



Plutarco Elias Calles

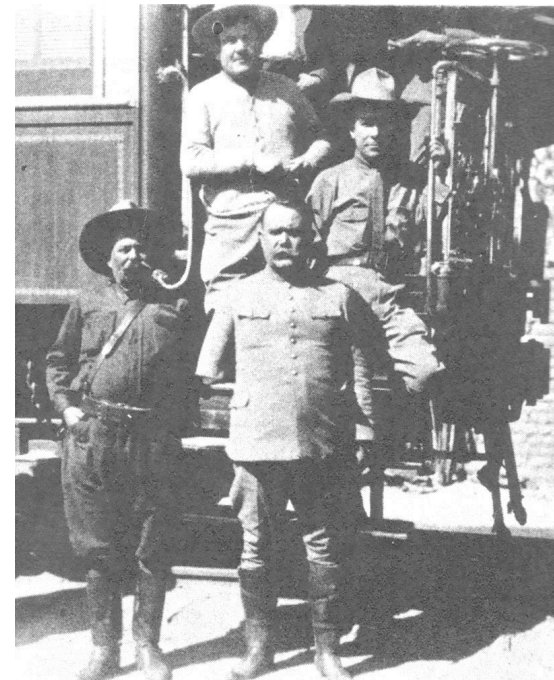
# Another Sonoran

- The **Eliases** were a rich, land-owning family, but had fallen on hard times
- **Plutarco, Sr.** – depressed drunk who never married, but fathered 3 children → raised by his mother's sister/husband (teacher) & took their last name →
- Closed, thoughtful, tenacious, disciplined & vigorous
- **KRAUZE**: Calles didn't want to be anything like his father & his upbringing made him an atheist



# Revolutionary Career

- Not a military man; failed at everything he tried
- 1911 – Made Justice of the Peace of **Agua Prieta**
- 1914 – Recruited volunteers to aid Maderistas against Huerta → noticed by Obregon & Carranza
- 1915 – Fought and defeated Villa (409)





# **Programa de Gobierno (409)**

1. Education reform: new schools, scholarships, teacher colleges & adult education
2. Legal reform: new civil and penal legislation
3. Agricultural reform & land redistribution
4. New Tax code/welfare code
5. Prohibition
6. No citizenship for “wandering tribes”
7. Minimum wage
8. State ownership of unused natural resources
9. Expelled every Catholic priest from Sonora



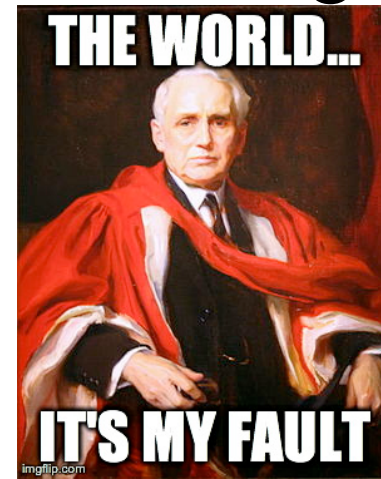
# Political Ascent

- Governor until 1919; character (412)
- Minister for Obregon to 1924; a great political soldier for him
- “The Turk” – Nickname b/c of mysterious origins
  - Friendly to EUR socialists & opened MEX borders to all immigrants, specifically Jews
- 1924 – Elected President as Obregon’s hand-picked successor



# President Calles

1. **National Banking Commission → Bank of Mexico** – Modeled on US Fed; strong
2. **National Bank of Agricultural Credit** – decentralized agriculture; not as good—cronyism
3. Railroads & Highways; moderate success
4. **Calles Code** – Army, public health, housing, sports, prohibition, legitimizing children...
5. Back to adhering to Article 27 on Foreigners (417)  
– “Soviet Mexico”?



# Radical Anti-Clericalism

- Remember Articles 3 & 130? Calles does.
- **National League for Defense of Religion** est. '25
- Calles reacts to anti-Constitution Catholics by expelling foreign priests, closing Church schools
- **Calles Law** – Outlined punishment for crimes related to religious education & worship; official state registration of priests (big deal)
  - Church responds by econ boycott & suspending masses



# War for Christ (1926-29)

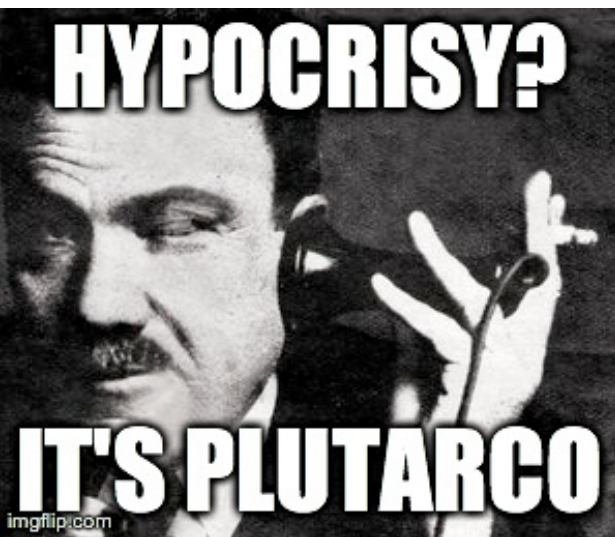
- **Cristeros** – Bring back masses & defend religion
- Guerrillas vs. Federal Army
  - 50K Cristeros → 25K died & 90 priests executed → mass emigration to USA (450K)
  - Peace made with US Amb. & US Priest: Laws would remain, but wouldn't really be enforced
  - **KRAUZE**: While Calles didn't invent the conflict, he was certainly a catalyst (424)





# Jefe Maximo

- Trumpeted “no re-election” (427)
- Supported civilian **Emilio Portes Gil** (Pres. ‘28-’30) as interim president
- Created National Revolutionary Party (**PNR**)→ Only party in MEX for next 70yrs.
  - **KRAUZE**: Didn’t matter who the president was, PNR was going to win (428); Opposition never materialized



“The President lives there,  
but the man who gives the orders  
lives across the street”



# Puppeteer

- **Gil** – 1928-30 – Ended Cristeros War
- **Oritz Rubio** – 1930-32 – Resigned; Labor Law & Zoo → strangled by Calles
- **Rodriguez** – 1932-34 – Administrator who let Calles do whatever
  - Problems w/ unions/religion (432-33)
- **Cardenas** 1934-40 – True Reformer!
  - Worried about communist takeover; Cardenas didn't
  - Exiled Calles in 1936; moved toward Fascism
- Died 1945 believing in a Supreme Being (436-37)

