

Who's who in President Salinas' cabinet

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President Carlos Salinas de Gortari's cabinet includes a number of distinguished politicians, technicians and administrators, all of whom hold degrees in a wide variety of fields and boast a wealth of experience in public service. At the same time, Salinas has balanced the youth of some of them with the political and electoral experience of others. The twenty top-ranking members of the current administration, including President Salinas himself, have served an average of 27 years in politics and government before reaching their present position.

They may be divided into three main groups; those with 10-20 years of public service, including Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de León (Public Education), Pedro Aspe Armella (Finance and Public Credit), Jaime Serra Puche (Commerce and Industrial Development), Ignacio Morales Lechuga (Attorney General), Arsenio Farrell Cubillas (Labor and Social Security), Víctor Cervera Pacheco (Agrarian Reform), Pedro Joaquín Coldwell (Tourism), and María Elena Vázquez Nava (Comptroller General).

The second group comprises cabinet members with 21-35 years' experience, such as Fernando Solana Morales (Foreign Affairs), Andrés Caso Lombardo (Communications and Transport), Guillermo Jiménez Morales (Fisheries), Miguel Montes García (Federal District Attorney General), Manuel Camacho Solís (Federal District Governor) and President Salinas himself, prior to his election. The third and last group includes politicians with 36-46 years of public service. They are Fernando Gutiérrez Barrios (Interior), Antonio Riviella Bazán (Defense), Luis Carlos Ruano Angulo (Navy), Fernando Hiriart Balderrama (Energy, Mines and State-run Industry), Jesús Kumate Rodríguez (Health and Welfare) and Carlos Hank González (Agriculture and Water Resources).

The group as a whole has occupied a broad range of positions in both central and decentralized federal government. A significant number typically moved up or horizontally through earlier presidential cabinets, before joining the present administration.

Fernando Solana Morales was Secretary of Commerce (1977) at the beginning of José Luis Portillo's term and later became Secretary of Public Education (1982), as well as holding decentralized government positions,

such as head of the Mexican Government Commission on Public Administration (1965-66), Secretary General of the National University of Mexico (1966-1970), Deputy Finance Director for CONASUPO (1970-1976), among others.

Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de León held the key post of Secretary of Planning and the Budget (December 1988-January 1992), until it was merged with the Treasury Department, when he became Secretary of Public Education.

Pedro Aspe Armella was Treasury Department Coordinator of Advisors (1978-1982), and in Miguel de la Madrid's term, Deputy Secretary for Planning and the Budget (1987-1988), and current Secretary of the Treasury.

Jaime Serra Puche has held several posts as advisor to senior officials in the economic sector, as well as Deputy Secretary for Income in the Treasury department under De la Madrid (1986-1988), and is currently Secretary of Commerce and Industrial Development.

Manuel Camacho Solís, now Governor of the Federal District, was Deputy Secretary for Regional Development in the Department of Planning and the Budget (1982-1986), and Secretary for Urban Development and Ecology (1986-1988).

Fernando Hiriart Balderrama has had considerable experience in the energy sector, particularly in electricity, where he was Deputy Director and Director General of the Federal Electricity Commission (1959-1970 and 1982-1988). He was also Deputy Secretary for State-run Industry, the department he now heads.

Jesús Kumate Rodríguez has held a number of posts in the Public Health sector, ranging from Director of the Mexican Children's Hospital (1979-1980), through Coordinator of the National Health Institutes (1983-1985), Deputy Secretary (1985-1988), and finally Secretary of Public Health, his current position.

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Carlos Hank González was Secretary of Tourism (1988-1990), during the early part of the present administration and is now Secretary of Agriculture and Water Resources. He was Director General of Conasupo (1964-1969) under Díaz Ordaz, and Governor of the Federal District (1976-1982) under López Portillo.

Fernando Gutiérrez Barrios' political career has included posts in the Department of the Interior and its Office of National Security (1958-1970). He was Deputy Secretary of the Interior for both Echeverría and López Portillo (1970-1982), and has been Secretary of the Interior since 1988.

Antonio Riviello Bazán was a member of the Presidential General Staff (1950-52), Defense Department Deputy Chief of Staff (1970-1973), chief and commander of various Military Zones, Inspector and Comptroller General of the Army and Air Force, (1983-84 and 1987-88) and Military and Air Attaché at the Mexican Embassy in Madrid (1985-1986).

Luis Carlos Ruano Angulo was Navy Chief of Operations in the Gulf and the Caribbean, commander of various Naval Zones, Inspector General of the Navy, Inspector General of Naval Ordinance, Inspector General of the Navy and President of the Admiralty Board, to name but a few posts he has held.

President Salinas himself held several important posts in Public Administration, particularly in the economic sector, where he was Technical Secretary of the Presidential Economic Cabinet under López Portillo and Secretary of Planning and Budget (1982-1988).

Some cabinet officers have had experience of elective office as governors, senators and local or federal deputies. Unlike his immediate predecessors, Salinas chose a number of his cabinet members from a select group of former state governors.

These include Fernando Gutiérrez Barrios (Veracruz), Carlos Hank

González (State of Mexico), Guillermo Jiménez Morales (Puebla), Víctor Cervera Pacheco (Yucatan), Pedro Joaquín Coldwell (Quintana Roo), and Jorge de la Vega Domínguez (Chiapas), who was Salinas' Secretary of Agriculture and Water Resources from 1988-1990.

Other cabinet members with elective experience include María de los Angeles Moreno Uriegas, formerly Secretary of Fisheries (1988-91), and currently a Federal Deputy. Miguel Montes García, Attorney General for the Federal District since May of 1991, was a state legislator in the state of Guanajuato (1965-68 and 1979-82) and then a federal deputy (1976-79 and 1988-91).

From a sociological point of view, Salinas' cabinet is composed of 15 out of 20 politicians born on an axis running from Mexico to Veracruz, an area which has traditionally produced much of Mexico's political elite.

Fernando Solana Morales, Antonio Riviello Bazán, Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de León, Pedro Aspe Armella, Jaime Serra Puche, Manuel Camacho Solís, Andrés Caso Lombardo, Arsenio Farell Cubillas, María Elena Vázquez Nava and President Salinas himself, who has close family links with Nuevo León, were all born in Mexico City.

The second largest group comes from Veracruz, with Fernando Gutiérrez Barrios, Luis Carlos Ruano Angulo and Ignacio Morales Lechuga. Other states with representatives in the cabinet include Chihuahua (Fernando Hiriart Balderrama), Sinaloa (Jesús Kumate Rodríguez), the State of Mexico (Carlos Hank González), Puebla (Guillermo Jiménez Morales), Yucatan (Víctor Cervera Pacheco), Jalisco (Miguel Montes García), and Quintana Roo (Pedro Joaquín Coldwell).

Salinas' cabinet also has its share of members of Mexican political and intellectual families. Antonio Riviello Bazán comes from a distinguished military family. His father was General

Rodolfo Riviello Valdéz, and two of his brothers, Rodolfo and Guillermo Riviello, are also generals. Another brother, Fernando, is a colonel, while his sister, Olga Riviello Bazán, is an Army major, in the Military Health department.

Pedro Aspe Armella's wife, Concepción Bernal Vereá, is the daughter of the late Dr. Ignacio Bernal y García Pimentel (1910-92), a distinguished anthropologist who held a number of important diplomatic and academic posts. Pedro Aspe's mother, Virginia Armella de Aspe, is a researcher with several essays and books on the history of Mexican dress and other subjects to her credit. Manuel Camacho Solís is the son of General Manuel Camacho López, a distinguished military physician. Camacho Solís was married to the late Guadalupe Velasco, the daughter of Manuel Velasco Suárez, a neurosurgeon who held numerous posts in the health sector and was also Governor of Chiapas (1970-1976).

Andrés Caso Lombardo is the son of Alfonso Caso, lawyer and archaeologist, who was Secretary of National Property and Administrative Inspection under Miguel Alemán and director of the National Indigenous Institute for over twenty years. Alfonso Caso also wrote innumerable books and essays, and was a member of El Colegio Nacional, and received many other distinctions. Caso Lombardo's mother, María Lombardo de Caso, wrote numerous novels and short stories, and was sister to Vicente Lombardo Toledano, politician, labor leader and university professor.

Caso Lombardo's sister, Beatriz, is a well-known sculptress whose works include a monumental head of Juárez, in Gelatao, Oaxaca, a bust of Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz in the headquarters of the Organization of American States in Washington DC and a sculpture of Rosario Castellanos in Mexico City's hall of fame.

President Salinas is the son of Raúl Salinas Lozano, economist, university professor and public servant, the director of Economic Studies for the Treasury Department. He was Secretary of National Economy (1958), and of Industry and Commerce (1959-64) under Adolfo López Mateos, and Director of the National Price Commission, in the Department of Commerce (1977). He was Mexican delegate to the International Monetary Fund and Director of the Mexican Foreign Trade Institute (1978-1979), a senator from 1982-1988, as well as author of numerous essays on the

degrees, three hold master's and specialized degrees, and six hold doctorates.

Most of these degrees are in Economics, held by Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de León, Pedro Aspe Armella, Manuel Camacho Solís, Andrés Caso Lombardo, María Elena Vázquez Nava and the president himself.

There are five lawyers: Ignacio Morales Lechuga, Guillermo Jiménez Morales, Arsenio Farell Cubillas, Miguel Montes García and Pedro Joaquín Coldwell; and four military graduates, Fernando Gutiérrez Barrios, Arturo Riviello Bazán, Luis

political science and public administration.

The National University continues to be an important source of candidates for the political elite and presidential cabinets. Nine cabinet members, Fernando Solana Morales, Jaime Serra Puche, Manuel Camacho Solís, Fernando Hiriart Balderrama, Andrés Caso Lombardo, Guillermo Jiménez Morales, Arsenio Farell Cubillas, María Elena Vázquez Nava and Salinas himself are all UNAM graduates.

Fernando Gutiérrez Barrios brings the number of cabinet members who studied at military institutions, or



President Carlos Salinas in an early photograph with his cabinet prior to recent changes.

Mexican economy. His late mother, Margarita de Gortari de Salinas, graduated in Economics from the National University and was Founding President of the Association of Women Economists.

In addition to their broad experience and extensive public service, members of the present cabinet are also well-educated both in Mexico and abroad. Half of them hold licenciatura

degrees, three hold master's and specialized degrees, and six hold doctorates. The remaining areas of study covered by cabinet members are Jaime Serra Puche (political science), Fernando Hiriart Balderrama (civil engineering), and Carlos Hank González (teaching). The noteworthy exception is Fernando Solana Morales, who took three degrees at the National University: in civil engineering, philosophy, and

obtained their specializations there, to a total of four. Antonio Riviello Bazán studied at the Military College, of which he was eventually deputy director. He took a degree in Military Administration at the Senior War College, where he also taught for a time. Luis Carlos Ruano Angulo is an engineer-geographer, with degrees from both the Antón Lizardo Naval School in Veracruz and the Pacific Naval School,

while Jesús Kumate Rodríguez obtained his degree from the Military Medical School.

Three other cabinet members obtained their degrees from public universities, two in the provinces. Ernesto Zedillo graduated from the National Polytechnic Institute, while Carlos Hank and Miguel Montes graduated from the Toluca Teacher Training College and Guanajuato University respectively. Private university graduates include Pedro Aspe Armella, from the Autonomous Technological University of Mexico (ITAM), Ignacio Morales Lechuga,

two or more from more than one country.

Among those with graduate degrees from Mexican universities, Fernando Solana Morales is a doctoral candidate in Political Science at the National University. Jesús Kumate Rodríguez has a postgraduate degree in Pediatrics from the Central Military Hospital, and Carlos Hank González specialized in history and geography at the Senior National Normal School.

Those with postgraduate degrees from American Universities include Pedro Aspe Armella, who has a PhD in Economics from MIT, and Salinas who

another Naval Staff Master's from the Center for Advanced Naval Studies.

Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de León obtained his PhD in Economics at Yale. He also attended courses in the assessment of human resource investment, at Bradford University in England, and courses in Economics at the University of Colorado.

Jaime Serra Puche has a Master's in Economics from the Colegio de Mexico and a PhD in Economics from Yale. Finally, ten of the twenty politicians mentioned in this study have written books, articles and essays in their special field of knowledge.

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from the Free School of Law and Pedro Joaquín Coldwell, from the Ibero-American University.

The high educational level of Mexico's political elite reflects a tendency to select staff who not only have a strong professional and political background, but have also obtained graduate degrees either in Mexico or abroad. Nine cabinet members hold graduate degrees, with

is a PhD in Political Economy and Government from Harvard.

Three cabinet members obtained their postgraduate degrees in more than one country. Luis Carlos Ruano Angulo has one General Staff Master's from the Senior War College, another in Staff Management and Marketing from the Fayol Institute, another from the US Inter-American Defense College and yet