

Mexican Field Studies

100 Facts about Mexico

The video “100 Facts about Mexico” gives a general, optimistic overview of Mexico’s history, political system, values, and people. It was made in the 90s; some of the facts are outdated (such as three pesos to the dollar when today, it is about ten pesos). This is a good video to watch to learn a general summary of Mexico’s political history, from the invasion of the conquistadores to independence day on September 16, 1810, to the Battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862, to Mexico’s current federal democratic republic.

However, the primary failing of the video is also concerning Mexico’s history; it is much more optimistic about the political situation of the past 100 years than is warranted. While the government has finally managed to balance itself against the PRI, the Mexican people must still deal with many issues. Of course, this video is geared toward American students, hoping to give them the best image of Mexico. However, a more impartial perspective concerning Mexico’s recent history might be of better use to understand the culture.

The video did not try to completely hide the concerns of America’s neighbor; it noted that Mexico’s population was dropping and that though its people are often creative, they also tend to be disorganized. Also, it mentioned some elements of the culture to which Americans would need to adjust: smaller personal space, regular physical contact, and an indefinite view of time. Although “100 Facts about Mexico” is biased on the optimistic side concerning Mexico’s political history, it gives a good outline of Mexico’s culture, general history, and characteristics.