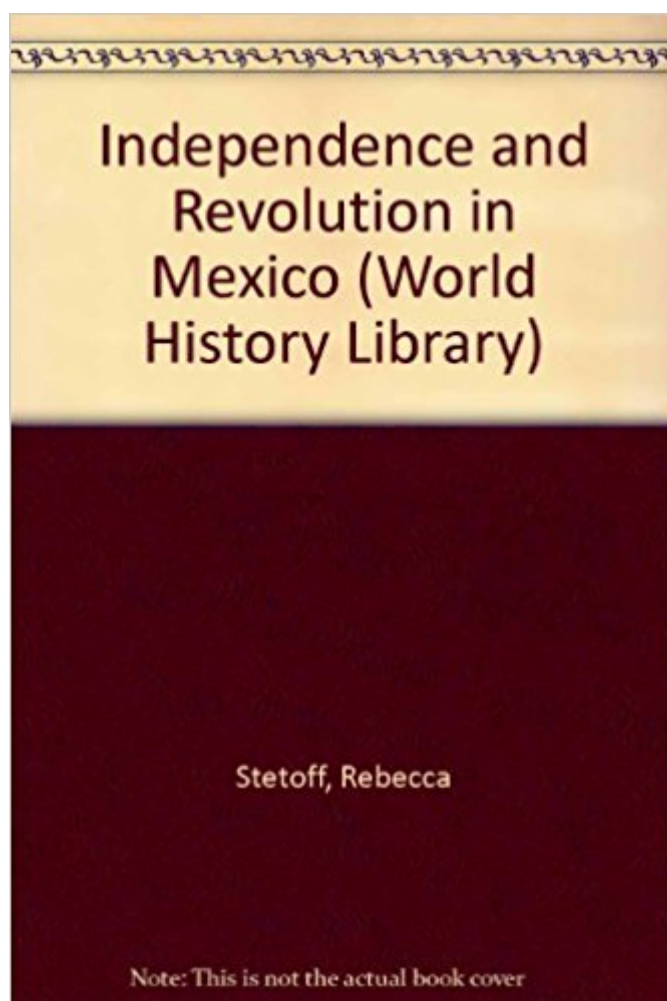


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Independence And Revolution In Mexico, 1810-1940: 1810-1940 (World History Library)



Synopsis

Examines the most turbulent period in Mexican history and the revolutions that were instrumental in bringing about independence from Spain, the loss of American colonies, and other political changes.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Gr. 7-12. This is a coherent, highly readable account of 130 years in Mexico's struggle for independence--from the insurrection led by Father Miguel Hidalgo in 1810, through revolutions led by Pancho Villa and Emiliano Zapata, to the term of President Lazaro Cardenas (1936-40). Illustrated with black-and-white photographs, maps, and drawings, the material is well documented, with Steffoff including notes for each chapter. Text boxes are scattered throughout to spotlight particular events or people of note, such as Juana Inés de Asbaje, the first woman poet of North America. Steffoff writes about the political events and the people in an immediate, absorbing fashion that successfully engages the reader. A time line, a glossary, and sources for further reading are included. Janice Del Negro

Authoritative, balanced, concise, insightful, witty--even readers who are usually bored by history will be drawn into this lively account of the formation of modern Mexico. The events themselves are dramatic: wild swings between liberal democrats and authoritarian military rulers; waves of revolutionary fervor sweeping the countryside, then degenerating into banditry; the rise and fall of such colorful figures as Santa Anna. Steffoff's explanatory power is based on her insight into the

social and economic class divisions that have always riven Mexico; she explains why certain leaders appealed to certain classes and how they set patterns of renewal and corruption that began with the first attempts to declare independence from Spain. In addition to essential background information on the origins of Mexico's social classes in colonial New Spain and a final chapter on social progress since 1940, she provides cultural information--on artists, writers, and architecture--effectively illustrating the social trends she describes. Chronology; glossary; annotated bibliography. Index not seen. A fine contribution on an important topic. (Nonfiction. 12+) -- Copyright ©1993, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.

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