

voices

of MEXICO

News, Commentary and Documents on Current Events in Mexico and Latin America

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This Issue

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This is a key year for Mexican politics, as the upcoming presidential succession will be resolved over the next few months. The process evolves according to precise, specific rules and procedures involving Mexican society as a whole, and has caught the attention of political analysts and commentators the world over.

On this particular occasion, the proceedings will be taking place in the midst of one of the most complex and difficult situations our country has had to face in decades. Caught up in one of the most severe economic crises in our history, faced with the increasing threat of generalized warfare in Central America and subjected to a diversity of international pressures, Mexicans must decide who are the presidential candidates best qualified to guarantee the country's institutional life, and what's more, the national project we have built throughout our history. Thus, the coming months will be a time of intense political activity in which the country's organized forces will put forth their demands, as well as their alternative options for the Mexico of the future.

VOICES means to cover this process through articles and commentaries illustrating the complexity of Mexico's situation. We will also include the opinions of some of our most distinguished intellectuals on subjects such as the relationship between democracy and the respect for human rights in our country, the economic stabilization program undertaken by the current administration and its consequences for Mexico's future, as well as the complicated and difficult relations with our neighbors both to the North and to the South.

In this issue we are also opening up a new line of analysis: Mexicans' ideas on North American society and history.

Given that the possibility of all-out war in Central America is widely feared in Mexico, our section on **Latin American issues** is centered on the regional situation, analyzing the outlook for intervention, the situation in the countries most involved in the regional conflict and the existing possibilities for peace.

At the same time, following the editorial policy set out in previous issues of VOICES, we continue to publish articles and essays on cultural matters, emphasizing our country's ethnic and regional plurality. Our aim is to illustrate the wealth and variety of our traditions, idiosyncratic expressions that point both to the Mexican people's tremendous potential and to the difficulty of adjusting to simplistic stereotypes that come to us from afar.

Mariclaire Acosta