



Dirck Halstead — Linson

## A Rich Country Impoverished By Socialism

# MEXICO

Gary Allen is author of *None Dare Call It Conspiracy*; *The Rockefeller File*; *Kissinger*; *Jimmy Carter/Jimmy Carter*; *Tax Target: Washington*; and, *Ted Kennedy: In Over His Head*. He is an AMERICAN OPINION Contributing Editor.

■ HAVE YOU ever wondered what the United States would be like if Teddy Kennedy & Company were to have their way on every issue? Take a look at Mexico and you will get a pretty good idea. Afflicted with widespread poverty and endless economic ills, Mexico is dominated by a self-perpetuating Socialist regime in the Kennedy mold. Even with our cur-

rent recessionary miseries, our problems can hardly be compared with the self-created disasters suffered by our neighbor to the south.

Because it is choked in fiat money, the annual rate of increase in the price level in Mexico is more than thirty percent, with mortgage rates at forty percent. Corporate loan rates in excess of forty percent are strangling



**Mexican President José López Portillo has strengthened relations with Cuba's Communist dictator Fidel Castro. Both López Portillo and his anointed successor, Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado, are also cheerleaders for the Marxist regime in Nicaragua and have supported Cuban-backed terrorism in Guatemala.**

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Mexico's struggling economy. The Mexican peso had to be devalued by twenty-eight percent early this year. Public confidence was so low after the devaluation in February that panic buying of the dollar forced the peso down even further. When shop owners began raising their prices, in some cases more than one hundred percent, the Mexican government stepped in and closed more than a thousand stores for violation of price controls. As a consequence, shortages of consumer goods have been aggravated even as prices continue to rise. One official source maintained that the government in Mexico City would work to keep price inflation to "only" twenty-five percent, but admitted privately that "fifty percent [price] inflation is certainly possible."

Money for urgently needed capital formation fled the country to the tune of more than \$8 billion in 1981. This flight is accelerating. When on February eighteenth the Mexican government suspended interbank peso trading, Mexican peso futures plunged 994 points.

Meanwhile, Mexico is being strangled by a variety of confiscatory taxes. In addition to a Marxist graduated income tax, there are property taxes, luxury taxes, and the value added tax (V.A.T.) that some

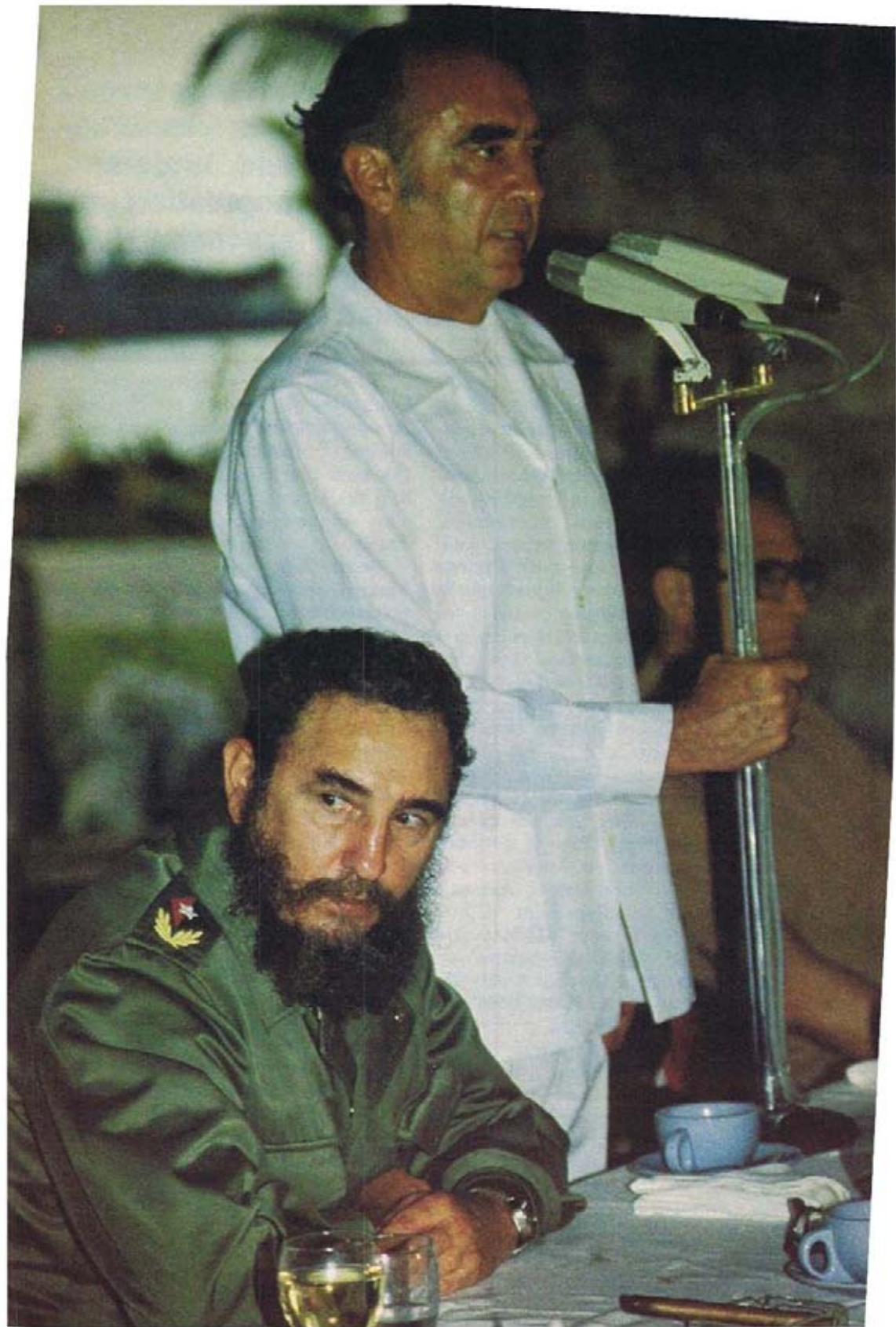
politicians want to impose on the United States. Mexico City's philosophy seems to be: "If it moves or grows, tax it!"

Even so, Mexico is up to its sombrero in debt. Mexico and Brazil together account for twenty-five percent of the total debt owed by Third World countries. Because of falling demand for its petroleum products (some seventy percent of its total exports), Mexico is seeking to borrow funds internationally. But its public-sector foreign debt already totals almost \$50 billion — and with an unemployment rate of forty to forty-five percent, together with a current account deficit estimated at \$15 billion this year, the Mexican government is going to have difficulty obtaining further foreign loans.

Like most Latin American nations, Mexico is a country where there are a few wealthy families, a great many poor people, and virtually no middle class. In fact the disparity between the very rich and the very poor is one of the widest in the world. This makes many Mexicans ripe for revolutionary blandishments.

It is not as if Mexico had no potential for prosperity. On the contrary, it is richly blessed with natural resources, ranking fifth in the world in oil and natural gas reserves. Its proven hydrocarbon reserves are cal-







**Socialist planning has caused widespread poverty and housing shortages in resource-rich Mexico. Unemployment and underemployment afflict almost half the population and 17 percent exist on incomes of less than \$75.00 per year. Radicals are now using the problems caused by Socialism to push further Left.**

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culated at more than sixty billion barrels — with potential reserves estimated to be as high as 250 billion barrels. Mexico also has other abundant mineral deposits including silver, antimony, lead, manganese, mercury, molybdenum, zinc, gold, graphite, sulphur, and coal. Experts estimate that fifteen percent of the land there is cultivable — twice the amount in actual cultivation. Moreover, nearly all cultivated areas can, with proper irrigation and water control, produce several crops a year. Southern Mexico has an abundant supply of water, and central Mexico is a garden spot.

Clearly Mexico should be an economic powerhouse; yet, the general standard of living there is infinitely less than in relatively resource-poor Switzerland. While Mexico's per capita income is placed at \$1,800, Switzerland's is over \$15,500. And even these "official" figures are misleading since they give only the computed averages. It has been estimated that seventeen percent of Mexicans exist on incomes of less than seventy-five dollars a year.

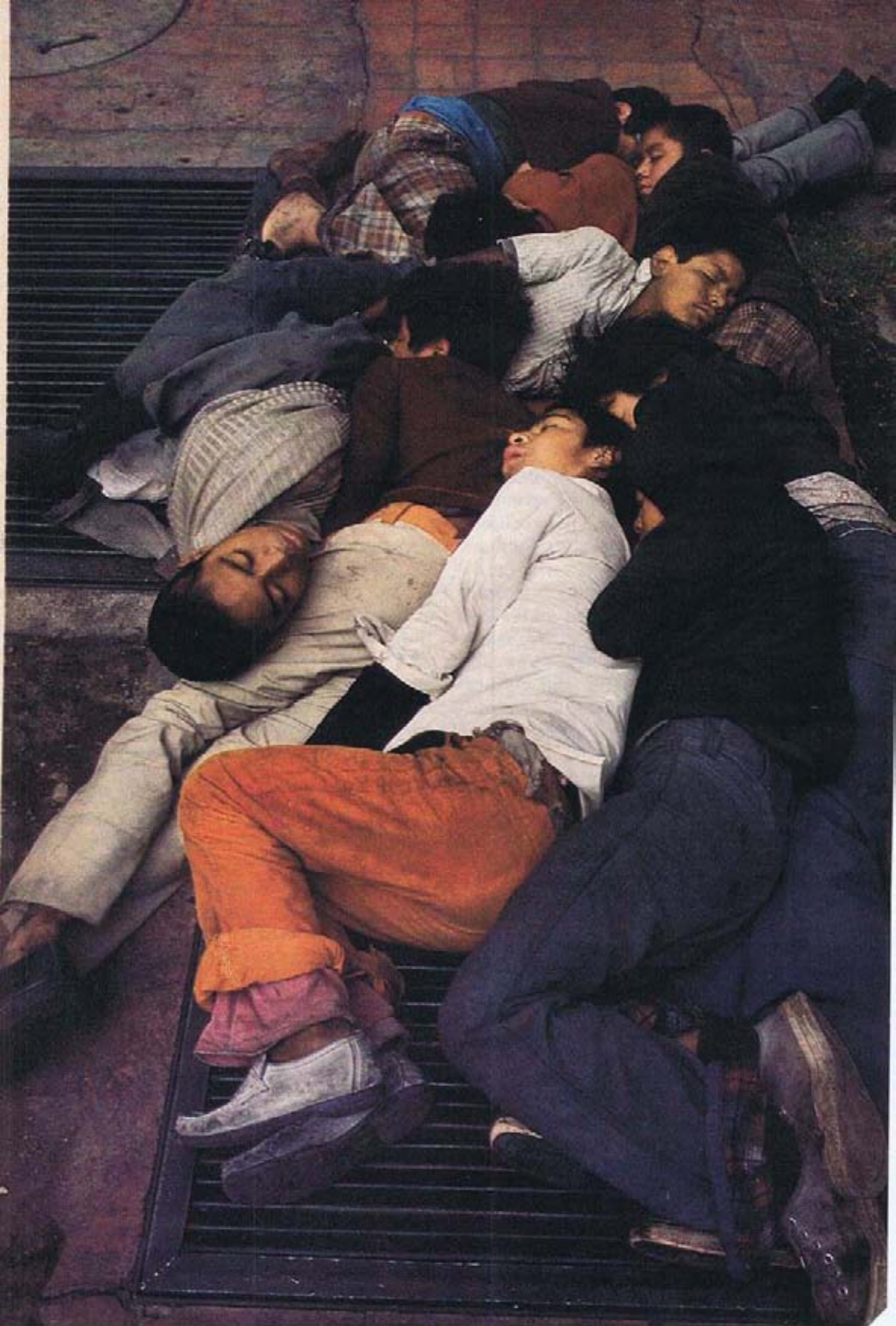
Mexico's problems cannot, therefore, be attributed to niggardliness on the part of Mother Nature. Its economic ills are political and cultural in origin. It is the old story, common among the Less Developed

Countries, of having a political system and cultural heritage which work against industrial development of the kind that took place in England and the United States after application of the principles of Adam Smith.

Remember that resource-rich Mexico was undergoing European settlement for more than two centuries before the U.S. became an independent nation. Even so, the United States had a running start in the race for economic development. For one thing, most of the European class system was left behind. People were industrious because they could keep the fruits of their labors. This resulted in the creation and proliferation of capital wealth through saving and investment. And that led to mechanization and the adoption of new technologies and innovative development of production. The consequences of our freedom, industry, and thrift were an increasing level of prosperity.

On the other side of the border, however, the stagnant system of European feudalism was imposed on the people. This eventually led to civil war and the inefficiencies and barbarities of Socialism. Under both feudalism and Socialism the economic freedom of the individual is repressed, incentives to produce are







absent, and capital is drained from the hands of the people.

Here on our side of the Rio Grande a modern farmer plows his fields in a \$30,000 air-conditioned tractor. On the Mexican side the farmer tills the land with a hoe. Which man works harder in terms of physical exertion? Yet which is more productive? This is, of course, basic economics — but it is at the root of Mexico's multiple miseries. Mexico's feudal-Socialist system is so destructive of progress that our single state of Texas out-produces the whole of hardworking and resource-rich Mexico.

Far from preserving an environment which would be conducive to capital accumulation and economic growth, the Mexican government routinely violates property rights and stifles incentive through bureaucratic regulations and controls. Virtually all major businesses and industries are directly run by the government. For instance, it directly owns and operates all petroleum and natural gas industries in Mexico, all the railroads, the telephones, and all electric power.

Electricity is provided by the *Comisión Federal de Electricidad*. Employees of the Federal Commission of Electricity get "free" electricity for themselves and their relatives as a fringe benefit. But, as usual under Socialism, service is poor, "blackouts" are to be expected in the small cities, and rates are very high even by American standards.

Telephone service is provided by *Telefonos de Mexico*, a state-owned monopoly. At one time, several decades ago, the telephone company was owned privately by a Swedish firm. The Mexican government claimed that charges were too high due to "obscene profits." The bureaucrats and demagogues maintained that if the government owned and operated

the telephone service it could keep rates lower, or at least the same, since under Socialism an enterprise doesn't have to make profits.

After the takeover of the telephone company the rates went up immediately and have been going up ever since, while service has of course deteriorated. Next time you become exasperated with Ma Bell, try Socialist telephone service in some foreign country like Mexico and you will appreciate what we have.

Then there is *Petroleos Mexicanos* (PEMEX), which was to return control over Mexican oil to "the people." It too serves to illustrate the inherent defects of government-owned monopolies. As with every other political bureaucracy, PEMEX is riddled with graft, waste, corruption, and abuses of power. Nepotism is the way of life in Mexican politics. Instead of being based on merit and competition, appointments to fill the offices of PEMEX go to relatives or close friends of the politicians in power. Consequently, PEMEX has been extremely inefficient in developing Mexico's tremendous petroleum potential. The gasoline produced by this state-owned company is, by our standards, of inferior quality; and because of socialistic inefficiency and bureaucratic bungling the company requires four times as many employees to produce *less* oil than was produced in Mexico sixty years ago by independent foreign developers.

Moreover, far from hurting the big American oil interests, outright nationalization of the Mexican petroleum industry had the effect of reducing Mexican competition with the giants of the oil trade. And, as with the Big Banks, it is often much easier for Exxon, say, to do business directly with a Socialist government. Now the big oil companies do not risk

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## MEXICO

a cent in developing Mexico's oil potential. The Mexican government contracts with Big Oil to find and drill for petroleum, and the contract covers all the costs plus a guaranteed "profit." The companies get their money whether oil is found or not since the government underwrites their risk and costs. Who loses? Only the Mexican taxpayer and consumer.

Inefficiencies abound. What the government does not own outright it owns in part or dominates through omnipresent regulations and guidelines. All airlines and mines in Mexico are partially owned by the government, and the government is involved in the production or processing of ships, drugs, food, auto and truck parts, and sundry other goods. Mexico's inefficient bureaucrats dominate the motion picture industry there, fertilizer production, and the iron and steel works, although firms in these industries are privately owned.

In addition to its Socialist economic boondoggles, Mexico is plagued by its own version of the Welfare State. There is, for example, an equivalent of our Department of Housing and Urban Development called I.N.F.O.N.A.V.I.T. As a result, except for the wealthy elite, modern housing is in short supply in Mexico. The finest, most modern, edifice in most Mexican cities is the Social Security building. In Culiacán, capital city of the State of Sinaloa, the masses of unemployed Mexicans sit in the main plaza of the Social Security office building, waiting to be processed by the bureaucracy, while gazing indifferently at an enormous outdoor mural depicting the overthrow of "capitalist exploitation" in the Revolution of 1910.

Despite the handicaps of collectivism there is still a good deal of private manufacturing in Mexico. Major products include steel, textiles, jewelry, industrial chemicals, box-cars, and buses. These industries are for the most part run as small- and medium-sized businesses. But there are so many rules, regulations, controls, and guidelines that businessmen must constantly bribe officials just to keep their doors open. Entrepreneurs are looked upon as lowly and loathsome creatures, to be *tolerated* if not despised altogether. Egon Tausch, assistant professor of history at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, describes how this came to be:

"Gradually, many businessmen and landowners came to think of their own function in society as a slightly shady one — a necessary evil among a backward people who still relied on patronage. Certainly, the bribes which businessmen had to pay in order to be left alone did little to improve their self-image. Property owners were lawbreakers, forced to confine their enterprise to wheedling, tricking, and begging officials, as humbly as habitual drunks before a kindly judge."

For many decades Mexican culture has been saturated with Marxist propaganda and philosophical nostrums alien to private ownership and Free Enterprise. Philosophical defenses of economic freedom and the institution of private property were unheard in Mexico. The young were not exposed to any viewpoint that deviated from the anti-capitalist mentality dominating the culture. As Professor Tausch puts it:

"Children studied from textbooks chosen in Mexico City, edited to glorify revolutionaries and *campesinos*, and to vilify capitalists, aristocrats, and conservatives of any



origin. Almost every school and public building boasted a mural in the style of 'socialist realism,' which depicted bloated capitalists beating starved and shackled peasants. Diego Rivera became a world-famous artist for his Communist diatribes in oil. Businessmen smiled at these toys of the mind — and contributed money for more of them."

Beyond the business sector is agriculture — an area in which Mexico has vast natural resources. Here the situation is just as bad. One reason for the hunger and widespread poverty in the Land of Montezuma is the *ejido*, the anachronistic system of collectivized agriculture in force since 1910. Under this travesty land is assigned without title to peasants who are loyal to the regime in power. Since "collective ownership" is a contradiction in terms, control remains in the hands of the political state and its friends while those living on the land are required to do the actual work.

At the end of the last century, most of the arable land in Mexico was in the hands of an aristocracy. Under this system — a legacy of European feudalism — the peasants would work the land from childhood as serfs. They were in perpetual debt to their bosses, who owned the vast landed estates, and this debt was passed on to their children without any hope that the feudal indebtedness would be paid and the serfs allowed to escape their poverty. Largely as a result of the injustices of this system of perpetual debt, an uprising took place in 1910 which led to a civil war and a Marxist revolution.

Hard-core Communists were soon advocating Soviet-style collective farms. Like Russia, Mexico went almost directly from feudalism to Socialism. Neither country ever knew

freedom or experienced a genuine industrial revolution from within. Consequently there was very little wealth to "redistribute" other than land. Since establishment of the *ejidos* after the Revolution of 1910, the lands have been redistributed many times through a long series of meaningless land reforms. The peasants had only exchanged one set of masters for a new set — the government-appointed bureaucratic commissars and Ejidal Bank directors who make all the real decisions.

Congressman Larry McDonald (D.-Georgia) explained the historical development of Mexico's version of the collective farm in an article which appeared in the March 1977 issue of this magazine. He wrote:

"President Lazaro Cardenas was the great 'agrarian reformer' who supposedly divided forty-five million acres between 750,000 families. Yet he did not *give* land; the whole point of an *ejido* is that the peasants do *not* own the land. Supposedly, 'the community' owns it, but the state decides everything. President Calles had tried to protect the peasants by the law of Ejidal Patrimony, so that people could not be thrown out because they annoyed the bureaucrats, and so that they could (hopefully) get the 'feel' of owning land while still being 'protected' from the temptation to sell, rent, or mortgage it. But there is really no way a bureaucracy can protect peasants from bureaucrats, and President Cardenas, the mouthpiece for the Reds in Mexico, deliberately set up hundreds of new *ejidos* as Communist-style collective farms. One might as well say that Josef Stalin 'gave land to the peasants.' What both actually did was to give peasants to the government for working the land — the new serfdom, the new peonage."

Fortunately, the Communists were



not totally successful in establishing their collective farms everywhere in Mexico. Many former peasants managed to obtain land as private property on which they successfully farm today. The production of food from these private farms is what keeps Mexican agriculture from falling on its collective face. As Representative McDonald observed: "Productivity on the *ejidos* is only about twenty-five percent of the level achieved on comparable private farms. You find the same phenomenon in every country with collectivized land alongside private land."

Even so, private land in Mexico is not secure. In the 1970s more than seventy percent of the land in the State of Sinaloa (in northwestern Mexico) was either taken over directly by the government or by gangs of peasant farmers who collectivized it under the protection of President Luis Echeverría, Marxist predecessor to the current President, José López Portillo. Far from recognizing and protecting any prior claims to private property, Mexico City now considers the landowners who were thus dispossessed to be the troublemakers.

There is nonetheless a great deal of evidence that the Mexicans who work on the *ejidos* harbor growing resentment against the feudalist-Socialist land system that has been imposed upon them. This could erupt into an anti-government rebellion, threatening the federal landlord. As Congressman McDonald has reported:

"The ruling P.R.I. party of Mexico has in fact painted itself into a corner with its futile commitment to the *ejido* system. Arithmetic is against it. Whereas in 1910 there were an estimated 3.5 million landless peasants, sixty-seven years later, after the distribution of perhaps ninety million hectares of land (which is

about six times the actual cultivated area of Mexico), there are now 4.5 million landless peasants — many of whom have written promises of land from the politicians. At the same time, the owners of private land have 'certificates of inalienability' which are supposed to be a guarantee against expropriation but which are now ignored right and left." Meanwhile, because of the poor yields of the *ejidos*, Mexico has to import corn for its *tortillas*.

As we have seen, Mexico is ruled by the arbitrary whims of the people in power and there is no tradition of a consistent rule of law. The Revolution of 1910 has been institutionalized under the dictatorial Party of Institutional Revolution or P.R.I. As in hard-core Communist countries, the party is a political arm of the state and "elections" are merely formalities under one-party rule. The term for the Mexican Presidency is six years, and each incumbent is restricted to a single term. But the P.R.I.'s nominees are chosen from among a clique of reliable conspirators who control the party from Mexico City. The P.R.I. controls the Government, and the Government controls the country.

Just as José López Portillo was Luis Echeverría's hand-picked successor, López Portillo has anointed Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado to succeed him as President. Because of the way Mexico's system works, the P.R.I. nominee has not lost an election since 1929. There are a few nominal parties in addition to the P.R.I., but they are ineffectual and are kept that way by the ruling elite. Señor de la Madrid will, therefore, be elected as Mexico's President on July 4, 1983, and he will assume office on December first. He has stated that his Government will continue López Portillo's policies. In January he formally



expressed his support for the Communist terrorists in El Salvador and is, like José López Portillo, a cheerleader for the Communist dictatorships in Cuba and Nicaragua.

President López Portillo likewise consolidated the Marxist usurpations of his predecessors and moved aggressively in foreign policy to support Marxist-Leninist regimes. There is not much that is new in this. Mexico is the only member of the Organization of American States which did not break diplomatic relations with Castro in 1964 over the Cuban dictator's support for insurgency movements in Latin America. And under López Portillo many trade agreements have been established and strengthened between Cuba and Mexico. Indeed when López Portillo met with Castro in 1980 he called the Cuban dictator "one of the great personages of this century" and affirmed Mexico's friendship for Communist Cuba, warning the United States that the Mexican government "will not stand for anything to be done to Cuba, because we will feel it is being done to us."

Meanwhile the violence and terrorism of Red-backed insurgents in El Salvador are now also churning in the belly of Mexico's neighbor Guatemala. If the Communists do take over El Salvador, despite recent elections in which the vast majority of Salvadorans defied terrorists and went to the polls to vote for the anti-Communists, Guatemala will be the next domino to fall. Terrorists attacking Guatemala have been permitted by President López Portillo to cross into Mexico for sanctuary. What is curious about this is that some hundred miles from the Mexican-Guatemalan border lie the strategically important *Reforma* oilfields. Those oilfields are the prize that Cuba and the Soviet Union are after, and they need a

Communist Guatemala to get there. López Portillo's appeasement of the Reds therefore endangers Mexico.

The long-range goal of the Communists seems to be to follow the scenario outlined by Comrade Lenin when he proposed that the Reds would move via Latin America to encircle the United States. If you are prone to nightmares, don't try to imagine an openly Communist Mexico with all that oil and millions of its citizens living as a potential Fifth Column in the United States!

While Mexico may be dominated by Socialism, it is still *Mexican* socialism, and Mexico is not yet a puppet state of the Soviet Empire on the scale of Cuba and Nicaragua. Privately, Mexican leaders admit that they are afraid of a tide of Red insurgency sweeping over their southern neighbors and moving on to try to capture Mexico's black gold. When the Revolution reaches Mexico, will Mexico fight or surrender?

Along with their conciliatory posture toward Cuba and Communism, the honchos of P.R.I. have permitted Cuban military aid to reach the Guatemalan terrorists who operate along their border. But the Mexican Army is prepared to wage counterinsurgency operations if it must. Mexico's forces are certainly powerful enough to defend against three thousand or so Guatemalan terrorists. But, as John Rees suggested in last month's *AMERICAN OPINION*, the combined armies of Cuba and Nicaragua have been heavily armed by the Soviets and are already capable of sweeping Central America. Indeed, they are much better equipped than Mexico's military forces and substantially outnumber them.

The Armed Forces of the Sandinistas in Nicaragua, supplied with Soviet-made tanks and Warsaw Pact military advisors, are indeed prepar-



ing for a sweep of the region. They are building airfields for use by Soviet MiG fighters and heavy transports while Nicaraguan pilots are being trained in Cuba and Bulgaria. Communist Cuba is constructing a huge airfield on the tiny island of Grenada. According to a Grenadan government official, the facility will be at the disposal of both Russia and Cuba. Now comes word that the Bulgarians are building a port facility in Grenada for Soviet submarines.

Despite its publically proclaimed support for social revolutions in Central America, Mexico has reason to be worried. When President López Portillo journeyed to Managua in February to propose his "peace plan" for Central America, he bluntly explained to his Sandinista hosts that their accelerating military buildup was worrying their Latin American neighbors. Under López Portillo's proposal, the U.S. would agree to renounce the threat of force against Nicaragua and to prohibit Nicaraguan exiles from training in the U.S. In exchange, Nicaragua would stop its military buildup, renounce the further acquisition of arms and aircraft, reduce the size of its quickly growing Army, and negotiate non-aggression pacts with the United States and its neighbors in Central America.

It is of course unrealistic to believe the Nicaraguan Reds would take any such treaties seriously. But they might accept López Portillo's terms on a temporary basis in order to consolidate power for a big push later. Nicaragua's economy is in utter disarray. Putting that economy back on its feet might be impossible without substantial foreign aid from Uncle Sam. But if Nicaragua does accept the Mexican plan, it will only buy a little more time; in the long run, it won't save Mexico's rear.

Of more immediate concern to Mexico's leaders are their nation's growing internal problems. Unemployment and underemployment afflict almost half of the Mexican population. Every year another 800,000 young people attempt unsuccessfully to enter the Mexican job market. Millions live in squalor and malnutrition. Radical Marxists are using rising discontent over the poor living standard as a basis for pushing the P.R.I. even further to the Left. The P.R.I. strategy seeks to co-opt the issues of Leftwing adventure. Marvin Alisky, professor of political science at Arizona State University and an authority on Latin America, described this tactic used by P.R.I. leaders to protect their power base:

The "Mexican left must be placated. And, therefore, López Portillo continues to sound sympathetic toward leftist political forces elsewhere in Latin America, while keeping a close watch on those inside Mexico. His administration has managed to keep the Marxist forces divided into three small political parties, the Popular Socialist Party, the Communist Party of Mexico, and the Socialist Workers Party. The Revolutionary coalition heads off all attempts to merge these groups by offering each group's leaders a few seats in a relatively powerless Congress, in a government properly labeled executivism."

Another conflict between the forces of social change and destabilization involves the interaction between Marxists and the Catholic clergy. R.E. McMaster Jr. summarized the situation in a recent issue of his market newsletter, *The Reaper*, as follows:

"Historically and traditionally, Mexico is a country captured by the Catholic religion . . . Now, so concerned are some of the traditional



Catholic leaders in Mexico that they are cooperating with [Conservative] Protestant missionaries . . . . These traditional Catholics say they expect to be 'stood up against the wall and shot' in the next three years or so. This confirms what American oil operators in Mexico state regarding Mexico's run toward communism.

"The radical element of the Catholic Church in Mexico is seizing increasing control, reflecting the fact that nearly two-thirds of all Catholic priests and nuns in Latin America are Marxists, who support terrorism and insurgency. Mexico's Bishop Mendez Arceo stated, 'The Kingdom of Heaven can come about in our day only by Marxism.'"

Others maintain that the percentage of Latin American clergy who are pro-Marxist is much lower — that most churchmen oppose the Reds, but that a handful of vocal radicals get the media attention. Even so, since the Mexican Revolution stripped the Church of most of its secular power, an increasing number of Catholic clergy have embraced what is now referred to as "Liberation Theology" in support of revolutionary Marxism. It would be more appropriate to call this "Enslavement Theology," but Communist double-talk is preferred for propaganda reasons.

While Mexico's religious and political leaders continue to look toward Socialism as a panacea to deal with their problems, Socialism continues to create widespread poverty and unemployment. Mexico's young population is expanding faster than that of any other nation in the world. To deal with this the government is determined to export its problem to the United States. As the *Los Angeles Times* puts it: "In effect, the Mexican government uses the export of illegal aliens to the United States as a

safety valve; the U.S. economy becomes an employer of last resort for a large and populous country that cannot provide jobs for its own people."

Millions of legal and illegal immigrants have come to the United States from south of the border. Estimates of the number of Mexicans residing illegally in the United States range anywhere from three million to fifteen million. Some say that as much as fifteen to twenty percent of Mexico's population either lives or works in the U.S.

Because of our Welfare system it is often easier for Americans to turn down jobs involving manual labor and let the taxpayers pick up the tab. This creates a job market for Mexicans who are willing to work. In fact, many farming businesses might have to fold if they could not hire illegal aliens. But not all Mexican illegals work as fruit pickers or baseball pitchers. Most live in the big cities, such as Los Angeles, where they compete with our citizens for employment. Also, though illegal aliens are not legally eligible for Welfare, our Welfare bureaucrats are rarely particular in checking the citizenship papers of their prospective "clients." In any case forged documents are easily obtained.

The problem of illegal aliens is not likely to be solved on the Mexican end. Mexico's government has a vested interest in exporting its problems to the United States. Professor Alisky has observed in the *Wall Street Journal*: "The U.S., with its inadequately guarded border [2,200 miles long], provides an escape valve against a violent explosion in Mexico by draining off millions of undocumented Mexicans, who find temporary jobs north of the border and repatriate millions of dollars to their families at home."



Mexicans working in the U.S. each year send back home an estimated \$6 billion. You wonder why the borders have been kept open? The Mexican government could not pay the interest on its loans from our powerful international bankers if the wetback money being sent back to Mexico were to be stopped. Meanwhile the Mexican government keeps the "underground railroad" spiriting immigrants northward.

And a number of Latin American watchers are convinced that the Marxists have a plan to overtax the U.S. economy and Welfare system by creating civil turmoil and revolution in Mexico which will flood the American southwest with millions of illegal immigrants and refugees. Recently, Congressman Larry McDonald warned: "By 1983 we can expect Communist revolution in Mexico, with massive refugee problems along the U.S. border, which will make the Miami/Cuban influx and riots look like a picnic by comparison."

Dr. Lewis Tambs, professor of Latin American history at Arizona State University, explains that there are about twenty-five million people in Central America, about seventy million in Mexico — roughly a hundred million in total. If ten percent leave their homelands, most of them

will try to come to the United States. If only half of these people reach the U.S. border, that is a thunderous five million immigrants at our doorstep! And Tambs observes: "What are these people fleeing from? They are not fleeing from Daddy Warbucks. They are not fleeing from private enterprise. They are running from the Marxist-Leninist regimes. In effect, what's happening is that we are being balkanized. Every people has a right to their own culture. The Mexicans have a right to their own culture. But, you know, the Americans have a right to their own culture, too."

We asked Professor Tambs what the solution to this problem might be. He replied: "Frankly, I don't think it's possible to seal the border completely. It is in our interests to see that Mexico becomes more modernized so there will be more jobs for Mexicans in their own country. Industrialized nations trade with industrialized nations. It is my opinion that we — the United States — should serve as the model to Mexico by going to a true Private Enterprise system and showing how it works. Mexico is going to have to go to a Free Market economy as the ultimate solution." We can imagine no better advice. ■ ■

## CRACKER BARREL

■ Speaking of the \$57 billion that the U.S. Government has provided in recent years in loan guarantees, Congressman Ron Paul (R.-Texas) says: "I will oppose even fulfilling guarantees already made. I believe that a Congressman's obligation to the American taxpayers is more important than commitments made, without Constitutional warrants, to the New York banks."

■ Who said the idea that man can play God leads to such idiocies as forced busing?

■ Ants keep slaves. Certain species, the so-called sanguinary ants in particular, raid the nest of other tribes, kill the queen, and kidnap many of the workers. The workers are brought back to the captors' hive, where they are coerced into performing menial tasks.

■ The herring is the most widely eaten fish in the world. Nutritionally, its fuel value is equal to that of a beefsteak.

■ Alexander Pope published *The Rape Of Lucrece* at age twenty-four; Browning wrote *Pauline* when he was twenty; Byron wrote *Childe Harold* at twenty-four; Keats wrote *Endymion* at twenty-three. What have you done lately?