Wilson and the Mexican Revolution

Chapter 7 Section 4
Page 220-223
The Diaz Dictatorship

Porfirio Diaz - ruled Mexico from 1877-1910

- After years of war in Mexico, Diaz restored order
- He jailed his opponents
- He would not allow freedom of the press
- He used the army to maintain control of the country
The Diaz Dictatorship

Foreign investments helped him modernize Mexico quickly.
Railroads expanded and goods production doubled.
Most of the money made went to foreigners.
Most Mexicans lived in poverty.
Opposition to Diaz grew steadily.

Cigar Factory in Mexico 1910
Overthrowing Diaz

- In 1910, Diaz ran for re-election
- Before the election, Diaz jailed his opponent Francisco Madero
- Diaz claimed to easily win the election
- Madero was released and escaped to Texas
- He then called for a revolution to overthrow Diaz
The Mexican Revolution

In southern Mexico, Emiliano Zapata and his army of Zapatistas began to seize land by force.

In northern Mexico, Francisco “Pancho” Villa led a large revolt against Diaz.

In May 1911, Diaz resigned and fled the country to France.
Shaky Leadership

- In November 1911, Francisco Madero was elected president of Mexico.
- In 1913, Madero’s army commander Victoriano Huerta overthrew Madero, threw him in prison, and later had him executed.
- Huerta named himself president, but four armies rose up to fight him.

Victoriano Huerta
The U.S. Intervenes

- The U.S. did not recognize Huerta’s government
- POTUS Wilson sold guns to Huerta’s enemies
- Wilson took a “watchful waiting” approach
The Tampico Incident

On April 9, 1914, nine U.S. sailors from the USS Dolphin went ashore for supplies in the Mexican port city of Tampico.

They were arrested by Huerta’s army.

They were released unharmed soon after and Mexico apologized.
The Tampico Incident

- U.S. Admiral Henry Mayo ordered Mexico to give the American flag a 21 gun salute.
- Huerta refused the demand.
- POTUS Wilson asked Congress to authorize the use of armed forces against Mexico.
- Congress approved the request.
Battle of Veracruz

- The U.S. learned a German ship loaded with weapons was headed for the Mexican port city of Veracruz.
- POTUS Wilson ordered the U.S. military to seize the city.
- U.S. Marines landed at Veracruz and fought a violent battle before controlling the city.
The End of Huerta’s Rule

- U.S. troops occupied the city for the next six months
- This nearly brought the two countries to war
- Argentina, Brazil, and Chile mediated the situation
- The mediators called on Huerta to resign
- In July, 1914, he finally resigned and fled to Spain
End of the Revolution

- Venustiano Carranza declared himself leader of the revolution in 1914
- He was opposed by Pancho Villa and Emiliano Zapata
- POTUS Wilson feared Villa and Zapata would win, so he supported Carranza
- This angered Pancho Villa and he retaliated with violence
Villa’s Raid on the U.S.

In March 1916, Villa and hundreds of his men crossed the border into the town of Columbus NM.

At dawn, Villa’s men torched the town and killed 17 Americans.

This was the first armed invasion of the U.S. since the War of 1812.
Villa’s Raid on the U.S.

Pursuing Pancho Villa

- President Wilson ordered the military to hunt down Villa and his men.
- General John J Pershing led more than 10,000 U.S. troops into Mexico to search for Villa.
- They searched for 11 months, but were never able to capture the outlaw.
With WWI raging in Europe, Wilson finally called off the search for Pancho Villa.

Villa continued his rebellion against the Mexican government until 1920, when he retired.

In 1923, Villa was ambushed and assassinated in the town of Parral, in northern Mexico.
A New Mexican Constitution

- In 1917, Mexico adopted a new constitution
- The revolution continued until 1920 and caused Mexico’s economy to suffer
- Agriculture, mines, and factories were destroyed
- Many Mexicans immigrated to the U.S. looking for work and safety
Identify Key Terms and People 7.4 (Page 220-223)

1. Porfirio Diaz
2. Francisco Madero
3. Mexican Revolution
4. Emiliano Zapata
5. Francisco “Pancho” Villa
6. Victoriano Huerta
7. Tampico Incident
8. Battle of Veracruz
9. Columbus, New Mexico
10. John J Pershing
11. Who were the Los Dorados?
12. When was Francisco Madero released from jail?
13. What three nations mediated the dispute between the U.S. and Mexico?
14. What country did Victoriano Huerta flee to after resigning as president of Mexico?
15. When did President Wilson call off the search for Pancho Villa?