

## Journal Entry #

**Post-Revolutionary Mexico**

Study the lecture notes and readings on this topic. It would help too to refresh your memory on the Liberal Order and its consequences for countries like Mexico.

Go to my website at: <http://www.grossmont.net/carloscontrera>

Go to History 115, then Post-revolutionary Mexico, then Powerpoint presentation. There you will find a series of digital reproductions of murals painted by Diego Rivera and Siqueiros (there are 3 by Rivera and one by Siqueiros). There is also a lithograph by Jose Guadalupe Posada (the skeleton with a feathered hat). View them carefully and consider the following when writing about them for this journal entry and set of discussions.

Rivera and his contemporaries (among them José Clemente Orozco and David Alfaro Siqueiros) viewed art as a pedagogical tool. They wanted, in other words, to teach complex ideas about Mexico's history to the masses. To solve the problems associated with illiteracy, they simply painted these ideas in large public spaces for everyone to see. These particular paintings deal with some of the most important issues that the Post-revolutionary state had to deal with, namely:

- 1) land reform (recall the enormous power of the haciendas, what had this meant for ordinary peasants?)
- 2) the construction of a new state (what the new government should be responsible for doing, i.e., breakup haciendas and redistribute lands to the landless; protections to workers, etc...)
- 3) the new relationship between workers (urban and rural) and the new landowners and their relationship with the new state as well.

They also are a **critique of the old Liberal Order**.

Consider these themes as well as the following questions as you formulate your responses to each of the murals.

-What ideas were Rivera and Siqueiros trying to convey to the public? Give me the **'big picture'** (the critique of the entire era) as well as specifics.

-How do these new ideas represent a **break from the old Liberal (Porfirian) order**?

There is a painting by **Siqueiros** depicting the Porfirian order "**The Dance of the Millions**", that you should describe as well.

Thoughtful responses require **at least a couple of substantive paragraphs per mural**.