

Delve Deeper into *El General*

A film by Natalia Almada

This multi-media resource list, compiled by Shaun Briley of the San Diego Public Library, provides a range of perspectives on the issues raised by the upcoming POV documentary *El General*.

Past and present collide as award-winning filmmaker Natalia Almada brings to life audio recordings she inherited from her grandmother, daughter of Plutarco Elias Calles, a revolutionary general who became Mexico's president in 1924. In his time, Calles was called El Jefe Maximo (Foremost Chief). Today he is remembered as El Quemacuras (Priest Burner) and as a dictator who ruled through puppet presidents until his exile in 1936. Airing during the centennial of the Mexican Revolution, *El General* moves between a daughter's memories of her father as she grapples with history's portrayal of him and the weight of that same man's legacy on Mexico today.

ADULT NONFICTION

Mexican Revolution

Brenner, Anita. *The Wind that Swept Mexico: The History of the Mexican Revolution of 1910-1942.* Austin, TX: University of Texas Press, 2005. Brenner provides a wide-ranging depiction of the Mexican revolutionary period including many photographs from the time.

Camín, Héctor Aguilar. *In the Shadow of the Mexican Revolution: Contemporary Mexican History, 1910-1989.* Austin, TX: University of Texas Press, 2001. Camín presents a comprehensive history of Mexico during the twentieth century.

Gonzales, Michael. *The Mexican Revolution: 1910-1940.* Albuquerque, NM: University of New Mexico Press, 2002. Gonzales presents an account of the revolution and its aftermath, showing how the new establishment preserved some revolutionary aspirations and betrayed others.

Meyer, Jean. *The Cristero Rebellion: The Mexican People Between Church and State.* New York, NY: Cambridge University Press, 2008.

Meyer chronicles the struggle between the church and state in Mexico in the aftermath of the revolution, the persecution of priests and the mass movement that rose up in their defense.

Mexican Political History

Camp, Roderic Ai. *Politics in Mexico: The Democratic Consolidation.* New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2007.

Camp provides an overview of the evolution of Mexico's political system through time, written for a general audience.

Edmonds-Poli, Emily & Shirk, David. *Contemporary Mexican Politics.* Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 2009. A survey of Mexican politics today is presented from a historical perspective.

Krauze, Enrique. *Mexico: Biography of Power.* New York, NY: Harper Perennial, 1998.

Krauze chronicles the biographical accounts of the personal and private lives of Mexico's leaders since independence in 1810. This was a *New York Times* Notable Book of the Year for 1997.

Preston, Julia & Dillon, Samuel. *Opening Mexico: The Making of a Democracy.* New York, NY: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2005. Pulitzer Prize winning *New York Times* Mexico correspondents write about the country's recent political history and the state of the dominant PRI party.

Mexican Society

Gallo, Ruben. *The Mexico City Reader.* Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press, 2004.

Gallo presents an anthology of writings from Mexican writers that bring the life of the capital city onto the page.

Joseph, G. & Henderson, T. *The Mexico Reader: History, Culture, Politics.* Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2003.

A compilation of articles, poetry and photographs offers a historical perspective on the great diversity of Mexico's cultural and political life.

Lawrence, D.H. *Mornings in Mexico.* New York, NY: I. B. Tauris & Company, Limited, 2009. Lawrence provides an acclaimed account of the famous fiction writer's travels in Mexico in the 1920s.

Riding, Alan. *Distant Neighbors: A Portrait of the Mexicans.* New York, NY: Knopf Doubleday, 1989. A former *New York Times* Mexico correspondent highlights the enduring differences between the vast majority of Mexicans and their leaders.

Ruiz, Ramón Eduardo. *Triumphs and Tragedy: A History of the Mexican People.* New York, NY: W.W. Norton, 1993. A wide-ranging social and political history of Mexico from the Maya to the present day is presented here.

ADULT FICTION

Azuela, Mariano. *The Underdogs: A Novel of the Mexican Revolution.* New York, NY: Penguin Group USA, 2008. Considered a classic novel, Azuela discusses both the Mexican Revolution and the Latin American experience.

Fuentes, Carlos. *The Old Gringo: A Novel.* New York, NY: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2007. A novel about an American journalist who disappears in revolutionary Mexico, Fuentes discusses the differences between Mexican and American cultures.

Greene, Graham. *The Power and the Glory.* New York, NY: Penguin Group USA, 2003. Greene describes the story of a Mexican priest hunted in the 1930s during the persecution of the Church by the revolutionary government.



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Traven, B. *Government*.

Publisher: Ivan R. Dee, 1993.

One of a series of five books about the Mexican Revolution by the author of *The Treasure of the Sierra Madre*. In *Government*, Traven focuses on corruption and the plight of indigenous peoples.

FILMS/ DOCUMENTARIES

***El Rey del Barrio*. A film by**

Gilberto Martinez Solares.

Laguna Films, 2003. TRT: 100

min. This film stars Tin Tan as a poor railroad employee and a modern-day Robin Hood.

www.amazon.com

***Si Yo Fuera Diputado (If I Were a Congressman)*. A film**

by Miguel M. Delgado. Sony

Pictures, 2010. TRT: 95 min.

Cantinflas portrays a man who runs for political office against a corrupt mob boss.

www.amazon.com

***Que Viva Mexico!* A film by**
Sergei Eisenstein, Kino Video,
1979. TRT: 85 min. Eisenstein's

film chronicles the Mexican revolution shot in the 1930s in Mexico. Russian filmmakers compiled this version of the unfinished movie in the 1970s.

www.amazon.com

***Viva Zapata!* A film by Elia**
Kazan. 20th Century Fox, VHS.

TRT: 113 min. The film, written by John Steinbeck, details the life of Mexican revolutionary Emiliano Zapata, with Marlon Brando playing the lead.

www.amazon.com

