Panel: “Mexico: Domestic Transformations and International Relations”

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Title: “The Struggle for Recognition”

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Abstract

Despite the fact that 30,000 French troops invaded Mexico in the 1860s and installed Maximilian in power and created the Second Mexican Empire, Mexican liberals put up a sustained guerilla military resistance. But this paper examines a different significant battle, the one that took place on the political front. Both Maximilian and the liberal resistance that opposed him led by Juárez sought diplomatic support and recognition. At the time, not only was Mexico divided, but also the U.S. since the country was in the middle of the Civil War. This paper examines the attempts Maximilian and Juárez made to gain recognition and support during this complicated period during which the Union had to weigh the impact that its action in Mexico might have on France’s attitudes about the American Civil War.

Bibliographical Note

The majority of the sources utilized in this research paper were secondary sources. The primary source document was a speech, "The Situation of Mexico" presented by the Mexican Liberal diplomat, Matías Romero to a group of politicians in 1864. This source drew parallels between the Union and the Mexican Liberals in order to garner support. The secondary sources focused on the relationship between the Mexican Liberals and the United States, and the relationship between the Mexican Imperials, European countries, and the United States. It should be noted that the article by Schoonover explored the potential economic benefits the Union would have received if they officially supported the Mexican Liberals.


