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## Book Reviews

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Stephanie Mitchell and Patience A. Schell. *The Women's Revolution in Mexico, 1910-1953*. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2007. Pp. 244. Paper \$32.95.

Editors Stephanie Mitchell, associate professor at Carthage University, and Patience A. Schell, chair of Hispanic studies at the University of Aberdeen, introduce *The Women's Revolution in Mexico, 1910-1953* by offering a concise survey of Mexico that highlights major events that have proved formative in its history. Topics considered range from the inception of the Mexican independence movement, to the reign of Porfirio Diaz, to the Mexican Revolution and the men who represent it, to the end of the *Partido Revolucionario Institucional's* political hegemony through the election of *Partido de Acción Nacional* candidate, Vicente Fox, to the presidency. Mitchell and Schell emphasize how Mexico's official national history largely omitted women from the historical narrative, limiting them to the image of the *soldaderas*. The contributors contend to write women back into Mexico's national history and demonstrate how they both facilitated and responded to revolutionary change. The collection sheds light on the experiences of an array of ordinary women such as activists, teachers, temperance campaigners, volunteer workers, writers, social welfare recipients, and prostitutes. Additionally, each chapter addresses one or more of the following theoretical debates: the nature of politics, the relationship between public and private, the meaning of citizenship, and the definition of feminism.

The authors utilize a variety of primary sources from national, local, state, and personal archives to support their historical narratives. Primary documents include testimonies from the women examined in the essays, *New York Times* articles, documents from the *Diario Oficial de la Federación*, documents from historical archives such as the *Unión Feminina Católica Mexicana*, and the books *La Mujer y la Ley* and *La Verdad Sobre el Matrimonio*. Each chapter exhibits a primary source for the reader to explore, which demonstrates the contributors creative use of sources. For example, Chapter One presents a document from the Pro Veterans of the Revolution Commission, which distinguishes Guadalupe Narvaez Bautista as an Official Veteran of the Revolution. Narvaez Bautista was one of the few women recognized as a veteran of the Mexican Revolution. Also, Chapter Six features a letter to the President of Mexico from quarantined prostitutes in Morelos Hospital, contesting the separation from their children. The letter demonstrates how prostitutes used their concerns as mothers to appeal to the president for help.

Although Mitchell and Shell do not claim to offer a comprehensive history of women in Mexico, one cannot help but notice the exclusion of indigenous women from the volume. The book's conclusion attempts to compensate for this omission by suggesting that women have not concluded their revolution as they continue to fight for indigenous rights. Another limitation is the lack of historiography, though editors Mitchell and Schell provide a vague overview of uncited scholarly works in the introduction.

These minor criticisms aside, the lack of historiography bestows the book with a degree of accessibility which may appeal to an audience outside of academia. Additionally, the essays may be read individually and in any order. The book is ideal for undergraduate gender studies or Latin American studies courses. Overall, the book offers an engaging historical narrative with thought provoking content, perfect for classroom discussions.

*Nicole Altamirano*