafia are more or less tranquil zones because of the vigilance they bring to the security of citizens, as in Sinaloa, known for the Sinaloa cartel but nevertheless a tranquil zone for Mexicans. So the cartels are everywhere and at every level, mixed up with the police and politicians, in control of who will be the most powerful. Who will be the next governor and who won't, who the police will chase and lock up and who they won't. They have their hands on every business in the country on every scale. They have their hands on every business in the country on every scale. In fact, the most common way of doing this is to demand commissions from all entrepreneurs, event organisers, grocers and restaurateurs. The cartels will protect their businesses from any thugs or criminals, but this protection is neither optional nor free, so every Mexican who wants to open a business will have to cooperate.

The different groups

Each family is developing more or less in one or more states, but it's clear to everyone which territory belongs to whom here in Mexico, and their activity and impact vary according to the area and demand. One of the best known, particularly abroad, is the Sinaloa cartel led by the Chapo family. This cartel is active throughout the country in trafficking a wide range of drugs, and is also involved in exporting marijuana, cocaine and the new drug Fentanyl to the United States. Another current group, particularly in the state of Mexico, is familia michoacana, although they originate from the state of michoacan, but their strong position in their territory has enabled them to expand. Today, the Familia Michoacana is in some ways one of the most influential organisations in Mexico, more influenced in Michoacan but especially in the state of Mexico, the actors of settlements of scores such as homicides by inflammation of people,

hangings from bridges etc.. Among the very old ones, there is the cartel of Tijuana, a very popular city in Mexico for traffic because of its location on the border with the United States, or the cartel of Jalisco which is currently in the news because the state of Jalisco has been declared a red zone.

The need to work with disadvantaged groups

Cartels are therefore multi-military and are not just organisations with huge amounts of money; they are present in the daily lives of people with so-called normal lives, in a limited economic category, and will intervene in a variety of ways. Firstly, it's fairly easy to find labour and employees for the most menial tasks in the business. People who are destitute or even desperate for the system will find it easy to get jobs such as selling drugs on a small scale, or packing or transporting goods. The cartels will also offer money in exchange for actions such as giving up one's identity card so as to be able to vote and thus win votes in order to place their candidates in politics, not to mention direct corruption or clientelism. This will enable those who are not favoured by the political system, or even those who have no particular interest because of their lack of confidence in their politicians, to earn small sums of money to improve their daily lives, given that more than 40% of Mexicans live below the poverty line. We saw this in Colombia during the era of Pablo Escobar, who, before being bad guys, went against the norms established by dubious policies that did nothing to improve the local situation.

The involvement of the so-called "rich"

The cartels are anti-society as we know it and as we imagine it, making their money through illegal trade, by settling situations with gunfire and by the uncooperative nature of their organisation. However, we must not believe that the cartels are not intertwined with politicians, as we know, but also with the people at the head of society, the economy and public safety. As we have already seen, they require the cooperation of any of the businesses known as "negocio¹¹⁵", in a proportional manner, with an interest in the largest companies.

People know who they are, where they live and what they do, and the forces of law and order are at their mercy in terms of not intervening, but also protecting them. Added to this is a social effect that might seem highly controversial, but there is a trend in the Narcos world to look like

¹¹⁵ Comercial entity or activity

them, to live like them, to listen to their music and so on. People with money will behave like Narcos, with a style of music called 'Corridos', organising big parties, going out in luxury vehicles and with lots of women, especially those who have surgery. This world has become a real Mexican trend, a sort of model of how things should be done and a quality of life that dreams are made of.

Some of the wealthiest members of society will be fervent friends of the Narcos, and so the mix with society takes place very quickly, with shared interests, shared parties and protection. It's a friendship with the potential for unofficial contracts between them, economic interests but not only that, the main players in the cartels will be very popular and therefore easily befriend their neighbours or event companions.

3.I.3. Political hierarchy at the federal, state, and international level

3.I.3. A. National aspects

1. Federal Constitution

The United Mexican States is a federal democratic republic divided into 33 independent states. However, all of them follow the federal laws enshrined in the 1917 constitution, which has undergone numerous changes and reforms in the meantime. The federal constitution is the supreme power in terms of Mexican jurisdiction, with more authority than any state constitution. It is this constitution that implies the separation of the three powers and ensures their balance. Although there are other pieces of legislation, divided by area, the constitution maintains all fundamental rights across the board, from education to individual and national security. The purpose of the constitution is to protect citizens and promote human rights, which can be asserted through the right of amparo in the event of acts contrary to the constitution that impede freedom and violate rights. Amparo is a judicial process available to Mexican citizens to defend themselves against injustices relating to the rights set out in the Constitution or in international treaties. It is a right that cannot be surpassed in Mexico, either because it has been enshrined since 1917, or because of reforms or amendments to the constitution, for which a legislative process must be followed.

2. Check and Balance, the 3 powers

The three powers at the federal level are the executive, the legislature and the judiciary. These three powers are based on the check-and-balance model. This organisation separates the powers so as not to concentrate all decisions in a single body, with the aim of distributing them more fairly and optimising the transparency of government. The check and balance system begins with the executive, represented by the President of the Republic, who nevertheless holds the main powers while working in agreement with the other branches. The executive is responsible for coordinating federal, state and municipal institutions, for Mexico's international policy and for federal matters such as the police and the economy. The legislative branch is represented by Congress, with two institutions, the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate. The Chamber of Deputies is made up of 500 deputies who are elected every 3 years to represent the country's various districts, and are responsible for revising and proposing legislation. The Senate is made up of 128 senators who are elected every 6 years and represent the various states. They are responsible for reviewing and approving laws, treaties and appointments of civil servants at federal level. The Congress therefore votes on all kinds of decisions in the fields of education, security and international affairs, in support of the executive. A law must be passed and decided by the Senate, the House and the President before it can be fully approved. The check-and-balance principle is complemented by the judiciary, which is headed by the nation's supreme court and responsible for applying the laws and, first and foremost, the constitution. The courts of the Supreme Court are located throughout the country and are administered by the Federal Judicial Council, which ensures optimum coordination.

3. “Los Secretarios”

Executive power at federal level is also divided by area through secretariats, which are the equivalent of ministries in some countries. Among the most important is the *Secretaría de Gobernación*, which manages domestic policy issues, including public security, migration issues and relations and coordination with the States, districts and municipalities, known as the SEGOB. With regard to migration issues, it works in conjunction with the SRE, the Secretariat for International Relations, which organises Mexico's foreign policy, diplomatic relations, international treaties and all external players. Public finances are administered by the

"*secretaria de Hacienda y credito publico*¹¹⁶", also known as the SHCP, which is responsible for public finances, taxes and economic policies, as mentioned above. With regard to education, we find the SEP, *secretaria de educación pública*¹¹⁷, which is responsible for applying the laws on education and therefore the policies concerning public schools. The SSA, *secretaria de salud*¹¹⁸, is the highest health institution, responsible for the public sector as seen in chapter 3 part a1, the implementation of popular actions to provide a health care service to everyone and to be able to benefit from insurance. And finally, among the main secretariats, the one dedicated to workers and the professional and employment environment in general is the STPS, "*secretaria del Trabajo y Previsión Social*¹¹⁹", which applies the constitution concerning employees' rights, and establishes standards to guarantee good working conditions. They are responsible for inspecting and protecting employment, taking the lead on unemployment and proposing training and skills.

4. Political parties

As we have seen, there was only one party in existence during the previous century, the PRI. Although the Institutional Revolutionary Party is still around today, new parties have emerged, mainly during the 1990s. The PRI, for example, distributed a salary to housewives to enable them to stay at home and look after their children. Among the other parties that are important in Mexican politics today is the MORENA party, which stands for "*Movimiento Regeneración Nacional*¹²⁰". The party was recently founded in 2014 to represent the left by the president currently in office in Mexico. The party's primary aim was to tackle corruption and inequality, with the aim of promoting all sectors of society as defenders of social justice. MORENA's policies have been heavily criticised for over-developing social programmes and investing money solely in social and economic inequality. The PRI and MORENA allied themselves with the two other main parties during the elections, the PAN¹²¹ and the PVEM¹²². The PAN is the national action party, which was one of the parties to counter the dominance of the PRI in 1939, a centre-right party that wants to develop a market economy and conservative values.

¹¹⁶ Ministry of the Finance and Public Credit

¹¹⁷ Ministry of Public Education

¹¹⁸ Ministry of Health

¹¹⁹ Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare

¹²⁰ Movement of National Regeneration

¹²¹ *Partido Acción Nacional*, National Action Party from 1939

¹²² *Partido Verde Ecologista de México*, Ecologist Green Party of Mexico, 1986

It was also the first party to succeed the PRI in 2000. And finally, the PVEM, which is the Green Ecological Party of Mexico, a party based on environmental issues, was founded at a time when many parties had the opportunity to emerge in Mexico during the 1990s.

3.I.3. B. State organization

1. Independent states

As Mexico is a federal republic divided into independent states, there is, as mentioned above, a statewide power structure. The 33 independent states have their own local authorities, government and institutions, and each state is based on its own constitution in accordance with the national constitution. The branches of state government are responsible for and administer subjects within their own territory. They will therefore, according to their own constitution, organise the education, health and transport systems, and they also have their own economy and economic development. Although the States are described as independent, it should be pointed out that their powers are limited by the national organisation of the country, in particular the constitution, which they cannot go against, but also political decisions, which are subordinate to the federal level. Coordination, in order to divide the powers of each government, is enshrined in the national constitution in order to avoid any type of conflict.

Federal or State ?

Powers are shared between the federal and state governments, although the main decisions are taken and reviewed jointly in each of their main areas. For example, decisions on foreign policy are taken mainly by the federal government because of the common interest, as is defence at national level. Responsibilities such as health and education are the responsibility of the state, which must fund these services, as must public works and state justice. Mexico is divided into states, which are in turn split into municipalities in order to guarantee the protection of citizens and their rights throughout the country. With these different levels of governance, there is a possibility of balance through centralised decision-making on a decentralised basis.

As far as the police are concerned, there are different types, as is governance, and the law enforcement agencies themselves are divided. At the federal level, there is the national guard, which replaced the federal police in 2019. It is dedicated to protecting human rights and internal security and operates throughout the country, working with the help of the military forces. Then there is the state police, which is the responsibility of the government of each state and deals

with crime in its own territory, complemented by the municipal police, which is involved in public safety at local level.

We have already seen the division of powers and, in particular, a judicial category that is independent of the legislative and executive branches, and, like the other divisions, the judicial system has institutions at state level. The state courts work only with cases that are limited to their borders and involve non-federal jurisdictions, and it is the courts that deal with administrative, family and labour matters, and their judges and magistrates are appointed by the government of the state to which they belong. The domain of the State refers to the other domains of the governor and not of the president of the republic, who, like the president, will be responsible for the executive power of the State, for its administration, for appointing the members of its government, but also for public security on its territory. He will be accompanied by the legislative power through the Congress of the State.

3.I.3. C. International Politics

Mexico's international policy focuses on a number of areas, including bilateral diplomatic relations and bilateral relations through multinational agreements and organisations. Mexico also has foreign trade policies, particularly with the rest of North America. Its geographical location subjects the country to significant migratory flows, as it is the only land-based gateway to the United States from the south. As a developing country, it benefits enormously from international cooperation through various programmes, and is also a key element in supporting the various countries of Latin America. Mexico's international relations are directed and coordinated by the Secretariat for External Relations (SRE), which acts as the executive body for international affairs. It is responsible for implementing policies and relations throughout the world, and for negotiating, approving and signing various treaties and agreements with other countries and international organisations.

1. Treaties and relationships

Mexico maintains close relations with various players around the world. These relations may be diplomatic, but are often the subject of agreements and treaties that promote the country's development. Mexico's main centres of relations include North America, Latin America, the

European Union and East Asia. These diverse relationships enable Mexico to expand its foreign policies and, above all, its trade, making the country one of the world's leading powers. Among these countries are the members of North America, which have a triple alliance through the TMEC¹²³ treaty with Canada and the United States of America. Previously, trade relations in North America were governed by NAFTA¹²⁴, but in 2020 a new trade agreement was signed by the three nations to modernise the policies of the previous treaty. TMEC is a free trade treaty to facilitate trade, but this update has made it possible to introduce specific policies such as digital trade.

Mexico also has a close relationship with the European Union, both through its membership and with the Union itself, not to mention its participation in the Global Economic Association Agreement between Mexico and the EU. In 2000, Mexico signed the Economic Partnership Agreement to reduce customs costs and promote trade and investment abroad, and in 2018 they decided to revisit the agreement to modernise it and adapt it to the new context, mentioning sustainable development, labour rights etc. Beyond the economic sphere, Mexico is working on a policy of cultural cooperation with the European Union, sharing knowledge and technologies, academic exchanges and investment by European companies.

Mexico is a leader in Latin America, notably through the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), a centre for political cooperation between 33 countries in the political, social and economic spheres. CELAC enables joint initiatives to be taken on issues that affect them all, such as poverty, regional economic integration and environmental protection, but above all the need to promote democracy and protect human rights. And in order to pursue its development with the world's powers, Mexico has drawn closer to Asian powers such as China and Japan. Since China's growing emergence, it has been necessary to strengthen economic relations with partnerships on goods and raw materials, but also investment opportunities on both sides. With Japan, we are talking about cooperation in energy and the automotive industry (Nissan), as well as political and commercial relations in education and culture.

¹²³ *Tratado México EEUU Canadá*, Treaty Mexico USA Canada

¹²⁴ North American Free Trade Agreement, 1994

2. International Organisations that Mexico took part

United Nations

Mexico has been a member of the United Nations since it was founded in 1945, taking part not only in the General Assembly but also on several occasions in the Security Council, following its election as a non-permanent member in 1949, 1980, 2001, 2009 and 2020. Mexico is also a member of the WHO, the UNDP, and in particular the UN Women institution in Mexico City. By participating in these various United Nations bodies, Mexico is first and foremost committed to respecting the fundamental objectives of the 2030 Agenda, including the eradication of poverty and hunger, access to health and well-being, access to education, gender equality, access to drinking water, clean energy, economic growth, innovation, reducing inequalities, sustainable cities, responsible consumption, climate action, marine life, ecosystems, etc. This makes it possible to organise summits and conferences on these issues. This is a key asset in countries like Mexico, where climate action and equality are rather sensitive issues.

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

The OECD focuses on economic development issues, ranging from analysis and surveys of its members to proposals for legislation and policies. The organisation will compare a number of areas in order to propose the best models to follow. The economy can affect trade, education, health, government and the way policies are made in the different member countries. It's a think tank way of improving economic development by looking at what our neighbours are doing and suggesting models that work. The OECD was created in 1961 and it was in 1994 that Mexico joined the 37 other countries that now work together. The Mexico evaluation has enabled us to gain a better understanding of the issues relating to investment and governance in health, education and innovation, and to learn from the best nations in the field, so that we can take ownership and adapt in a context of sustainable development.

G20

The G20 was set up in 1999 in response to the various global financial crises, with the aim of proposing global solutions and multilateral policies for the governance of international finance and discussions on international trade. Its members include European nations such as France and Italy, as well as the BRICS countries and other members such as Saudi Arabia, Turkey and

Indonesia. The G20's initial ambitions were to resolve crises linked to the economy, but today the Group of 20 is discussing concrete, topical issues, notably ecology, but also all kinds of other areas in order to work hand in hand with emerging countries, developing countries and the main poles of globalisation.

The Organisation of American States

The OAS is an organisation that brings together 35 states from the two American continents. It was founded in 1948 when it became necessary to join forces in the name of world peace in order to work for the security of the world's population and the promotion of democracy. This regional organisation has enabled Mexico to remain in multilateral contact with the rest of the Americas, improving its relations. The OAS is a forum for discussing and promoting democracy and human rights, encouraging dialogue and limiting conflict.

“La France et le Mexique”

France and Mexico have always enjoyed close ties, and despite a diplomatic crisis under Nicolas Sarkozy over a legal case that had become an international affair, François Hollande's policies reestablished the links between the two countries. Diplomatic relations between the two countries date back to 1820, with the start of a formal political friendship. There are also cultural exchanges, in particular academic exchanges in both Mexico and France, with the aim of enriching knowledge in areas such as European art and pre-Columbian history, as well as exchanging views on science and technology on a variety of scales. We can also see that they share different values through their involvement in the same organisations such as the OECD, the G20 and the United Nations.

3.I.3. D. Cartels implication

As a matter of organisational principle, the cartels are involved in Mexican politics. In order to develop, they have had to become involved in federal, state and municipal politics. For the good life of these citizens, the governor must submit to the demands of the narcos, who sometimes become a danger to public safety in the event of disagreements.

Elections or partnerships?

It is well known in Mexico that illegal organisations are supported by the aforementioned governors, security entities and economic institutions. In order to win elections, you first have to be approved by the local cartel, or the whole of it, with the aim of limiting arrests, profiting from the drug-related economy and developing policies that allow everyone to coexist. With the extortion of votes and the disappearance of candidates who might be a little too revolutionary on the issue, it becomes clear very quickly that the candidates present have all agreed to cooperate. What's more, the proposal to the public of reforms concerning narcotrafficking and the pseudo arrests that were publicised in the media served to pretend that there were no links between the two circles. However, in Mexico, the cartels have got their hands on every sector and on every scale, without which their omnipresence would have been impossible, and in view of their development, it is impossible to believe that it can be politically controlled and limited.

The same applies to the forces of law and order: the families at the head of the cartels are known to the whole population and are easy to locate, the settling of scores is easy to find out about and sometimes even announced, people are not really undercover or withdrawn, on the contrary, and yet arrests are not made as often as you might think. It would be almost impossible to eradicate the cartels politically. since this would give rise to numerous internal conflicts due to their economic resources and their power over the whole territory. The division of the government into states and then into municipalities brought it closer to the people, but also to the illegal organisations: the smaller the scale, the easier it was to infiltrate, and through this to the federal government. As the cartels were divided into geographical areas, everyone was able to take part in certain states and their governance. What's more, with the intense participation of different social levels, it's complicated to go against them.

3.II. REALITY IN MEXICO

3.II.1.Living in Mexico

This part is the fruit of my personal experience and of the various people who have given me their detailed view of today's Mexico.

1. Economical grow

The local disparities

Mexico is a country that thrives on the inequalities that surround it. Indeed, the country attracts international companies for its natural resources and its low-cost, high-quality labor force,

which works under better conditions than in African or Asian factories. However, the number of people who can take advantage of these benefits is much smaller, and most Mexicans struggle to live up to the standards of their North American and European neighbors. Let's say we consider only the so-called middle class and below. These people have a hard time getting by, but with Mexico's economic evolution, the rich or lucky have managed to get by, and this category has created a gap with the rest of the Mexican people. These inequalities can be found at different levels, obviously among the population, between the professions of the global world and those considered "sub-professions". Let me explain: there are many small and medium-sized business owners in Mexico, people who have worked, studied and succeeded in finding their place in national and even international trade. These people are adept at traveling to the Americas and Europe, with luxurious cars and comfortable homes. On the other hand, service professions such as catering, cleaning and manual trades pay around 200-300 euros a month.

A massive inflation

In fact, Mexico's development has led to high inflation, raising the cost of daily living to a South European level, with wages not exceeding those mentioned above. As a result, almost half of the population is considered poor, lacking the financial means to get ahead. According to the Mexicans, this inflation is simply the result of bad decisions. In fact, in Mexico, 2% of the population holds most of the wealth in a hyper-polarized society. Add to this the global crises that Mexico has had to face and adapt its economy to the disadvantage of those with less means. This is a consequence of the current political system, which is solely concerned with elections and party politics. The current government is behind the times in terms of how to run a country while integrating itself into the globalized world without making the population suffer.

2. Social Life

Healthcare service getting more than more restricted

According to the government, there is access to medical care for people without social insurance, offering access to the healthcare system to the entire population. However, Mexico is experiencing a serious shortage of medicines, caused by a lack of organization at government level in the process of ordering sufficient quantities. Sometimes you have to go to the hospital to get treatment, but you have to get the drugs and first-aid kits yourself, because you don't

have enough medical supplies. And that's only if you can get them. Yes, stock-outs are piling up and some medicines are becoming impossible to obtain.

As far as access to genuine medical care is concerned, it is of course possible, given the means, to go to places like high-quality clinics with the necessary equipment and staff commensurate with the demand. However, this is reserved for a tiny proportion of the population, most of whom will not need it. The reality is that diabetics have lost access to their daily care since the closure of the "seguro social", which was supposed to have been replaced, but to no avail. Cancer sufferers, in some cases, have to finance their own treatment, which is impossible to access due to its very high cost. Not to mention pregnancy, a criterion that is not always included in all types of insurance, and due to overcrowding in the public sector and lack of resources, many people find themselves paying several thousand to ensure that they can carry a pregnancy to term. A condition which, of course, becomes more difficult when complications arise during childbirth, necessitating operations which, once again, are difficult for some families to endure.

Access to healthcare as it is in Europe is totally different, and despite social security coverage remains very limited, particularly for ophthalmological and dental expenses, or interventions requiring a higher level of medical care such as operations or chemotherapy. Added to this, there is less prevention, people are misinformed about health issues and many don't seek the care they need.

The reality of the education in Mexico

Education in Mexico, as in all areas, reflects the country's inequalities. There is access to public schools, from kindergarten to university, but this is severely limited in terms of quality. Firstly, there is a lack of security. As Mexico is a country with many problems of violence and insecurity, some schools don't take care to check who the children leave with, or whether they actually attend school. What's more, it's likely that teachers sometimes don't show up for class, and so lose days of study for no good reason. Exams, too, are sometimes of poor academic quality, so it's easy to validate years without really having solid knowledge. Most public school students never learn how to write essays, for example, and are content with quiz-style exams, compared with private schools, which offer a comprehensive, in-depth education.

In Mexico, because of its proximity to the United States, the emphasis is on English, and so in private schools bilingual teaching is provided from primary school onwards, so that children

finish with an equal level of English and academic Spanish before they come of age and enter university. This difference means that students from private schools have all the more opportunities, whether national or international. What's more, most academic exchange programs in Mexico are not free of charge. This makes it almost impossible for those without the means to learn a foreign language properly.

3. Political trust and opinions

Total lack of confidence in Mexico

Of all the acquaintances who were able to participate in the elaboration of this work, none could testify to having confidence in their government. Mexico is said to be a democracy, yet no one is on the side of the president elected just 5 years ago. Andrés Manuel Lopez Obrador, a member of the MORENA movement, is a Mexican politician who took part in the PRI and PRD movements before moving on to federal government. In Mexico, I haven't been able to find a single person who can give me a positive aspect of his presidency, nor who can testify that his government was trustworthy. One has to wonder who the 53.2% of voters were. Nevertheless, there is a certain nostalgia for the days of the PRI and PAN, which Mexicans believe were parties that knew how to govern. Like any corrupt environment, today's politicians would not have the country's interests in mind, but only their own. Of course, everyone is aware of the corruption that has always dominated Mexican politics, especially since the arrival of narco-trafficking at all levels. However, people were more convinced before, notably by the perfect dictatorship of the 20th century. Some people even wonder whether corruption isn't really a cultural and genetic fact, given its monopoly.

One of the problems I've heard repeated is the lack of selection in politics, a lack of loyalty and nationalism. Of course, education is a key factor in reaching high office, but unfortunately it doesn't create good politicians in the eyes of Mexicans. Mexicans feel betrayed and feel they have lost their human rights since the arrival of the new president.

3.II.2. Future expected in Mexico

1. Becoming an economical power

As we have seen, Mexico is a country with the potential to become one, and there are a number of key economic points that allow us to hope for significant growth over the coming decades. Mexico has carved out a place for itself in several types of industry, including manufacturing,

where companies can take advantage of low cost but more controlled working conditions than in some Asian or African countries. At the same time, Japan's partnership with Nissan has considerably developed Mexico's automotive sector. Among other industries, Mexico has also entered the electronics and aerospace markets. These commitments have enabled major firms such as Tesla to set up shop in Mexico, creating a gigantic industrial space in the north-central part of the country.

In fact, Mexico can and will continue to benefit from one thing that cannot be changed: its geographical position. Mexico has access to both the Pacific and Atlantic oceans, enabling it to transfer goods directly from one side to the other. What's more, it's located to the south of the American giant, and as part of the North American continent, this is to its advantage, in terms of both local trade and opportunities for various economic treaties. The United States has been, and still is, a major supporter and contributor to the Mexican economy. The country's geography also provides it with a wealth of natural resources, enabling it to export abroad and attract investment from all over the world. As far as investors are concerned, Mexico can count on the international agreements seen above, which enable it to implement broader free trade policies that go beyond continental limits. The natural resources on which Mexico can rely are varied, starting with oil and natural gas, making the country one of Latin America's driving forces in this field. Mexico is also a rich source of mining resources, with reserves ranging from gold to zinc, copper, silver and many other minerals. It is also a producer of corn, coffee and chocolate, for example, making it a rich country.

Mexico has a long and interesting culture to tell, notably of its Mayan era, which remains impressive and almost unbelievable for the advance they had in terms of society, then the history of a country colonized by the Spanish and subsequently made independent. This history attracts many archaeological scientists, as some of the pre-colonial sites are still locked away in the jungle. What's more, there's a great deal of both historical and cultural tourism in the central part of the country, which extends to beaches and incredible landscapes. This strength enables Mexico to attract Americans in particular, who are looking for a different way of life, more fulfillment and well-being.

2. Having a correct life standard for all its population

What I was able to retain and glimpse during these exchanges was the importance of finding a decent standard of living in Mexico. The standard of living obviously starts with eliminating the poverty that affects a large proportion of Mexicans. But beyond that, it's the whole social system that needs a helping hand. Starting with insecurity, Mexicans don't feel safe in their own country. According to some, this insecurity is caused by the omnipresence of organised crime and the illegal drug trade, which wields considerable power throughout the country and in all areas.

We also need to focus on health and education. Firstly, real prevention for the population on how to look after themselves, on the importance of looking after themselves and offering them the opportunity to do so. This starts with teaching people about proper nutrition and healthy balance, with the aim of developing a better diet. This change would limit diseases such as diabetes, obesity, deficiencies, heart disease and many others. As for education, the government should focus on the quality of school curricula and establishments, but also invest in research and offer real opportunities to its students.

But according to most of the population, the real need is for quality political programmes. The same things are mentioned during election campaigns, but these programmes are quickly forgotten. Mexico is a developing country with great wealth, both geographically, in terms of location and resources, and in terms of people. The country really needs to invest more intelligently and in a better organisation.

CONCLUSION

France was already a world power when Mexico was discovered, a Mexico ruined by the arrival of the Spanish and the imposition of their culture. While France played with its monarchies, Mexico had to build its identity, and there were different revolutions. On the one hand, France had an economic base, education and military and political power. On the other, Mexico had to face up to its coloniser after 300 years of reign over its own territory. Despite similar situations in terms of rebellion by the people, France fought against dynasties and emperors who belonged to it, while Mexico had to turn against its entire organisation and government. Here, then, is an initial point of weakness on the part of Latin America, which began to organise itself in its own name at the beginning of the nineteenth century. Mexico as we know it today dates back only some 200 years, when the Spanish finally succumbed to the war of independence. However, the arrival of the twentieth century was just as complicated on both sides of the Atlantic, with Napoleon destroying France and its relations, and on the other side the politics of terror and anti-colonialism.

War broke out quickly on the French side, which could have diminished their power and standard of living, but it had positive repercussions on the country despite the bloody fighting. The war in Europe meant that drastic decisions had to be taken in terms of geopolitics, industrialisation and development in general. Meanwhile, Mexico was locked in a vicious circle of accumulating bad policies. The government tried an authoritarian approach, but this worsened the inequalities between entrepreneurs and the rest of the population. To remedy this problem, policies arrived with a "perfect dictatorship", locking the country into a difficult political, economic and social situation for the entire century. Admittedly, the people were more or less happy under the PRI government, but nothing really progressed, neither the institutions nor international investment. So it was in the middle of the 20th century that France was already in the process of globalisation, integrated into various international organisations. On the other hand, Mexico continued with a single party at the head of the country, creating a small number of international agreements based mainly on trade and therefore losing the "global locomotive". In the second half of the 20th century, France lost its colonies and once again found itself in the middle of wars such as Algeria and the Cold War. Mexico, for its part, had to face up to a new type of war, the war against the cartels. With its fragile economy and society in general, this opened the door for the cartels to integrate. So it's only logical that Mexico's entry into the 21st century should have been based on a different model, with one

country enjoying considerable momentum and the other taking a back seat to the other world powers.

As a country that leads the world in progress, it is necessary to participate in the development of countries in need. Mexico's main problem in terms of international cooperation is that it is limited to a minimum. Foreign and inward investment is still rather low, and cultural exchanges are only accessible to a small number of people. Mexico needs to implement a number of programmes, firstly to establish a real "cartel hunt" in order to put an end to their supremacy. However, Mexico also needs a reliable policy in terms of confidence, ambition and the implementation of projects. These include social projects such as investment in public education and health institutions. The support to be given would be in terms of projects of this type, at a social level to be able to bring real benefits to local populations. However, it is complicated with current governments to achieve this level of international cooperation through a closed system and treaties based solely on trade. Mexico may have potential in industrial sectors such as automotive parts assembly.

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