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### ORGANIZED INDUSTRIAL LABOR IN CONTEMPORARY MEXICO

Compiled by Russell E. Thomas

Mexican organized labor represents a unique case in Latin America. The Mexican Revolution that began in 1910 absorbed or channelized the organizing efforts that had preceded it. Succeeding regimes integrated organized labor into the governmental structure as one of its basic supports. During the Cárdenas administration, 1934-1940, this arrangement was given its definitive form. Debate continues on how deeply corrupted this official system has become, how real its benefits to the workers are, and how broad and significant the resistance to it has been.

The following guide focuses on labor since 1940 and emphasizes works in English. All of them are in the Benson Latin American Collection. To find other titles in the on-line catalog, or the card catalog, use the following subject headings: TRADE UNIONS--, LABOR AND LABORING CLASSES--, LABOR POLICY--, and INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS--, all followed by the word MEXICO.

#### BIBLIOGRAPHIES, INDEXES, OTHER REFERENCE WORKS

Domínguez Brito, Luis Angel, and Arturo Sánchez. "Bibliografía sobre el movimiento obrero en México, 1940-1980." *A: Revista de ciencias sociales y humanidades*. 1: 1 (1980), 109-122.

Brief introduction and topical subdivisions.  
H/8/A111/No. 1-4/1980-81/LAC • Benson Collection stacks

*Handbook of Latin American Studies*. Gainesville: University of Florida; Austin: University of Texas Press, 1935- Annual.

A bibliography of well-selected books and articles with useful annotations. Volumes alternate humanities coverage one year and social sciences the next. Studies of organized labor are indexed in the social sciences volumes. Detailed subject index in each volume.  
Z/1605/H23/LAC • Latin American Reference Collection

HAPI: *Hispanic American Periodicals Index*. Los Angeles: University of California at Los Angeles, Latin American Center. Annual

Uses subject headings similar to those in public catalog.  
Z/1605/H16/LAC • Latin American Reference Collection

*Latin American Labor Organizations*. Gerald Michael Greenfield and Sheldon L. Maram, editors. New York: Greenwood Press, 1987. 929 p.

Brief but detailed historical introduction; well-indexed entries on individual unions, giving their histories and interconnections; bibliography. This is an excellent starting point for research.  
HD/6530.5/L38/1987/LAC • Latin American Reference Collection

## BACKGROUND READING

Good introductions may be found in general treatments of organized labor in Latin America, such as Hobart A. Spalding's Organized Labor in Latin America (HD/6530.5/S67/1977/LAC). For a thorough introduction to Mexican organized labor before 1940 see:

Ashby, Joe C. **Organized Labor and the Mexican Revolution under Lázaro Cárdenas**. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina, 1963. 350 p.

G331.880972/As340 • Benson Collection stacks

Carr, Barry. **El movimiento obrero y la política en México, 1910-1929**. México: Era, 1981. 282 p.

HD/8116/C318/1981/LAC • Benson Collection stacks

Clark, Marjorie Ruth. **Organized Labor In Mexico**. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina, 1934. 315 p.

G331.88/C5480 • Benson Collection stacks

## HISTORICAL AND CRITICAL STUDIES

These treatments represent a variety of viewpoints, from the critical leftist perspective of the 1970s to more cautious recent appraisals:

Handelman, Howard. "Organized Labor in Mexico: Oligarchy and Dissent." **American Universities Field Staff Reports**, 18, 1979. 13 p.

HD/6532/H36/LAC/ • Benson Collection stacks

**Modern Mexico: State, Economy and Social Conflict**. Ed. Nora Hamilton and Timothy F. Harding. Beverly Hills: Sage Publications. 1986. 312 p.

Some stimulating articles on organized labor.

HC/135/M68/1986/LAC • Benson Collection stacks

Roxborough, Ian. **Unions and Politics In Mexico: The Case of the Auto Industry**. Cambridge, England: Cambridge University, 1984. 209 p.

HD/6534/A8/R69/1984/LAC • Benson Collection stacks

Stevens, Evelyn P. **Protest and Response In Mexico**. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1974. 372 p.

Highly detailed accounts of important confrontations from a communications theory point of view.

HD/5331/A6/S75/LAC • Benson Collection stacks

Trejo Delarbre, Raúl. **¡Este puño sí se ve!** México: El Caballito, 1987. 181 p.

A collection of essays by a neo-Marxist.

HD/6543/T72/1987/LAC • Benson Collection stacks

The series, *La Clase obrera en la historia de México*, produced by the Instituto de Investigaciones Sociales of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México is scholarly and comprehensive. Seventeen volumes have been issued to date. See, for instance:

Basurto, Jorge. *En el régimen de Echeverría: rebellón e Independencia*. Mexico: Siglo Veintiuno, 1983. 325 p. (*La Clase obrera en la historia de México*, 14)

HD/8116.5/B38/1983/LAC • Benson Collection stacks

#### GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS

Government publications represent a narrower band of the ideological spectrum, of course, but they are useful sources of historical, sociological, technical and statistical information. Find them using the following terms for an author search: MEXICO. SECRETARIA DEL TRABAJO Y PREVISION SOCIAL.

The publications of a semi-official body, the Centro de Estudios Históricos del Movimiento Obrero may be found using its acronym - CEHSMO - for an author search. However, the bulk of its publications focus on the more distant past.

#### TRADE UNION PUBLICATIONS

An extensive look at primary sources is beyond the scope of this bibliography. To get started, see:

Bringas, Guillermina and David Mascareno. *La prensa de los obreros mexicanos, 1870-1970*. México: UNAM, 1979. 289 p.

Z/1429/L2/B75/LAC • Benson Collection stacks

*Insurgencia obrera y nacionalismo revolucionario*. México: El Caballito, 1973. 503 p.

A collection of articles and editorials taken from *Solidaridad*, the organ of the "Tendencia Democrática" of the early 1970s.

HD/6532/1567/LAC • Benson Collection stacks

Labor union periodicals, which are often well illustrated, are accessible through a subject search: TRADE UNIONS--MEXICO--PERIODICALS:

*Resistencia Obrera*. México, D.F. 197?-.

HD/8111/R474 • Benson Collection stacks

*Solidaridad*. México. 1937-.

G331.881213/So44 • Benson Collection stacks

The names and the acronyms of trade unions may be used as subject and as author search terms. Try, for example, Confederación de Trabajadores de México, or CTM; Confederación Regional Obrera Mexicana, or CROM; Confederación Revolucionaria de Obreros y Campesinos, or CROC.