Causes of the Mexican Revolution
Porfirio Diaz (Krauze)

- Ruled 1876-1911 – 8 Presidential terms; New Creole
  - Begins as a liberal reformer (ala Juarez), but becomes more authoritarian with time
- Reforms: Separation of powers & new civil liberties
- Like a Habsburg viceroy; feudal (Krauze 217)
- Pure liberal, but lacked passions of a Jacobin (226)
- 34 years of order, peace, and progress? (232)
Krauze’s Social Situation under Diaz

• Still “country of inequality” (Humboldt)
  – Supported by rich, intellectuals & technocrats (*cientificos*)
  – Diaz promised financial support & public education

• Diaz tried to work with *Yaquis* Indians, but doesn’t work; ends up slaughtering & deporting them south

• Two Majesties: Church & State (229)
  – Restored Church & national heroes revered side-by-side
Toward Conservatism

- Economic Pressure $\rightarrow$ Returns to *hacendados*
- *Pan o palo* (bread of the club) – (Keen 221)
- Bribes officials & arrested opposition
  - 1888 – opposition essentially eliminated
- Congress = *caballada* $\rightarrow$ stable of horses
- Army – Just like Santa Anna; special favors
- Church – Gets support through repealing liberal anti-clerical laws
Land Ownership (Keen)

- Mexico 70% rural; 50% infant mortality (Krauze)
- Fewer than 1000 families owned all of MEX (Burns)
- 1883 – Survey law = more land for Diaz supporters
- 1890 – Law to give natives more land → *hacendados* duped them (much like Reconstruction) & most left land fallow to drive down supply/increase prices
  - Food shortage by 1900
Economics & Labor

- US/UK companies dominate MEX oil & mining
- 12-15hr. workday; 11¢/day unskilled-75¢ high skill
  - Strikes in 1906 & ’09 lead to inflexible unions, anarchism, syndicalism, deaths
- *Intelligentsia* – teachers, lawyers, journalists call for reform; even *cientificos* lose faith in Diaz
Short Term Causes

• 1906-07 – Depression spreads from US → unemp ↑
• 1907-10 – Crop failures → food prices ↑
• 1908 – Diaz turns 80
• June ’10 – Francisco Madero arrested for “preparing armed insurrection” → jailed
• 6/21/10 – Diaz wins “election” by “landslide”