

**CARRANZA AND
HIS
BOLSHEVIK REGIME**

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Carranza and His Bolshevik Regime by Jorge Vera-Estañol

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JORGE VERA-ESTAÑOL

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By

JORGE VERA-ESTANOL

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*Former Secretary of the Interior and
Former Secretary of Public Education
of the Republic of Mexico*

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JORGE VERA-ESTAÑOL
FORMER SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR AND
FORMER SECRETARY OF PUBLIC EDUCATION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF MEXICO

TO MY COUNTRYMEN

During the year 1919 I published in "Revista Mexicana," a weekly periodical of San Antonio, Texas, a series of seventeen articles designed to show that the Mexican constitution which was adopted at Queretaro in 1917, and which is still in force, is spurious in origin and that such of its articles as effected any changes of serious import in the provisions of the constitution of 1857 were in direct conflict with the principles of equity and the demands of national welfare.

At the time when the aforementioned articles were written, the government of Venustiano Carranza had been in existence more than two years and during this period it had not succeeded in restoring order in Mexico nor in establishing truly cordial relations with three of the largest world powers, the United States, France and England. Lacking a proper foundation or any real support, either within or without the bounds of its own country, the Carranza

government was enabled to exist only by the maintenance of an army of 100,000 men and the further fact that the neutrality laws of the United States operated to prevent the arming of the nation against its rulers.

The defection of a single state was all that was necessary to cause practically all of the generals of Carranza's army to turn upon him one after another and to bring about the dissolution of the government in the short space of thirty days.

And now we are concerned with the question: "Were the Carranza policies repudiated simultaneously with his downfall?" Those at the head of the federal and state governments are the same men who battled with Carranza in 1913, who styled him "First Chief," who elected him president, who drew up the constitution of 1917, and kept him in power for three consecutive years.

But despite the identity of these men their attitude of today contrasts favorably with that of yesterday. No property has been confiscated, no churches have been profaned, no revenges have been exacted and no wholesale executions have taken place. Instead of the passionate outbursts inspired by hatred or cupidity that characterized the Carranza

revolution of 1913 there fall today from the lips of its most conspicuous leaders words imbued with a spirit of moderation and a desire to conciliate. It appears to be their purpose to give guarantees of safety to political refugees that they may return to their country to collaborate in the work of reconstruction through the exercise of constitutional rights rather than by the grace of humiliating permits. And it has also been made known that property illegally seized by officials of the Carranza government will be restored to its owners.

And what is more, many revolutionists of the Carranza regime, since the heat of the passions which inspired the mistakes of 1917 has cooled, recognize the faults of the constitution of Queretaro and the injustices which it embodies and admit the desirability of the repeal of a considerable number of its provisions and the restoration of corresponding ones in the constitution of 1857.

Under such circumstances no effort should be spared to legalize the constitution of 1917 by a revision of the document in the manner prescribed by the constitution of 1857 and reincorporated in the former, at the same time writing into it such amendments as the

present and future needs of the country appear to demand along political, social and economic lines, while eliminating all those precepts which are recognized obstacles in the way of individual freedom, national welfare and international harmony.

It is my wish to contribute my grain of sand toward this constructive program, for the opportunity at hand may, perhaps, be the last which will be allowed to Mexicans to accomplish, without aid or interference, the regeneration of their country. In the hope of stimulating deeper and more conscientious study of the subject I have decided to publish, in this form, the series of articles to which I have referred above. I beg my countrymen to read the articles in the same unbiased frame of mind in which they were written.

Los Angeles, Cal., May 18, 1920.

JORGE VERA-ESTAÑOL

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