

# TIMELINE<sup>10</sup>

## 1884

- ☞ Porfirio Díaz begins his second term as president of Mexico and modifies the constitution to stay in power.

## 1908

- ☞ In an interview with an American journalist, Díaz announces that he will retire at the end of his term because Mexico is ready to hold free elections.

## 1910

- ☞ Díaz runs for reelection but when Francisco I. Madero enters the race he has Madero put in jail and he wins the election.
- ☞ Madero escapes to San Antonio, TX, where he drafts the Plan of San Luis Potosí that calls for the overthrow of the Díaz regime.
- ☞ The Revolution begins with insurrections in several states in northern Mexico (November 20); over the next decade thousands of Mexicans flee to El Paso and the U.S.

## 1911

- ☞ Madero's troops, under the direction of Francisco "Pancho" Villa and Pascual Orozco, attack federal troops in Ciudad Juárez as hundreds of bystanders watch from rooftops and train cars; this Battle of Juárez lasts for three days (May 8-10).
- ☞ Having lost in Juárez, Díaz resigns and flees to Paris, France (May 25).
- ☞ Madero wins election to the Mexican presidency.
- ☞ Emiliano Zapata drafts the Plan of Ayala that denounces Madero, recognizes Orozco as the leader of the Revolution, and calls for land reform (November 25)
- ☞ The U.S. sends troops to the border, fearing that the Revolution would cross over into their territory.

## 1912

- ☞ Orozco breaks his alliance with Madero, who assigns Villa and Victoriano Huerta to combat Orozco's rebels in the north.

## 1913

- ☞ Huerta joins with Felix Díaz (Porfirio's nephew) and Bernardo Reyes in planning a coup against Madero.

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<sup>10</sup> Timeline information statement reprinted here with permission from the University of Texas at El Paso Center for History Teaching and Learning.

- ☞ During ten tragic days (“La Decena Trágica”) in Mexico City, the forces of Huerta, Díaz, and Reyes attack Madero’s army (February 9-18); Madero, his brother, and his vice president are killed.
- ☞ Huerta assumed the presidency.
- ☞ Venustiano Carranza drafts a Plan of Guadalupe that accuses Huerta of restoring a dictatorship and committing treason (March 26); Carranza calls for a return to the values of the Constitution of 1857 and his supporters are called Constitutionalists.
- ☞ Villa attacks Huerta’s troops in the Second Battle of Juárez.

## 1914

- ☞ Huerta faces increasing suspicion and opposition.
- ☞ U.S. president Woodrow Wilson sends troops to occupy Veracruz, Mexico (April).
- ☞ Villa’s forces defeat Huerta’s forces in Zacatecas and Huerta resigns (July).
- ☞ Carranza declares himself president, but the claim is contested for nearly a year on legal and military grounds.
- ☞ Villa and Zapata break from Carranza and continue to challenge him (September)
- ☞ Carranza flees to Veracruz, where he negotiates the removal of U.S. troops (November).

## 1915

- ☞ Carranza’s supporters, under the direction of Álvaro Obregón, defeat Villa at the Battle of Celaya (April 13); Zapata’s supporters are defeated (May).
- ☞ The U.S. recognizes Carranza as Mexico’s president (October).
- ☞ Mariano Azuela writes *Los de abajo* (The Underdogs), the first novel about the revolution, in an adobe home in El Paso.

## 1916

- ☞ Villa’s supporters attack a train in Santa Ysabel, Chihuahua, and kill 17 Americans.
- ☞ Anglo residents in El Paso attack Mexicans in a race riot (January 13).
- ☞ Villa raids Columbus, NM (March).
- ☞ U.S. General John J. Pershing leads 10,000 soldiers into Mexico in a “Punitive Expedition” that fails to capture Villa.

## 1917

- ☞ A new Mexican Constitution is drafted and Carranza is elected president.

## 1919

- ☞ Villa is defeated at the last Battle of Juárez; Zapata is assassinated at Chinamecca.

## 1920

- ☞ Obregón is elected president of Mexico.