

**Embajadores de Estados Unidos en México  
Diplomacia de crisis y oportunidades**

(U.S. Ambassadors in Mexico: Diplomacy  
and Opportunities)

Roberta Lajous, Erika Pani, Paolo Riguzzi,  
and María Celia Toro, comps.

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**E**mbajadores de Estados Unidos en México. *Diplomacia y oportunidades* (U.S. Ambassadors in Mexico: Diplomacy and Opportunities) explores U.S. diplomats' careers in Mexico for its almost 200 years of independence. Compiled by Roberta Lajous, Erika Pani, Paolo Riguzzi, and María Celia Toro, the prologue is written by Marcelo Ebrard, Mexico's current minister of Foreign Relations. Silvia E. Giorguli, the president of the El Colegio de México, contributes introductory remarks.

The book's fourteen articles are the product of a collaboration between the El Colegio de México and the Ministry of Foreign Relations, which promoted the participation of researchers from both institutions, as well as academics from the National Autonomous University of Mexico

and the José María Luis Mora Institute for Historical Studies. The book commemorates the two centuries since Mexican Independence and the bicentennial of diplomatic relations between the United States and our country.

To begin, Ana Rosa Suárez Argüello reflects about Joel R. Poinsett, the first U.S. minister in Mexico during the presidency of Vicente Guerrero. The author describes the circumstances that led Pointsett to become an ambassador, such as the fact that he spoke the language, his interest in the country's affairs, and his experience in Buenos Aires and Chile.

In the chapter about Nicholas Trist, Amy S. Greenberg describes the diplomat's diligence and his influence on the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, which put an end to the war between Mexico and the United States with the transfer of almost half of Mexico's territory to the U.S. She also underlines his efforts in negotiating the territory's handover.

Marcela Terrazas y Basante focuses on the tenure of James Gadsden, who dealt with the aftermath of the war with the United States, Mexico's loss of territory, and bilateral problems. She also describes Gadsden's intention to increase his country's land surface by taking advantage of the Mexican government's weaknesses and demonstrates how slavery was revitalized in the U.S. as a result of the expansion of its territory.

Erika Pani describes both countries' civil wars (Mexico, from 1858 to 1867, and the United States from 1861 to 1865) and how the different U.S. ambassadors (John Forsyth, Jr., Robert M. McLane, and Thomas Corwin) dealt with the challenges the conflicts brought. Among the most representative of these difficulties were the separation of Church and State, the end of slavery in the United States, the intention to open up trade for U.S. businesses, and the challenges of the Civil Wars themselves.

Emmanuel Heredia González details the seven-year mission of John W. Foster in Mexico. In particular, he mentions the consolidation of the U.S. community in the country and the strengthening of ties with Mexican society due to the possibilities of investment for U.S. companies, as well as the first steps toward bilateral treaties and the pacification of the international border.

Luis Barrón looks into the repercussions of World War I in Mexico as a result of its relations with the United States and how Ambassador Henry P. Fletcher managed to maintain cooperation between the two countries in the complex context they faced.

This book is a reference for understanding the current context of bilateral relations. It explains the interconnection between the two countries around issues such as border management, trade relations, migratory governance, and their positioning *vis-à-vis* the rest of Latin America.

Ambassador Dwight W. Morrow symbolized a break with the conflictive diplomatic relations, leading them toward understanding and cooperation, as María del Carmen Collado explains. Morrow was recognized for dealing directly with the conflicts that arose with attachés or the president himself, in addition to proposing reasonable solutions and using cultural diplomacy for bilateral issues.

In his text, Paolo Riguzzi enlarges on the actions and ideas of Ambassador Josephus Daniels when Mexico expropriated its oil, explaining how bilateral equilibrium was reached and stable diplomatic relations between the two countries were reinforced.

Blanca Torres details the work of George S. Messersmith as the U.S. representative in Mexico during World War II. Outstanding among his efforts were his contribution to increasing negotiating capabilities between the two countries during a war, under cover of a propaganda campaign, and how he attempted to reinforce economic and political ties and contribute to the beginning of a new era in international relations.

Soledad Loaeza presents the reader with the context in which Ambassador Francis B. White exercised his tenure, and the effects the Cold War had on bilateral relations. She highlights the costs for Mexico of the United States being a super-power and how cooperation between the two countries after World War II played out.

According to Ana Covarrubias Velasco, Tomas C. Mann was ambassador as the Cuban Revolution made the Cold War colder in the hemisphere. Covarrubias describes how, amidst regional and world instability and with on-going border problems, Mann maintained stable bilateral relations.

From the very beginning of his tenure, actor and diplomat John Gavin was not well received as ambassador by Mexico's government, media, or scholars and experts. Miguel Ruiz-Cabañas Izquierdo explains that, although he tried to come to a stable trade deal, he had differences

with Mexico about how to deal with the Central American problems of the day, cross-border drug trafficking, or the economic crisis, such as Mexico's foreign debt.

Roberta Lajous's text deals with one of the greatest contributions to U.S.-Mexico trade relations, the North American Free Trade Agreement, attributable in large part to the work of Ambassadors John D. Negroponte and James R. Jones. She also describes Jones's contribution to the 1994 bailout of Mexico and the process of trade integration that followed it, transforming bilateral relations.

Lastly, Mario Arriagada and María Celia Toro describe the mission of Ambassador Carlos Pascual, his interest in broadening economic relations between the two countries and improving the country's security. In addition, the authors review the challenges Pascual faced in his fight against drug trafficking and organized crime, as well as the circumstances he dealt with due to the Wikileaks scandal.

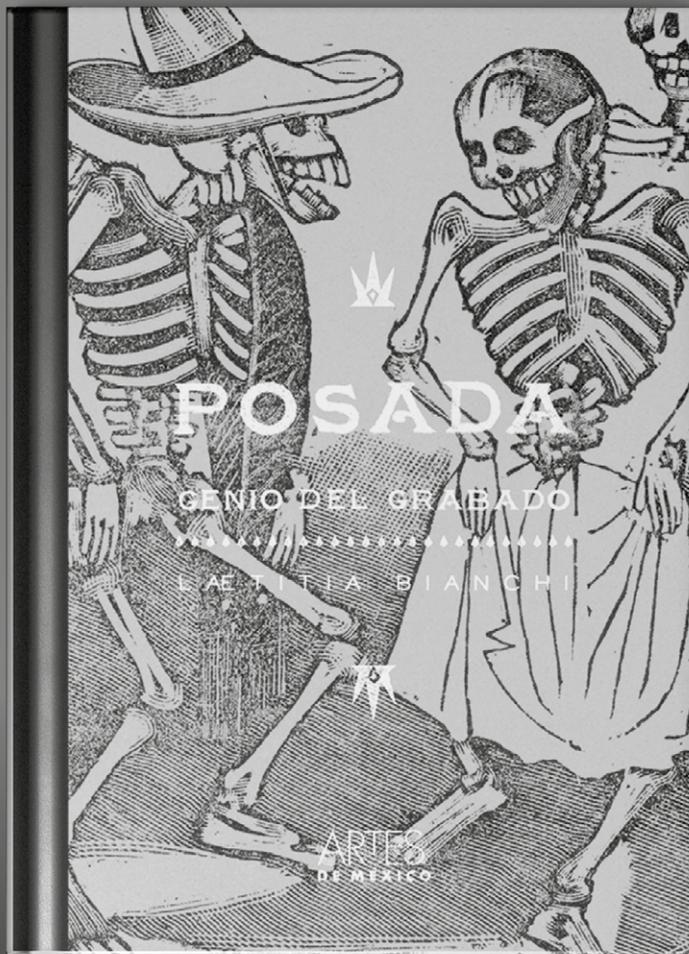
The perspectives this book presents are diverse, given that the authors are historians, internationalists, or diplomats. This means that they delve into different areas of knowledge in their desire to look both at diplomacy and history to understand the seventeen U.S. envoys the book covers. Each chapter describes how diplomacy played a central role in the relationship between the two neighboring countries thanks to the ambassadors, representatives in times of change, since some of the most significant events in our country's history took place during each of their tenures. The authors also go into detail about the diplomats' origins, motivations, and respective careers, and, naturally, they also analyze how their backgrounds influenced their decisions.

This book is a reference for understanding the current context of bilateral relations. It explains the interconnection between the two countries around issues such as border management, trade relations, migratory governance, and their positioning *vis-à-vis* the rest of Latin America. Presenting a broad context of the tenure of each ambassador, it is well-structured, with each chapter focusing on a representative moment and, at the same time, divided into small moments that make up the most important actions by these foreign representatives in Mexico. Undoubtedly, this volume is a good starting point for learning and researching the history of U.S. ambassadors in Mexico. ■■■

Ana Luna  
Staff writer

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Córdoba 69, col. Roma norte, Ciudad de México.

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