



From the MixCache.com library

SAMPLE COPY

The Mexican Constitution and the Rule of Law: From 1824 to the Present

MixCache.com

SAMPLE COPY

Table of Contents

- Introduction
- Chapter 1
- Chapter 2
- Chapter 3
- Chapter 4
- Chapter 5
- Chapter 6
- Chapter 7
- Chapter 8
- Chapter 9
- Chapter 10
- Chapter 11
- Chapter 12
- Chapter 13
- Chapter 14
- Chapter 15
- Chapter 16
- Chapter 17
- Chapter 18
- Chapter 19
- Chapter 20
- Chapter 21
- Chapter 22
- Chapter 23
- Chapter 24
- Chapter 25

SAMPLE COPY

Introduction

This book tells the story of Mexico's constitution-making and constitutional life from the first federal compact in 1824 to the multifaceted constitutional landscape of the present. It treats constitutions not as static texts but as living instruments whose meaning and force have been continually contested, amended, and reinterpreted in political arenas, courtrooms, and everyday social practice. At the center of the inquiry are three kinds of questions: which constitutional moments mattered most for shaping rights and institutions; how legal texts translated (or failed to translate) into social reality; and what the Mexican experience reveals about the possibilities and limits of the rule of law in a country shaped by deep social conflict and sustained state transformation.

The narrative proceeds through identifiable constitutional moments—the early republican constitution of 1824 and its experiments with federalism; the liberal triumphs and the Constitution of 1857 with its emphasis on individual rights and secularization; and the revolutionary reordering of 1917 that enshrined social rights, land reform, and labor protections. Beyond these anchor events, the twentieth century produced waves of amendments, institutional consolidation under a dominant-party regime, and later reforms aimed at judicial independence, electoral fairness, and human-rights protection. Each chapter situates legal texts in their political and social contexts to show how law both shaped and was shaped by interests, movements, and state capacity.

Methodologically, the book combines doctrinal reading of constitutional provisions with institutional history, archival sources, case law—especially the practice of amparo—and social history. I emphasize case studies in which the pathway from constitutional promise to social effect can be traced: land redistribution schemes and the evolution of the ejido system; the drafting and enforcement of labor law and how it affected workplaces and union power; the slow construction of judicial mechanisms that could review legislation and protect rights. Where possible, the chapters compare formal legal change with on-the-ground outcomes, highlighting discrepancies that reveal the constraints of state capacity, elite accommodation, and entrenched economic structures.

The structure mirrors this mixed chronological and thematic approach. The early chapters reconstruct the constitutional debates that established Mexico's basic legal architecture. Mid-book chapters probe the social rights embedded in the 1917 text—property and labor in particular—and examine how institutions implemented, modified, or skirted those provisions for decades. The later chapters address late twentieth- and early twenty-first-century reforms: electoral and judicial restructuring,

the expanding role of constitutional litigation, the recognition of indigenous rights, and the encounter between neoliberal policy shifts and constitutional commitments. Interspersed are “practical” chapters devoted to the translation of law into reality—how courts, state agencies, and social actors made law live or rendered it inert.

A central argument animates the book: constitutional change alone does not guarantee rule-of-law outcomes. Rights written into constitutions acquire force only when they are routinized by institutions that are capable, relatively impartial, and accountable. Mexico’s history shows both the resilience of constitutional forms—texts and institutions that survive successive political orders—and the fragility of rights when enforcement is weak or subordinated to political exigency. Studying the long arc from 1824 to the present illuminates patterns of institutional stability and moments of rupture, and it offers lessons about designing constitutional instruments that can better connect legal norms to social justice.

Finally, this book is aimed at an interdisciplinary readership—students of law, historians, political scientists, policymakers, and informed readers interested in Latin American constitutionalism. It seeks to be both analytic and practical: analytic in its explanation of legal and institutional change, practical in tracing how laws have actually affected land tenure, labor relations, and individual liberties. Readers will come away with a clearer sense of the historical roots of contemporary challenges and with grounded suggestions about where reform might realistically strengthen the rule of law in Mexico.

A legal history analyzing constitutional change, judicial reform, and institutional stability in Mexico

Table of Contents

- Introduction
- Chapter 1: The Birth of a Republic: The Constitution of 1824 and Early Federalism
- Chapter 2: Liberalism and Reaction: The Political Struggles of the Mid-19th Century
- Chapter 3: The Constitution of 1857: Rights, Secularism, and the Liberal Project
- Chapter 4: The Leyes de Reforma and the Remaking of Church-State Relations
- Chapter 5: Landholding, Property Regimes, and Rural Society before the Revolution
- Chapter 6: Crisis and Insurgency: Social Conflict on the Road to 1910
- Chapter 7: The 1917 Constitution: Origins, Debates, and Radical Texts
- Chapter 8: Article 27 and Agrarian Transformation: From Principle to Practice
- Chapter 9: Article 123 and the Legal Construction of Labor Rights
- Chapter 10: Guarantees, Amparo, and the Protection of Individual Liberties
- Chapter 11: Courts and the Rule of Law: Judicial Institutions in Historical Perspective
- Chapter 12: The Post-Revolutionary State: Institutionalization and Political Order
- Chapter 13: Constitutional Amendments and Authoritarian Adaptation (1920s-1960s)
- Chapter 14: Ejidos, Peasant Autonomy, and the Limits of Agrarian Reform
- Chapter 15: Economic Policy, Expropriation, and Constitutional Responses
- Chapter 16: Social Rights, Education, and the Welfare Role of the Constitution
- Chapter 17: Indigenous Rights, Legal Pluralism, and Constitutional Recognition
- Chapter 18: Electoral Law, Party Reform, and the Democratization of Institutions
- Chapter 19: Neoliberalism, Privatization, and Constitutional Questioning (1980s-2000s)
- Chapter 20: Federalism and Decentralization: Subnational Constitutional Dynamics
- Chapter 21: Criminal Law Reform: Due Process, Punishment, and Institutional Change
- Chapter 22: Judicial Reform in the Late 20th and Early 21st Centuries: Supreme Court, Amparo, and Review
- Chapter 23: Social Movements, Strategic Litigation, and the Politics of Rights Enforcement
- Chapter 24: When Law Fails: Corruption, Informality, and the Gap

- between Norms and Social Reality**
- **Chapter 25: Resilience and Reform: Toward a Constitutional Future for the Rule of Law**

This is a sample preview. Purchase the book to read the full content.

Visit MixCache.com to purchase the complete book.

SAMPLE COPY