



## INTERNATIONAL TELEVISION FEDERATION

A Project for International Understanding

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### THE UNFINISHED REVOLUTION

Executive Producer: MICHAEL SKLAR  
Producer: MICHAEL ALEXANDER

Written by: MICHAEL SKLAR  
Directed by: MICHAEL ALEXANDER

#### Post-Production Script

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BH & VM

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THE UNFINISHED REVOLUTION

Chirimetero flutist

Various scenes mosaics

Various street signs

Dr. Edmundo Flores, Mexican Economist

DR. EDMUNDO FLORES:

Mexico had the revolution that the Cubans had a few years ago, in 1910. The Revolution is not completed of course. There is much to be done.

TITLES:

(Superimposed over peasant guiding ox-cart, and various scenes of Mexican Peasant life.

THE UNFINISHED REVOLUTION

Presented by  
INTERTEL

A Project for International  
Understanding Through Television

Produced by:

National Educational Television  
Westinghouse Broadcasting Company  
U. S. A.

Aerial view Mexico City

NARRATOR:

Too far from God and too close to the United States -- that's how some Mexicans describe their country. In the Capitol, Mexico City, you can see the United States influence in the traffic, which rivals New York's -- and in the modern, towering skyscrapers.

Traffic scenes

Various Mexico City skyscrapers



Street scenes -- pedestrians

NARRATOR:

But Mexico is contrast. Often the man on the street is only a generation removed from the Indian. Sometimes even less.

Fountains

NARRATOR:

They call Mexico City the Paris of the Western Hemisphere. It looks much like Paris --- in some places.

Nora Del Paso and Mother  
walking along street looking  
at shop windows.

NARRATOR:

And for some people, the wealthy, it provides all that Paris can offer in luxury.

Luxury shop

NARRATOR:

Poor sections of Mexico City

The city and the nation illustrate many of the problems all Latin-American countries face, or will face, as they industrialize. For most people luxury consists of a bit of food each day for themselves and their children...And a place to sleep, any place which provides a roof over their heads.

Ragged children

Scenes of children and adults --  
closeups of faces

NARRATOR:

Village street scenes

Aerial view Mexico City --  
older section

About four and a half million people live in Mexico City, some 13 percent of all Mexicans. With its large population--- its wealth --- and governmental headquarters, the capitol dominates the nation. Its traditions go back in history to another, far older civilization. Near the president's palace stand the remnants of ancient palaces and pyramids.

Governmental headquarters

Aztec ruins of original city

The foundations of Modern Mexico rest literally upon the ruins of the Aztec Indian Empire

Scenes of Aztec sculpture

NARRATOR:

Scale model of Mexico City in 1500

This was Mexico City in the year 1500 -- the capital of the Aztec Indians. They had defeated and oppressed all of the neighboring Indian nations. Their cruelty to the conquered was one of the factors that led to their downfall.

Rivera Murals depicting conquest  
and enslavement of Indians

NARRATOR:

When Cortes and his Spaniards invaded in  
1519, these conquered Indians joined the  
white men against their masters.

With Indian aid, and with horses and guns  
the Spaniards won.

They then enslaved all of Mexico --  
their former allies as well as the Aztecs.

For 300 years the Spaniards ruled with  
cruelty and violence. They wiped out the  
Indian civilization ---exploited the wealth  
of the country.

NARRATOR:

Zoom shots -- various street signs

Then came a long period of war and revol-  
ution in which Modern Mexico was born. In  
Mexico City the street names and the monu-  
ments recall the struggles for freedom which  
began in 1810.

Monuments of various heroes

First the war of Independence from Spain,  
led by priests, Fathers Hidalgo and Morelos.

Statues of young Mexican soldiers  
in 1848

Another war in 1846...invasion by the  
United States, one of several. Mexico was  
defeated, lost half her territory to the  
United States.

Juarez monument

For a short time, under president Benito  
Juarez, her first modern Indian leader,  
Mexico was at peace. But he was followed by  
Porfirio Diaz and years of brutal dictator-  
ship.

Diaz monument

Madero statue

Francisco Madero exploded the revolution  
that swept away the dictator in 1910. The  
revolution promised land to the peasants,  
work to the workers, freedom and a decent  
standard of living for all. Under  
strong men like Alvaro Obregon, the country  
began to rebuild.

Obregon monument and interior  
shot of statue



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NARRATOR:

Interior Olmedo Living room.  
Businesswoman Lola Olmedo and  
architect Juan O'Gorman seated  
on couch, conversing voice under,  
then commenting to camera

Senora Lola Olmedo and Senor Juan O'Gorman  
are products of the revolution. Senora  
Olmedo is a successful businesswoman,  
famous for her fine collection of Mexican  
art.

Senor O'Gorman is a prominent Mexican  
artist and architect.

Sr. O'Gorman

SENOR JUAN O'GORMAN:

I was very young, and I saw the revolution  
when I was 3,4,5, 6 years of age. The  
Mexican Revolution made it possible for me  
to go to the school of architecture to  
become an architect.

Sra. Olmedo

SENORA LOLA OLMEDO:

With the Revolution, Mexican women have the  
right to vote. The Revolution allowed  
us to go to the University, to have the  
same right of the men with work, and many  
women earn more money than men.

Sr. O'Gorman

SR. JUAN O'GORMAN:

The Mexican Revolution partly produced the  
great painting of the murals of Orozco and  
Rivera, and the Revolution of Mexico is  
what I have lived through in my life.  
Certainly I have benefitted greatly by  
the Revolution.

Dr. Edmundo Flores in his  
study

NARRATOR:

Another who benefitted by the Revolution  
is Dr. Edmundo Flores. He is a leading  
government economist and professor at the  
National University.

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Dr. Flores

DR. EDMUNDO FLORES:

When the Mexicans talk about Revolution they talk about a good many things. We hope that the violent part has stopped forever. Today the Revolution in Mexico means change, the adoption of innovations. Don't forget that this Revolution is a left-wing revolution. A revolution that has accomplished land reform. A Revolution that has nationalized some basic industries. A Revolution that has set this country on her feet, and made out of Mexico a modern, growing nation couldn't by any means be a right wing, a conservative affair. By necessity it had to be liberal, it had to be progressive, it had to try to change the status quo.

NARRATOR:

Aerial view, University of Mexico

Today, half a century after the revolution began, the Mexican status quo continues to change. That's due largely to the spread of higher education. This is the National University, located on the outskirts of Mexico City. Physically, it is huge, constructed on a scale unequalled since the building of the Aztec pyramids.

Scenes of University of Mexico  
showing mosaics and  
architecture

Artistically, it attempts to fuse Mexico's past and present: the art of the Indians ...the art of the Revolution...the architecture of the mid-twentieth century.

NARRATOR:

General campus --students  
walking

With facilities for 25,000 students, enrollment has jumped to 70,000 in the University's first ten years. Mexico has only 40 schools of higher education, and most of these, scholastically, are poor. The young are ambitious. They demand education. Tuition is almost free, so in spite of the overcrowding they come here from every part of the Republic.

Students in outdoor corridor  
of building

Some seem pure European.

Students' faces

Others show strong traces of their Indian heritage.



Interior of classroom --  
during lecture

NARRATOR:

Almost all are of mixed Indian and Spanish ancestry -- the mestizo. Of the students Dr. Flores says:

DR, EDMUNDO FLORES: (Voice Over)

The new generations are the ones who are going to continue building this country -- building more roads, more highways, more dams, creating better schools, increasing the standard of living of the general people in Mexico.

NARRATOR:

Medical intern Adela Bocanegra  
leaving University building  
and stopping to chat with  
friends (Voices under)

Typical of the new generation is Adela Bocanegra. She is well dressed, well groomed, well educated. But not so long ago, Adela's life was very different.

Adela boarding bus

Her home is in Tepoztlan, a small village about 50 miles from Mexico City. She came to the University to study medicine. Her courses completed, she returns now to Tepoztlan, where she will serve a one-year internship at the village health center.

Various landscape scenes of  
Tepoztlan environs

The land around Tepoztlan is Mexico in miniature. Most of it is scenically superb ...but poor for farming. The hills are too steep for the plow.

The earth is dry, baked by the hot sun and parched by a shortage of rainfall. There is little irrigation. Since the Revolution the government has given the peasants millions of acres formerly owned by the wealthy, but a great deal of it is divided into small, uneconomical family plots. Poor land, poor people.

NARRATOR:

Various scenes of peasant dwellings  
in the south of Mexico

There are many places in the south of the country where the standard of living is little higher than it was five hundred years ago, before Cortes and his Spaniards arrived.

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NARRATOR:

Interiors of peasant dwellings

In these straw huts there is no sanitation of any kind. Humans and animals share the same living quarters.

Scenes of ragged children

Poor food...poor clothes...poor housing... it makes a vicious cycle.

Tepoztlan road sign and bus

But on the whole, the rural areas are changing...And you can see some of the changes in Tepoztlan.

Scene through stone arch of Tepoztlan surroundings

It's a quiet little town of about 5000 people. Most of them are peasants and craftsmen. The place seems untouched by the centuries since Cortes came here, conquered the Indians, and made it part of his own personal estate. Aztec customs still persist. You can hear Aztec music played by the Chirimiteros on the town plaza.

Various scenes Tepoztlan streets

Chirimitero musicians in town plaza

But the youth prefer modern gadgets.

Youths listening to portable radio

Indians speaking Nahuatl (voices under)

Only a few of the men can still speak Nahuatl, the ancient Indian language.

Shoes are taking the place of the Indian sandal.

Scenes comparing traditional and modern-dress styles.

And instead of braiding their hair as their mothers did, some women are adopting modern styles.

Bus stopping in Tepoztlan

The auto bus is another important change. Coming some 25 years ago with the paved road, it ended Tepoztlan's centuries of isolation.

Adela alighting from bus, walking through Tepoztlan and entering Bocanegra home.

With her modern training and ideas, Adela Bocanegra represents the greatest change of all. At the time of the Revolution, university graduates were almost unknown in the village. About 80 percent of the villagers were illiterate. Today most people can read and write; and each year the village sends a number of young people like Adela to the National University.



NARRATOR:

Interior scenes --Bocanegra home

The Bocanegra family is wealthy by the standards of Tepotzlan. Adela's parents are school teachers.

Bocanegra family in Living room at various activities

They have a living room, and separate sleeping quarters. The kitchen has running water. The floor is paved. There is electricity, a telephone, and a typewriter --- one of the few in the village.

Scenes of Roman Catholic Church Tepoztlan

Like most villagers, the Bocanegras are deeply religious Catholics. In fact, 97 percent of Mexico is Catholic.

Scenes of pilgrims crawling on their knees on road

The Catholic Church dominates Tepoztlan physically and spiritually. There are chapels and shrines in every part of the town. Many villagers take part in the annual pilgrimage to the shrine of the Virgin of Guadalupe, Mexico's patron saint. Some crawl the 50 miles from Tepoztlan to Mexico City, there joining pilgrims from other parts of the country.

Aerial shot -- Cathedral of the Virgin of Guadalupe, Mexico City

On a national scale, the Catholic Church has regained much of the power it lost during the revolution, when the Church sided against the revolutionaries. For years afterward Church and government were at war. Churches were burned and priests were outlawed. Now there is peace and freedom of worship is respected.

Interior scenes of Cathedral

Worshippers crawling on knees in Cathedral plaza

Even religion in Mexico reflects the country's racial mixture of Spanish and Indian. The people worship a dark Indian Virgin --- and sing and dance for her as they once did for the Aztec Gods.

Aztecs dancing in Cathedral Plaza

Various shots of people on knees in plaza

From earliest childhood many Mexicans believe in, and pray for, miracles to relieve the harshness of their lives. After more than four centuries of Christianity many are half pagan, superstitious, fatalistic.

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NARRATOR:

Various shots of religious  
fiesta, Tepoztlan --dancers,  
merrymakers, and observers

Gay or sad, the religious fiesta is the Mexican's emotional safety valve, a release from humdrum routine and poverty. In Tepoztlan each year there are 27 fiestas in which the entire town takes part. Each fiesta lasts three or four days --- a wild spree of music, dancing, and merrymaking.

Costumes poke fun at the rich men of the village. Others show traces of the Moorish influence brought to Mexico by the Spaniards.

A month of hard work pays for a single day of joy.

Old folks remember a time when the only outsiders at the fiesta were people from the nearby hills and hamlets. That's all changed. There are new faces nowadays.

The fiesta has become commercial -- a Tourist attraction. And with the native dancers you can now see the Conga line

Ferris wheel behind church wall

Fiesta and churchbell echo Tepoztlan's past --- The schoolbell is the sound of the future. Elementary school education is compulsory in the village, and attendance has doubled in the past ten years.

Various shots of  
children entering school

Senor Bocanegra has a deep personal interest in this particular school. It was built by the Mexican government in answer to a request he made when he served as a volunteer in the Second World War. To each volunteer the government granted a wish. Senor Bocanegra asked for a school for his village. His daughter Adela once sat in this classroom.

Interior scene of class in  
Bocanegra school (Sr. Bocanegra  
speaks voice under)

Since the Revolution the government has built thousands of schools, trained thousands of teachers. Today Mexico spends more than 18 percent of the annual budget on schools and schooling... far more than most nations.



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NARRATOR:

Children listening to lesson  
and reciting (voices under)

Exterior -- Tepoztlan rural  
hospital

Interior ---waiting room of  
hospital

Various scenes of Adela  
Bocanegra examining babies  
and women

Various shots, peasant  
housewife Amada  
Lopes, and others, scrubbing  
clothes in stream

Several shots, Amada  
Lopes carrying water to home

Yard of the Lopes home

But education is expensive ---While there  
has been much progress, the problem of  
schooling is still great.

Another Mexican problem is public health.  
Modern hospitals like this one in Tepoztlan  
have been built by the government in  
hundreds of rural villages. But most  
peasants still fear science, cling to super-  
stition. Instead of the hospital some  
take their children to the curandero, the  
witch doctor.

Health standards in Tepoztlan are higher  
than in most villages. That's due to the  
town's closeness to Mexico City, and to the  
efforts of young doctors like Adela  
Bocanegra.

Medical service is free of charge at the  
clinic. Adela is paid by the government.  
Her job is educational as well as medical  
...to prove to the people that science is  
better than superstition..to turn them  
away from the traditional ways of the  
peasant. But the traditional way is the  
only way that millions of peasant women  
like Amada Lopes have ever known.

Her life is a daily routine of back-break-  
ing labor, beginning at dawn and ending  
only when she goes to bed. Few Mexican  
peasant women ever heard of washing  
machines. There are few even in Mexico  
City. Machines are expensive. Human  
labor is cheap.

The cheapest power in Mexico is woman-  
power, especially peasant woman power.  
Water must be carried from the village  
fountain to the home. Senora Lopes does it  
several times each day, yoked like an ox  
in the hot sun.

She is utterly submissive to her husband,  
who is absolute master of the family.  
She accepts her role as burden carrier  
without question.

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NARRATOR:

Amada Lopes performing household chores, cleaning, making and cooking tortillas, putting child to bed

Her day is an endless succession of chores. The dirt floor of her hut must be swept over and over to keep it clean.

Tortillas must be made several times daily. They are made by hand in the villages, using the same metate the Aztecs used 500 years ago.

The tortilla is Mexico's basic food. Senora Lopes cooks them on an open fire. There is no chimney in her hut, which is made of adobe -- sun-baked mud.

The corn crib stands in the middle of the one room of the hut which serves for both living and sleeping.

Corn crib in middle of hut's room -- Senor Lopes nearby

And corn, from which the tortilla is made, dictates the conditions of existence for 18 million peasants, more than half of Mexico's people.

Several shots farmers walking to fields, tilling same

Many of Tepoztlan's peasants must walk miles each day to reach their fields. The fields near the village have been bought up by wealthier men, or become exhausted by the one-crop system of growing only corn and a few beans.

Tractor plowing field in Tepoztlan

But Mexico, with its primitive methods of agriculture...its backward peasants... its unfavorable soil...its water shortage...its mountainous terrain...has more than doubled its agricultural production since the end of the Second World War. This was accomplished by bringing vast new tracts of land under cultivation. Even more important was the introduction of modern machinery. The day of the ox is ending in Tepoztlan.

Commercial agriculture -- many tractors working field on large Northern Mexico farm.

Although there are still few tractors in the south of Mexico, there's been a full-scale changeover in the north of the country. There farming is carried on by most advanced methods -- commercial agriculture, growing crops for export.



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NARRATOR:

Irrigation Project

Hydro-electric machinery

High tension wires

Huge irrigation projects have brought water to millions of acres of previously arid land. With the dams have come hydro-electric generating plants, some of the most modern in the world.

Result: the production of electric power has gone up more than 500 percent. Similar increases have been made by all of the basic industries. New heavy manufacturing and consumer goods industries have been developed. In 20 years the nation's gross national product has more than doubled. Mexico has become an industrial leader of Latin America.

DR. EDMUNDO FLORES: (Voice Over)

Various shots heavy industry.

Pemex (Petroleos Mexicanos) signs.

Dr. Flores (on camera)

To a large extent the Mexican economy depends on the government...on public investment, but this does not exclude at all the participation of private enterprise. The Mexican Government had to nationalize some basic industries. We had to have our oil; we had to have access to cheap fuel for development, and we had to stop the tremendous capital flight that implied having the oil by foreign interests. The same applies to public utilities. As the country has matured, as the economy has developed, we have found it necessary this time not to confiscate, not to expropriate but to purchase many of the public utilities and have them as the patrimony of the country.

Businessman David Matson on terrace gazing at Mexico City skyline, and pan scenes of skyscrapers

NARRATOR:

David Matson is head of an American light and power company in Mexico -- one of the utility companies nationalized by the Mexican government. He administered a foreign owned power empire worth millions of dollars.

David Matson enters office  
from terrace

David Matson on camera,  
in his office

NARRATOR:

Mr. Matson has lived and worked in Latin America for 25 years, 15 of them in Mexico. He knows the country well.  
(Changes tone)

"Mr. Matson, was your Company forced to sell out to the Mexican government?"

DAVID MATSON:

No, the answer is definitely no. We really sold our properties to the Mexican government. It was our own initiative. One of the important understandings in this negotiation was that a large portion of the purchase price would be invested in new industry in Mexico. Petro-Chemical, Cement, Steel -- fundamental things. We are now engaged in doing that.

NARRATOR:

"How important is foreign investment to the growth of the Mexican economy?"

DAVID MATSON:

In my opinion, it's absolutely necessary. There just isn't enough money in Mexico to take care of the industrialization required.

NARRATOR:

"Can you make a general statement on the most significant changes in Mexico since you have known the country?"

DAVID MATSON:

Well, I have seen it shift from you might say an agricultural and mining economy to a much greater cross-section in which industry now is playing a very important part and is creating a very substantial middle class.



NARRATOR:

High shot -- Independence City

Various scenes -- Independence City apartment houses, plaza, sculptures, fountains, Indian mosaics decorating buildings

Independence City children at play

Manuel Rivera supervising children in playground

Independence City swimming pool

Manuel Rivera instructing children (Rivera's voice under)

Movie theatre exterior. Lobby of theatre -- Rivera tacking up advertisements

Scenes of Rivera working for auto agency as secretary and salesman

Panorama and aerial shots of modern Mexican highways and cars travelling on highways

For the new middle class of professionals, government employees, and high paid factory workers, new housing projects like Ciudad Independencia -- Independence City -- have been built with government aid. Fifteen thousand people live here, a lucky few. The housing shortage is severe.

The use of Indian motifs is encouraged by the government, which likes to remind Mexicans that they are an Indian people. Rentals range from about 10 dollars a month for the smallest apartments, to 68 dollars for the luxury units, which are occupied mostly by well-to-do professionals.

Here the children are well cared for. Off the streets, they play in safety.

They are supervised by men like Manuel Rivera. Born poor, uneducated, he has improved himself. His troubles reveal some of the problems of this new middle class. Rivera has 9 children -- and a financial squeeze. To make ends meet he works hard.

One of his jobs is teaching the children of Independence City how to swim. He does this every morning. But the pay is small. He needs more income.

So every afternoon he works for a local movie theatre. That brings in a few more pesos.

Another daily job is acting as secretary to an automobile dealer, for whom he is also a part-time salesman. With all these jobs Rivera just manages to get by.

Cars are the status symbol of Mexico's new middle class, as they are everywhere else in the world. It's significant that the number of new superhighways, and the number of cars that travel them, has more than doubled in the past few years.

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NARRATOR:

With the automobiles and the highways, the road has been opened to a glamorous new way of life. The Mexicans call it "pocho" ...Americanization.

Nora del Paso, Junior Water Ski  
Champion, on water skis

Sports of every kind have become immensely popular. This is Nora Del Paso, junior water-skiing champion of Mexico.

Del Paso summer home overlooking  
lake

Families like the Del Pasos enjoy long weekends at their handsome summer home on the shore of a lake.

Barbecue shots

They often cook barbecue style...still eat tortillas -- but also eat hot dogs.

The new life of the middle class seems to produce tall, well-built, healthy young people. They look and dress exactly like the middle class teenagers north of the Mexican border.

Del Pasos arriving at supermarket

The Del Pasos go shopping in one of their several cars. They shop at supermarkets as modern as any in the United States, Britain, or Canada. This one, in fact, is part-owned by a U.S. corporation. Much of the packaged food they buy is made by U.S. firms. They like food to be cellophane-wrapped...and in selecting it they are influenced by American-style advertising.

Interior of supermarket

Scenes of food in cases

Following the American pattern, beauty has become big business in Mexico. Weekly visits to the beauty salon are made by Nora and her mother.

Beauty salon interior and  
street scenes

Gone for Nora, are the days of the shy young maiden at the barred window, waiting for her young man to appear with a guitar and a serenade.

Interior Del Paso home --  
Nora making up before mirror

No more traditional folk dances for Mexico's middle class teenagers. Nowadays it's the Lindy...and "la tweest."

Various scenes of party  
and dancing



NARRATOR:

Exterior shots of Luis Gil  
home in Pedregal. Swimming pool,  
peacock, gardener at work

Interior shots of Architect  
Luis Gil's home --servants  
cleaning, nurse bathing baby

Scenes of study, Gil  
at hi-fi, and at drawing board

Scenes of Gil's wardrobe closets,  
shoes, sombreros, detail of  
charro outfits

Luis Gil coming out of house,  
dressed in charro outfit --  
mounting horse, instructing  
groom, and riding out of yard

Though the middle class lives well, at the top of Mexico's social and economic ladder are the people of the Pedregal district. Here live the rich, who have profited most by the industrial boom which has followed the Revolution. In luxury their homes equal any in the world.

In an ultra-modern setting, the new aristocracy surrounds itself with servants --almost as many as the pre-revolutionary rich .

This is the home of Luis Gil, a young architect... Gil's grandfather owned a huge hacienda -- with thousands of acres. It was lost during the Revolution. Gil's father then went into the construction business and became rich in the post-revolution building boom.

Gil is urbane, well educated, and designs modern homes and factory buildings for the wealthy.

You could guess at Luis Gil's personal wealth by his wardrobe...Or better yet, by the "charro" cowboy costumes hanging there.

Each of these sombreros costs one hundred and fifty dollars.

Each of these cowboy suits costs two hundred and fifty dollars. They are intricately stitched, made of the finest cloth and skins...loaded down with heavy silver buttons and ornaments.

Another expensive item is the horse, generally a pedigreed animal.

In one year Luis Gil may spend on his Charro activities, almost as much money as a Mexican laborer or peasant might earn in a lifetime.

Grandson of a hacienda owner, he tries to continue the traditions of pre-revolutionary Mexico, when gentlemen wore silver spurs ...ruled armies of peons..and carried swords and guns.

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NARRATOR:

Scenes of Charro (cowboy) Club activities -- roping horses, throwing steers.

Luis Gil's friends and wife on lawn, and child playing in pool (voices under)

Street scenes depicting lower class neighborhood barefoot children, organ grinder, boys selling lottery tickets on city streets, boys selling newspapers, man selling birds

Interior of family's one room combination living and working quarters, showing family at work

Trading in market place. Various types of food displayed on ground

Although the revolution reduced the political power of men of Gil's class, recently they have actually increased their economic influence, and wealth. This is how Luis Gil spends an afternoon at the Charro Club in Mexico City.

Only 5 percent of all Mexicans receive 37 percent of Mexico's annual income. Only a fraction of these can afford to live like Luis Gil.

NARRATOR:

What about those at the other end of the ladder -- how do they live?

Approximately 65 percent of the people belong to the lower class. But that 65 percent receives only 25 percent of the annual national income. Their share has actually gone down -- at a time when the rich are getting richer.

To earn a few extra pesos, men go out on the streets and work at odd jobs. Some children are beggars.

Boys plead with the passersby to purchase tickets in the national lottery.

The streets are full of eager, anxious salesmen -- young and old, each trying pathetically to add a few more pesos to the family income.

Whole families work in tiny one-room workshops. Men, women, and children work, cook, eat, and sleep in the same room. Child labor is common.

Fortunately for the poor, clothing can be bought cheaply at the outdoor markets which are everywhere in Mexico. Food, too.

But Sanitary precautions are poor at the street markets. And food displayed on the ground can carry disease --and often does so.



NARRATOR:

Exterior and interior scenes of new type market -- the indoor MERCADO showing various selling stalls, truck unloading meat, man carrying side of beef on back from street into Mercado. Camera follows him through store.

New indoor markets -- called Mercados, are being built by the government to take food off the street. It's part of the government drive to improve health conditions.

The government also controls the prices of important food items like meat and milk.

Most important for the workers, perhaps, are the government's actions to protect their wage standards. Minimum wage rates have been increased several times during the past 10 years. The right to strike for higher wages is guaranteed.

But even so, most wage increases have been wiped out by inflation. Most Mexican workers today earn about 20 dollars per week. Compare that with the average 44 dollars per week of the English worker, and the 92 dollars per week of the worker in the United States.

Stone Mason Chucho Comacho walking through wealthy residential area, ending abruptly in a poor area of adobe houses

Chucho Comacho is a stone mason. His pay is about average.

On his way home from work Chucho passes the homes of the well-to-do. Poor and rich live side by side in most parts of Mexico. In that at least there is democracy.

Chucho walking along the Street of Cherries, entering his home which is overcrowded and buzzing with activity

He lives on "The Street of the Cherries"... but it's been a long time since cherry blossoms bloomed here. Unpaved and rutted, the street is lined by adobe walls and makeshift adobe homes.

Chucho has lived on this street all of his life. Thirty-five years old, he is still unmarried, says he can't afford a family of his own on his income.

He lives with his parents...has the traditional Mexican respect for elders.

NARRATOR:

The house started out as a squatter's shack when Chucho was a boy. Now, after many years, it belongs by squatter's right to the family. But it is badly over crowded. Twenty-one people live here with Chucho in a few small rooms: parents, sisters, uncles, aunts, cousins, nieces and nephews.

Chucho in crowded bedroom

Eight people, adults and children, sleep with Chucho in this small room. They sleep three on a bed .. and consider themselves lucky because there are beds to sleep on, and the room is clean and neat.

Exterior Chucho home and garden at nightfall

By nightfall the Comacho family is asleep.

Exterior Chucho home early morning  
Chucho and Fernando washing at water spout

Morning is a busy time as 21 people wait to use the water faucets. Chucho and cousin Fernando are first. They are employed breadwinners.

Baby being washed

Like most Mexicans, the Comachos believe in personal cleanliness ..though it is difficult to keep clean with dirt floors, and blowing dust.

Adults and children at chores

Most members of the household are working members. Each child has a daily chore .

When the chores are completed, the children help the adults with the flowers, from which the Comachos get some additional income.

Papa Felice loading cart with flowers

The women raise the flowers for sale in the market place. Every morning Papa Felipe loads his cart.

Women sewing

Meanwhile, Aunt Modesta and cousin Alicia get busy with their needlework, which is also sold in the market.

Children preparing shoe-shine boxes.

Ernesto and Pedro prepare their shoe-shine boxes for a morning's work. They'll go to school afterwards.



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Chucho and family leaving for  
work

Felipe cycling to market

Various shots of makeshift  
dwellings in shantytown  
outside Mexico City.

Child on garbage dump  
blowing soap bubbles

Interplay of old man picking  
scrap metal and boy gathering  
wood from garbage dump

Family at dinner in front  
of their shack, soon joined  
by relatives

By all this labor...by the combined ef-  
forts of 8 adults and 7 younger people,  
the Comacho family manages to live in  
comparative comfort.  
They are poor--but they are far from the  
bottom of the ladder.

This is the bottom.

Shantytowns have sprung up on the outskirts  
of Mexico's big cities. Squatter villages  
where houses are made of packing crates  
and bits of tin..often just a cave on the  
side of a hill.

Here children grow up on the garbage dump

And on that same garbage dump grown men  
must earn their bread. They are as  
rejected by society as the refuse from  
which they get their livelihood.(PAUSE)

Even a stick of wood has value.

And an empty tin can or a glass jar  
is gold.

Here spirits are maimed. Crippled bodies  
are only a visible symptom of a deeper  
disease: grinding poverty.

These are the homes of people for whom the  
glowing statistics of Mexico's agri-  
cultural and industrial growth are a  
mockery.

For them, plans to improve education and  
expand public health have been just so  
many empty promises.

New housing projects are castles in the  
sky.

Their problem is very simple: to get  
enough food each day to stay alive.

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NARRATOR:

Most of them were landless peasants. Newcomers to the city, they came with hopes of work and better conditions..and found unemployment and misery. They are bitter. They say, "It was better in the old days. What good is freedom? We can't eat it."

Shanty interior. People sleeping on floor

This is more than 10 percent of Mexico --the bottom of the lowest class. For them, little has changed since the old days before the Revolution. In the division of Mexico's new wealth they have been shoved aside. For them, since it has done them little good, the revolution might never have happened.

Several scenes of anti-American signs painted on fences

Sympathy toward Castro Cuba and anger against the United States is strong among that rejected 10 percent of Mexico. They are the prime exhibit of Mexico's political Left Wing, part of which demands a Castro-type solution of Mexico's social problems. And they represent a challenge which is not limited to Mexico alone.

Mr. Matson in his office.

DAVID MATSON:

Well, you might say all through Latin America you have this situation where this Castro mess has had some effect and as you know acted as catalytic agent in certain parts. Foreign investors are very much perturbed by this situation in Cuba and what has happened in Cuba, and they have a feeling that it may happen most anywhere in Latin America.

Dr. Flores in his study

DR. EDMUNDO FLORES:

The sympathy that Mexico has towards Cuba is not a sympathy derived from American ideals, but rather from the Mexican Revolution and from our traditions; not from any ideas imported from Moscow. The United States should understand that if they really want Latin America to be friends that they have to tolerate, they have to understand the need that some Latin American countries have to rid themselves of the feudal background.



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Sra. Olmedo in living room

SENORA LOLA OLMEDO:

If they have in the schools some more knowledge about Mexicans and our feelings and our way of living, because the Latins are not different that they, it would mean better understanding.

Sr. O'Gorman in living room

JUAN O'GORMAN:

When that great man, Franklin D. Roosevelt, was president of the United States, the relations between the United States and the Latin American countries were in proper order. We as Mexicans loved that great man because he made the progress of our country possible.

Dr. Flores in his study

DR. EDMUNDO FLORES:

We are on the side of the under-developed countries. We are against the United States when the United States wants to use brute force, but not always against the United States.

NARRATOR:

"Dr. Flores, is there any similarity between Mexico today and Cuba before the Castro regime?"

DR. EDMUNDO FLORES:

None whatsoever. Before Castro came to power they had in Cuba something that is often forgotten. They had the brutal dictatorship of the right, to a very large extent similar to the one that prevails in the Dominican Republic. In Mexico we did away with dictatorship for more than 50 years now. This is a free advancing country. Cuba before Castro was a country which partially was a colony of the United States and partially was being run for the benefit of a few very wealthy Cubans.

NARRATOR:

"What about the charge that Mexico is run for the benefit of a few wealthy Mexicans?"

DR. EDMUNDO FLORES:

Our figures indicate that income in Mexico today is not as evenly distributed as we would like it to be. There is a wide gap between the very rich and the very poor.

NARRATOR:

"Do you think, Doctor, that the income gap between the Mexican middle class and the working class is too wide?"

DR. EDMUNDO FLORES:

Any country that develops has to save capital, has to form capital from somewhere. This makes it necessary to have a policy of austerity. This makes it necessary to squeeze the larger sectors of the population for a while until you have built enough industry to provide the goods .. the consumption goods ..for these people. However, with further growth, the serious differences of income distribution will be somewhat improved, and the Mexican labor groups and the peasants will derive higher real incomes.

NARRATOR:

So, the poor of Mexico, who have carried the burden of the nation's recent growth, are asked to shoulder the load a while longer. But the revolution of 1910 promised, among other things, a decent standard of living for all. Mexican governments have struggled for half a century to make good that promise; they have achieved much; but Mexico is still far short of the goal.

How much longer will the poor be patient? In a Latin America tempted and propagandized by Cuba, how long can Mexico afford to delay the completion of...the unfinished revolution?

Woman carrying water

Man carrying sack

Man with burden strapped to head

Boot black with slogan  
SOCIAL JUSTICE on shirt

Construction laborers at work

Man carrying cement bags on back

Woman carrying bay in her  
arms near construction site



END TITLES AND CREDITS:

(superimposed over various scenes  
of old man with two young children)

THE UNFINISHED REVOLUTION

Executive Producer and Writer

MICHAEL SKLAR

Producer and Director

MICHAEL ALEXANDER

Narrated by

JOSEPH JULIAN

Cameraman.....Carlos Carbajal, A. S. C.

Film Editor.....Manfred Kirchheimer

Unit Manager.....Fernando Belina

Assistant Director.....Salvador Elizondo

Research.....Annette Nancarrow  
Boris Holtzman

Continuity.....Eduardo Landeta

Music Score.....Ross-Gaffney

Re-recording.....Al Gramaglia

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