



Political martyr. Mortally wounded presidential candidate Luis Donaldo Colosio is carried from a campaign rally in Tijuana.

Mexico's plague year

An assassination adds to the pressures on the ruling party

The murder last week of Mexico's leading presidential candidate, Luis Donaldo Colosio, is the latest in a series of blows that have left many Mexicans wondering what is becoming of their country, long one of the most stable in Latin America. "Such things never happen here," said Enrique Olvera Aguilar, a traffic cop at a busy street corner in Mexico City's

upscale Zona Rosa shopping district. Beginning on New Year's Day, Mexico has suffered a string of upheavals as it prepares for a crucial presidential election in August. First, a sudden uprising of Indian peasants shook the southern state of Chiapas. Next, the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), in power for 65 years, was shaken when the PRI insider named to negotiate with Chiapas reb-

els turned around and embraced the insurgents' demands for opening up Mexico's authoritarian political system. Then, negotiator Manuel Camacho Solis briefly threatened to break with the party and run for president on a reform platform. Two weeks ago, the president of Mexico's largest bank was kidnapped. And last week, PRI candidate Colosio was gunned down while campaigning in

Modern Mexico: Reform and reaction

The PRI has had a monopoly on political power in a relatively stable nation for 65 years

- 1876-1910. President Porfirio Díaz rules during an era of rising discontent.
- NOV. 20, 1910. Exiled politician Francisco Madero calls

for the overthrow of Díaz. No mass uprisings occur, but the day becomes the birthday of the Mexican Revolution.

- FEB. 14, 1911. Madero returns. Later, his forces rout the Mexican Army.
- MAY 25, 1911. Díaz resigns and flees to Paris.
- NOV. 2, 1911. Madero assumes the presidency.
- FEB. 22, 1913. Victoriano

Huerta arrests Madero and becomes president.

- JULY 15, 1914. Armies led by leftist reformer Venustiano Carranza, peasant leader Emiliano Zapata and bandit Pancho Villa oust Huerta. Carranza assumes power.
- APRIL 1920.

Gen. Alvaro Obregón stages coup; Carranza killed in May. Obregón becomes president

- in December.
- JULY 17, 1928. Obregón, re-elected president, is killed by a zealot protesting the suppression of the Catholic Church.



Emiliano Zapata

4, APRIL, 1994