Jaime Pensado. *Rebel Mexico: Student Unrest and Authoritarian Political Culture During the Long Sixties.* Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 2013. Pp. 360. Paper $65.00.

Jaime Pensado, Associate Professor of History at the University of Notre Dame, argues that the 1968 student massacre in Tlatelolco was not an isolated confrontation between authorities and students. He reveals that the history of student unrest began in the mid-1940s, with the strikes at the IPN (National Polytechnic Institute) followed by the 1958 UNAM (National Autonomous University of Mexico) strike. The unrest originated as the Mexican government shifted from its post-revolutionary political ideology to President-elect Manuel Ávila Camacho's conservativism. Organized chronologically into three sections, the book begins with a prelude of President Gustavo Díaz Ordaz's attempt to justify the army's role in the student massacre. Pensado unveils the history of violence as the government hired provocateurs to dissolve the student movement.

Pensado begins with origins of unrest in the early 1940s. Students went on strike in response to threats by the authorities and wealthy industrialists to divide the IPN into trade schools. Camacho negotiated a settlement with the *politécnicos* (working-class students) that had grown impatient and organized a march which ended in a street battle that left six students dead. In 1944, Camacho selected a new rector at the UNAM to rid the institution of foreign political ideologies, while the IPN promoted upward social and economic mobility to the lower classes. The 1958 strike in support of the bus driver unions allied the UNAM and IPN despite their prior social rivalry and class differences. Through oral interviews, the author exposes the ruling elites' response to the increasing number of strikes by hiring *porros* (local gang members) to antagonize students and later provoke them from within. The public could not distinguish between *porros* and students, which diverted their support from the latter. The research reveals that students demanded the removal of provocateurs and DFS (Federal Security Directorate) agents who abused the "social dissolution" provision to limit the freedom of speech and press within the institutions. Unlike the 1958 strike, the students in 1968 were unable to inspire solidarity from the working class with the

movement, and government-sponsored infiltration led to its downfall. With the Olympic Games looming, President Díaz Ordaz manipulated the press to depict the students as affiliated with *manos extrañas* (foreign agents) which earned public support to repress the movement. Pensado's research of leftist publications indicates that Díaz Ordaz was solely responsible for the death of the students in October 1968.

While the book succeeds in outlining these important student efforts, Pensado leaves some questions unanswered. He indicates that the new leftist newspaper, *El Corno Emplumado,* was created to establish class solidarity, but he does not specify if the students received any support from this effort. The growing numbers of *porros* in the 1966 strike at UNAM fueled growing tension prior to the 1968 student movement. The PRI (Institutional Revolutionary Party) *porros* were active participants in suppressing the student's political idealism by intervention. This exposes Mexico's hidden past, where students did participate in the age of the cultural revolution against the country's ruling party. By drawing on previously inaccessible student records, *Rebel Mexico* uncovers the methods utilized to suppress them. This research is valuable to social and cultural historians of Mexico and Latin America and is appropriate to both scholars and graduate students.

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