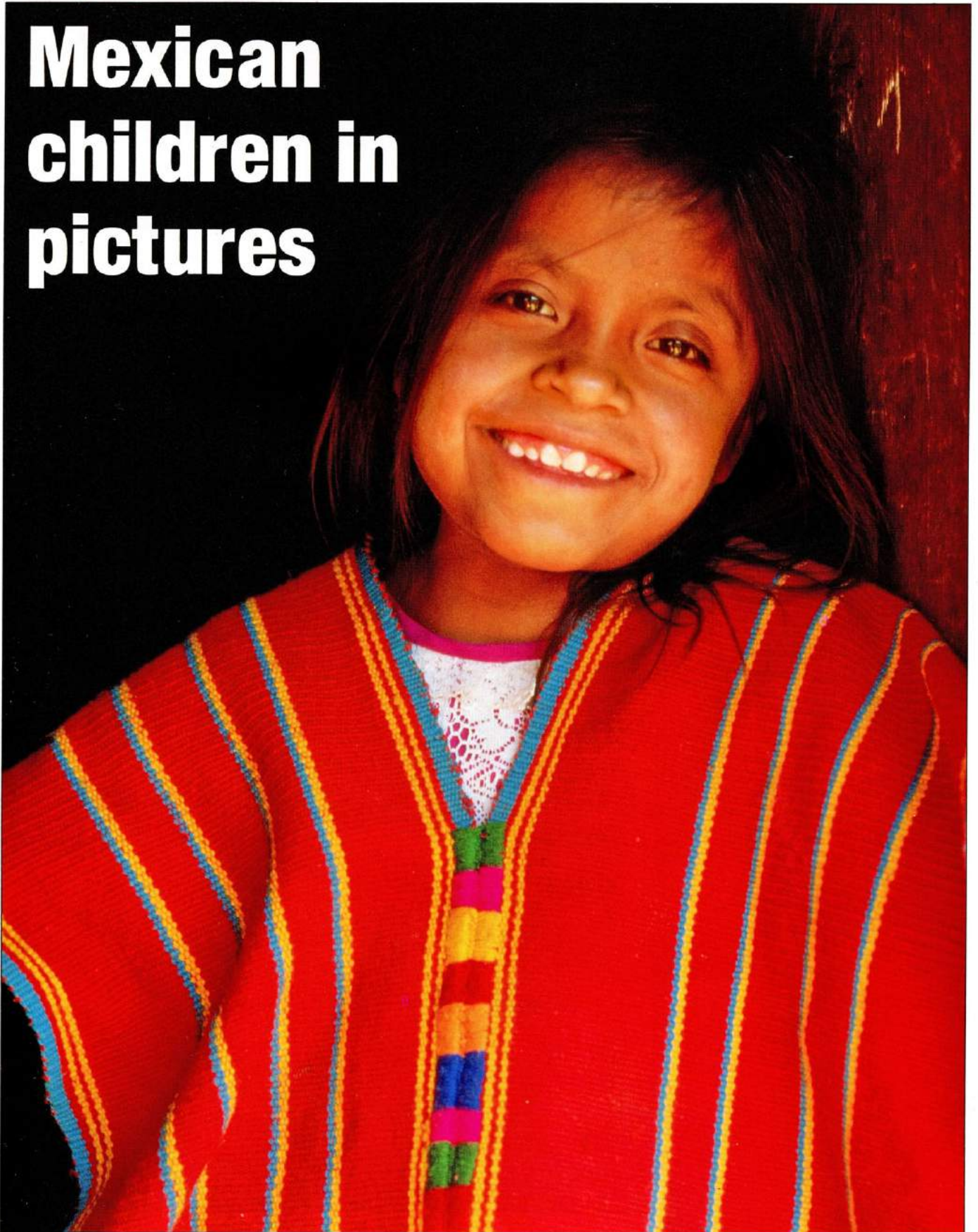
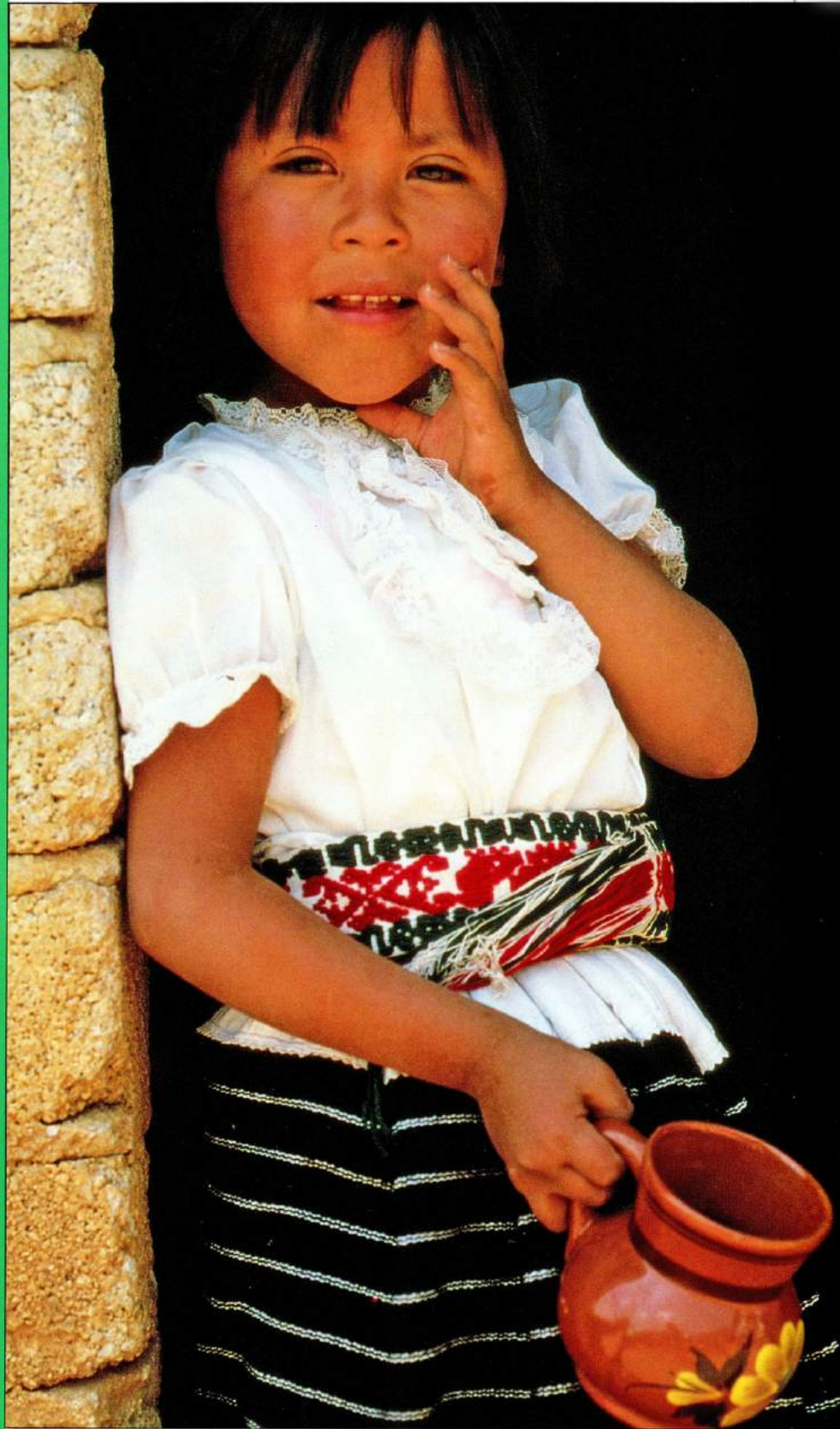


Mexican children in pictures



LOS NIÑOS DE MÉXICO

Photos by José Pablo Fernández Cueto.
Fernández Cueto Editores, Mexico City, 1991, 143 pp.





Mexican sovereignty

For Mexicans, sovereignty is not a value which has gone out of fashion nor a principle that can be discarded. On the contrary, it is the very essence of our national being.

Two reasons justify this pre-eminence of sovereignty. The first resides in our millennial-old culture, in our historical roots, in our collective identity. We are not a mere collection of communities or peoples. We are a genuine nation, because of the sense of belonging generated by our traditions and values, and because of our decided will to be and remain Mexicans.

Throughout our territory, in the midst of our diversity, there are no unbridgeable antagonisms of race, language or belief such as those which have come to the fore and pulverized other countries. The political borders of our motherland coincide with the area of our common culture.

During the first half of the past century we ceased to be a fragile, fractured society without goals, becoming a strong, united and conscious nation. Let me reiterate that in Mexico there has been and there is a nation of enormous spirit, of great and proven abilities.

Our history was forged through confronting aggressions, resisting pressures, winning our place in the world. Justly and deservedly, history has shown our people to be in the right, giving us a well-founded security with which to confront all challenges. This is why sovereignty is so important to us; because of it, today we are changing, and we do this because we want to continue being Mexican. That is our greatest source of pride.

The priority we give to the independence of our motherland is also founded on a second reason, which derives from our geography. We are, inevitably, neighbors of the greatest world power emerging from the end of the Cold War.

Historical experience has made us deeply jealous of our territorial integrity, of our will to remain sovereign. Today, when voices in other countries are raised to single out our country's insufficiencies—which only shows a profound ignorance of our own vitality—it is worth recalling that we do not want to be like others, nor to share their deficiencies. We learn from the world, but we do not imitate it; our wish is to improve ourselves, not to assimilate. ✕

Carlos Salinas de Gortari.

(Excerpt from the President's Fifth Report to the Mexican Nation, November 1, 1993.)

