

The Image of Revolutionary Heroes Emiliano
Zapata and Francisco Villa in Literature, Movies,
and Mexican Corridos

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Outline

- Introduction
 - Why did we pick this topic?
 - Brief background on the Mexican Revolution
 - Research Questions
- Zapata and the Mexican Revolution
 - Who was Zapata?
 - What did Zapata do in the Revolution?
 - When was Zapata in the Revolution ?
 - Where did Zapata's involvement take place?
 - Why was Zapata involved in the Revolution?
 - Analysis of Zapata's Image

Outline continued

- Villa and the Revolution
 - Who was Villa?
 - What did Villa do in the Revolution?
 - When was Villa in the Revolution?
 - Where did Villa's involvement take place?
 - Why was Villa involved in the Revolution ?
 - Analysis of Villa's Image
- Summary and Conclusion

Why did we choose this topic ?

Both of us have mutual interest in the Mexican Revolution. As well as the portrayal of Emiliano Zapata and Francisco Villa in Literature, Movies, and Mexican corridos.

Research Questions ?

What was the Mexican Revolution and what did it bring to México?

How are Emiliano Zapata and Francisco Villa portrayed in literature?

How are Emiliano Zapata and Francisco Villa portrayed in film?

How are Emiliano Zapata and Francisco Villa portrayed in mexican corridos?

The Mexican Revolution (1910-1920)

- What was the Mexican Revolution?
 - Lower class vs. Porfirio Diaz
 - Agrarian Reform
- What were the causes that lead to the Mexican Revolution?
 - Dictatorship of Porfirio Diaz
 - Francisco Madero (President of México after Porfirio Diaz)
 - Church
 - Land
- What was the resolution of the Mexican Revolution?
 - New Constitution of 1917
 - Gave land to lower class

Important Figures of the Mexican Revolution

Doroteo Arango

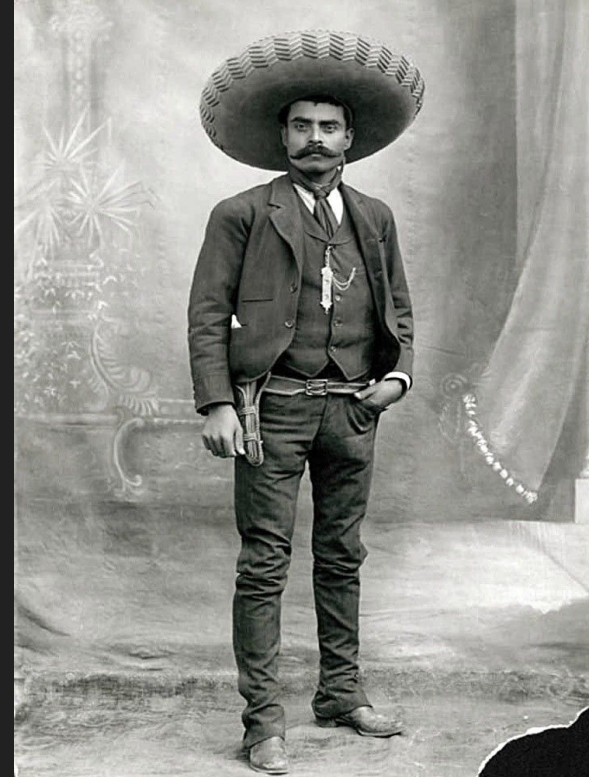
(Francisco Villa)

Emiliano Zapata



Emiliano Zapata

- Who was Emiliano Zapata?
 - Born: August 8, 1879
 - Died: April 10, 1919
 - From Anenecuilco, México
 - Farmworker
 - Orphaned at age 17 and took care of siblings
 - President of defense committee in his hometown



Zapata and the Mexican Revolution

- When did Zapata get involved ?
 - After the 1910 elections when Francisco Madero lost to Porfirio Diaz
- How did Zapata get involved?
 - Showed support to Madero because Zapata believed Madero could bring change to México
 - Zapata and Madero have a meeting to discuss goals
 - Difference of ideas
 - Stops supporting Madero
- Where was Zapata involved?
 - Morelos
 - Cuernavaca
 - México City and Aguascalientes

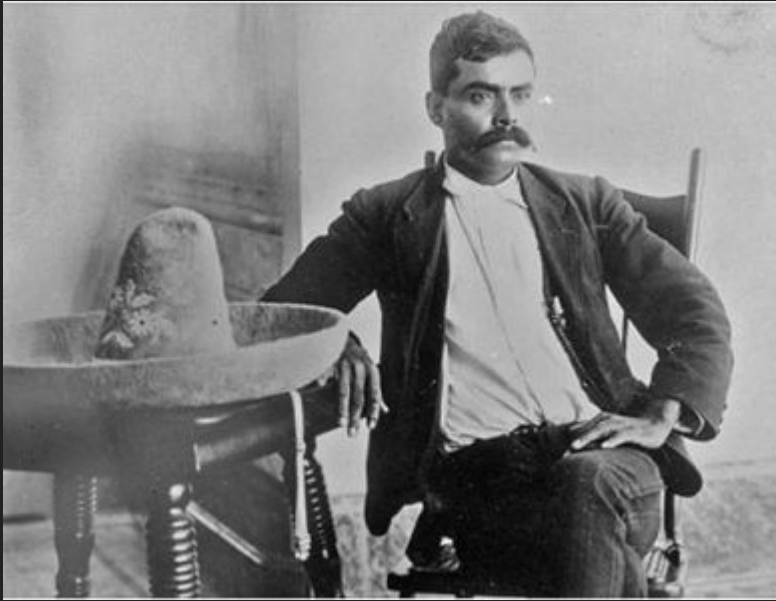
Emiliano Zapata and his contributions to the Mexican Revolution

- What did he do?
 - Plan of Ayala in November 28, 1911
 - Allied with Villa for similar causes
 - Distribution of land
 - Fought for the rights of the lower class
- Why was he important?
 - “Land and Liberty”
 - Looked out for the lower class
 - Expressed discomfort with the Mexican government
 - Fought for a better Mexico until his death



Emiliano Zapata's Image

Hero or Villain?



MAS VALE MORIR DE PIE



Emiliano Zapata

QUE VIVIR ARRODILLADO

Zapata in Literature

- *Tierra*- Gregorio López y Fuentes
 - Mexican author
 - Published in 1932
 - One of the most distinguished chroniclers of the revolution
 - Plot: Antonio tired of the injustices at the hacienda of Don Bernardo leaves to join the forces of Zapata and together fought for agrarian reform until their deaths



Analysis of *Tierra*

- “I went to the maderista revolution only for what article 4 of the Plan de San Luis says, signed by Madero. Look for yourself. I always have it at hand, as the best proof that a change of presidents is not what we are interested in” (98)
- “Zapata stopped being a general to become a flag” (102)
- “And general Zapata told a story, one of those with which he resolved the most transcendental questions, full of wisdom” (182)
- Man that relied heavily on legal documents
- Justified his actions through the documents
- Only present in revolution for “land and liberty”
- Flag= symbol of a country → Zapata now a symbol
- Used hardships from childhood to resolve problems

Zapata in Film

- *Viva Zapata!*
 - Release Date: February 7, 1952
 - Directed by Elia Kazan
 - Starring Marlon Brando as the protagonist
 - Screenplay by John Steinbeck
- Storyline
 - Follow Zapata in his journey through the Mexican Rev.



Analysis of *Viva Zapata!*

- Physical appearance
- Spoke up against injustices
- Love interest
- Loyal to revolutionary cause
- Desire to learn how to read and write
- Stood up for those who did not have a voice
- Stereotypes of low social class
- Knew that if he wanted to help people best he needed to learn how to read and write
- Seen as a hero by the poor
- Zapata's love life not talked about much → human side to him
- Positive image of Zapata although stereotypes were placed on him

Zapata in Corridos (Ballads)

- *Corrido a la muerte de Emiliano Zapata (Ballad to the death of Emiliano Zapata)*
- Interpreted by: Amparo Ochoa
- Storyline: Emiliano Zapata has been assassinated and the narrator is narrating how his death occurred and the sadness that it brought to México.



Analysis of *Corrido a la muerte de Emiliano Zapata*

- “ He was born within the poor, lived within the poor, and fought for them. ‘I don’t want wealth, I don’t want honors’ he would tell everyone” (74)
- “While I live the indians will be owners of their land” (75)
- Humble
- Never left his origins behind → proud of his roots
- Included his people in the revolutionary efforts → teamwork
- Stood up for low social class → fearless
- Not interested in power or wealth → smart and grounded

Summary of Emiliano Zapata's Image

Overall, positive in the book, movie, and corrido I analyzed



Jose Doroteo Arango Arambula (Pancho Villa)

- Who is Jose Doroteo Arango Arambula?
 - Born: Durango the 5 June 1878
 - Poor, low class
 - Head of his household
 - First murder at young age
 - Fled to the North of Mexico
 - Six years as a bandit and fugitive from the law
- How does he became Pancho Villa?
 - Gets to Chihuahua and changes his name
 - Bandit-Miner
 - Steals
 - Enters the Mexican Revolution



Villa and the Mexican Revolution

- When does he become involved?
 - In 1910
- Where does his involvement take place?
 - Chihuahua
- How does he become involved?
 - Joins forces with Francisco Madero
 - Forms his own army in the Northern part of Mexico
 - Madero becomes a revolutionary leader



Pancho Villa and his contributions to the Mexican Revolution

- What did he do?
 - Overthrew Diaz from power
 - Madero becomes president (33)
 - Villa becomes colonel
 - Fights with Madero for politics and with Zapata for land and social justice
- Why is he important?
 - Helped lower class by stealing
 - He was able to overthrow people from power
 - He was not scared to face injustices even if it meant he was on his own
 - Did not want money nor power

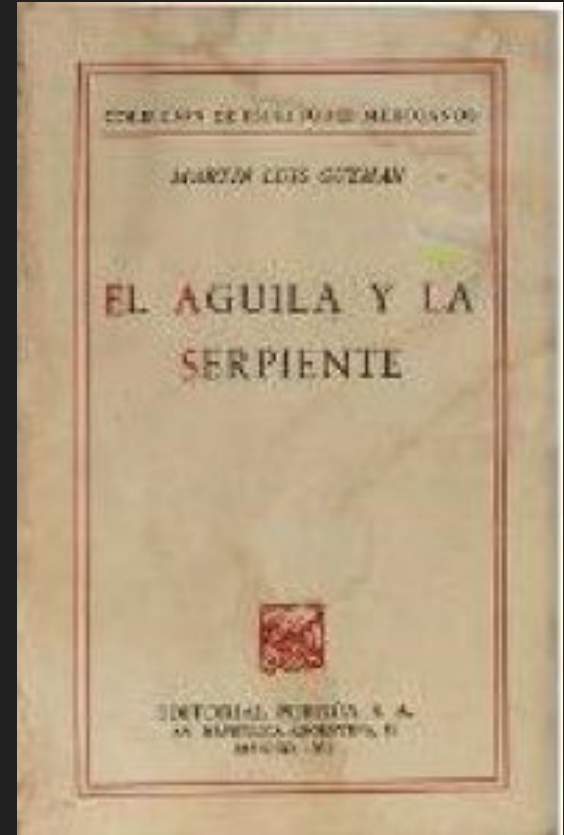
Pancho Villa's Representation of Image

Hero or Villain?



Villa in Literature

- El Águila y la Serpiente (The Eagle and the Serpent)
 - Author: Martin Luis Guzman
 - Autobiographical novel
 - Published: 1991
 - Mexican novelist and journalist
 - Under Pancho Villa's command
- Plot
 - Martin Luis Guzman's encounters with Villa
 - His life in the Revolution
 - Presents Villa in both positive and negative ways



Analysis of *El aguila y la serpiente*

- “The look on his eyes...had an I don’t know wait of a beast in a den. But that of a beast that defends itself, not that of a beast that attacks” (49).
 - Eyes reflected that he did not trust easily
 - Beast at defending what he thought was right
 - Fought for a reason
- “Him and his pistol are one thing. One will count on the other and vice versa. From his pistol his friends and enemies have will be born.” (253).
 - Pistol was part of his outfit
 - Symbol that described him
 - Without his gun he was not the same
 - Hardly ever unarmed
- “I will make sure that your life changes. To begin with, take this to help yourself” (191).
 - Cared for his people
 - Always helped others

Villa in Film

- La Muerte de Pancho Villa
 - Released: 2 May, 1974
 - Director: Mario Hernandez
 - Protagonist: Antonio Aguilar
 - Narrated in first person
- Storyline
 - Glance of Pancho Villa's life
 - Contributions to the Mexican Revolution
 - Describes his accomplishments
 - Life after Revolution



Analysis of “ La Muerte de Pancho Villa”

- Physical appearance
- Womanizer
- Loyal friend
- Valued honesty
- Educated himself
- Built schools
- Fought for justice
- Did not greed for money nor power
- Did not care about others opinions
- Betrayed various times by his best soldiers
- Fearless
- Fought for rights of the lower class until his death

Villa in ballads

- *Corrido a la Muerte de Pancho Villa (Ballad to the death of Pancho Villa)*
 - Author: Anonymous
 - Book: Popular Mexican Ballads
 - Author of book: Alvaro Custodio
 - Published: 1975
- **Storyline**
 - Presents how he died
 - Talks about his life
 - Describes Villa
 - Expresses the need for him in Mexico



Analysis of *Corrido a la Muerte de Pancho Villa*

- “He would always fight for justice, without ambitioning power and his soul was proud of his name, Pancho Villa. “
- “Villa was a loyal follower always benign and sincere, made justice for the horrible betrayal that was made to Madero. “
- “I won't give goodbyes, the anguish is not simple: the need for Francisco Villa my homeland has. “
- Fought for the cause of the poor
- Education
- Proud of his accomplishments
- Did not want power
- Was a loyal friend
- Made justice to Madero's betrayal & death
- Intolerant to betrayals
- Hes irreplaceable
- Mexico needs more men like him
- Hard to find

Summary of Pancho Villa's Image

All in all, it was a positive image in film and in ballads. However, in literature a positive and negative image was presented.



Summary of Emiliano Zapata and Pancho Villa

- 2 novels
- 2 corridos
- 2 films
- Overall positive image (exception of Villa)
- Future Research
 - More sources that could possibly present a negative image
 - Both figures did murder large amounts of people during revolutionary efforts

Thank you for your time !

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