The History of Northwestern Mexico

by John P. Schmal

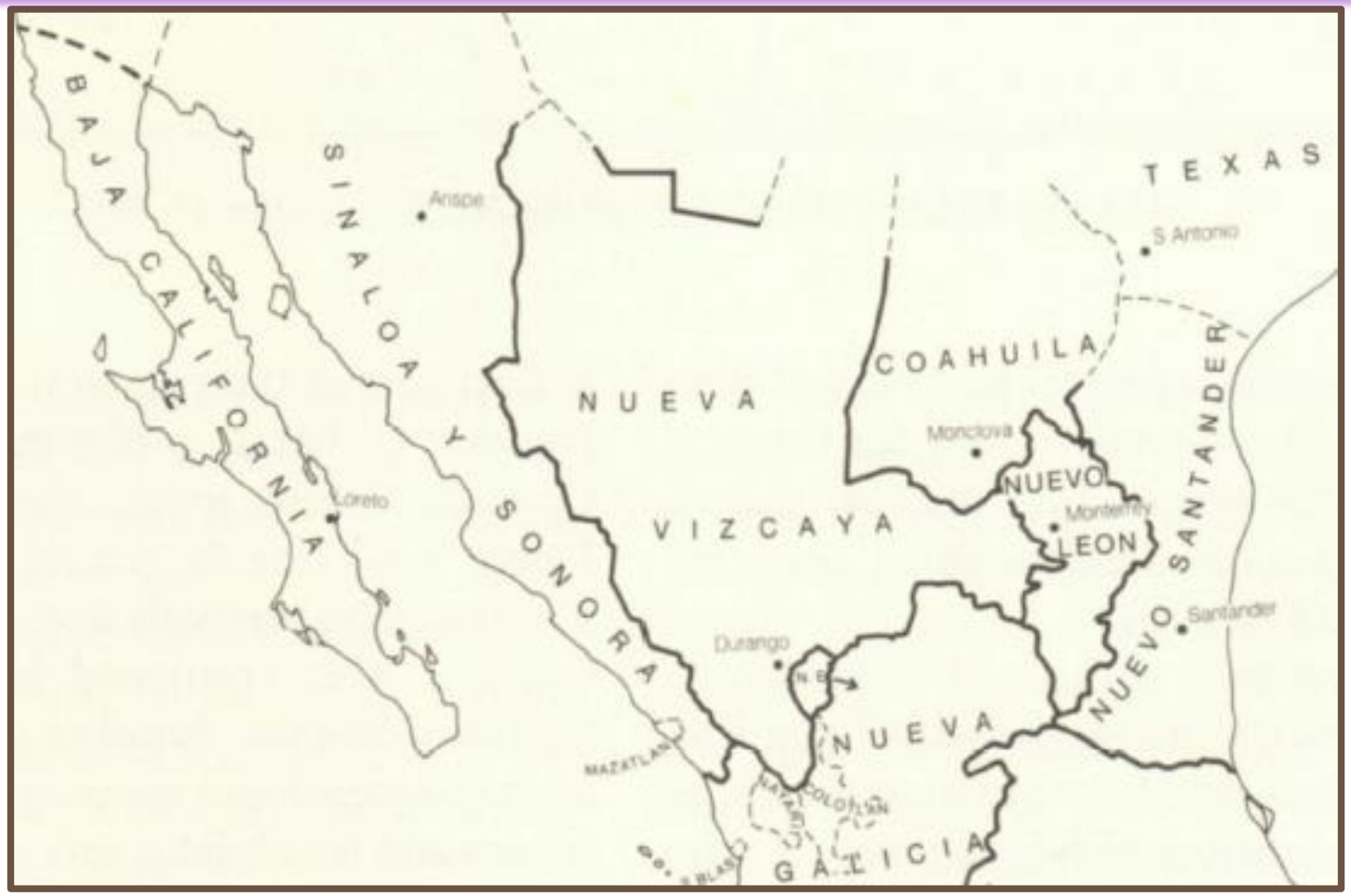
February 2018

Northwestern Mexico Today

Source: WikiVoyage, “Northern Mexico.”

Northern Mexico Colonial Political Jurisdictions

Coahuila was separated from Nueva Vizcaya and became a province in 1716. Sinaloa y Sonora was also detached from Nueva Vizcaya in 1733. After that, Nueva Vizcaya consisted primarily of Chihuahua and Durango.

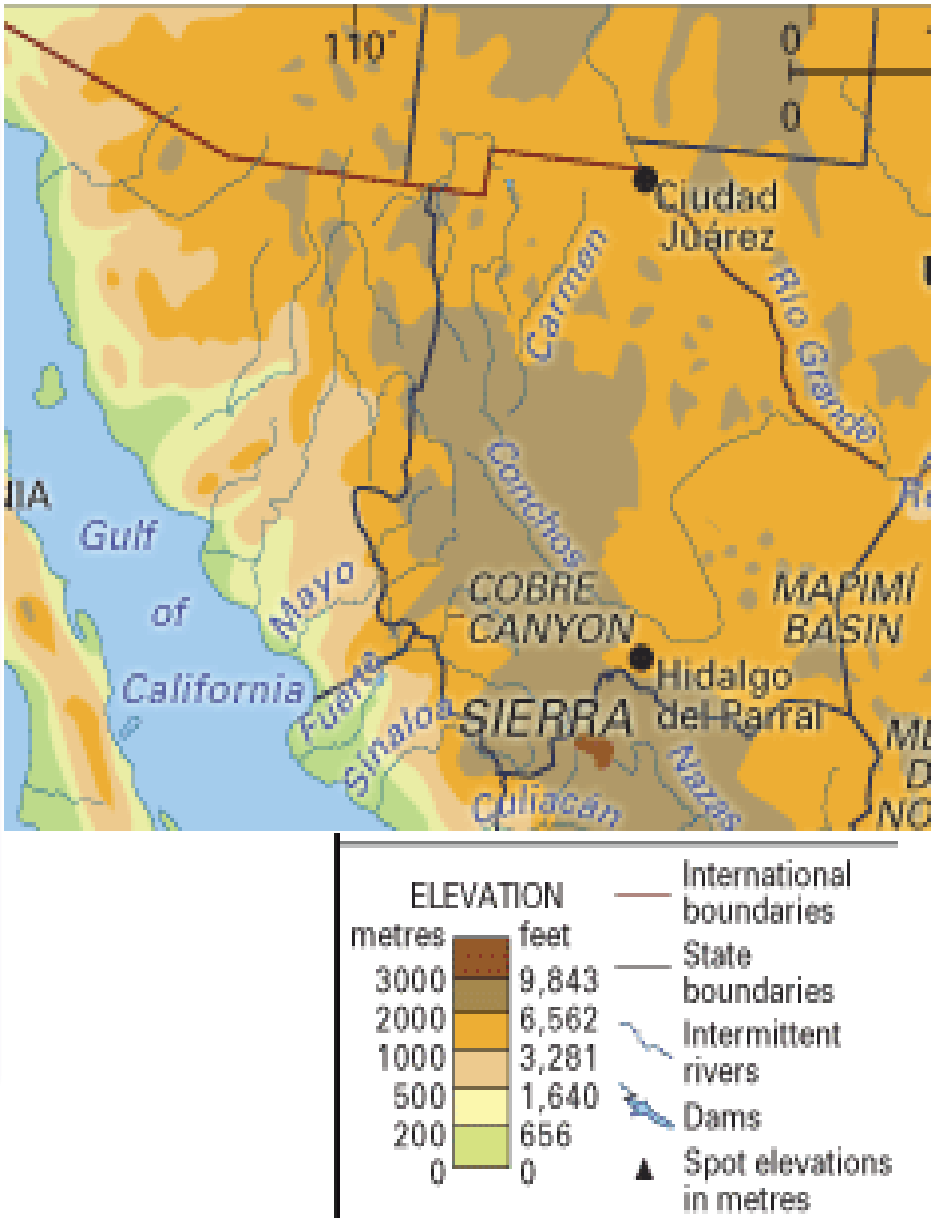


Source: Peter Gerhard, "The North Frontier of New Spain" (1982).

Northwestern Mexico: Mountainous Regions

Mountains account for one third of Chihuahua's surface area and are rich in minerals important to Mexico's mining industry. The **Sierra Madre Occidental Mountains** run from just south of the Arizona-Sonora border southeast through eastern Sonora, western Chihuahua, Sinaloa, Durango, Zacatecas and farther south.

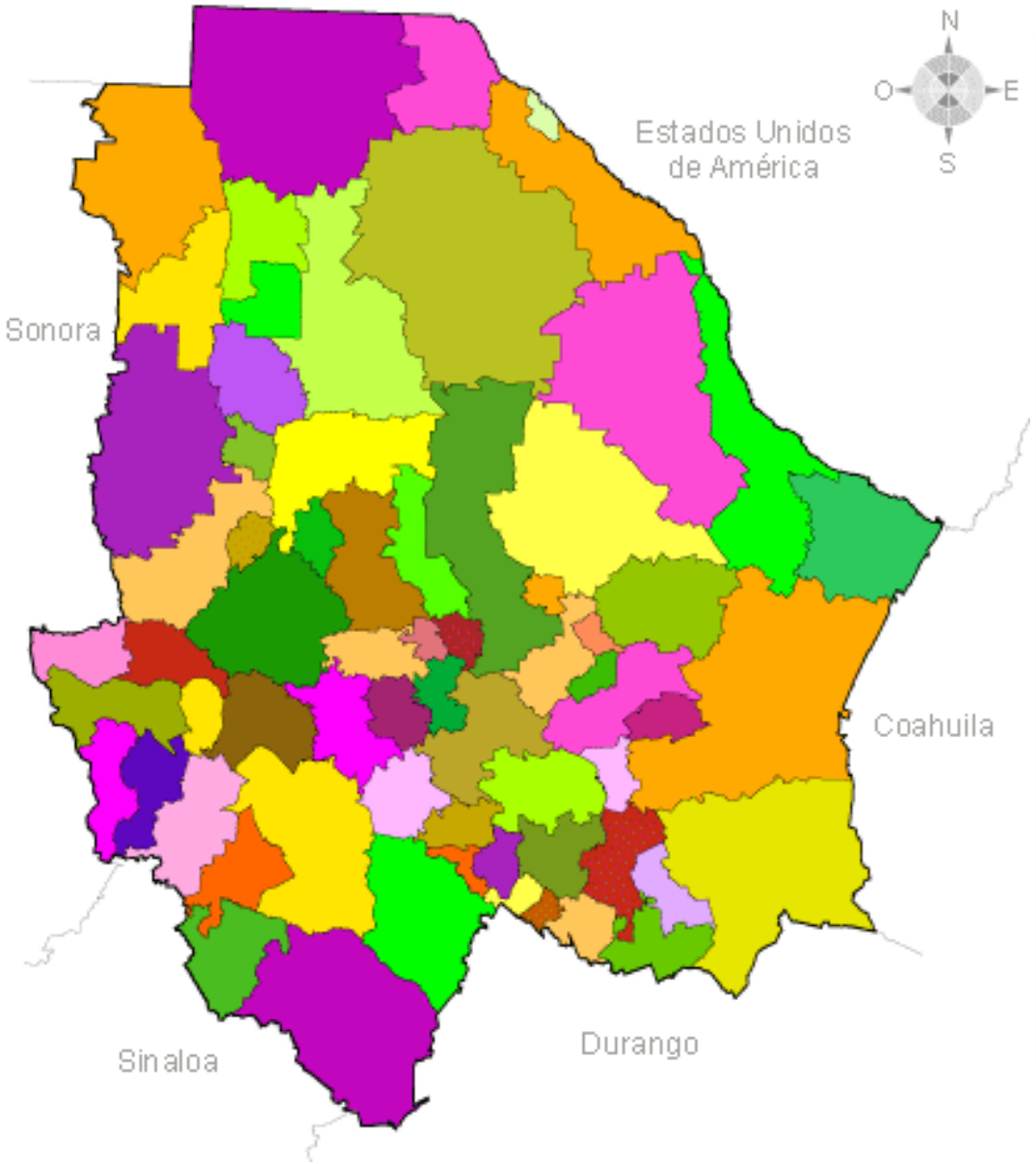
The **Sierra Tarahumara Range** is the name for the region of the Sierra Madre beginning at the Durango border and extending north. This is a dramatic landscape of steep mountains formed by a high plateau that has been cut through with canyons, including Copper Canyon.



Source: Wikipedia, "Sierra Madre Occidental."

Chihuahua

Chihuahua in 2010



Chihuahua is the largest state in Mexico.

Area: 247,455 square km.

Percent of Mexico's Territory: 12.6%

No. of Municipios: 67

2010 Population: 3.6 million inhabitants

Percent of Mexican Population: 3.2%

Capital: The City of Chihuahua

The Capital City of Chihuahua had 809,232 inhabitants in 2010, representing one-quarter (22.8%) of the state's total population.

The Establishment of Nueva Vizcaya

For most of the colonial period, Chihuahua was part of the **Spanish Province of Nueva Vizcaya.** From 1563 to 1565, Francisco de Ibarra traveled through **Nueva Vizcaya**, constructing settlements of a permanent nature. It was Ibarra who gave this area its name, after his home province of Vizcaya in Spain. Ibarra founded Durango in 1563.

1567: The discovery of silver in Conchos territory made **Santa Barbara** (Chihuahua) into a wealthy frontier town of slavers, ranchers, miners, adventurers, and priests. By the 1570s, other silver mines had been opened, cattle were introduced, and wheat was planted in the chain of settlements extending from Durango to San Bartolomé (founded in 1569, now known as Valle de Allende).

1631: Silver was discovered in Hidalgo de Parral (southern Chihuahua). Peter Gerhard noted that: "The Parral bonanza of 1631 brought a horde of rowdy elements to a frontier until then little exploited, initiating a period of hostilities with the desert tribes of the north that was to continue, with few interruptions and frequent crescendos of violence, for two centuries and more." By 1635, the population of Parral reached 1,000 españoles and 4,000 Indians and Afro-Mexican slaves. Parral soon became the de facto capital of Nueva Vizcaya for the rest of the century.

Source: Peter Gerhard, "The North Frontier of New Spain" (Princeton University Press: 1982), pp. 161-174; Cheryl English Martin, Governance and Society in Colonial Mexico: Chihuahua in the Eighteenth Century" (Stanford University Press: 1996).

Chihuahua's Indigenous People at Contact

The historical geographer Peter Gerhard (1920-2006) estimated a **Nueva Vizcaya indigenous population of 344,500 in 1550.** By 1700, the population would drop to under 100,000, due to war and epidemics from "Old World diseases." According to the American anthropologist, Edward H. Spicer (1906-1983), the Spaniards recognized the following as the primary language groups in Chihuahua:

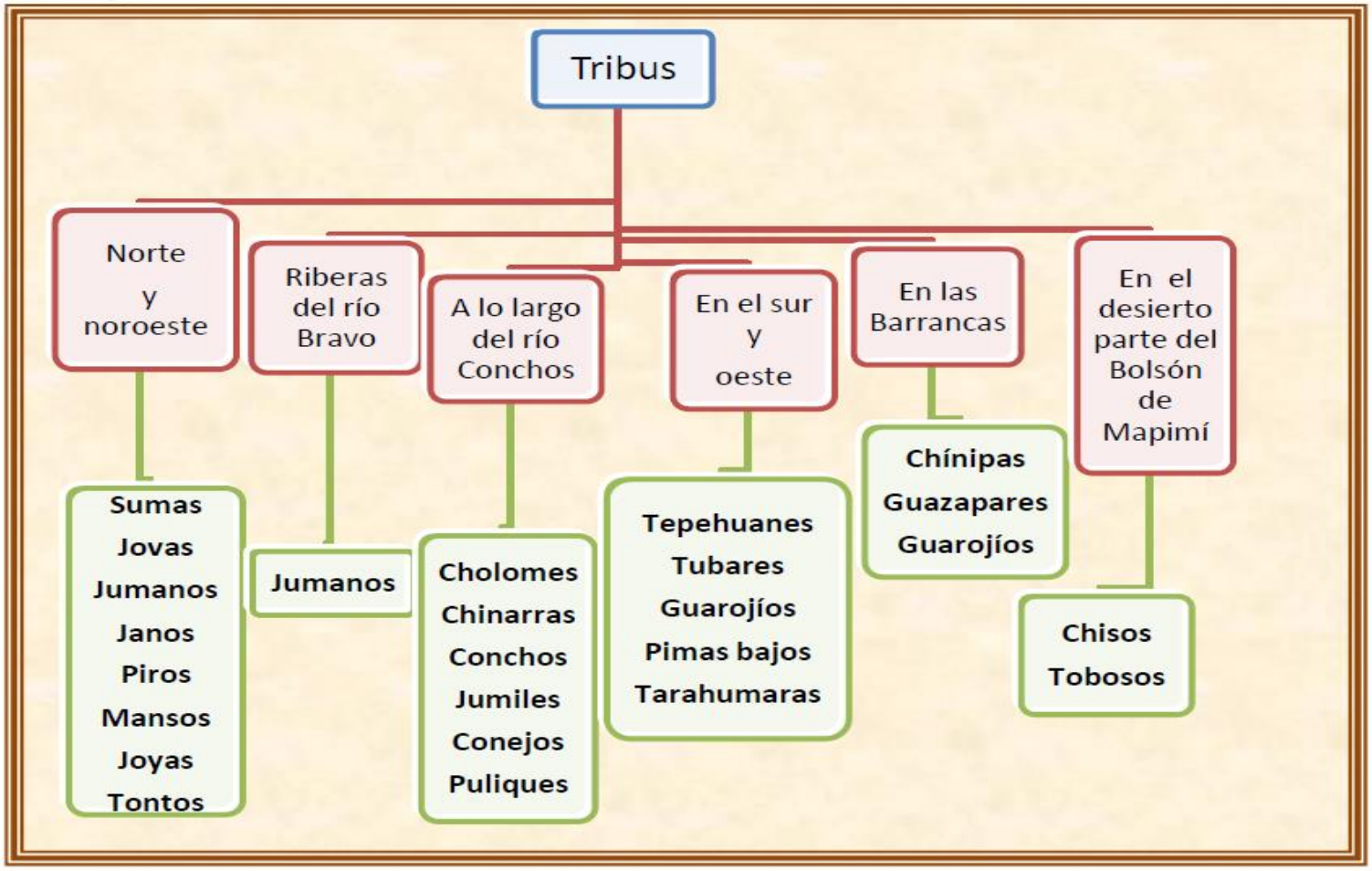
Tarahumaras	**Warihios (Guarijios)**	**Conchos**
Janos	**Sumas**	**Tobosos**
Apaches (who arrived in the area by the 1650s and increased their presence in the 1700s)		

William B. Griffen's **"Indian Assimilation in the Franciscan Area of Nueva Vizcaya"** provided **127 tribal names for indigenous bands and tribal groups** in the area the Spaniards referred to as the **"Greater Conchería."** However, because this list included "possible alternate designations" of some groups, Griffen only **offers detailed descriptions of 89 bands and tribal groups** in all. However, Griffen also cautions that a large number of these groups "are not placeable, linguistically or geographically, except within rather broad limits."

Source: William B. Griffen, Indian Assimilation in the Franciscan Area of Nueva Vizcaya. Anthropological Papers of the University of Arizona Number 33.

Indigenous Tribes of Chihuahua at Contact

Of the original Chihuahua tribes at contact, only the Tepehuanes, Tarahumaras, Pimas and Guarajío in the south and west still survive as cultural entities in the present day.



Source: Secretaría de Educación, Cultura y Deporte, Cultura y Deporte del Estado de Chihuahua, "Descubriendo Chihuahua a Través de su Historia" (2014). Online: https://antoniortega2000.files.wordpress.com/2012/09/libro-bloque-i-pdf.pdf.

Indigenous Chihuahua: Tribal Distribution

The tribal groups in this Wikipedia map show a large number of tribes scattered throughout Chihuahua in the early colonial period.

However, over time, the **Spanish mission system** and **the silver industry** altered the dynamics of this tribal environment.

The **coming of the Apaches** in the late 16th Century and in the 17th Century caused even more profound changes that helped lead to the cultural extinction of many of these tribes.

Source: Wikipedia, "Conchos."

The Mission System of Chihuahua

The Spanish colonial missions — together with garrisons and mining towns — were established by the Jesuit and Franciscan orders as **vehicles for spreading Spanish culture and religion (Catholicism).** Many indigenous peoples were recruited or forced to work the mission lands.

Sited on rivers in rural, agriculturally rich areas of Chihuahua, the adobe-and-wood religious and farming settlements reached their peak in the eighteenth century.

Unfortunately, **the concentration of so many Indians facilitated the spread of disease among a population that had no immunity to the European diseases.** Epidemics were frequent occurrences and reduced many local populations.

The expulsion of the Jesuits in 1767 precipitated the abandonment of many of the missions, while natural changes in the course of some rivers forced communities to move with them.

Sources: Clara Bargellini, “Misiones y Presidios de Chihuahua” (Gobierno del Estado de Chihuahua, Mexico, 1997); “Chihuahua Missions.” Online: https://www.wmf.org/project/chihuahua-missions.

The Earliest Missions of Chihuahua

The first Spanish mission in Chihuahua was established in 1565 at Santa Bárbara. By 1673, twenty missions had been established.

By 1752, 53 missions had been established, 19 by the Franciscans, the rest by the Jesuits. But in 1767, the Jesuits were expelled from Mexico.

Centros de población: Las Misiones			
Misión	Municipio Actual	Orden religiosa	Fundación
1. Santa Bárbara	Santa Bárbara	franciscana	1565
2. San Bartolomé	Valle de Allende	Franciscana	1570
3. San Francisco de Conchos	San Francisco de Conchos	Franciscana	1604
4. San Pablo Tepehuanes	Balleza	Jesuita	1611
5. Atotonilco	López	Franciscana	1619

Centros de población: Las Misiones			
Misión	Municipio Actual	Orden religiosa	Fundación
6. Chínipas	Chínipas	Jesuita	1626
7. Guazápares	Guazapares	Jesuita	1626
8. San José del Parral	Hidalgo del Parral	Franciscana	1632
9. San Francisco de Borja	San Francisco de Borja	Jesuita	1639
10. Zaragoza	Valle de Zaragoza	Jesuita	1639
11. Satevó	Satevó	Jesuita	1640
12. S.P. Conchos	Rosales	Franciscana	1649
13. Santa Isabel	Santa Isabel	Franciscana	1650
14. Huejotitán	Huejotitán	Jesuita	1651
15. Chuvíscar	Chihuahua	Franciscana	1653
16. Bachíniva	Bachíniva	Jesuita	1660
17. Paso del Norte	Juárez	Franciscana	1662
18. Casas Grandes	Casas Grandes	Franciscana	1662
19. Namiquipa	Namiquipa	Jesuita	1663
20. San Bernabé	Cusihuiriachi	Jesuita	1673

Source: Secretaría de Educación, Cultura y Deporte, Cultura y Deporte del Estado de Chihuahua, "Descubriendo Chihuahua a Través de su Historia" (2014). Online: https://antoniortega2000.files.wordpress.com/2012/09/libro-bloque-i-pdf.pdf.

Tepehuanes

The Tepehuanes – the people of the mountains – occupied an extensive area of the Sierra Madre Mountains from northern Jalisco, through present-day Durango, and northward to southern Chihuahua. The first Jesuits, bearing gifts of seeds, tools, clothing and livestock, went to work among the Tepehuanes in 1596. Between 1596 and 1616, eight Jesuit priests had converted the majority of the Tepehuanes.

However, epidemics struck the Tepehuanes population in 1594, 1601-02, 1606-07, and 1612-1615, The epidemics were among the catalysts that led to the Revolt of 1616-1619. The revolt was crushed by the Spaniards, but other revolts followed.

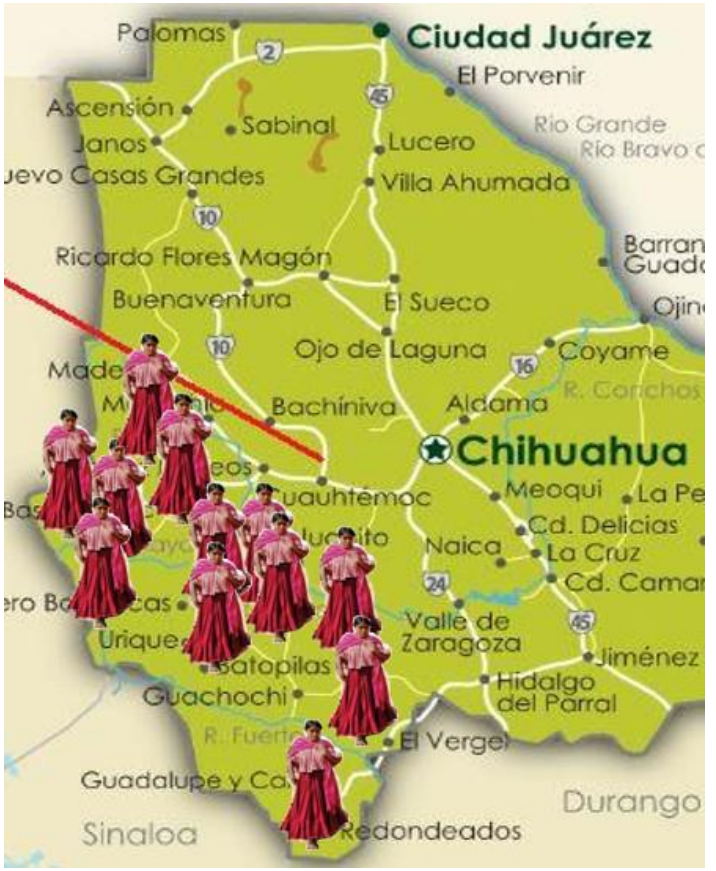
Sources: Susan M. Deeds, "Indigenous Rebellions on the Northern Mexican Mission Frontier: From First-Generation to Later Colonial Responses" (1998); Historia Cultural, "Pueblos Los Tepehuanes." Online: http://www.historiacultural.com/2015/02/pueblo-los-tepehuanes.html

The Tarahumara

The Tarahumara Indians of Chihuahua originally occupied more than 28,000 square miles of mountainous terrain, an area that is larger than West Virginia. Occupying an extensive stretch of the Sierra Madre Mountains, the Tarahumara Indians were ranchería people who planted corn along the ridges of hills and in valleys.

The Tarahumara received their first visit from a Jesuit missionary in 1607. But the ranchería settlement pattern of both the Tepehuanes and Tarahumara represented a serious obstacle to the efforts of the missionaries who sought to concentrate them into compact communities close to the missions. The Tarahumara participated in several rebellions and eventually retreated to less accessible canyons and valleys in the Sierra Tarahumara.

Today, the Tarahumara are a people whose rich spiritual ideology and strong cultural identity have persevered despite the intrusion of foreign customs.



The Great Northern Revolt

Between 1666 and 1680, the Salineros, Conchos, Tobosos and Tarahumaras of Chihuahua all rose in rebellion following several droughts, famines and epidemics. The indigenous people of New Mexico also witnessed drought and crop failure with increasing frequency. The result of these events would be **The Great Northern Revolt**.

In 1680, the Pueblos rebelled against the Spaniards in New Mexico. The Spaniards were pushed out of New Mexico down the Rio Grande to present-day El Paso. However, in 1684, as they nursed their wounds in El Paso, more rebellions popped up across much of Chihuahua.

From Casas Grandes to El Paso, between 1688 and 1696, revolts against the Spaniards took place among the Conchos, Janos, Jocomes, Sumas, Chinarras, Mansos, Tarahumaras, Pueblos and some Apaches. Eventually effective resistance in both Chihuahua, Sonora and New Mexico was ended after many deaths.

The revolts of the late Seventeenth Century led the Spaniards to design a more mobile force that could wage war against swift, fast-moving Indian raiders.

Source: William B. Griffen, “Indian Assimilation in the Franciscan Area of Nueva Vizcaya: Anthropological Papers of the University of Arizona Number 33” (Tucson: The University of Arizona Press, 1979).

The Apache Nations

Historian Cynthia Radding referred to the Apaches as **"diverse bands of hunter-gatherers** related linguistically to the Athapaskan speakers of Alaska and western Canada." The Apaches were composed of six regional groups:

1. *The **Western Apaches (Coyotero)** of eastern Arizona*
2. *the **Chiricahua** of southwestern New Mexico, southeastern Arizona, Chihuahua and Sonora;*
3. *the **Mescalero** of southern New Mexico*
4. *the **Jicarilla** of Colorado, northern New Mexico and northwestern Texas*
5. *the **Lipan** Apache of New Mexico and Texas*
6. *the **Kiowa** Apache of Colorado, Oklahoma, and Texas*

Sources: Cynthia Radding, "The Colonial Pact and Changing Ethnic Frontiers in Highland Sonora, 1740-1840," in Donna J. Guy and Thomas E. Sheridan (eds.), *Contested Ground: Comparative Frontiers on the Northern and Southern Edges of the Spanish Empire,* pp. 52-66. (Tucson: The University of Arizona Press, 1998)

Colonial Presidios of Chihuahua

By the 1750s, the Chiricahua Apache had begun hunting and raiding along the mountainous frontier regions of both Sonora and Chihuahua. The pressure of constant warfare waged against the Apaches led the Spanish military to **adopt a policy of maintaining armed garrisons of paid soldiers (presidios) in the problem areas**.

It is important to note that during these times, the **Apaches did not have a central leadership**.

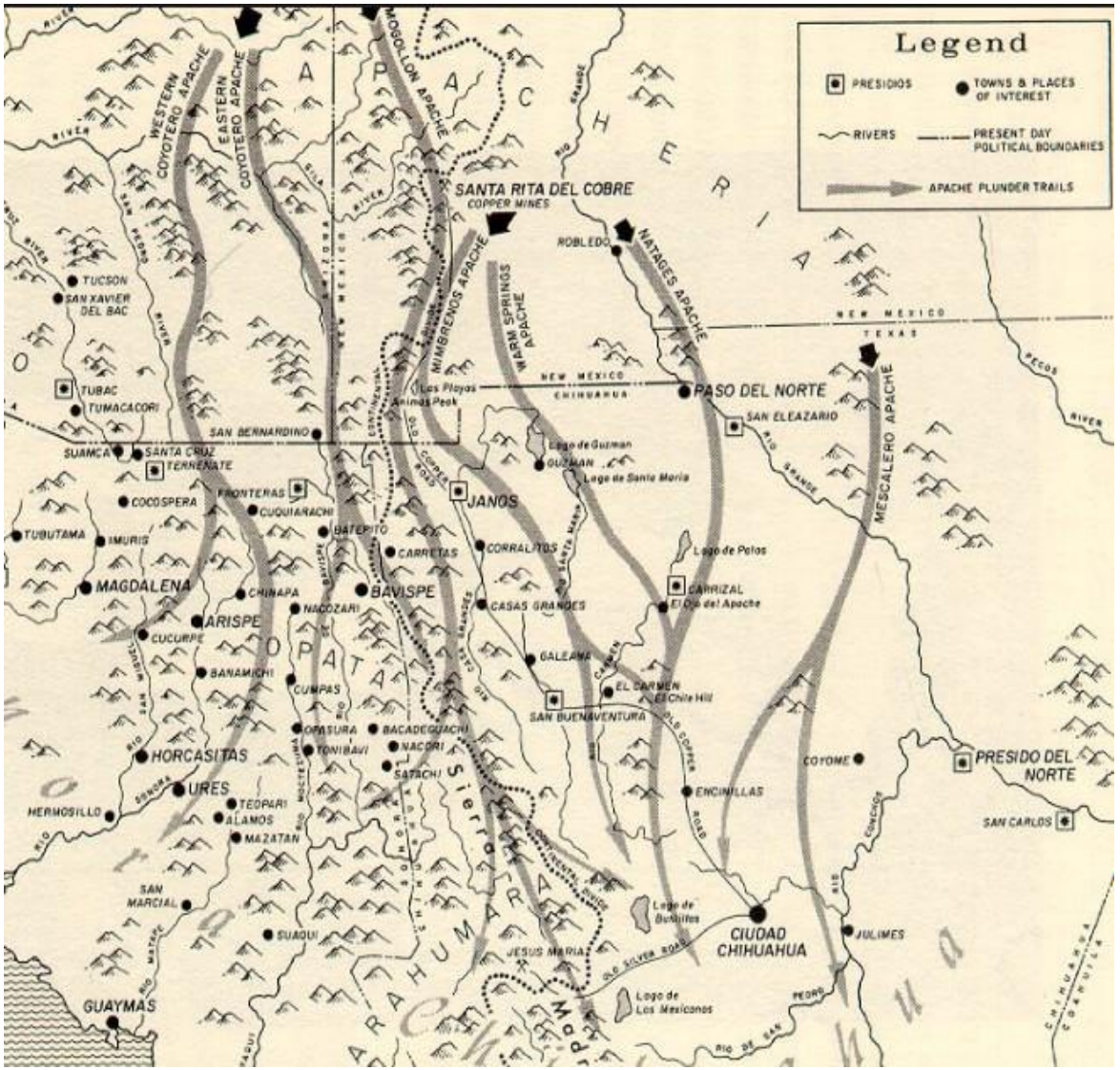
Presidios durante la colonización			
	Presidio	Nombre Actual	Año de fundación
1.	Paso del Río del Norte	Juárez	1683
2.	San Francisco de Conchos	San Francisco de Conchos	1685
3.	Casas Grandes	Casas Grandes	1686
4.	Janos	Janos	1691
5.	Santa Catalina	Namiquipa	1730
6.	Mapimí	Mapimí	1730
7.	Guajoquilla	Jiménez	1751
8.	Junta de los Ríos	Ojinaga	1751
9.	El Carrizal	Ahumada	1758
10.	San Elizario	El Paso, Texas	1772
11.	San Carlos	Manuel Benavides	1772
12.	San Pablo	Meoqui	1772
13.	San Buenaventura	Buenaventura	1776
14.	Chihuahua	Chihuahua	1776
15.	Ancón de Carros	Saucillo	1776
16.	Julimes	Julimes	1776
17.	Chorreras	Aldama	1776

Source: Secretaría de Educación, Cultura y Deporte, Cultura y Deporte del Estado de Chihuahua, "Descubriendo Chihuahua a Través de su Historia" (2014). Online: https://antoniortega2000.files.wordpress.com/2012/09/libro-bloque-i-pdf.pdf.

A State of Constant Warfare

The Apaches became highly skilled horsemen whose mobility helped them elude presidio troops. But, they had to prey on Spanish settlements in Sonora, Chihuahua and Coahuila to acquire more horses.

In 1786, the Spaniards launched their own peace initiative with the Apaches and, by 1790, most of the Apache bands had made peace with the Spanish. Relative peace between the Apaches and the Spaniards and the Mexicans would endure until 1831. After that date, the Apaches would periodically go to war against both the U.S. and Mexico.



Sources: Robert Mario Salmon, "Indian Revolts in Northern New Spain: A Synthesis of Resistance (1680-1786)." Lanham, Maryland: University Press of America, 1991; World Press, "La Apachería en el Siglo XVII" (World Press). Online: https://apacheria.es/la-apacheria-en-el-siglo-xvii/; From the Texas State Historical Association (TSHA),from The University of Virginia; Images included in accordance with Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107.

Missions as a Place of Refuge

Over time, the Apache raids in Chihuahua, Coahuila, Texas and Nuevo León **displaced many of the nomadic hunter-gatherer groups.** In addition, epidemic diseases depleted the indigenous populations, making them even more vulnerable to their highly-mobile Apache enemy.

Eventually, the numerous Spanish missions in the region would provide **a refuge for the displaced and declining Indian populations**. Each mission village usually became home to dozens of indigenous groups who came from the surrounding areas. The appeal of the mission system to these hunter-gatherers included:

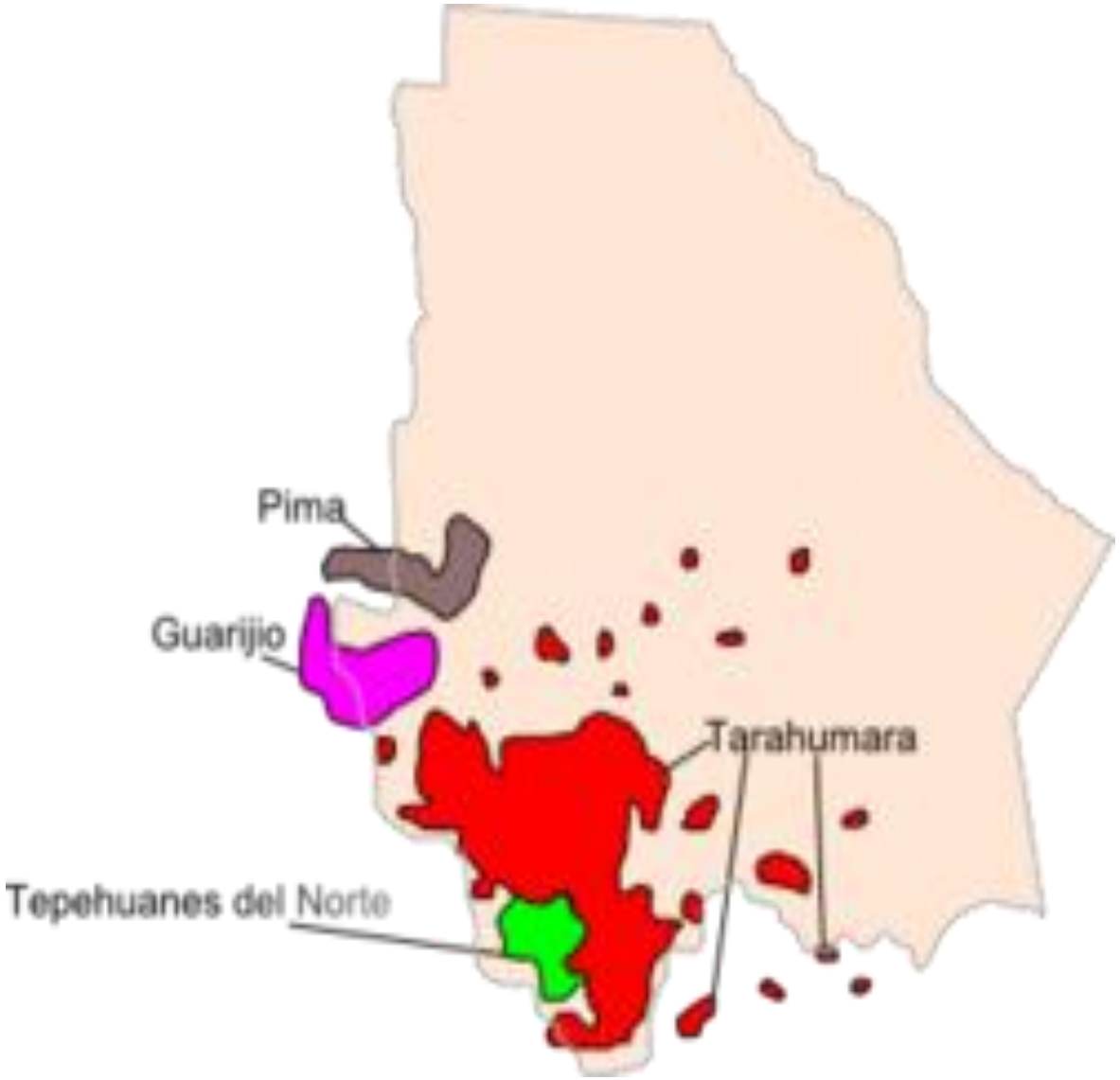
1. The irrigation system promised a more stable supply of food than they normally enjoyed.
2. The presidio – frequently located close to a mission -- offered much greater protection to the refugees from the Apaches.
3. The missionaries and their lay helpers instructed the natives in the Catholic faith and in the elements of Spanish peasant society. The Indians learned various trades, including carpentry, masonry, blacksmithing, and weaving; they also did a great deal of agricultural work.

In the mission system, local Indians mixed with displaced groups from Coahuila, Chihuahua and Texas. **This displacement created an unusual ethnic mix that led to the assimilation of many of the Northern Mexican Indians.**

Indigenous Chihuahua Today

Today, the Indigenous Chihuahua population Is located primarily in the southern And southwestern portions of the state.

In 2010, 85,316 persons 3 years of age and older spoke indigenous languages. Of these, 78% spoke Tarahumara and 8% spoke the Tepehuanes language.



Sonora and Sinaloa

Sonora in 2010

Sonora is the 2nd largest state.

Area: 180,833 square km.

Percent of Mexico's Territory: 9.15%

No. of Municipios: 72

2010 Population: 2.9 million inhabitants

Percent of Mexican Population: 2.4%

Capital: Hermosillo – 25.2% of Sonora's population lives in Hermosillo.

The four largest Mexican states are all in the north: Chihuahua (1), Sonora (2), Coahuila (3) and Durango (4).

Sinaloa in 2010

Sinaloa is the 17th largest state in Mexico.

Area: 58,200 square km.

Percent of Mexico's Territory: 2.9%

No. of Municipios: 18

2010 Population: 3.0 million inhabitants

Percent of Mexican Population: 2.5%

Capital: Culiacán Rosales

The City of Culiacán Rosales had 858,638 inhabitants in 2010, representing 29% of the state's total population.

The Sonora and Sinaloa Languages at Contact (1531)

In March 1531, Nuño de Guzmán's army reached the site of present-day Culiacán (now in Sinaloa), where his force engaged an army of 30,000 warriors in a pitched battle and defeated them.

The native people occupying the Sinaloa and Sonora coastal region belonged to the **Cáhita** language group. **Speaking eighteen closely related dialects, the Cáhita peoples of Sinaloa and Sonora numbered about 115,000** and were the most numerous of any single language group in northern Mexico. The Spaniards called them **"ranchería people."** Their fixed points of settlements (rancherías) were usually scattered over an area of several miles and one dwelling may be separated from the next by up to half a mile.

The most well-known Cáhita tribe was the Yaqui Indians. From 1740 to 1927, the Yaquis were frequently at war with the Spanish Empire and the Mexican Government. The Mayos also speak a Cáhita language.

Sources: Edward H. Spicer, "Cycles of Conquest: The Impact of Spain, Mexico, and the United States on the Indians of the Southwest, 1533-1960" (Tucson, Arizona: University of Arizona Press, 1997);
Source: Alfonso Fabila, "Las Tribus Yaquis de Sonora."

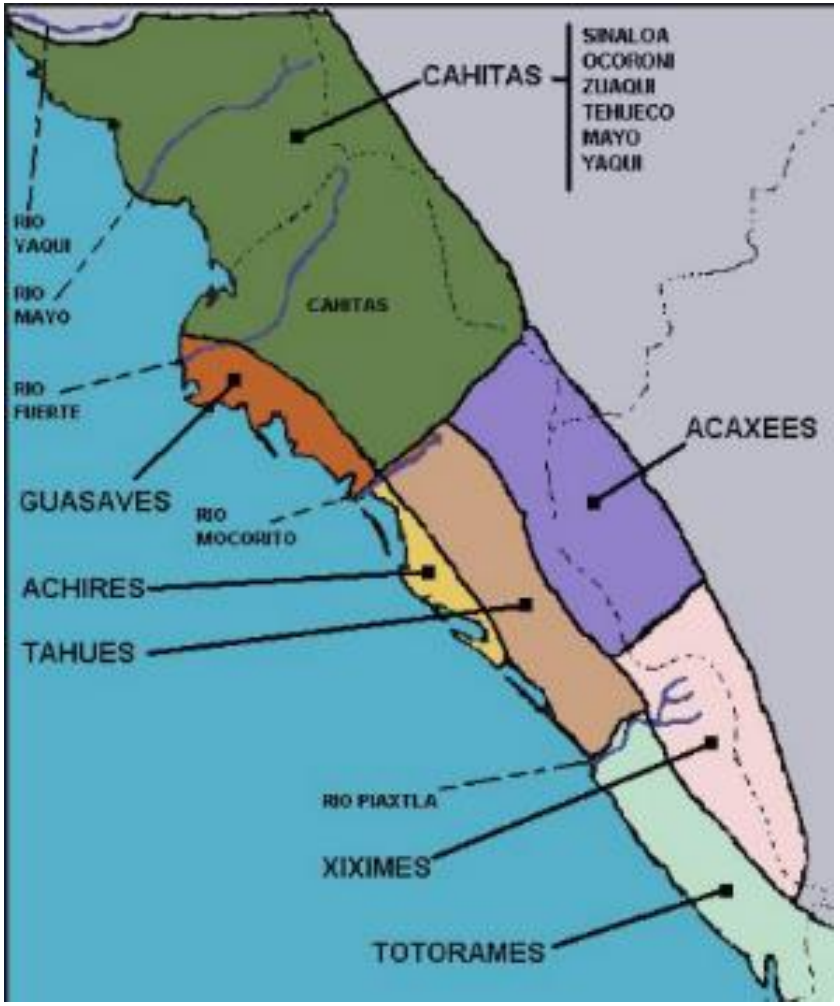
Major Sinaloa Tribes

Most of the original tribes inhabiting Sinaloa have disappeared, partly due to assimilation, disease and migration to seek work. The only indigenous group with any presence in the state is the Mayo.

In 2010, only 23,841 persons age 3 or more spoke indigenous languages in Sinaloa, representing only 9% of the total state population.

However, nearly all of the indigenous languages spoken in Sinaloa are transplanted languages from other states.

Only the 11,131 persons who spoke the Mayo language (47% of the indigenous population) speak a language truly indigenous to Sinaloa.



Source: http://www.mundohistoria.org/temas_foro/historia-la-edad-moderna/la-guerra-del-yaqui

Sinaloa and Sonora: A Chronicle of Indigenous Resistance

Year (s)	Event
1531	Guzman fights the Cáhita speakers (Sinaloa & Sonora).
1599-1600	Hurdaide's Offensive in Sinaloa.
1609-1610	Spaniards make contact with Mayo and Yaquis.
1613-1620	The Mayos and Yaquis are converted to Christianity.
1740	The Yaqui, Pima and Mayo Indians revolt.
1751-52	The Pima of Sonora rebel against the Spaniards.
1751-54	Apaches attack both Sonora and Chihuahua.
1757-71	The Seris battle the Spaniards in Sonora.
1767	The Jesuits are banished from Mexico
1825-1833	The Yaqui, Mayo and Opata rebel in Sonora & Sinaloa against the newly independent Mexican Government.
1832-1833	The Yaqui leader Banderas forms an alliance with the Opatas and wages war on the Mexican army. Banderas is captured in Dec 1832 and executed in 1833.
1838-1868	The Yaquis rebel against the Mexican Government.
1867-1867	Governor Pesqueira of Sonora sends military expeditions to pacify the Yaquis, but intermittent Yaqui resistance continues for several years.

Source: John P. Schmal, "Watching the Yaquis from Los Angeles (1894-1937): Enduring Resistance in the Face of Extermination," Latinola.com, Jan. 7, 2010.

Estado de Occidente

The **State of Occidente** (also known as **Sonora y Sinaloa**) was a Mexican state established in 1824 after independence from Spain. The government was initially established with its capital at El Fuerte, Sinaloa. The state consisted of modern Sonora and Sinaloa, and also modern Arizona more or less south of the Gila River (although in much of this area the Yaqui, Pima, Apaches, and other native inhabitants did not recognize the authority of the state).

The constitution was established in 1825 with one of its principals being the making of all inhabitants of the state citizens. This was resented by the Yaqui since they now had to pay taxes, which they had been exempt from before. The Yaqui also considered themselves possessed of sovereignty and territorial rights which were threatened by the state's new constitution. This led to a new outbreak of war between the Mexicans and the Yaquis. As a result of this war the capital of Occidente was moved to Cosala.

Sonora and Sinaloa were split into two separate states in 1830.

Estado de Occidente

Sinaloa and Sonora: A Chronicle of Indigenous Resistance

Year (s)	Event
1876-1887	A Yaqui and a veteran of the Mexican army name Cajeme begins a new Yaqui resistance by demanding self-government for the Yaquis. The Mayos joined the rebellion in 1877.
1885-1901	Mexican President Porfirio Diaz and the Sonora Government wage continuous war against the Yaquis.
1901	The Yaqui rebel leader Tetabiate is betrayed and murdered.
1902-1910	Many Yaquis are rounded up and deported to the Yucatan. Between 8,000 and 15,000 of the 30,000 Yaquis are allegedly deported during this period.
1905	A government study cited 270 instances of Yaqui and Mayo warfare between 1529 and 1902, excluding eighty-five years of relative peace between 1740 and 1825.
1927	The Yaquis fight their last major battle at Cerro del Gallo (Hill of the Rooster). Mexican Federal Troops captured 415 Yaquis, including 214 women and 175 children.
1936-37	Mexican President Cárdenas, proud of his Indian blood, serves notice that his government would provide extensive benefits for the Yaquis. In 1937, Cardenas signs a treaty that creates the **Yaqui Zona Indígena**, which included approximately half of the territory that the Yaquis had claimed as their traditional homeland.

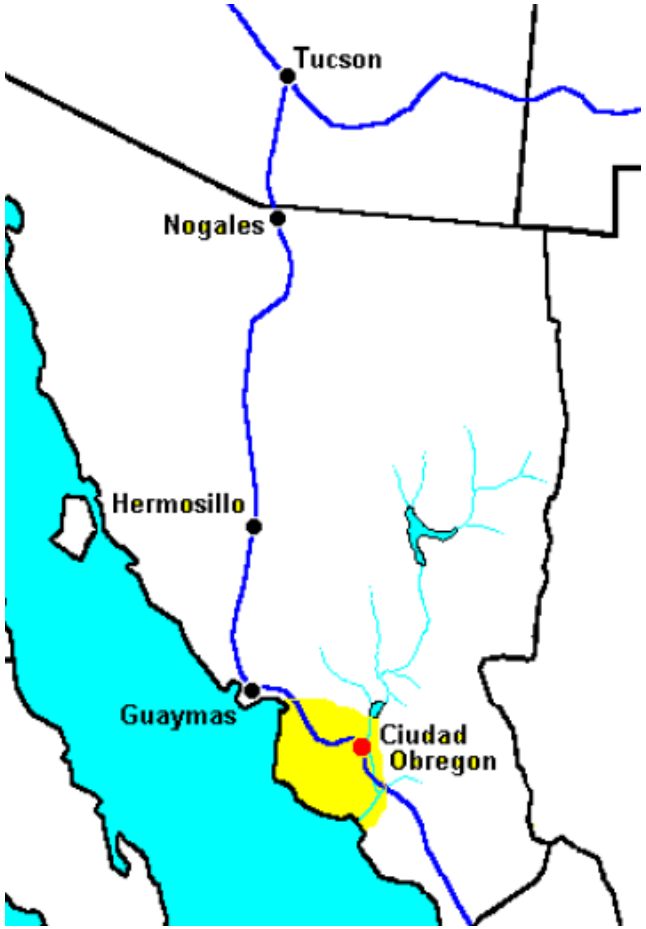
Source: John P. Schmal, "Watching the Yaquis from Los Angeles (1894-1937): Enduring Resistance in the Face of Extermination," Latinola.com, Jan. 7, 2010.

The Yaqui Resistance

From the 1820s to the 1860s, the Yaquis believed that they would be able to gain representation in the Mexican Congress as an independent people. Until the 1860s, the Yaquis, Mayos, Opatas, Pimas and Series had influence over Sonora, but in time, this influence waned as the Sonora Government waged war against them.

Today, the territory of the Yaqui Indians lies in the southern portion of the state of Sonora and is organized into eight villages that have civil, military and religious authority.

Most Yaquis can be found in the municipios of Cajeme, Guaymas, Bácum and Empalme. Their territory covers some coastal territory, valleys and some mountainous areas. The pueblos they now inhabit includes Bácum, Belem, Cócorit, Huírivis, Pótam, Ráhum, Tórim and Vicam.



In the City of Hermosillo, there are Yaqui barrios (or neighborhoods). Several hundred Yaquis live in the barrios of La Matanza, El Colossus, Revolution and Sarmiento.

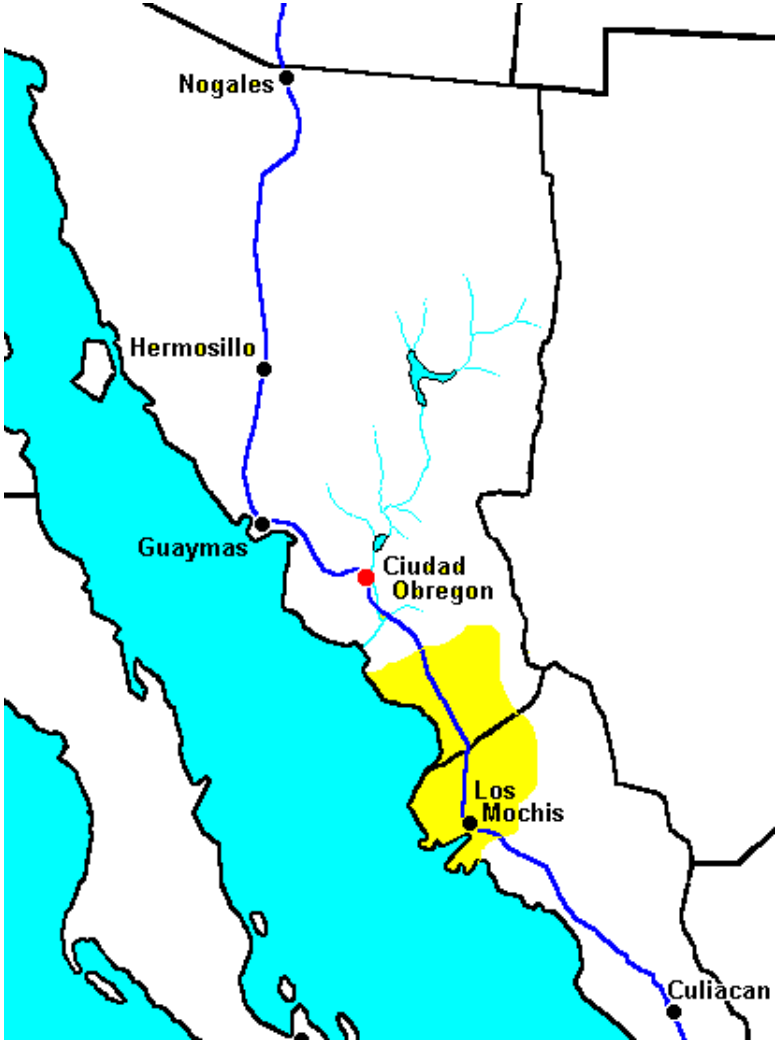
Source: Profesor Juan Galo Esquer Treviño, “Tribu Yaqui: Asignatura Regional” (Presentation).

The Mayos Today

The Mayos call themselves "Yoreme." Although the Mayos were originally dedicated to hunting, fishing and gathering, they gradually developed an agricultural system that allowed them to settle in a wide area in diverse communities.

The present-day Mayo group lives in southern Sonora and northern Sinaloa. Considerable Mayos lived in Alamos, Navojoa, Etchojoa and Huatabampo.

In Sonora the Mayo now number about 72,000 people in Sonora. They represent 25% of the total population of the region and just under 4% of the state population.



Source: “Los Mayos.” Online: http://www.mty.itesm.mx/dhcs/deptos/co/co95-832/Proy_2000_S2/CulturasDesierto/Culdes/mayos.html.

Indigenous Sonora Today

- **Mayos:** Southeast Sonora and northern Sinaloa
- **Yaquis:** Southern Sonora
- **Seris:** Central and Northwest Sonora
- **Pápagos:** Northwest Sonora near the U.S. border
- **Pimas:** living in Ures and Saharipa, San Ignacio
- **Guarijíos:** Southeast Sonora

Source: Mineydi Lagarda, "Historia Regional de Sonora: Etnias de Sonora" (October 2013).

The 1921 Mexican Census: The Racial Factor

Mexico's 1921 census asked people to categorize themselves by three primary categories: Pure Indigenous, Indigenous Mixed with White, and White. The states of Sonora and Chihuahua had a larger than average percent of "Blanca" residents in 1921. They also had much smaller populations of "pure indigenous" people than the rest of Mexico. Nearly all of Sinaloa's population considered itself to be of mixed origins.

State	Indígena Pura (% of Total State Population)	Indígena Mezclada con Blanca (% of State Population)	Blanca (% of State Population)	Extranjeros sin distinción de razas (% of State Population)
Sonora	13.78%	40.38%	41.85%	2.05%
Chihuahua	12.76%	50.09%	36.33%	0.82%
Baja California	7.72%	72.50%	0.35%	19.33%
Sinaloa	0.93%	98.30%	0.19%	0.58%
Durango	9.90%	89.10%	0.01%	0.15%
The Mexican Republic	29.16%	59.33%	9.80%	0.71%

Classifications: Indígena Pura (Pure Indigenous Origins); Indígena Mezclada con Blanca (Indigenous Mixed with White); Blanca (White); Extranjeros sin distinction de razas (Foreigners without racial distinction) One percent of the population of the Republic of Mexico chose a fifth option: "Cualquiera otra o que se ignora la raza" (persons who chose to ignore the question or "other."
Source: Departamento de la Estadística Nacional, "Annuario de 1930" (Tacubaya, Distrito Federal, 1932).

The Cost of the Mexican Revolution

The Mexican Revolution devastated many states of Mexico. It is believed that the revolution cost between 1 and 1 1/2 million people. Between 1910 and 1921, the population of Mexico dropped from 15.2 million to 14.3 million - and that drop even took place in spite of the usual population growth.

A Comparison of Mexico's Population at the Beginning and After the End of the Mexican Revolution (1910-1921)			
State / Jurisdiction	**Total Population: 1910 Census**	**Total Population: 1921 Census**	**% Increase or Decrease (1910-1921)**
Baja California (North and South)	52,272	62,831	20%
Coahuila	362,092	393,480	9%
Chihuahua	405,707	401,622	-1%
Durango	483,175	336,766	-30%
Guanajuato	1,081,651	860,364	-20%
Jalisco	1,208,855	1,191,957	-1%
Sinaloa	323,642	341,265	5%
Sonora	265,383	275,127	4%
Zacatecas	477,556	379,329	-21%
The Mexican Republic	**15,160,369**	**14,334,780**	**-5%**

Source: Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía (INEGI), "Población de las entidades de la República." Online: http://www.beta.inegi.org.mx/proyectos/ccpv/1921/default.html.

The Chinos

Many Chinese migrants made their way to Mexico as a result of the U.S. restriction of Asian immigration. From 1895 to 1940, Sonora had more Chinese than any other Mexican state. As their population grew, the Chinese suffered from violence by certain elements. Their persecution in the Mexican Revolution is well known, but in 1931-32, both Sinaloa and Sonora expelled thousands of Chinese people and their Mexican families. In 1936, thousands of Chinese farmers were evicted from land in Baja California.

No. of Chinese Nationals	1895 Census	1910 Census	1921 Census	1930 Census	1940 Census
Chihuahua	63	1,325	533	1,127	347
Sonora	310	4,449	3,639	3,571	155
Sinaloa	182	663	1,040	2,123	283
Baja California Norte	71	851	2,806	2,982	738
The Mexican Republic	916	13,151	14,472	19,973	6,561

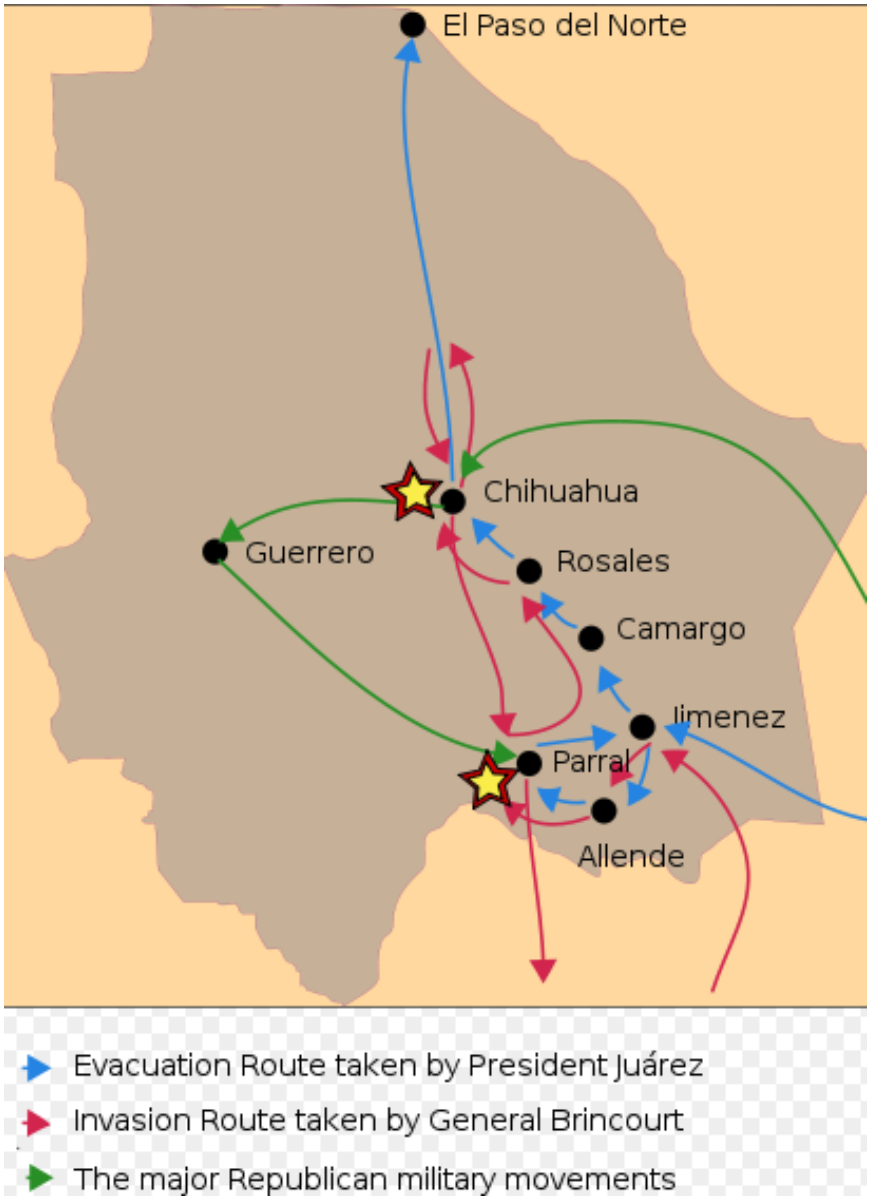
Sources: Jason Oliver Chang, "Chino: Anti-Chinese Racism in Mexico: 1880-1940 (University of Illinois Press, 2017), p. 13; Leo Jacques Dambourges, "The Anti-Chinese Campaigns in Sonora, Mexico, 1900-1931" (PhD Dissertation, 1974).

Northwestern Mexico at War (1862-1920)

Chihuahua During the French Occupation

The French invaded Mexico in 1861. After the defeat of the Mexican army in Puebla on May 5, 1862, the **Benito Juárez Administration** was forced to abandon Mexico City and made its way up to Saltillo, Coahuila. However, by September 1864, French advances forced President Juárez to relocate to Chihuahua. Finding enormous support from the people of Chihuahua, **Juárez declared the City of Chihuahua to be the temporary capital of Mexico in October 1864**.

French General Agustín Enrique Brincourt advanced into Chihuahua in July 1865 and took control of the capital during the next month. By then, **Juárez had moved his government to El Paso del Norte (now Ciudad Juárez)**. In spite of their military strength, the French — fearing an altercation with the U.S. if they moved farther north — left the State of Chihuahua on October 29, 1865.



Source: Wikipedia, "Chihuahua (State)."

Sonora During the French Occupation

At the zenith of their power, the **French imperialist forces controlled all but four states in Mexico**; the only states to maintain strong opposition to the French were: **Guerrero, Chihuahua, Sonora, and Baja California**. But in 1863, French Emperor Napoleon III was expressing a great interest in the mines of Baja California and Sonora as a way to finance his sponsorship of **Emperor Maximilian**.

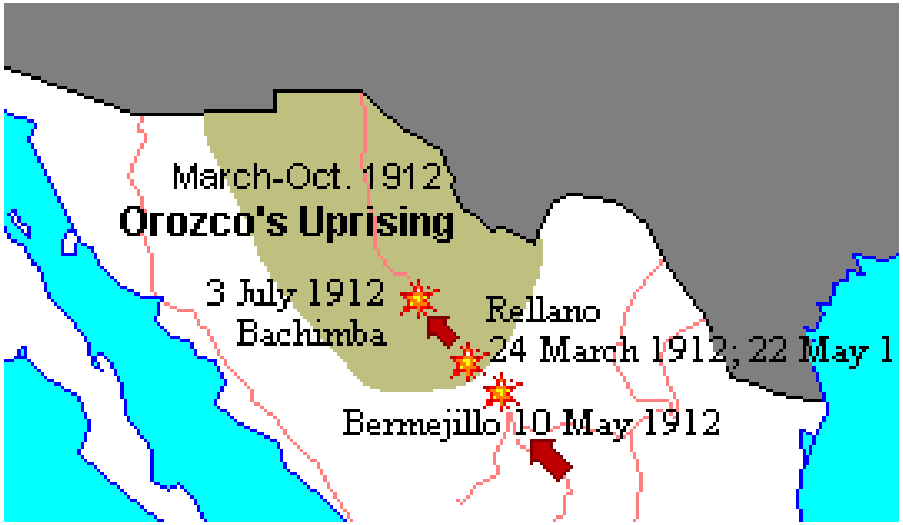
In Nov. 1864, when the French occupied Mazatlán in Sinaloa, Governor Pesqueira rallied the people of Sonora around President Juárez and his forces. The French forces finally entered Sonora in March 1865, occupying the state and dividing it into four military districts, while Pesqueira fled the state. However, during 1866, Mexican forces began to harass the French, making incessant raids on their imperial forces and disrupting their communications.

In September 1865, after taking several smaller Sonoran towns, the Mexican republican forces defeated the French at Ures. The remaining French forces retreated to the Yaqui and Mayo river valleys where they still had the support of the indigenous people of the region. With Sinaloa also in revolt, however, the French decided to move out of the entire region. Eventually in 1867, the French would be expelled from the entire Mexican Republic. Over 50,000 Mexicans lost their lives fighting the French

Sources: Rodolfo E. Acuña, "Sonoran Strongman: Ignacio Pesqueira and His Times" (The University of Arizona Press: 1974), pp. 78-93; French intervention and the Second Mexican Empire,1864 – 1867." Online: http://mexicanhistory.org/French.htm.

The Early Years of the Mexican Revolution

Porfirio Díaz served as President of México from 1876-1880 and from 1884-1911. It was **Francisco I. Madero (1873-1913)** — born in Coahuila — who first opposed the Díaz dictatorship and later served as the President of México from 1911 to 1913. Both **Pascual Orozco (1882-1915) — a native of Chihuahua — and Francisco "Pancho" Villa (1878-1923) — a native of Durango —** joined Madero early in the Revolution and fought in the first battles of the Revolution. Orozco was the commander of the rural forces of the state of Chihuahua.



Source: Mathew White, "The Mexican Revolution 1910-1920," Page 1. Online: http://users.erols.com/mwhite28/mexico.htm

The Battle of Juarez (1911)

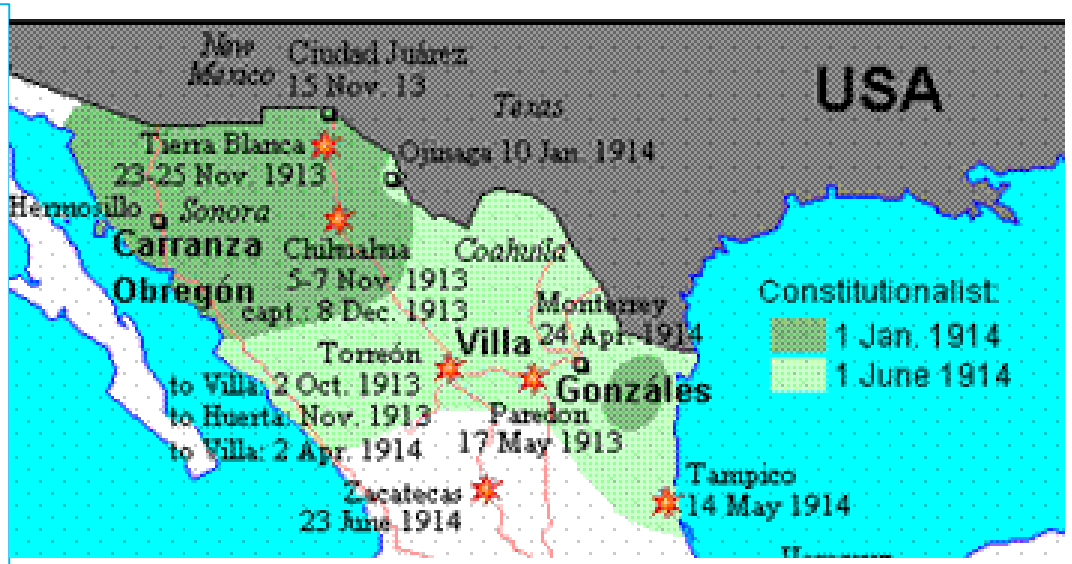
Most of the early battles of the **Mexican Revolution** during the fight to oust President Porfirio Díaz took place in the northern states from November 1910 to May 1911.

The decisive Battle of Ciudad Juárez took place in April and May 1911 between the federal forces loyal to Díaz and the rebel forces of **Francisco Madero**, commanded by Orozco and Pancho. The fall of Ciudad Juárez to Madero, combined with Emiliano Zapata's victories in the south, gave a new credibility to the revolutionary movement led by Madero. Díaz resigned shortly after the battle (May 25, 1911) and fled into exile.

Source: Wikipedia, "Battle of Ciudad Juárez (1911)."

The Height of the Mexican Revolution (1913-1914)

In 1913, **Venustiano Carranza (1859-1920)** created an alliance of Northerners under the **Constitutionalist** banner. During 1914, the Constitutionalists controlled large portions of Northern Mexico, partly with the help of Pancho Villa's **División del Norte**, which recruited fighters from Chihuahua and Durango. However, by the time that Carranza became President in 1915, he had ended his alliance with Pancho Villa.

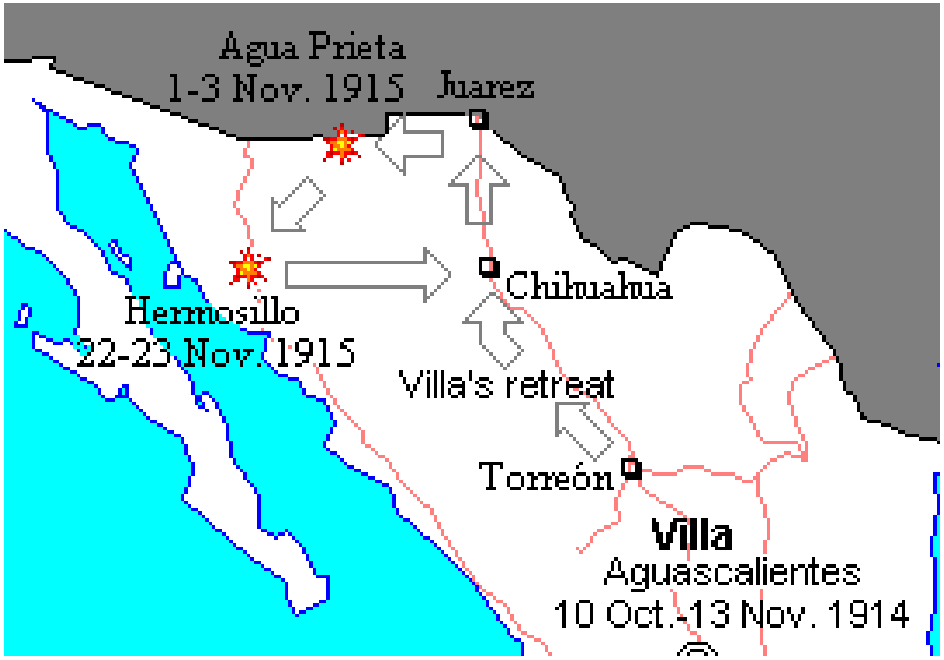


While Carranza and the Constitutionalists built a strong power base in most of Mexico's urban population centers, Pancho Villa became Provisional Governor of Chihuahua in 1913-14. As governor of Chihuahua, Villa printed his own currency and decreed that it could be traded and accepted at par with gold Mexican pesos. He also forced the wealthy to give loans to fund the revolutionary war machinery and confiscated gold from several banks. He appropriated land owned by the hacendados (owners of the haciendas) and redistributed it to the widows and family of dead revolutionaries.

Source: Mathew White, "The Mexican Revolution: 1910-1920," Page 2. Online: http://users.erols.com/mwhite28/mexico2.htm.

Pancho Villa's Sonora Campaign

In September 1915, Pancho Villa advanced into Sonora. He believed that occupying the two most important states along the Mexican-American border, **Chihuahua and Sonora,** would help him gain favor with the American government. Throughout the revolution, whoever occupied Chihuahua and Sonora could not be easily dislodged. The American border, even under an arms embargo, provided ample possibilities for smuggling of arms, munitions, and supplies.



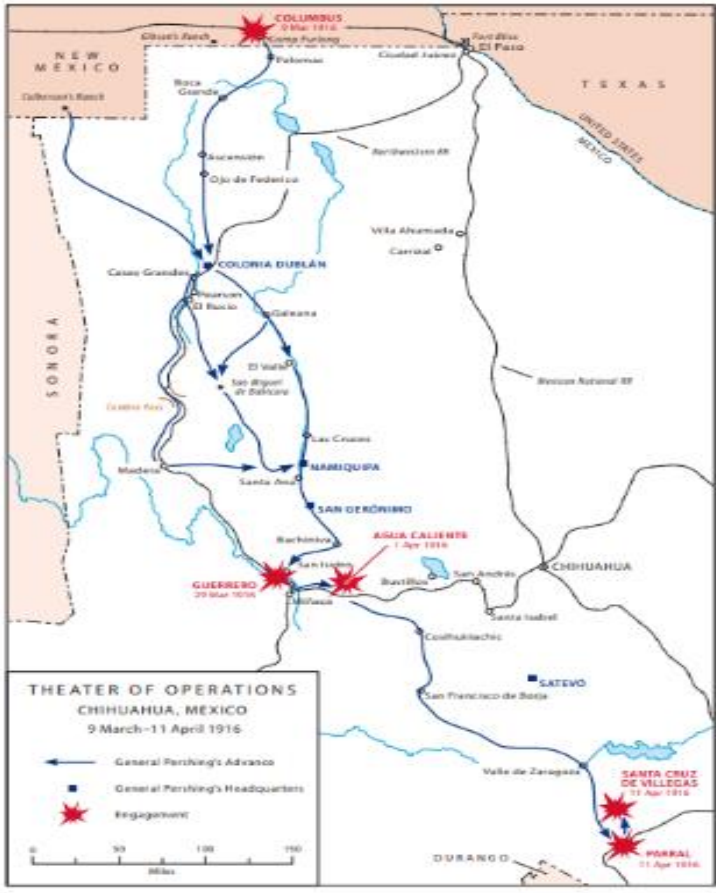
By this time, Villa's army of 40,000 had dropped to 12,000. His Division del Norte forces took several cities, but his luck changed when he approached Agua Prieta, the Sonoran hamlet across from Douglas, Arizona. Villa ordered a total of five assaults on the federal defenses and was repelled every time.

Earlier, on October 23, the U.S. government had allowed 4,500 reinforcements for Agua Prieta to travel via railroad through American territory to help the feds. Eventually, many of Villa's rebels deserted him after accepting an amnesty offer from Carranza. By the end of 1915, Villa was on the run and the United States government recognized Carranza.

Pancho Villa and the United States

In August 1914, Pancho Villa and U.S. General John J. Pershing met in El Paso. Pershing reportedly invited Villa to Fort Bliss to watch a review of the troops, and then to his quarters for drinks.

However, on March 9, 1916, Pancho Villa and 1,500 rebels – angered by the changing winds of American support for the various factions in the civil war – crossed the border and struck the town of Columbus, New Mexico. Nineteen persons were killed. In response, from 1916 through February 1917, 5,000 American troops under General Pershing were sent across the border in pursuit of Villa. At one point, the Americans advanced as far south as Parral, but the campaign did not locate Villa and eventually left the State of Chihuahua. This was the first time that trucks and aircraft were used in American combat operations.



Source: Julie Irene Prieto, "The Mexican Expedition, 1916-1917" (Washington, D.C.: Center of Military History, United States Army, 2016). Online: https://history.army.mil/html/books/077/77-1/cmhPub_077-1.pdf.

THE "ENCICLOPEDIA DE LOS MUNICIPIOS"

The Encyclopedia of Municipios of Mexico offers information about each of the 2,440 municipios located throughout the 31 Mexican states, as well as the 16 Delegaciones of the Federal District.

Each municipio description usually contains a short chronology of historical events (Cronología de Hechos Historicos) as well as a short history of the municipio (Reseña Histórica). Usually the history gives the name of the local indigenous tribe and discusses the establishment of local churches, missions and presidios.

Many of the descriptions provide a map of the municipio showing place names, and you will also find out the names of surrounding municipios (under Localización).

To locate the state of your choice, simply google three words:

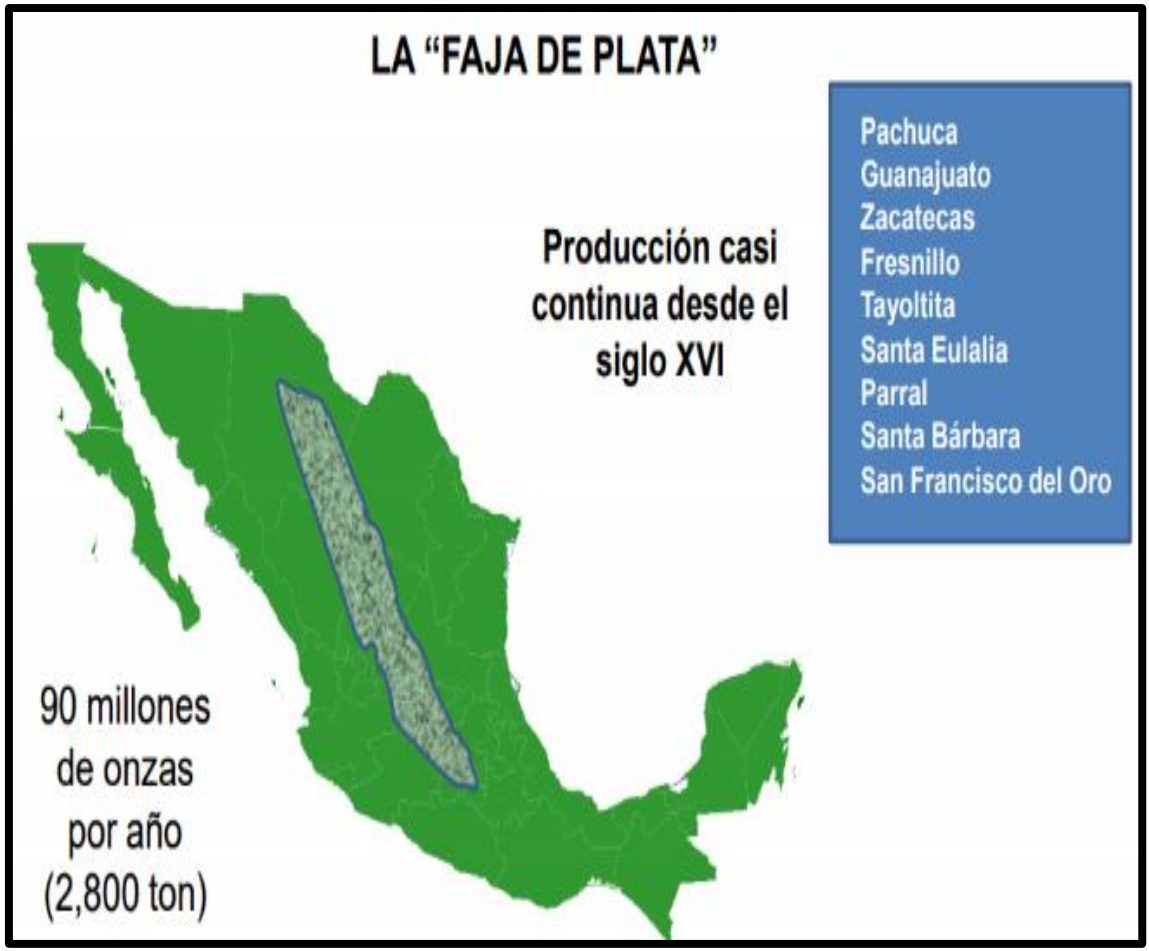
1. **Enciclopedia**
2. **Municipios**
3. **The State of your choice (i.e., Tamaulipas, Sonora, etc.).**

The Silver Industry

Mexico's Silver Belt

Mexico is the world's leading producer of silver with **21% of global production**, followed by Peru (15%), China (12%) and Australia and Russia (each 6%).

La Faja de Plata (The Silver Belt) is the **most prolific mining district in the world,** with a historical production of more than 10,000 million ounces of silver (311,000 tons). Many of the major mines in the belt include Guanajuato, Zacatecas, Fresnillo, Santa Eulalia, Parral-Santa Barbara-San Francisco del Oro, and Charcas which have been in nearly continuous production since the 16th century.



Source: Servicio Geológico Mexicano, "Transición de la Minería Mexicana a la Minería de Oro y Plata" (Presentation: May 2011). Online: http://www.mundominero.mx/presentaciones/transicion.pdf.

Mexico and Peru: Silver Industries Compared

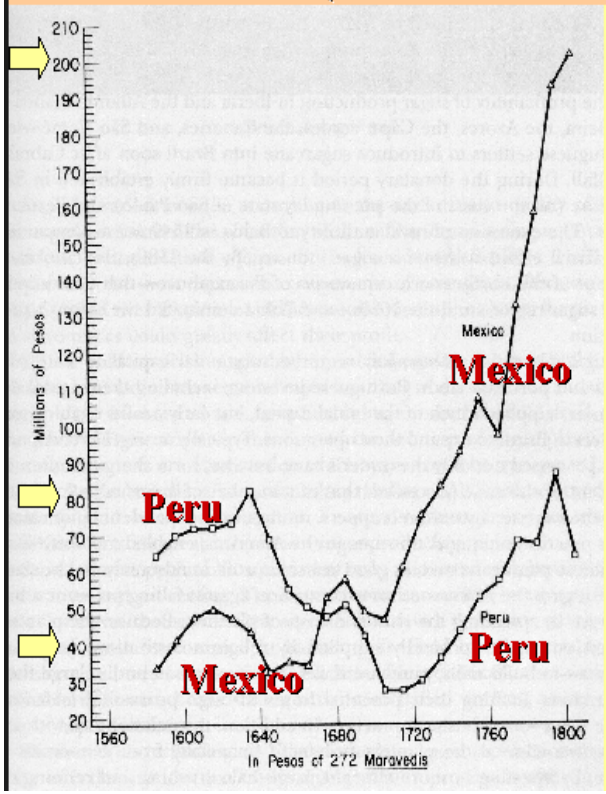
Mexico & Peru: Phases of Silver Production:

Peru, 3 phases:
16th c. boom, -1620
17th c. decline, -1720
18th c. recovery, 1720+

Mexico, 4 phases:
16th c. boom, -1610
17th c. dip, 1630-70
17th c. recovery
18th c. boom, 1720+

Why the 18th Century boom?
New strikes, more areas
Cheaper mercury, taxes
More investment

Registered Silver Production, 1580-1800:
Mexico's 18th c. boom outstripped Peru's 16th c.
(Burkholder and Johnson, p. 139)



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  - 18th c. boom, 1720+
- **Why 18th c boom?**
  - New strikes, more areas
  - Cheaper mercury, taxes
  - More investment

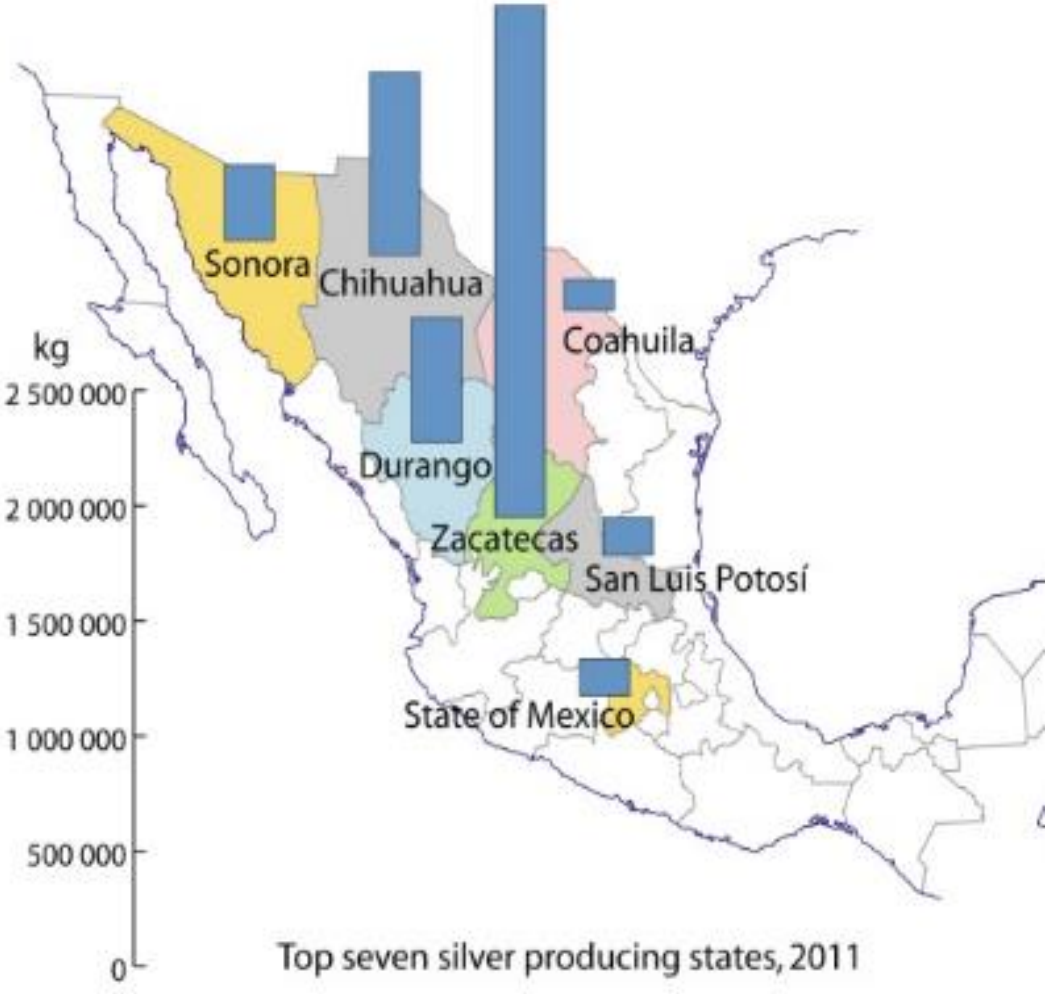
Source: http://users.pop.umn.edu/~rmccaa/colonial/hacienda/slides.htm.

Mexico's Silver Industry Still Thrives

Zacatecas is Mexico's leading silver producing state (46.5% of total), well ahead of **Chihuahua (16.6%)**, Durango (11.3%) and **Sonora (6.9%)**.

Today, the main silver mining municipality in Chihuahua is **Santa Bárbara** (3% of national total). The leading municipality for silver in Sonora is **Nacozari de García** (1%).

Silver and gold are the most prominent minerals mined in Mexico, followed by copper, zinc and lead. The non-metallic category is dominated by cement and bentonite, which hold a majority of the total share.



Silver production in Mexico, 2011. Data: INEGI. Credit: Tony Burton/Geo-Mexico

Source: "The Geography of Silver Mining in Mexico." Online: http://geo-mexico.com/?tag=mining.

The Silver Industry in Sonora and Sinaloa

The Spaniards began developing silver mines in Sonora and Sinaloa in the mid-1600s. Important mining centers were established in El Rosario (1655) and Álamos (1683) and near Sahuaripa in 1673.

Over time, miners used more specialized techniques for the extraction of silver, such as using quicksilver to separate the ore.

Source: Gobierno del Estado de Sonora, Secretaría de Economía, Dirreción de Minería, “Sonora el Estado Minero.”

Mining, Quarrying and Oil and Gas Extraction

Silver mining is only a portion of the **Mining, Quarrying, Oil & Gas Extraction Sector**, which includes coal, silver and gold ore, crude petroleum, and natural gas. As a result, the silver industry does not represent a significant part of the northern state GDPs. As noted in the table below, the Northwest Mexico states represent a very small portion of that sector's national GDP. Campeche, on the other hand, which has the super giant **Cantarell Oil Field** off its shores (one of the largest in the world), accounts for over 37% of the Mexican Republic's Mining, Quarrying, Oil and Gas Extraction GDP (2016).

Selected Jurisdictions for Comparison	Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction 2016 GDP	% of National Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction GDP	% Contribution to the Mexican National GDP (2016)
Campeche	274,403	37.4%	2.2%
Chihuahua	**18,315**	**2.5%**	**3.4%**
Sonora	**70,695**	**9.6%**	**3.5%**
Sinaloa	**4,633**	**0.6%**	**2.3%**
Zacatecas	32,927	4.5%	1.0%
Distrito Federal	144	0.0%	17.0%
Estado de Mexico	5,974	0.8%	8.9%
The Mexican Republic	733,066	100%	100%

Source: ProMéxico Inversión y Comercio.

Chihuahua's Economy

Forty-eight percent of Chihuahua's 1.6 million workers in 2016 were engaged in the manufacturing and commerce industries.

Almost one-third (31%) of Chihuahua's 2016 GDP of 644 billion pesos was attributed to manufacturing, and Chihuahua's manufacturing sector contributed 5.9% of Mexico's national manufacturing sector.

Employment in Chihuahua (2016)		
Industry	Employees in Chihuahua	Percent of Chihuahua Population
Manufacturing	497,941	30%
Commerce	290,698	18%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	146,685	9%
Other Services	131,100	8%
Construction	120,972	7%
Social Assistance	107,396	7%
Total Chihuahua Working Population	1,634,976	100%

Chihuahua GDP (Gross Domestic Product) 2016 (in Pesos)			
2016 GDP Activity	Total Chihuahua GDP (in millions of pesos)	Percent of Total Chihuahua GDP	Share of Mexican National GDP (%)
Manufacturing	198,191	31%	5.9%
Wholesale & Retail Trade	111,220	17%	3.0%
Real Estate & Rental and Leasing	68,946	11%	3.3%
Construction	51,531	8%	3.5%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	43,147	7%	6.4%
Transportation & Warehousing	27,389	4%	2.3%
Total Chihuahua GDP	644,228	100%	3.4%

Source: ProMéxico Inversión y Comercio.

Sonora's Economy

Thirty-four percent of Sonora's 1.3 million workers in 2016 were engaged in the manufacturing and commerce industries.

More than one-quarter (27%) of Sonora's 2016 GDP of 653 billion pesos was attributed to manufacturing, and Chihuahua's GDP contributed 3.5% of Mexico's national GDP.

Employment in Sonora (2016)		
Industry	Employees in Sonora	Percent of Sonora Population
Commerce	235,418	17%
Manufacturing	234,314	17%
Other Services	155,616	11%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	150,581	11%
Social Assistance	114,795	8%
Construction	108,956	8%
Total Sonora Working Population	1,353,902	100%

Sonora GDP (Gross Domestic Product) 2016 (in Pesos)			
2016 GDP Activity	Total Sonora GDP	Percent of Total Sonora GDP	Share of Mexican National GDP (%)
Manufacturing	173,352	27%	5.1%
Wholesale & Retail Trade	119,818	18%	3.2%
Mining, Quarrying & Oil & Gas Extraction	70,695	11%	9.6%
Construction	53,827	8%	3.6%
Real Estate & Rental and Leasing	46,784	7%	2.2%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	39,882	6%	5.9%
Total Sonora GDP	652,593	100%	3.5%

Source: ProMéxico Inversión y Comercio.

Sinaloa's Economy

Thirty-four percent of Sonora's 1.3 million workers in 2016 were engaged in the manufacturing and commerce industries.

More than one-quarter (27%) of Sonora's 2016 GDP of 653 billion pesos was attributed to manufacturing, and Chihuahua's GDP contributed 3.5% of Mexico's national GDP.

Employment in Sonora (2016)		
Industry	Employees in Sinaloa	Percent of Sinaloa Population
Commerce	265,160	20%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	237,484	18%
Other Services	140,277	10%
Social Assistance	135,835	10%
Manufacturing	132,916	10%
Accommodation & Food Services	118,433	9%
Total Sinaloa Working Population	1,342,363	100%

Sonora GDP (Gross Domestic Product) 2016 (in Pesos)			
2016 GDP Activity	Total Sinaloa GDP	Percent of Total Sinaloa GDP	Share of Mexican National GDP (%)
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	51,679	12%	7.7%
Real Estate & Rental and Leasing	47,430	11%	2.2%
Construction	42,558	10%	2.9%
Manufacturing	34,870	8%	1.0%
Transportation & Warehousing	25,952	6%	2.2%
Educational Services	24,302	6%	3.0%
Total Sinaloa GDP	431,635	100%	2.3%

Source: ProMéxico Inversión y Comercio.