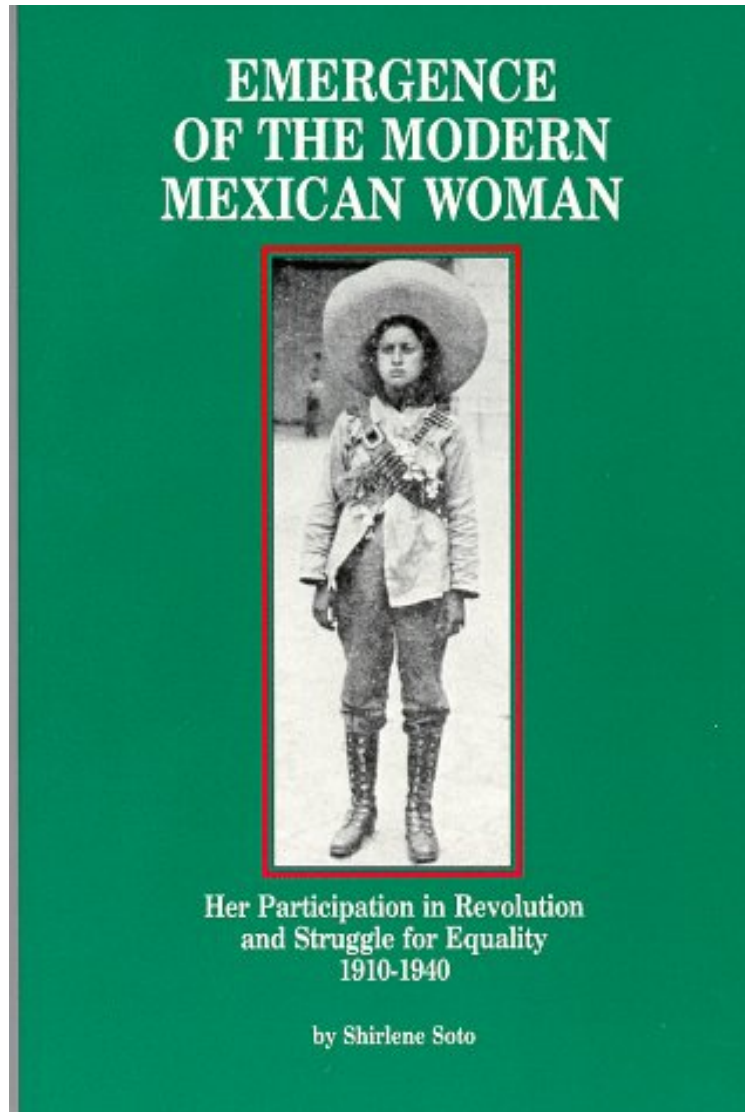


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Emergence of the Modern Mexican Woman (Women and Modern Revolution)

Shirlene Ann Soto

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Shirlene Ann Soto : Emergence of the Modern Mexican Woman (Women and Modern Revolution) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Emergence of the Modern Mexican Woman (Women and Modern Revolution):

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Soto did a magnificent job with details of women. I especially enjoyed reading sections on the PLM women, journalists. 13 of 14 people found the following review helpful. a time without a light for women, and all. dark and chaotic. By A Customer I have to say the book is interesting. women are the subject of the book and it explains why they had to rebel against the society that they lived in. women in times past in Mexico lived in such horror. the slavery, and the exploitation from the hacendados, the forced rape by the hacendados and forced by them to have sex with other workers if they had a lot of beauty (fullfigured-good bodies, nice faces) at the haciendas. the political struggle the women went thru to be in the political parties, and even in the parties political and attitude chaos occurred. Mexican history has been chaotic and dark and the women have suffered-poor mestiza, poor Indian and poor Creole. this is the majority of the population who live in Mexico and who go against the limits of Porfirio Diaz and his army and administration. confessions of the PLM women who served in the party tell the reasons why they left the party. different parties, but the dream for women to have democracy in where they could vote, and work, have rights and get paid equally as men had to happen. very interesting. recommended to all readers of history. the book will have photos of Teresa Urrea, and of Ricardo Flores Magón, and Soldaderas (women soldiers) who fought in the revolution. books such as these have to be a must for all Hispanic children in the nation's high schools. Mexican history is not like many teachers lecture out there-all nice and sugarcoated. Mexican history is dark, chaotic, disturbing memories; a time without a light ...but with hard work the struggle obstacle was overcome by those who wanted to end the dictator rule of Mr. Porfirio Diaz. Porfirio Diaz is the dictator of the country who did not care of the poor at all in that time period.

The Emergence of the Modern Mexican Woman is the first book in English on women's participation in the Mexican Revolution (1910-1940) and the Mexican women's rights movement during this thirty-year period. The work is based on extensive research at libraries in Mexico and the United States and on the author's personal interviews with some of the few women alive today who participated in the revolution and with family members and friends of those who are deceased. Shirlene Soto completes the history of the Mexican Revolution by introducing readers to the heroic women who risked their lives in a long and difficult struggle to attain freedom and equality. Revolutionary women set into play an irresistible momentum that culminated eventually in the attainment of suffrage for all Mexican women. In 1974, Mexico adopted the equivalent of the proposed U.S. Equal Rights Amendment. That same year the Civil Code was revised to give Mexican women equal rights and obligations in marriage and divorce. In 1975, Mexico assumed an international leadership role in women's rights by hosting the United Nations Año Internacional de la Mujer (International Women's Year) meeting in Mexico City. Despite these significant gains, serious socioeconomic inequalities persist in Mexico today and are waiting to be addressed by a new set of leaders among the ranks of Mexican women. The courageous revolutionary women who laid the groundwork for the emergence of the modern Mexican woman left a rich cultural heritage that challenges her to persevere in the struggle for equality.

"In this well-researched addition to English-language studies of Latin American women, Soto examines Mexican women's continual efforts to gain political, social, and economic equality....Soto expands beyond narrow political limits...to provide enlightening pictures of the individual women involved and to lament the lack of recognition accorded them. The excellent bibliography makes this a valuable tool for students and faculty alike." -- Choice, July/August 1991 "Shirlene Soto's new book is...a welcome addition to the history of the Mexican Revolution....[The author has] written a valuable book rich in detail and wide in scope." -- Journal of the Southwest, 1992 "This new book on women in the Mexican Revolution is long overdue and fills a large gap in the historiography of the period." -- Hispanic American Historical, November 1991 About the Author Dr. Shirlene Soto is professor of Chicano studies at California State University, Northridge. She is the author of The Mexican Woman and other publications on the history of Hispanic women and the women's movement in Mexico. Excerpt. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved. Introduction Considering that scholars have analyzed the Mexican Revolution from a wide range of perspectives, the paucity of studies dealing specifically with the role of Mexican women in the Revolution is disappointing. The focus of most scholars on political and diplomatic events of the Revolution--events in which the role of women was generally limited--has resulted in little acknowledgment of the significant roles played by women in so many other areas that were fundamental to the Revolution's success. To rectify such historical omissions, this work focuses upon women's participation in the Mexican Revolution (1910-1940) and in the Mexican women's rights movement during this thirty-year period. The stage was first set for significant changes in the status of Mexican women, and for the emergence of women revolutionary leaders, during the pre-revolutionary Porfiriato period (1876-1910). During these thirty-five years, appreciable numbers of middle-class Mexican women were able to receive a formal education and to enter various professions for the first time. Following the Porfiriato, the revolutionary period served to further catalyze changes for women because of geographical displacement from home regions and wider ranges of occupational opportunities. In addition to filling such traditional roles as nurses, teachers, and office workers, revolutionary women assumed new roles as military commanders, soldaderas, union organizers, tradespersons, and writers. During the early revolutionary period (1910-1920), women succeeded in acquiring

additional, though limited, legal rights. Divorce was permitted for the first time, and the 1917 Constitution guaranteed some rights for working women. However, political equality remained elusively outside women's grasp, primarily because of women's traditionally close relationship with the Roman Catholic Church. (Revolutionaries believed church influence had to be destroyed if the Revolution were to succeed.) Between 1915 and 1924, the most intense struggle for women's rights in Mexico centered in the state of Yucatan. Site of the first two feminist congresses, Yucatan was the scene of the most active social, political, and economic participation by women in Mexico. Yucatan's leadership in the women's movement can be attributed to the support of its two Socialist governors, the progressive ideas and activism of its women leaders, and the economic base derived from its highly profitable henequen crops. The assassination of the Yucatan governor in 1924 abruptly halted nine successive years of Yucatan social reform. The next administration dissolved women's organizations, removed women from their positions in municipal and state government, cancelled women's suffrage, and halted social programs. Consequently, the momentum of the Mexican women's movement shifted from Yucatan to Mexico City. Mexican women achieved only limited success in their struggle for equality in the period from 1920 to 1934. After helping to win the Revolution and to carry out many revolutionary reforms, especially in the fields of education and health, women received few immediate benefits. During the six-year presidency of Lzaro Crdenas (1934-1940), women continued to work concertedly toward achieving suffrage. They now faced fewer political obstacles than in the past because both the church and the state sought women's allegiance. Women's groups were organized and incorporated into the official state party. In 1936, the official party granted women the right to vote in party primaries, and a few states enacted women's suffrage. In 1938, a national suffrage amendment passed both houses of Congress and was ratified by all twenty-eight states. However, Congress adjourned without completing the ratification process, and the suffrage amendment never became law. Despite their important contributions to the Revolution, Mexican women leaders remained largely unrecognized during the post-revolutionary period. A few revolutionary women were awarded small pensions, and some were even commissioned with rank, but many of them lived out their lives in poverty and died relatively unknown. Widespread disillusionment occurred when women realized that they were not to receive their promised share of the Revolution's benefits. The harsh reality was that Mexican women were not to attain national suffrage until 1953, and they were not to vote in a national election until 1958.