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# Revolution and State in Modern Mexico: The Political Economy of Uneven Development (Critical Currents in Latin American Perspective Series)

*Adam David Morton*

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## REVOLUTION AND STATE IN MODERN MEXICO

THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF UNEVEN DEVELOPMENT

UPDATED EDITION

ADAM DAVID MORTON



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Adam David Morton : Revolution and State in Modern Mexico: The Political Economy of Uneven Development (Critical Currents in Latin American Perspective Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Revolution and State in Modern Mexico: The Political Economy of Uneven Development (Critical Currents in Latin American Perspective Series):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Three StarsBy CustomerPoorly written and edited. Much too nuanced to be teaching material.

Now in an updated edition, this groundbreaking study develops a new approach to understanding the formation of the postrevolutionary state in Mexico. In a shift away from dominant interpretations, Adam David Morton considers the construction of the revolution and the modern Mexican state through a fresh analysis of the Mexican Revolution, the era of import substitution industrialization, and neoliberalism. Throughout, the author makes interdisciplinary links among geography, political economy, postcolonialism, and Latin American studies in order to provide a new framework for analyzing the development of state power in Mexico. He also explores key processes in the contestation of the modern state, specifically through studies of the role of intellectuals, democratization and democratic transition, and spaces of resistance. As Morton argues, all these themes can only be fully understood through the lens of uneven development in Latin America. Centrally, the book shows how the history of modern state formation and uneven development in Mexico is best understood as a form of passive revolution, referring to the ongoing class strategies that have shaped relations between state and civil society. As such, Morton makes an important interdisciplinary contribution to debates on state formation relevant to Mexican studies, postcolonial and development studies, historical sociology, and international political economy by revitalizing the debate on the uneven and combined character of development in Mexico and throughout Latin America. In so doing, he convincingly contends that uneven development can once again become a tool for radical political economy analysis in and beyond the region. A substantive new epilogue engages the main theoretical debates that have emerged since the book was first published, while also exploring the dominant geographies of power and resistance that are shaping state space in Mexico in the twenty-first century. And now a Spanish edition, *Revolucioacute;n y Estado en Meacute;xico moderno* (Meacute;xico, D.F.: Siglo XXI, 2017), is available as well. [Click here to see the book trailer.](#)

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.cs5EFED22F {color:#000000;background-color:transparent;font-family:Times New Roman;font-size:12pt;font-weight:normal;font-style:normal;} Adam Morton has produced an exceptional work in radical historicism on postrevolutionary Mexico and a virtuosorsquo;s exposition of Antonio Gramscirsquo;s theory of hegemony, passive revolution, and uneven development. His ambitious and successful undertaking delivers a highly nuanced understanding of postrevolutionary Mexican history intertwined with an analysis of the passive revolution of capital on a world scale. Weaving theory and history throughout, Morton engages a wide range of scholarly debates about the state, postcolonialism, democratization, and resistance. This book will be a must-read in the fields of Mexican and Latin American studies and provides a provocative and contrasting interpretation to mainstream lsquo;transition studiesrsquo; in political science. It converses with and provides a welcome contribution to the most prominent strands in historical sociology, the sociology of power, international political economy, and geography. nbsp; (Otero, Gerardo)

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.cs5EFED22F {color:#000000;background-color:transparent;font-family:Times New Roman;font-size:12pt;font-weight:normal;font-style:normal;} This is a work of remarkable erudition in which Adam Morton brings fresh perspectives to our understanding of the Mexican Revolution and its aftermath, employing Antonio Gramscirsquo;s concept of lsquo;passive revolutionrsquo; to explain how and why dependent capitalist development and neoliberalism took the form they did in Mexico. In a sweeping interdisciplinary survey, Morton draws on interviews with economic elites, politicians, state functionaries, and public intellectuals. Above all, he engages with theorists who consider not only state formation but also the roles of popular culture, literature, and spatial relations as expressed in architecture, city planning, and public art. As telling examples, Morton provides a study of the lsquo;social functionrsquo; of the novelist Carlos Fuentes as a lsquo;mixture of critical opposition and accommodationrsquo; to passive revolution and of the Zapatistas as a counter-space of resistancemdash;however imperfectmdash;to passive revolution. Along with much else in this audacious book, these two studies give readers stimulating material with which to agree and disagree. nbsp; (Hellman, Judith Adler)

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.cs5EFED22F {color:#000000;background-color:transparent;font-family:Times New Roman;font-size:12pt;font-weight:normal;font-style:normal;} Drawing on classics of Marxist social theory, Morton skilfully interweaves theory and history to reveal the dynamic of state intervention from above and mass mobilization from below that shaped the modern state and capitalist social relations in post-revolution Mexico. He provides fresh insight into how the process of revolutionary rupture and conservative restoration was initiated and reproduced in the absence of bourgeois hegemony, which took distinct forms in the immediate aftermath of the Mexican revolution and subsequently. Morton also provides a provocative analysis of the literary and political work of Carlos Fuentes; a

discussion of the specificity of Mexico's political transition to a form of bourgeois democracy congruent with capitalist social relations; and an assessment of the rise and endurance of the EZLN that has provided a catalyst for resistance to neoliberalism in Mexico as well as other parts of the world. In sum, Morton has produced a very important and impressive study which advances both theoretical analysis and our understanding of the economic, cultural, political and social dynamics of 20th century Mexico.

—Nora Hamilton, author of *Mexico: Political, Social and Economic Evolution*

From the Back Cover

This groundbreaking study develops a new approach to understanding the formation of the postrevolutionary state in Mexico. Adam Morton links the rise and demise of the modern Mexican state to ongoing forms of class struggle that have shaped and restructured state and civil society. He thus sheds valuable interdisciplinary light on debates on state formation by recovering radical tools of analysis, such as uneven development and class struggle, for the wider study of past and present politics in Mexico and, more broadly, Latin America.