Venustiano Carranza

• Bridge quotation (341)
• Encyclopedia on Mexican History; Idolizes Juarez
• Pragmatism > Idealism (338)
• From northern state of Coahuila; wealthy family
  – Studied in Mexico City during Diaz coup in 1870s
  – Madero supports him as governor of Coahuila in 1909
• 1910 Coup – Carranza suggests Madero needs a real revolution (337) ➔ Maderistas did not listen
Appearance & Impact (340)

• Age – 54 in 1914 = “Old Man of the Revolution”
• Height & Composure – 6’ 4” & very proper
• Beard = Respect. Slow & deliberate manner
Plan de Guadalupe (342-43)

• 3/26/1913

• Overthrow of dictator & restoration of const. gov.
  – No social reforms → restore law, then help the masses (343)

• Results: New Constitution, national bank, laws for peasants & workers, international relevance
Primer Jefe

• “First Chief” of the Constitutionalist Army
  – Supported by Villa & Alvaro Obregon

• HQ in Sonora ➔ Villa leads troops in East, Obregon in West, to Mexico City ➔

• 7/15/1914 – Huerta flees to Europe ➔ Carranza becomes provisional leader
Seeds of Discontent

- Really hated America (346)
- US Marines land at Veracruz (4/21/1914)
  - Mexican sovereignty violated
- “Not the only jefe”
  - Zapata breaks with him September 5
  - Villa disavows him September 23
  - KRAUZE – “Power belonged to no one, and almost no one was loyal to anyone but himself”
Aguascalientes & After (349-51)

• October 1914

• Youth calls for Carranza’s resignation
  – Carranza’s conditions 1. Effective pre-constitutional regime, 2./3. Resignation & exile of Zapata & Villa
  – Distrusts “assemblyism”  only he can do it (350)

• Moved government to Veracruz
  – Negotiated unconditional US withdrawal

• US recognizes him (Oct. 1915)  Back to MexCity
Road to Constitution (351-52)

- **Laws of Reform (1915)—constitutional liberalism**
  - Discussion to break up estates, but only through const.
  - **Result:** Slow, tedious process that ends in more violence than land redistribution
Reds & Foreigners (353-356)

• “Red Battalions” – Workers join up with Carranza to take on Villa & Zapata→
  – 1916 – Carranza has reactionary response to strikes, drafts all the workers, abolishes right to strike/unions
  – Workers figure they’ll wait for someone better

• Tries to reclaim natural resources by taxing UK/US oil/mining→ refuses diplomacy & never repeals
Church & State

- Followers commit acts of sacrilege
  - Carranza did not denounce their actions
  - Puts Church under Ministry of Finance (357)
Constitutional Convention (1916)

- Carranza (Reform) vs. Radicals (Revolution) (359)
  - 85 Conservatives & 132 Radicals attend
  - Radicals, led by Mugica wanted social reform in text
Notable Articles

• #27 – Land Reform (359-60)
  – Small, private ownership vs. collectivization of land &
    natural resources by the Nation (W)
  – Only Mexicans can own property in Mexico
  – Only government could issue property to foreigners
    • Not anti-capitalist → State capitalist (Keen)
    • KRAUZE: Only Bolsheviks would go further
• **#123 – Labor Relations (360-361)**
  – Minor changes to rights, but NOT right to strike vs. 8hr. Workday, no child labor, protection of women, holidays, fair pay in cash, arbitration, unemployment, day care & prenatal care (W)
  
  • **KEEN** – Most advanced labor code in the contemporary world

• **#3 & #130 – Church & State (361-62)**
  – “The customs of people don’t change overnight” vs. “The clergy is the most dismal, most perverse enemy of the fatherland” (W)
  
  – Deny church legal rights, priests much register, religious education forbidden, rituals denied outside Church, religious property = national property
Birth of 20th Century Mexico (365-366)

- Politically, Carranza gains w/ new Constitution
  – Executive power strengthened, No VP, legislature weakened, judges appointed for life as check on leg.
  – Women denied citizenship & political rights
- 5/1/1917 – Carranza legally elected President
Some Bad Stuff Happened…

• Carranza very conservative ➔ didn’t abide by Const.
  – No education reform, only helped foreign business, neutral in WWI (flirtation w/ GER) (368)

• Debt, unemployment, destruction of infrastructure, black markets, disease, crop failures, etc.

• No mercy toward enemies (Angeles, Villa, Zapata)

• **KRAUZE** – History would blame him, and with reason (367)
Fall of Carranza

- 1920 – “A man whose time had passed” (369)
- Constitution barred reelection ➔ puppet Ignacio Bonillas was rigged to win election (370)
- Sonora generals, led by Obregon, opposed him w/ Plan de Agua Prieta when rigging was clear ➔
  – Leads coup to depose Carranza
- While on the run, Obregon’s henchmen catch up to him ➔ it is likely he took his own life (373)