

Makers of the Mexican Revolution
Porfirio Diaz
Suggested issues for discussion on March 11, 2021

What achievements of Porfirio Diaz's government were Mexican elites and foreign diplomats celebrating at the centennial of Mexican independence in 1910?

How did Porfirio Diaz's background and early years in Oaxaca influence his development as a political and military leader?

Discuss the evolution of Diaz's relationship with his mentor, Benito Juarez.

How did Porfirio Diaz justify his rebellion against his chief, President Benito Juarez?

What was the state of Mexico's economy when Diaz assumed the presidency in 1876?

What measures did President Diaz take to build Mexico's economy and increase trade?

What was the role of foreign investment in Diaz's Mexico?

Which groups benefitted most from Diaz's policies?

Which groups suffered from Diaz's long rule of Mexico? What were their grievances?

How did Diaz's economic development policies affect the indigenous population?

How did Diaz treat those who dissented or rebelled?

How did Diaz manage to stay in power for 34 years with a motto of effective suffrage and no reelection? What was Diaz's attitude toward elections and reelection?

Krauze contends that Diaz governed more like an Aztec *tlatoani* or viceroy than a Liberal. What do you think?

Why is Diaz's identity as a mestizo so important, in Krauze's analysis?

Discuss Porfirio Diaz's relations with the Catholic Church. How did he differ from other Mexican Liberals?

How successful were efforts to replace Catholic saints with the saints of the religion of the *patria*?

Why was Diaz's rule challenged in 1910? What factors contributed to his downfall?

On balance, was Porfirio Diaz a good or bad president of Mexico for his time?