

Preface

Many of the ideas for this book were developed several years ago while I was conducting a comparative study of industrialization and political change in Latin America. Among other findings, this early research convinced me that more case-study analysis would be extremely useful in exposing the richness and validity of concepts and the importance and completeness of theories in this area.

I selected Mexico for this case study for a number of reasons. First, it is becoming an increasingly significant nation from both a political and an economic perspective. Thus, a better understanding of the political interactions involving its industrial sector could be quite beneficial. Second, scholarly research on Mexico has been reevaluating a number of traditional concepts (including authoritarianism and dependency) as they apply to the country. Analysis of the role of industrialists could contribute to this rethinking of previous notions of Mexico's development. Finally, Mexico presents some significant differences in terms of the major variables that are the focus of this book. Substantiating these differences is a major function of this research. These variations demonstrate that the principal concepts of economic and political development are continuous variables rather than general categorizations, and the Mexican distinctions help uncover important linkages among the variables.

I use two original data sets in this book: industrial production data from 1929 to 1981, disaggregated by twelve industrial branches, and a survey of the political attitudes of industrial leaders from the two most important industrial organizations in Mexico (with a survey of Venezuelan industrial leaders also included for comparison). The industrialization data come principally from primary Mexican government sources, and the survey is a mail questionnaire administered in the summer of 1980. I gathered additional information during research trips to Mexico in the summers of 1979 and 1980 and in the first half of 1983. I interviewed industrial leaders and conducted archival research in public and private libraries in Mexico

(particularly those at the Banco de México, Nacional Financiera, and the Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas). Sources at a number of U.S. libraries were also utilized, including the Indiana University Library, the Benson Latin American Collection at the University of Texas, the Columbus Memorial Library of the Organization of American States, the Library of Congress, and the U.S. Department of State Library. The librarians at all of these institutions were quite generous with their services and their resources. An extended stay at the Nettie Lee Benson Collection at the University of Texas at Austin in the summer of 1981 was particularly helpful. Throughout the project, I have attempted to utilize as many Mexican sources as possible, including newspapers, magazines, journals, industrial sector publications, government documents, and monographs.

I am grateful to a number of institutions for financial assistance in bringing this research to fruition. Two grants from the Organized Research Fund of the University of Texas at Arlington supported the field research in Mexico in 1979 and 1980 as well as a trip to Washington, D.C., to utilize sources there. A National Endowment for the Humanities summer stipend provided the opportunity to devote full time one summer to writing a major portion of this book, and a grant from the Mellon Foundation financed the research at the Benson Latin American Collection in Austin. Finally, a Fulbright research grant provided an invaluable six-month stay in Mexico in 1983.

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