

Article Overview

Mexico's history spans over 13,000 years, from early Mesoamerican civilizations to a modern multicultural nation shaped by conquest, independence, and cultural evolution.

Pre-Columbian Era

Mexico's earliest human settlements date back approximately 13,000 years, with hunter-gatherer communities gradually developing agriculture around 8000 B.C., cultivating crops like squash, maize, and beans . The Olmecs, emerging around 1500 B.C., are considered the first major Mesoamerican civilization, known for monumental architecture, pottery, and early writing systems . Other significant civilizations included the Maya, Zapotec, Totonac, and Teotihuacan, with Teotihuacan reaching its zenith between 1 CE and 500 CE, housing over 200,000 inhabitants and featuring monumental pyramids, multi-family residential compounds, and vibrant murals . The Aztec Empire later dominated central Mexico until the early 16th century.

Spanish Conquest and Colonial Period

The Spanish conquest of the Aztec Empire in 1521 established New Spain, introducing European governance, Christianity, and cultural influences . Colonial Mexico became a hub of wealth due to silver mining and agricultural production, while cities like Mexico City grew as centers of administration and culture. The colonial period lasted roughly 300 years, during which Mexico developed a unique blend of indigenous and European traditions .

Independence and 19th Century Challenges

Mexico gained independence from Spain in 1821 after the Mexican War of Independence. The 19th century was marked by political instability, regional conflicts, foreign interventions such as the French invasion, and the Mexican-American War . Efforts at modernization during La Reforma promoted civil liberties and the separation of church and state, but internal strife persisted. The Porfiriato era (late 19th century) brought economic growth alongside authoritarianism and social inequality, setting the stage for the Mexican Revolution in 1910 .

20th Century Transformations

The Mexican Revolution led to profound social and political changes, including land reforms, nationalization of key industries, and the rise of the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) as the dominant political force . Despite progress, Mexico faced corruption, violence, and economic crises. By the late 20th century, the country embraced privatization and trade liberalization, culminating in NAFTA in 1994. The election of the National Action Party (PAN) in 2000 ended the PRI's long-standing dominance, signaling a new political era .

Cultural and Artistic Heritage

Mexico's rich artistic legacy spans millennia, from pre-Columbian sculptures and murals to viceregal art influenced by European styles, and 19th- and 20th-century painting and muralism. Major archaeological sites such as Teotihuacan, Monte Alban, Chichen Itza, and Tenochtitlan showcase the architectural and cultural achievements of ancient civilizations. The fusion of indigenous and European traditions continues to shape Mexico's vibrant cultural identity. Mexico's history is thus a tapestry of ancient civilizations, colonial encounters, revolutionary struggles, and cultural innovation, reflecting its enduring complexity and resilience.

This is a timeline of Mexican history, comprising important legal and territorial changes and political events

More than 350 sculptures, paintings, and objects from museums and private collections in Mexico, the

High points of the distinctively Mexican late Baroque style are to be found in Querétaro and Guanajuato and even further north in

Timeline of Mexican history This is a timeline of Mexican history, comprising important legal and territorial

Other articles where history of Mexico is discussed: Mexico: Pre-Columbian Mexico: It is

The written history of Mexico spans more than three millennia. First populated more than

The Toltec civilization also influenced Mexico's cultural history. Historians have determined

Mexico and Central America, 1600-1800 A.D. Timeline Overview In the course of the seventeenth century, the calamitous decline of

The Aztec Empire flourished in the Valley of Mexico between A.D. 1325 and 1519 and was the last great civilization

The northern Maya were for a time united under Mayapan. Oaxaca was briefly united by Mixtec rulers in

From the stone cities of the Maya to the might of the Aztecs, from its conquest by Spain to

Kids learn about the history and timeline of the country of Mexico including the Aztecs, Mayan, Spanish

The symbol of the founding of Mexico-Tenochtitlan, the central image on the Mexican flag since Mexican

Mexico Centuries

The development of these arts roughly follows the history of Mexico, divided into the prehispanic

A popular and enduring narrative of the Spanish campaign in central Mexico is by New England -born

The history of Mexico is a rich tapestry woven from indigenous civilizations, Spanish

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