“It should not be altogether surprising that after nearly five hundred years of a strong state, civil society should be weak. From this perspective, Mexicans are disorganized... because an all-powerful state has crowded them out.” (583)

- STRONG history of corporatism, although organizations do exist outside of the state
- Political parties are primary civil society organization in urban Mexico
  - Sponsor sports clubs, youth activities, and celebrations for communities
- While civil society may be weak in comparison to other countries, it is growing
  - Organizations against cartel violence, femicide, government failures → vigilantes?
  - NGOs & professional organizations are common and especially active in Mexico City
  - Unions are powerful (especially those associate with PRI)
Social Cleavages

- **Ethnic and National Identity**
  - A nation “proud of its indigenous past, but ashamed of its indigenous present.”
  - Indigenous populations who have not assimilated to broader mestizo culture are more likely to be poor, victims of violence
  - Development of the EZLN → San Andres Peace Accords in 1996, but provisions never put in place

- **Urban v. Rural**
  - Under PRI, Mexico was mostly rural and the patron-client system controlled peasants
  - Today Mexico is more than 75% urban & literacy rate is about 90%

- **North v. South**
  - North is more prosperous due to trade from US, more industrialized, more middle class, higher education
  - South has more indigenous population, lower incomes, less education

- **Social Class**
  - High economic inequality, but starting to see some growth of middle class (but may be in informal economy)