

## FACES OF THE MEXICAN REVOLUTION



**Venustiano Carranza (1859-1920)** served as the elected president of México from 1917-1920. As governor of Coahuila in 1911, he supported Madero's presidency, but when Madero was assassinated in 1913, he drafted the *Plan de Guadalupe* in which he opposed Huerta's presidency. Carranza called for a return to the values of the Constitution of 1857 and he and his followers became known as Constitutionalists. With Huerta's resignation, he claimed the presidency and established a better relationship with the United States. In February 1917 a new constitution was drafted and in May he was elected president. Carranza was assassinated in Tlaxcalontongo, Puebla, on May 21, 1920.



**Porfirio Díaz (1830-1915)** served as the president of México from 1876-1880 and from 1884-1911. After modifying the constitution in 1884 to stay in power, Díaz expanded the industrial sector, oversaw the construction of thousands of miles of railroad tracks, and imported technological advances such as the telegraph. This rapidly growing economy, however, primarily benefited the Mexican upper class and foreign investors while indigenous people lost their land and the gap between rich and poor grew. In 1908, Díaz announced that México was ready to hold open elections, and that he would step down once he finished his presidential term in 1910. However, he ran for the presidency again and defeated Francisco I. Madero in a rigged election. After his opponents won the Battle of Juárez in 1911, Díaz resigned as president and went into exile in Paris, France, where he died in 1915.



**Victoriano Huerta (1845-1916)** ousted Madero and served as the president of México from 1913-1914. While serving as the commander in chief of the federal forces during the presidency of Madero, he united with Felix Díaz and Bernardo Reyes in planning a coup. During *La Decena Trágica* (The Ten Tragic Days), Huerta offered protection to Francisco I. Madero and his vice-president, José María Pino Suárez, but then convinced them to resign. Madero and Pino Suárez were killed in 1913, and Huerta claimed the presidency. The country soon began to oppose to the Huerta regime. U.S. president Woodrow Wilson distrusted the presidency of Huerta and occupied Veracruz in 1914. When Pancho Villa's troops defeated Huerta's federal forces in Zacatecas, Huerta resigned to exile in London and Spain. He was later arrested alongside Pascual Orozco in Newman, NM on charges of conspiring against the United States with Germans. On January 13, 1916, Huerta died of cirrhosis in the military jail at Fort Bliss, TX.



**Francisco I. Madero (1873-1913)** opposed the Díaz dictatorship and served as the president of México from 1911-1913. When Madero entered the presidential race in 1910, he was arrested by Díaz but fled to San Antonio, TX, where he published the *Plan de San Luis Potosí* that declared the election of 1910 null and encouraged the country to overthrow Díaz. After Madero's forces, under the direction of Villa and Orozco, defeated Díaz's federal troops in the Battle of Juárez of 1911, Díaz resigned. Madero was elected president on November 6, 1911, but could not enact the promises of the revolution. One of Madero's top military leaders, Victoriano Huerta, joined with others to attack Madero's government and, after ten tragic days of fighting ("La Decena Trágica"), Madero, his brother, and his vice president were killed.



**Pascual Orozco (1882-1915)** joined Madero's anti-reelectionist movement. He was the commander of the rural forces of the state of Chihuahua, and fought in some of the first battles of the revolution. Orozco and Villa defeated Díaz's federal troops in Ciudad Juárez in 1911. Soon, Orozco would turn against Madero because he claimed Madero did not comply with his own *Plan de San Luis Potosí*. In 1912, he organized a revolt against Madero, and established his movement, the Orozquistas. When Madero was assassinated in 1913, he recognized Huerta as the president. Huerta then named him the commanding General of the Federal troops, fighting against Carranza's Constitutionalist army and Villa. Later, he went into exile in El Paso, Texas, and was killed near there by a group of Texas Rangers in 1915.



**Francisco "Pancho" Villa (1878-1923)** quickly joined Madero when the revolution started. He formed an army in the north, and was a key player in the occupation of Ciudad Juárez in 1911. When Huerta took over the presidency of México in 1913, Villa joined the forces of Carranza in order to overthrow Huerta. But when Carranza declared himself president, Villa stopped supporting him. When the United States recognized Carranza as the president of México, Villa ended the ties to the United States. In 1916 he raided Columbus, NM, provoking General Pershing to embark on the Punitive Expedition. The expedition allowed Pershing and his troops to invade northern México in search of Villa, but they were unsuccessful. Though Villa continued fighting against Carranza, he was finally defeated in the last Battle of Juárez in 1919. On July 20, 1923, Villa and Colonel Miguel Trujillo were ambushed and assassinated in Parral, Chihuahua.



**Emiliano Zapata (1879-1919)** was the leader of southern peasants during the Mexican Revolution. Zapata first supported Madero but when Madero did not fulfill his promises for land reform, Zapata drafted the *Plan de Ayala* in which he expressed his wishes for land reform, rejected Madero as president of México and declared Pascual Orozco the leader of the revolution. When Huerta took the presidency in 1913, Zapata continued his struggle against him. From late 1914 until 1919, Zapata fought against Carranza. On April 10, 1919, Colonel Jesús Guajardo betrayed Zapata and killed him in Chinameca, Morelos.