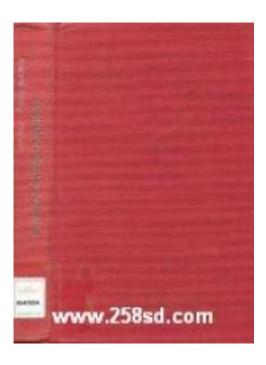
Twentieth-Century Mexico



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Mexico 7S twentieth century has been one of dramatic upheaval

growth? and change I inexplicably acted out against

br > a backdrop of frozentraditional values and ancient American

br > historyThe contradictory worlds of ancient and modern Mexico

br > are often expressed through seemingly endless conflicting forces

br > Thus it iS that the peasant confronts the landlordsubsistence

br > agriculture loses out to commercial farmingtraditionalism

br > struggles with modernism in art and politicsthe indigenous East

br > does battle with the modern Westcommunalism faces capitalism

br > rural Mexico undergoes Urbanizationand Mexicanos love and hate

br > the gringo Colossus of the NorthThese contradictions and con

br > flicts are expressed daily by MexicansOn the one handMarxist

pundits speak of repression?pharaohism?corruption?pollution

br > and povertyThey

call for revolutionOn the other handbureau-
 crats speak of iusticedemocracyhonestycleanlinessand the
 economic miracleA contemporary style of doublespeak is offi
 cially adopted and the call is for a continuation of theinstitu
 tionalized revolution
 So it iS that MexicoS SOcalled revolutionary tradition em-
 braces past and futureThe PRIthat is the Partido Revolu
 cionario Institucionalwhich dominates MexicoS political land
 scapeiS the modernizing agency that has left Mexico both
 traditional and moderna PRI-modern nationContemporary
 Mexico reflects the many strains of a people in transitionwhat
 historians view as a struggle and dialogue between past and
 presentnhile these contradictions may seem abstract to outsiders
 they can be understood in concrete and human termsFor example
 nine basic foodstuffsincluding meat and beansunderwent a 100
 percent price increase in only twelve days in January 1984Tortillas
 then at the official price of 155 pesoswere selling in the tortillerias
 >

only twelve days in January 1984Tortillas then at the official price of pesoswere selling in the tortillerias
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