

# SETTING THE STAGE: THE MEXICAN REVOLUTION

Porfirio Diaz seized control of Mexico in 1876. Resentment grew during his thirty-four years as president. His dictatorship provided governmental stability but did not improve living conditions for the largely poverty-stricken population.

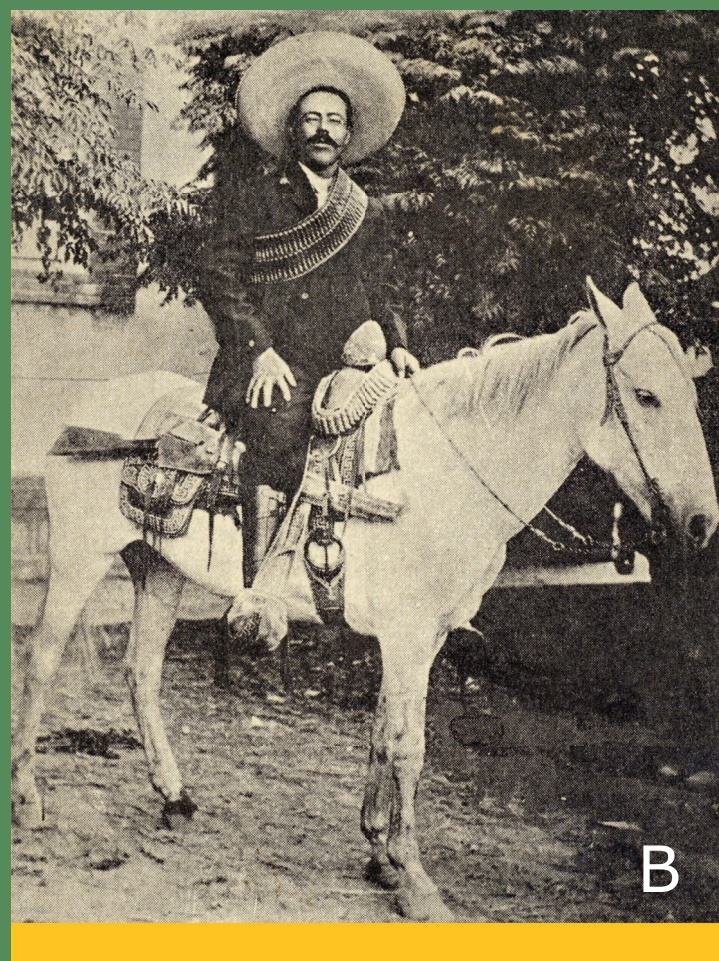
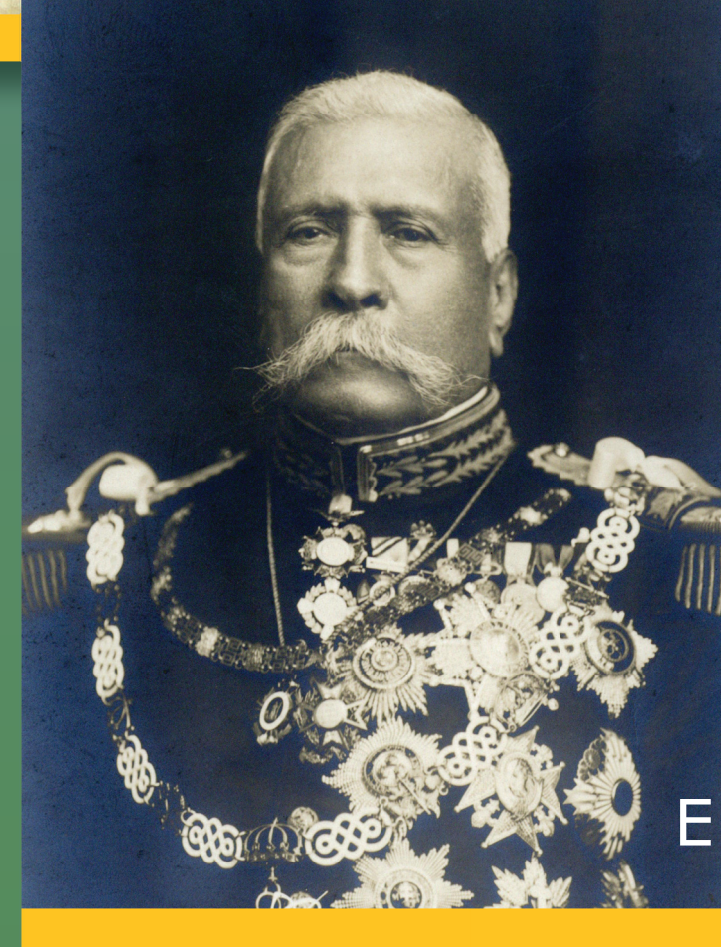
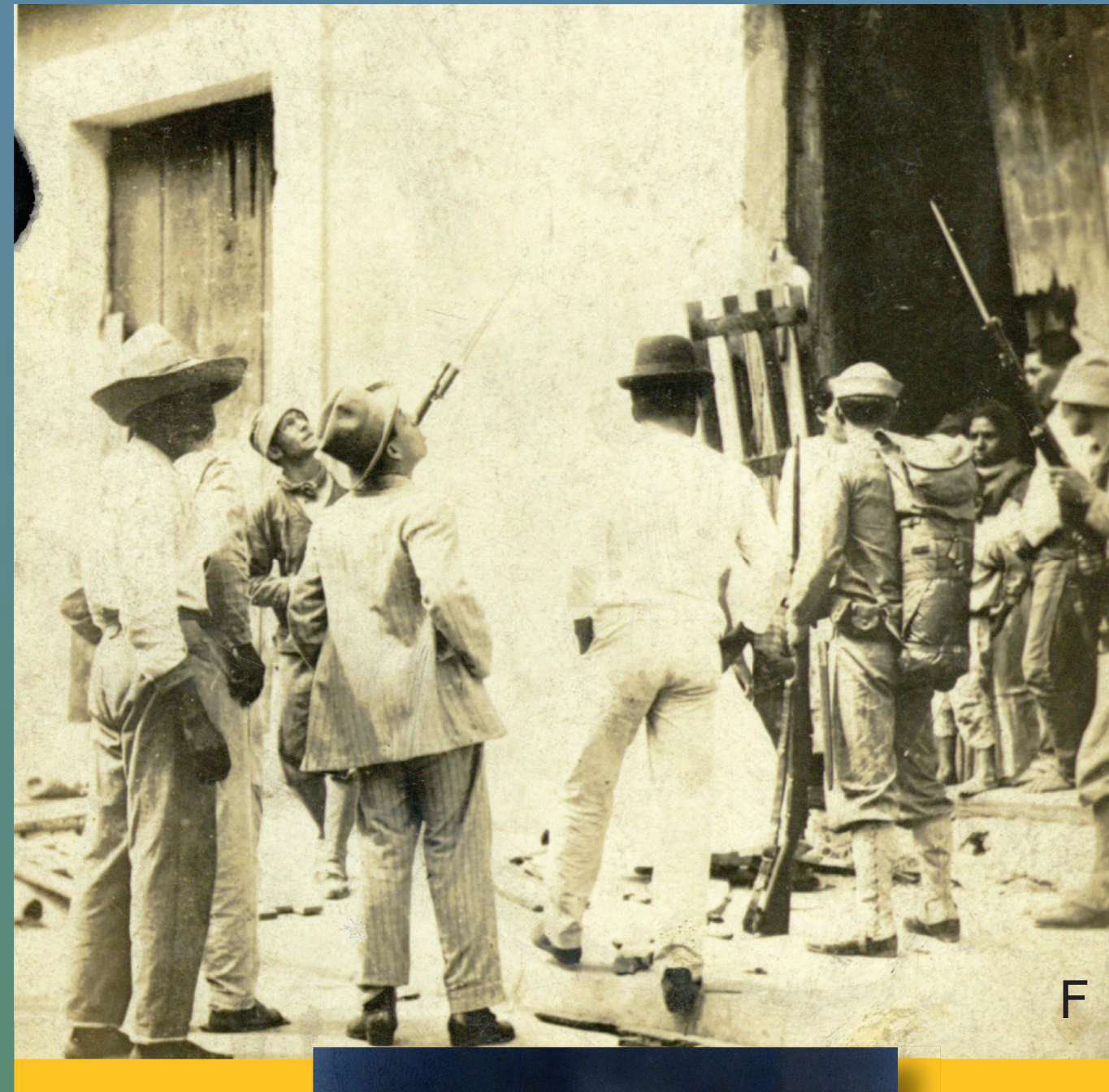
During the election year of 1910, fighting broke out, and in March 1911 Diaz fled into exile.

Revolution engrossed Mexico for nearly a decade. Events surrounding this upheaval would affect daily life all along Texas' Rio Grande border.

In February 1913, General Victoriano Huerta seized power within the government. President Woodrow Wilson was outraged and later seized arms sent by Germany to Veracruz to encourage domestic turmoil in Mexico. As a result, Huerta was forced into exile by July 1914.

Venustiano Carranza, the governor of Coahuila, was joined by factions led by Alvaro Obregon of Sonora and Francisco "Pancho" Villa of Chihuahua. Mexico City was seized.

Meanwhile, in Europe, World War I had begun.



**A)** Photograph of Federal soldiers loading equipment and attaching harnesses onto horses for travel. The Federals photographed appear to be an artillery unit. El Paso Public Library/ University of North Texas Libraries—The Portal to Texas History

**B)** General Pancho Villa. Courtesy, Douglas Harman

**C)** President Venustiano Carranza at the race track in Juarez, Mexico. El Paso Public Library/ University of North Texas Libraries—The Portal to Texas History

**D)** General Obregon and his staff on the firing line. Courtesy, Douglas Harman

**E)** Mexican President Porfirio Diaz. Courtesy, Douglas Harman

**F)** American sailors on patrol in Veracruz, Mexico. Courtesy, Douglas Harman