Competition and Conflict
The Party System, Elections, and Civil Society
Political Parties

The PRI, the Left, and the Right.
Political Ecosystem

- Considered to be a **developing or transitional democracy** since 2000
  - First election since the Mexican Revolution NOT to feature a PRI victor for president
  - Now a **multiparty system** (PAN, PRI, PRD, etc.)
    - There are seven major parties registered with the Federal Electoral Institute, but other small parties do exist, particularly at the local level
- Relatively **newly industrialized country** with a **moderately globalized economy**
- Based on a **federal system** with a strong central government
  - 31 states and 1 federal district
Partido Revolucionario Institucional (PRI)

- PRI (Institutional Revolutionary Party) → ruled as a one-party system until 2000
- Founded to “continue the ideals of the Revolution” → coalition of elites trading favors and power back and forth
- Corporatist structure, relied on clientelism
  - Emphasis on networks of personal loyalty (camarillas) > political ideology
- Theoretically founded as a socialist party, now more centrist or center-right
- Focus: land reform and empowerment of peasants, anti-clerical, centralized power
- Significant power at the state and local level, even after loss of the presidency
  - Voters tend to be rural, less educated → increased urbanization and education eroded base support
The Right

- **PAN (National Action Party)** → more conservative than PRI, represents **business interests**
  - Focus: **regional autonomy** and less government intervention in economy, strongest in northern Mexico, good rapport with Catholic Church

- **Ecologist Green Party of Mexico** (Partido Verde Ecologista de Mexico, PVEM) → minor party with an **environmentalist platform**
  - Socially conservative → in favor of reintroducing the death penalty in Mexico, some anti-LGBTQ rights factions
The Left

- **PRD (Democratic Revolutionary Party)** → split from PRI, less focused and more divisions, more liberal than PRI
  - Focus: Greater reforms and social justice, appeals to young, politically active, educated population
- **MORENA (Movimiento Regeneracion Nacional)** → Cardenista, social-democratic party → elements of populism, reform
  - AMLO’s party
  - Formed coalition **Juntos Haremos Historia** (Together we’ll make history) with **Labor Party** (left wing) and Social Encounter Party (right wing)
- **Citizens’ Movement** → minor social-democratic party
- **Labor Party** (Partido del Trabajo, PT) → left-wing party focused on labor rights
PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION RESULTS

AMLO won 31 out of 32 states in Mexico.
Anaya won the state of Guanajuato.

Total Number of Votes in the 2018 Elections:
56,611,027

Source: Instituto Nacional Electoral, Programa de Resultados Preliminares, July 8, 2018 21:10 hrs (UTC-5)
https://computo2018.ine.mex/mex/presidencia/nacional/1/1/1/1
https://computo2018.ine.mex/mex/presidencia/entidad/1/1/2/1
Elections in Mexico

- Voting is **compulsory** in Mexico, but the law is not always enforced
  - High voter turnout (in comparison to US) → partially as a result of compulsory voting, also a result of clientelism
  - 2012 election turnout → 63%, low in comparison to other Latin American states

- During PRI control, elections were more a **celebration of PRI authoritarianism** than a real competition

- National elections viewed as **increasingly corrupt** during the last two decades of PRI control
  - 1988 election → WIDESPREAD electoral fraud resulted in the illegitimate election of Carlos Salinas de Gotari
  - Public demanded the returns, government lied and said the computer system tabulating votes had crashed

- Creation of the **Federal Electoral Institution** in 1996 - actually an independent electoral commission

- Strict limits on **private campaign contributions**
VOTER TURNOUT PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS 1994 - 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Turnout</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>77.16%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>63.97%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>58.55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>63.08%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>63.44%</td>
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</tbody>
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For more on the Mexican Elections, visit the Mexico Institute's 2018 Elections Guide: https://mexicoelectionsblog.weebly.com/