Alexander Allison

Title: “Plan de Ayala: Blueprint for the Mexican Revolution”
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Alexander Allison was born and educated in Fort Wayne, Indiana. A proud graduate of South Side High School, Alex enrolled at IPFW in 2009 and since then has devoted his studies towards both Spanish and history. In his free time, Alex enjoys reading fiction and particularly enjoys the works of Gabriel García Márquez. In July, Alex will travel to Valparaíso, Chile where he will study at the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso. Upon the completion of his studies in Chile, Alex will return to IPFW where he intends to graduate with a B.A. in history.

Abstract

Few documents have played such an important role and have continuously influenced national politics in Mexico more so than the Plan de Ayala. On November 28, 1911 Emiliano Zapata read the plan that was written by Otilio Montaño Sánchez “while the Mexican flag was raised and a band played the National anthem.” While scholars continue to debate over whether or not the flag was actually raised or which of the eight conflicting stories of the Plan de Ayala’s origins is accurate, the significance of the Plan de Ayala is uncontested. Following Francisco Madero’s failure to fulfill the promises of the 1910 revolution the Plan de Ayala called for a seizure of all foreign owned lands and all properties that had been taken away from villagers during the reign of Porfirio Díaz, the expulsion of all Spaniards from Mexico, the confiscation of one-third of lands owned by hacendados friendly to the revolution and total confiscation of lands owned by hacendados opposed to the revolution. In order to demonstrate the purity of their cause, the Zapatistas redistributed all of the lands they occupied to the disenfranchised peasants. For seven years the Zapatistas followed the agenda of the Ayala plan with something close to a religious devotion, and since its cause was abandoned in 1918 the Ayala plan has been the beacon of hope and banner to follow for agrarian reform in Mexico. The Plan de Ayala was drafted in response to Francisco Madero’s betrayals to the principles of the revolution during the period of interim government and as President, and provided political legitimacy and structure to the Zapatista’s ongoing revolutionary activity.