



Image: Provided by Fototeca-INAH. Núm. 6314 | "Desfile de la vanguardia de la división Pacheco-Zapatistas"

INTRODUCTION

The Mexican Revolution is one of the most important events of the 20th Century. The first revolution of the century, it's a narrative that is at times complex, complicated, and perhaps even convoluted. While there is no way to calculate the exact number of casualties, historians estimate that one million people were killed during the Revolution. Some even say the loss of life was closer to two million. There is no question the Revolution irrevocably changed the course of Mexican history, but it also had a significant impact on the United States. More than one million Mexican refugees entered the United States attempting to escape the death and destruction wrought by the Revolution. Despite this impact, the topic of the Mexican Revolution, if taught at all, is only briefly addressed in classrooms or textbooks. As the first revolution caught on film, available resources allow students to actually see the people and events that would forever change North America.

Coinciding with the birth of filmmaking and the increased mobility offered by the reflex camera, the Mexican Revolution received extraordinary coverage by photographers and cineastes—commercial and amateur, national and international. Many images of the Revolution remain iconic to this day—Francisco Villa galloping toward the camera; Villa lolling in the presidential chair next to Emiliano Zapata; and Zapata standing stolidly in charro raiment with a carbine in one hand and the other hand on a sword, to mention only a few.

This curriculum guide is inspired by, although it stands apart from, an exhibit of photos of the Mexican Revolution - many never published before. Titled "Testimions de una guerra," the exhibit represents the most ambitious and historically accurate visual record of the Mexican Revolution. It is on view at the National Hispanic Cultural Center in Albuquerque, New Mexico, from January 30-March 31, 2014, and is co-sponsored by the Instituto Cervantes of Albuquerque, Mexican Consulate of Albuquerque, Spanish Resource Center of Albuquerque, National Hispanic Cultural Center, and the University of New Mexico Latin American & Iberian Institute.