

**THE STOCK EXCHANGE, THE STATE AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT IN MEXICO, 1884-2012**

JAVIER MORENO LÁZARO

FUNDACIÓN DE LAS CAJAS DE AHORROS
DOCUMENTO DE TRABAJO
Nº 746/2014

De conformidad con la base quinta de la convocatoria del Programa de Estímulo a la Investigación, este trabajo ha sido sometido a evaluación externa anónima de especialistas cualificados a fin de contrastar su nivel técnico.

ISSN: 1988-8767

La serie **DOCUMENTOS DE TRABAJO** incluye avances y resultados de investigaciones dentro de los programas de la Fundación de las Cajas de Ahorros.

Las opiniones son responsabilidad de los autores.

THE STOCK EXCHANGE, THE STATE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN MEXICO, 1884-2012

Javier MORENO LÁZARO

Abstract

In this article I support the hypothesis that the stock exchange market played an small roll in Mexican economic development due to its small size. The State was to blame. Public Institutions provides credit to the firms to guaranty its political loyalty during the PRI corporativism Government. On the other Stock Exchange has serious problems in terms of property rights definition, information and freedom. Big corporations grew thanks to this institutional obstacles. Only since 2000, thanks to the democratization of the country, Stock Exchange had assumed has become a strong financial agent and has democratized itself.

Key Words: Mexican Economic History, Property rights, stock exchange, State regulation, PRI.

JEL CODES N26, N46, N86

Corresponding autor: Javier Moreno Lázaro. Facultad de Ciencias Económicas.
Avenida Valle de Esgueva, 6. 47011 Valladolid.

INTRODUCTION

From the start of the phenomenon known as the second globalization, financial specialists and investors have demonstrated increased interest in Latin America. However, the Stock Exchanges are the Cinderella of their financial history. We know little about their birth and functioning, except for the cases of Havana, Santiago de Chile, and Rio de Janeiro for very specific periods¹. In this article I study one in particular: the stock exchange of Mexico City.

The Mexican Stock Exchange was the most recent to be created among the Latin American countries, finally emerging in 1895 (after Sao Paulo in 1850, Buenos Aires, in 1854, La Habana in 1859, and Lima in 1863). As had occurred with the banking system, institutional obstacles, together with the financial weakness of the Federal Government and poor development in the country, delayed its creation². However, despite this delay and the cyclical oscillations experienced by the Mexican economy (particularly after 1976), in 2010, the Mexican stock exchange ranked second in degree of market capitalization, behind Sao Paulo, in the entire Latin American region. The Mexican Stock Exchange quickly advanced from being an anecdote in the global financial system to one of the strongest among emerging countries.

In my opinion, placing importance on transaction volume is misguided. I propose as my working hypothesis that the contribution of the Mexican Stock Exchange to the economic modernization of the country has been minimal because public authorities have imposed upon it missions that have nothing to do with the functions that are proper to it.

This analytical goal forces me to describe a financial narrative through the economic history of Mexico from the late Porfiriato to the return to power by the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI for its initials in Spanish) in 2012. In this paper, I relate the development of stock quotes and size of the stock market

¹Moreno 2013, Couyoumdian, Millar & Tocornal 1992; Levy 1977.

²Del Ángel 2002, Marichal 1992, p.118; Haber 1991, pp. 566-67 and 1998, p. 157; Coastworth 1990, pp. 95-106 and 1978; Maurer, 1992.

with macromagnitudes, the focus of economic policy, and the political change experienced by Mexico during this long period.

I consider analysis from an institutionalist point of view to be an enriching exercise to help interpret the ongoing backwardness of such an introverted and statist economy as Mexico. The Stock Exchange held a singular place in the PRI corporatism (chameleonic and pragmatic), which ruled for seven decades, and that place is what I intend to explain below.

THE CONSTRUCTION OF A STOCK INDEX

The Mexican Stock Exchange has little statistical history. This lack of data is not an accident: opacity shielded it from greater state control³. It was not even the stock exchange itself that developed its first index⁴. Instead, the first index was created by the League of Nations in 1937, but only for industrial values and only from 1929 to the year in question⁵. A much more sophisticated index was constructed by the newspaper *El Excelsior* from 1956, inspired by the NASDAQ in New York, and included the stocks of 11 industrial companies, which was immediately taken as a reference by investors. Given the obvious public statistical service of this index, Nacional Financiera S.A. (NAFINSA), an institution I will examine below, quickly constructed a rigorous retrospective index in 1960 that began in 1950 and included all types of equity securities⁶. Meanwhile, the Stock Exchange still did not provide its own calculations, leaving the powerful instrument of information to third parties⁷. Finally, in 1978, it corrected this anomaly. Since then, the leadership of the Stock Exchange has drawn up a new Index of Prices and Quotations (IPC for its initials in Spanish), including the 35 companies with the highest liquidity on the market.

³Haber 2008, p. 14.

⁴See Haber 1998, p. 159.

⁵League of Nations, 1937, p. 249.

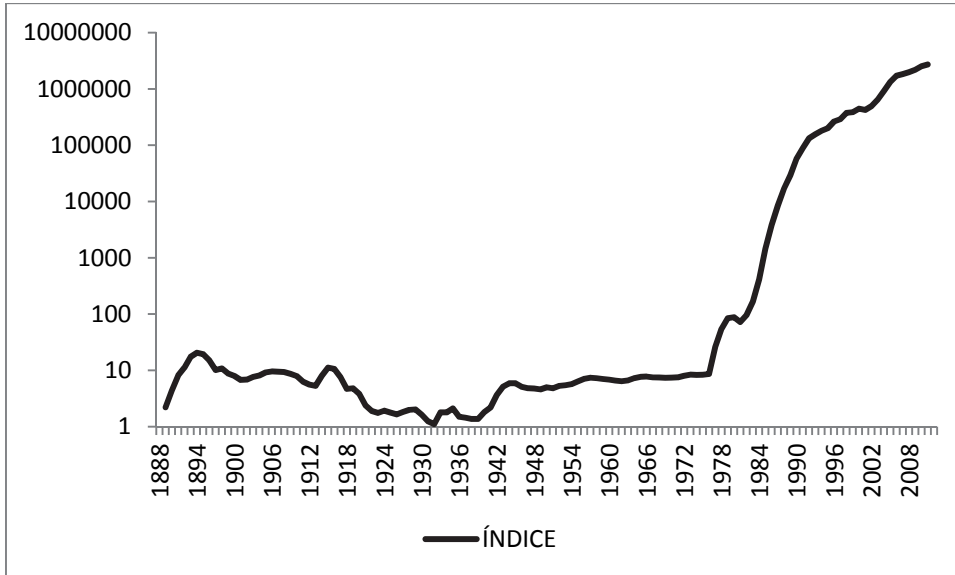
⁶Nacional Financiera, 1977, pp. 340-8.

⁷Caso, 1971, p. 7.

The gaps are greater in fixed-income instruments, in securities issued both by the Treasury and by companies. The silence on bond prices from 1937 up to 1978 was absolute. In this case, the NAFINSA calculations are not that precise. Another issue was the external debt, whose price on the markets ceased to be published starting in 1933, whether due to the wish of the Government to hide the limited solvency of the country from the general public or because it had been repudiated.

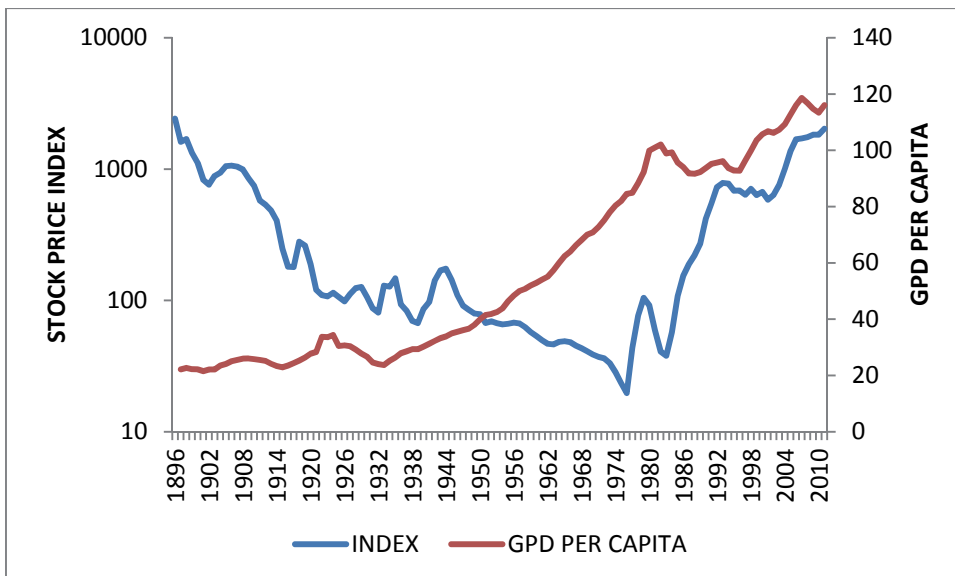
I have thus had to develop my own series based on data of thirty industrial, banking, and mining companies starting in 1888, seven years before the formal launch of the Stock Exchange. I have weighted the values in accordance with the trade volumes. I then linked this series with the series calculated by NAFINSA and the Stock Exchange in 1950 and 1978, respectively. In Figures 1 and 2, I present the results of my calculations. For the 1888-1899 and 1910- 1920 periods, I have used the consumer price index as a deflator rather than the implicit GDP deflator, which is not available. In the reconstruction of the quotes in fixed-income instruments, I was forced to make use of the financial press (Figure 3).

Figure 1. STOCK PRICE INDEX IN THE STOCK EXCHANGE IN MEXICO CITY (in current pesos, base index numbers for 1980, three-year moving average, and logarithmic scale)



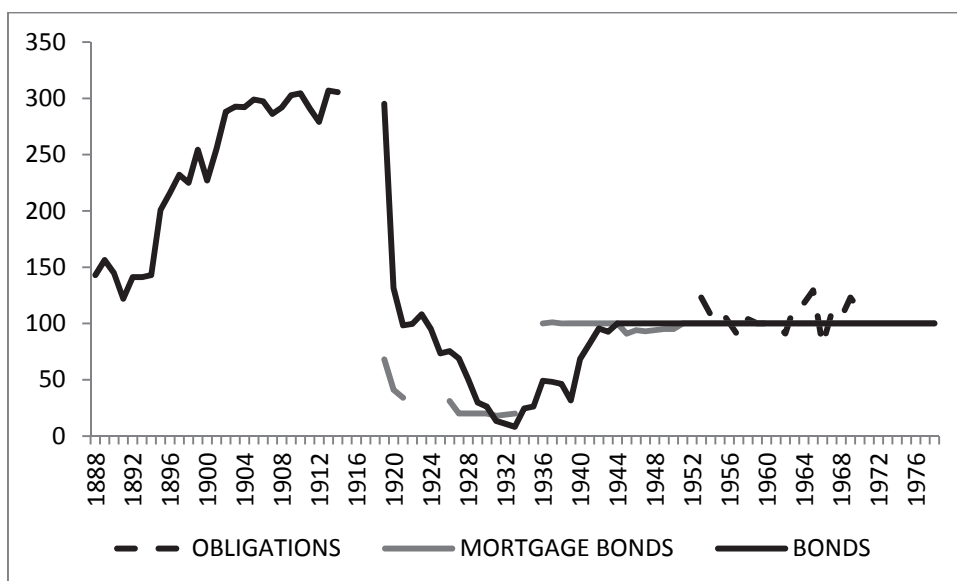
Source: *El Economista Mexicano*, City of Mexico, various dates, *El Excelsior*, City of Mexico, various dates (Both available in The Hemeroteca Nacional de México); Bolsa de Valores de México, 1978-2012; Nacional Financiera, 1977, pp. 340-8; Lagunilla, 1973.

Figure 2. STOCK PRICE INDEX IN THE STOCK EXCHANGE IN MEXICO CITY AND GDP PER CAPITA IN REAL TERMS, 1888-2012, (base index numbers for 1980, three-year moving average, and logarithmic scale)



Sources: See Figure 1 and Gómez-Galvarriato & Musacchio, 2000; Aparicio (2013); Noriega & Rodríguez-Pérez (2011); <http://dgcnesyp.inegi.gob.mx/cgi-win/bdieintsi.exe/NVO>

Figure 3. BOND PRICE INDEX IN THE STOCK EXCHANGE IN MEXICO CITY IN NOMINAL TERMS, 1888-1978 (in current pesos and base index numbers for 1960)



Sources: *El Excelsior*, City of Mexico, various dates; Nacional Financiera, 1997, pp. 340-48.

THE BIRTH OF THE STOCK EXCHANGE AND THE FIRST STOCK CRASHES (1884-1909)

The first stock purchases (of mining companies) can be dated to approximately 1850, conducted on the street near the Zócalo in the capital. The police prosecuted these transactions, often conducted in secret in a doorway, a carriage, or a tavern⁸. It was not until 1880 that these transactions could seek physical and institutional shelter from the *Compañía de Gas*⁹. The Government feared stock speculations and the financial crises that it believed were an inherent feature.

Given the futility of bans after the 1885 crash, Porfirio Díaz, the president of the Republic, authorized these operations, which were to be regulated by the

⁸ Lagunilla 1973, Vol I, p.. 3.

⁹Eiteman 1966, p.1.

Commercial Code approved in the same year¹⁰. In fact, the recognition of their legality was due to the perennial needs of the Treasury. In effect, the Government opted to place new issues on the formal capital market (two fixed-income instruments at 3 and 5%) rather than to rely on creditors¹¹. As in the rest of Latin America, the Mexican stock exchange originated not with the main objective of contributing to business financing but for the purpose of placing bonds on the secondary market in an easier and expedited way.

During the first years, bond sales were conducted in half a dozen of the so-called “mercantile agencies”, where investors now enjoyed greater legal security and better information¹². Thanks to these investors, trade began in the shares of approximately fifty mining companies held by foreigners¹³. These operations were developed in a climate of authentic euphoria, thanks to rising silver exports¹⁴. The listing of securities also followed the price of oil, a dependent relationship that continued until the beginning of the XXI century (Figure 4).

¹⁰Lagunilla 1981, pp. 41-42; Cárdenas & Del Ángel (2011), pp. 31-2; Marichal 1997, pp. 129-130.; Maurer 2002, pp. 24-25.

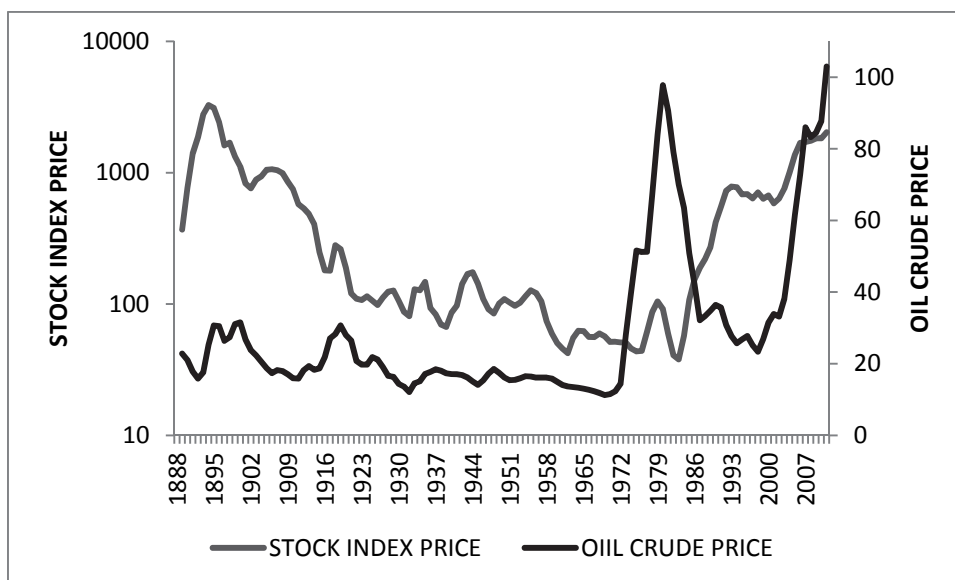
¹¹Costeloe 2003; Marichal 1993 and 1997, pp. 129-131.

¹²Marichal 1997, 129-30.

¹³Haber 1989, p. 79-80.

¹⁴Solís 1997, p. 97.

Figure 4. STOCK PRICE INDEX OF THE MEXICAN STOCK EXCHANGE AND CRUDE OIL BARREL PRICE IN THE UNITED STATES, 1888-2012 (in index numbers based on 1980, three-year moving average, 2012 dollars, and logarithmic scale)(*)

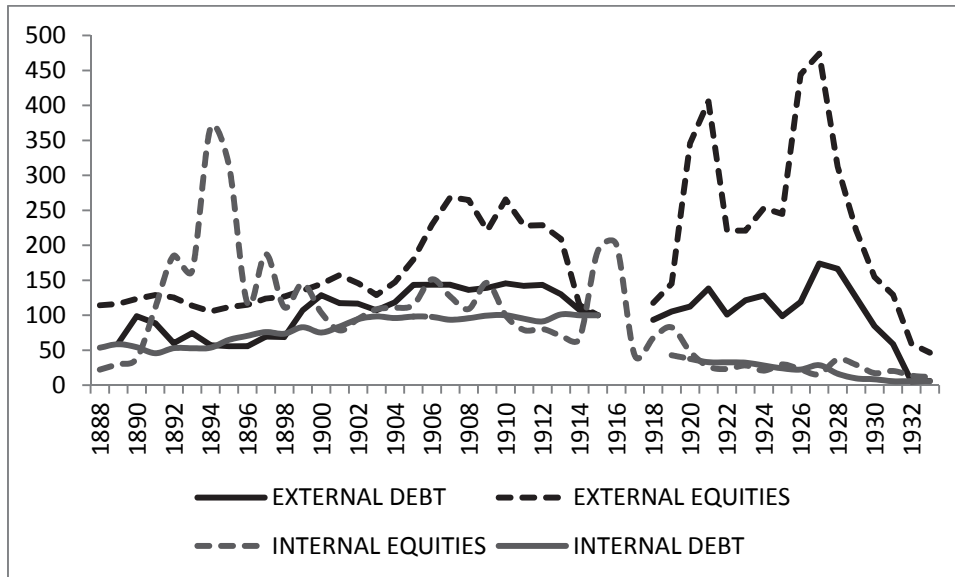


(*) 1888-1944 US Average.1945-1983 Arabian Light posted at Ras Tanura.1984-2012 Brent dated.

Sources: See Figure 2 and <http://www.bp.com/en/global/corporate/about-bp/statistical-review-of-world-energy-2013.html>

However, the contagion in 1891 from the “Argentine financial panic” and the financial difficulties of the United States after the crash of the New York Stock Exchange on May 5 1893 hampered the rise of the Mexican Stock Exchange. The mining dream reached its end, and Mexican investors took refuge in public debt (Figure 3). This investment was small comfort for the Treasury, as it contributed to the deterioration of its credibility abroad (Figure 5)

Figure 5. MEXICAN STOCK QUOTES IN NATIONAL AND FOREIGN STOCK EXCHANGES, 1888-1933 (in nominal terms and index numbers with 1914=100)



Sources: Lagunilla, 1977, pp. 245-271; *El Economista Mexicano*; City of Mexico, various dates; *El Boletín Financiero y Minero*, City of Mexico (various dates).

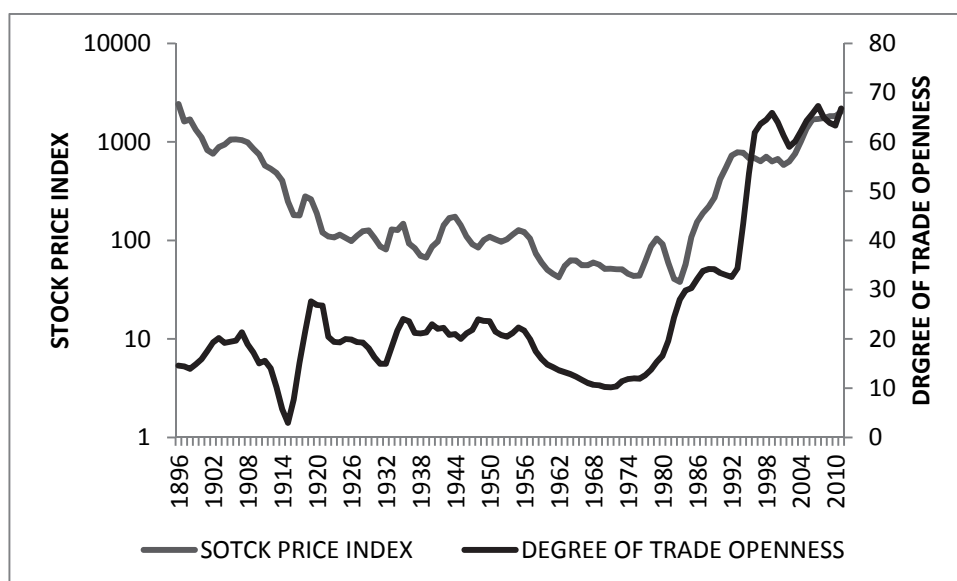
The Government tried to combat financial slack through the institutional modernization of the capital market. In October 1895, the *Bolsa Mexicana* was founded with initial capital of 60,000 pesos¹⁵. However, it would last only a few weeks. In April 1896, miners who had become convinced that their financing troubles were due to the disloyal competition of the State and its bonds created their own Stock Exchange¹⁶, which further exacerbated the situation. Mining companies had to seek financing on the Stock Exchanges of London and New York due to a lack of investors¹⁷. Only after the new rearrangement of Mexican foreign debt in 1899 and the resumption of Mexican mineral exports after the end of the Spanish-American war did the situation improve (Figures 2 and 6).

¹⁵Solis 1997, p. 94, Lagunilla 1973, Vol I, pp. 3-11.

¹⁶Solis 1997, pp. 94-5.

¹⁷Marichal 1998, p.134; Macedo 1905, vol I, p. 126.

Figure 6. DEGREE OF MEXICAN ECONOMIC OPENNESS AND STOCK PRICE INDEX OF THE MEXICAN STOCK EXCHANGE IN REAL TERMS, 1896-2011 (in three-year moving averages, percentages, base index numbers for 1980, and logarithmic scale)



Sources: See Figure 2 and Kunz 2007, pp. 72-73; INEGI 2009;
<http://datos.bancomundial.org/indicador/NE.IMP.GNFS.ZS>;

The adoption of the gold standard in 1905 by Limantour, head of the Treasury in the Porfirio Díaz Executive since 1893, had highly positive effects on the capital market¹⁸. After a similar change, the time had come to put an end to the atomization of the stock market by creating a Stock Exchange as such, formalized on January 4th 1907¹⁹.

However, it was exactly this financial normalization that enabled the contagion from the New York Stock Exchange crash of October in the same year (Figure 7)²⁰. All macroeconomic indicators demonstrate the intensity of the first great financial crisis suffered by Mexico in the XX century (Figures 2 and 5). The prices of equities collapsed, both on the Mexican market and in Europe, as a consequence of the decrease in international trade. Alarmed, investors took

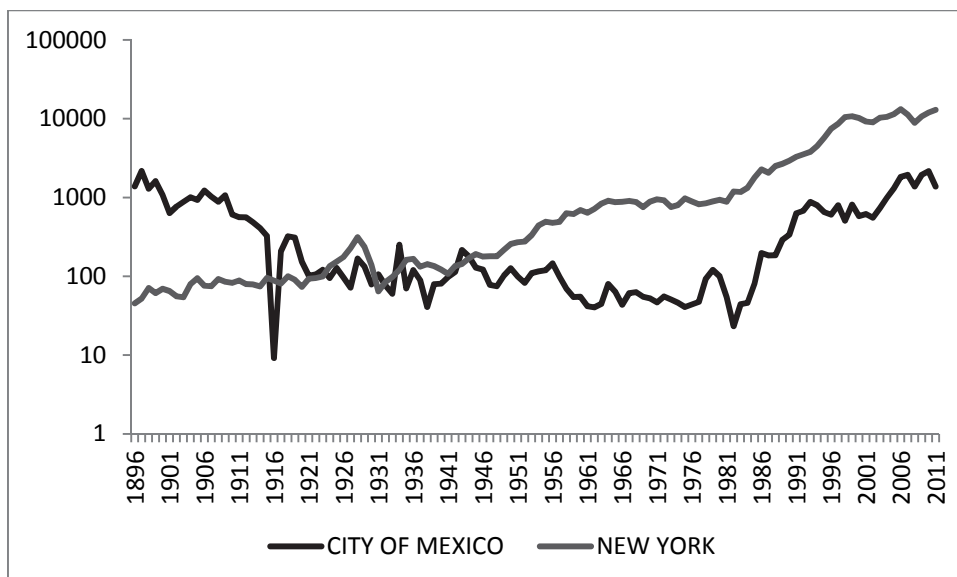
¹⁸Ludlow, 1990; Lagunilla 1981, pp. 41-44.

¹⁹ Lagunilla, 1973, Vol I, p. 67.

²⁰Romero, 2009; Cavazos 1976, p. 58; Reinhart&Rogoff 2009, p. 402.

refuge in public debt (Figure 3). Large banks suspended convertibility, which had been recently introduced.

Figure 7. EVOLUTION OF THE MEXICO CITY STOCK EXCHANGE INDEX AND THE DOW JONES (in real terms), 1896-2012



Sources: See Figure 2 and <http://research.stlouisfed.org/fred2/tags/series>

THE STOCK EXCHANGE AND THE REVOLUTION (1910-1933)

At the beginning of 1910, the economic situation showed signs of improvement. However, the triumph of the Revolution in this year not only halted the recovery but also led to monetary chaos, prolonged financial weakness, and declines in the stock market (Figure 2)²¹. A comparison with events on the New York Stock Exchange is pertinent (Figure 7). For another comparison, the annual closure quotation for the Havana Stock Exchange in 1928 in real terms was twice as high as in 1914. In Mexico, it was exactly one half of the index for that date and twenty times lower than its Cuban peer²².

²¹Paz 2006; Cárdenas & Manns 1989; Cavazos 1976, pp. 59-63; Haber, Razo & Maurer 2003, pp. 93-123.

²²Moreno 2013.

The rise to power of Madero in 1910, a highly educated moderate, was welcomed by investors. In fact, Mexican public debt maintained its price abroad as well as in Mexico itself (Figures 2 and 5). Madero even received financial help from *Speyer & Co.*, a British bank that was a frequent creditor of Latin American Governments and was prepared to enter Mexico in 1906 together with *Deutsche Bank*²³.

However, the situation changed substantially after the *coup d'état* of February 9th 1913, which began the so-called “tragic decade” with the bloody end of Madero’s execution. The management of the new dictator Victoriano Huerta and the uprisings opposing his rule severely damaged the economic outlook. The decline of international trade caused by the above conflicts, the abandonment of the gold standard, and the American occupation in 1914 led to a significant drop in GDP and stock prices (Figure 2). That year, Huerta repudiated external debt, a blunder to which European Stock Exchanges responded by suspending trading of Mexican equities (Figure 4)²⁴. The large national companies were faced with dried up taps of foreign financing at a time when obtaining funds within the country was practically impossible due to the massive withdrawal of bank deposits and the inactivity of the Stock Exchange. Dozens of companies fled the trading floor. The number of companies traded regularly dropped from 117 in 1910 to 43 in 1913.

Venustiano Carranza, president beginning in July 1914, sanctioned the moratorium on the payment of external debt. On June 6th 1916, he closed the Stock Exchange, blaming it for the “rampant speculation” that threatened the success of the Revolution. This decision was accompanied by a temporary closure of the banks, which had already been essentially seized beforehand²⁵.

After one month, the institution was reinstated, now under tight state control and scorned by investors (Figures 2 and 5). The importance of this reform was more than merely circumstantial. Carranza’s concept of the Stock Exchange as a dangerous financial intermediary and only useful if it served the

²³*New York Times*, 26 July 1906.

²⁴Bazant 1968, pp. 174-200.

²⁵ Reina 1946, p.26; Zebaldúa 1994, pp. 109-116.

interests of the State continued in subsequent Mexican Presidents, heirs to the revolution, for decades.

This situation of weakness lasted until 1918 when, thanks to the recognition of the external debt and, above all, increases in oil production, the stock indices experienced mild improvement along with the Mexican economy as a whole (Figures 2 and 4). The first measures of fiscal reform included in the 1917 Constitution and the subsequent reorganization of the State contributed to these improvements²⁶. Mexican equities were even traded once again on European stock markets (Figure 5). However, due to revolutionary hostilities, the country could not benefit as much as its neighbors from the war in Europe. Seen from a financial perspective, the World War I was a lost development opportunity for the Mexican capital market²⁷. Going further, the dwindling positive effects of the conflict were diluted by the financial crisis of 1920-21, caused by excessive oil production.

After these calamities, international markets rewarded the settlement and payment of external debt included in the De la Huerta-Lamont agreement between the United States and Mexico in 1922 (Figure 5)²⁸. However, stagnation persisted in the Mexican Stock Exchange. Obregón, the new leader of the Revolution after the assassination of Carranza in 1920, was able to generate greater trust in foreign than national investors, as seen by the evolution of the public debt quotes (Figure 3). The Stock Exchange was a haven for a small number of industrial companies. The rest obtained resources in the informal capital market thanks to family and regional networks²⁹.

The rise to power of Plutarco Elías Calles in December 1924 (and the start of the period known as “the Maximato”) saw the return to financial orthodoxy, thanks to the economic policy measures applied by Julio Pani, Minister of Finance and Public Credit (Secretaría de Hacienda y Crédito Público, in Spanish) . Pani directed the country finances expertly. Thanks to his actions and the renegotiation of the external debt, the Banco de México (Bank

²⁶Riguzzi 2001.

²⁷De la Vega 1999.

²⁸Castro 1997.

²⁹Haber, 1998.

of Mexico) was created in 1925 with a monopoly on issuing currency³⁰. After three decades of uninterrupted falls, Mexican equities finally experienced growth in the Mexican Stock Exchange and in trade abroad (Figures 2 and 5).

The peace was short-lived. Immediately after the start of the Cristero movement, in 1927 the Mexican Government suspended (again) the payment of external debt to bankroll this new religious conflict. The price of Mexican securities collapsed both inside and outside the country (Figures 2 and 5). In 1928, president Obregón was assassinated. In a few months, political contingencies squandered the legacy of Pani, and Mexico plunged once again into the financial abyss. With an external debt of 33% of GDP, Mexico was at the brink of bankruptcy that year³¹.

Although the country, in economic terms, seemed to have reached rock bottom, it suffered the 1929 crisis with greater intensity than the rest of Latin America. Securities on the Mexican Stock Exchange during 1930 were quoted at 17.6 points, compared to 6.9 in Santiago de Chile and 15.8 in Bogota³². In 1931, a series of bank failures occurred, starting with the failure of the Sonora bank³³. That same year, Mexican oil production fell to 1915 levels³⁴. Mexico, a country devastated by more than two decades of wars and revolts, was mired in the deepest economic slump since its birth as a nation.

The return of Pani in 1932 to the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit provided some relief to investors. In effect, under the presidency of Abelardo Rodríguez, the Mexican economy began a slight recovery, stimulated by the devaluation of the peso, the reduction of interest rates from 12 to 8%, and the reorganization of the Treasury³⁵. The Banking Rearrangement Act from 1932, which included new regulations on publicly traded businesses, ended the financial chaos of the Revolution³⁶. Even the Stock Exchange experienced some recovery, and Mexican public debt recovered part of its diminished credit among the country's population (Figures 2 and 3).

³⁰Tedde&Marichal 1999; Oñate, 2000; Cevazos 1975, p. 65.

³¹Bazant 1936 pp. 209-211.

³²League of Nations 1937, pp. 248-9

³³Banco de Mexico, 1931.

³⁴De la Vega 1999.

³⁵Banco de México 1932.

³⁶Caso 1971, p. 63.

THE STOCK EXCHANGE, IMPORT SUBSTITUTION, AND INFLATIONARY GROWTH (1934-1958)

The coming to power of president Lázaro Cárdenas in December 1933 dispelled all hopes of maintaining monetary orthodoxy due to his clear desire to introduce a growth policy using import substitution and the creation of the public business sector. The Stock Exchange as an institution was formally limited. Cárdenas attributed responsibility for the crisis to it. In his eyes, it was an entity owned by spurious foreign interests³⁷. In his distinctly nationalist and statist ideology, the Stock Exchange had no place.

Cárdenas was much more preoccupied with healing public finance. To solve this problem, he used NAFINSA, created in 1934 by his predecessor Abelardo Rodríguez and conceived as an agent serving the Treasury to buy bonds³⁸. Cárdenas made sure of this function by committing the Banco de México in 1936 and 1938 to buying all titles issued by the Stock Exchange and other public banks³⁹.

In the first years of the Cárdenas term, there was considerable macroeconomic stability, with low inflation and a stable peso. However, the departure from the policies of Pani and the Keynesian tendencies of the President caused unease among investors⁴⁰. They were right in their predictions. In 1938, Cárdenas nationalized the petroleum companies, prompting an immediate fall in the price of securities, both fixed-income instruments and equities (Figures 2 and 5). Cárdenas persisted, however, in the moratorium on external debt payment, which isolated the country from foreign financing.

The recognition of the external obligations of the country in 1941 by his successor Ávila Camacho was a great relief for investors⁴¹. At the time, the supply demands of the United States during the II World War led to growing exports, which were reflected in the stock indices. Investors perceived it as

³⁷ Otero, 1935.

³⁸ López 2012, p. 131; Aubey, 2005.

³⁹ Banco de México, 1936. Cárdenas 1987, pp. 47-88.

⁴⁰ Torres 1980, pp. 228-40; Cárdenas 1994, pp. 70-89

⁴¹ Bazant pp. 215-22.

beneficial to return to the Stock Exchange, which was offering a more than generous dividend payout (Figure 8). They even trusted equities again (Figure 3).

However, Ávila Camacho caused an authentic seismic shock in the capital markets in 1940 by entrusting NAFINSA with industrial financing, completely eclipsing the Stock Exchange (Table 1)⁴². The President worked under the assumption that Mexican entrepreneurs could not undertake the country's industrialization due to their ongoing preference for investing in real estate⁴³. In their place, the State would have to invest, channeling private savings into the secondary sector. For this job, NAFINSA was employed. Thus, NAFINSA solved the conflict of interest between the development of the Stock Exchange and the Government in terms of fundraising⁴⁴.

Figure 8. DIVIDENDS PAID OUT IN THE MEXICAN STOCK EXCHANGE, 1945-75) (in moving averages and percentages of the nominal stock value)



Sources: See Figure 2.

⁴² López 2012, pp. 132-133.

⁴³ Hernández 1988, pp. 45-47.

⁴⁴ Haber 2008, p. 14.

Table 1. INSTITUTIONAL PARTICIPATION IN SECURITY OPERATIONS IN THE SECONDARY MARKET IN MEXICO, 1945-1970 (in percentages)

INSTITUCIÓN	1940	1945	1950	1955	1960	1965	1970
Stock Exchange	4.0	0.2	0.4	0.6	4.8	7.2	3.3
Over the counter	96.0	99.8	99.6	99.0	95.2	92.8	96.7
NAFINSA	5.7	39.0	32.9			12.0	1.9
Banco de México	58.9	37.9	39.4		(b)60.4	45.2	51.6
Resto (a)	31.4	22.9	27.4		189.0	35.5	43.2
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a): Private banks, insurance companies, savings institutions, and financial societies

(b): Includes NAFINSA

Source: Quiroz 1952, pp. 40-50; Comisión Nacional de Valores 1955-79.

Ávila Camacho converted this institution into a financial freak of megalomaniac dimensions that completely eclipsed the capital market. NAFINSA raised funds by issuing fixed-income instruments, which were very attractive to investors, starting in 1944. NAFINSA used these resources to award credit to industrial companies and to buy the equities they issued. Furthermore, NAFINSA took control of the Mexican Stock Exchange. Its leadership decided which companies could or could not be traded. NAFINSA was not a public holding similar to the ones created at the time in Europe; rather, it was a financial instrument organized by the Mexican Government to support its client network in the business sphere. NAFINSA in practice replaced the Banco de México and the Stock Exchange⁴⁵. There is no institution in the economic history of Latin America of a similar character and size.

Under such circumstances, the functioning of the Stock Exchange was completely anomalous. In the Mexican Stock Exchange, there were no properly open and competitive auction operations, as in the rest of the continent, which was not solely due to the intervention by NAFINSA. Groups of investors trading

⁴⁵Aubey 2005, pp. 36-40.

directly with the company, with close links to its owners, made up the clientele of the Stock Exchange and conducted occasional operations at the behest of its managers⁴⁶. Ávila Camacho himself decreed the legality of the entities known as “Financial Groups” (Grupos Financieros) and their operations in 1941⁴⁷. The banks (especially Financiera Banamex, a division of Banco Nacional de Mexico) also bought large packages of shares that they resold to their clients as credit. Thus, a genuinely Mexican form of “over the counter” operations was born: “counter sales” (operaciones de mostrador”, in Spanish), not subject to any registration or control⁴⁸.

Credit facilities led to drawing a debt on NAFINSA, rather than reinvesting the profits, which left the country to invest in foreign Stock Exchanges where speculation was possible⁴⁹. The financial architecture of the Government satisfied entrepreneurs due to the low costs of borrowing. The high rate of indebtedness they accumulated guaranteed their loyalty to the PRI, given the impassivity of employees due to the sedative effects of monetary illusion and the populist messages of the party in Government⁵⁰.

Obviously, the stock index recorded losses year after year, completely distancing itself from the development of the Mexican economy (Figure 2). The result was a denaturalized Stock Exchange, whose priority was securing funds for NAFINSA and where only 25 equity instruments were traded.

Its position was even more marginal after the approval of the Havana Charter in 1947, a prelude to the first round of GATT. Mateo Alemán, the new President, and his Minister of Finance and Public Credit, Ramón Beteta Quintana, a zealous follower of the autarchic growth path, considered that the generalization of the most-favored nation status included in the agreement, harmed the country’s interests⁵¹. Therefore, Mexico did not join the treaty, reinforcing its international isolation.

In this new scenario, the Stock Exchange was only useful for serving the State in financing its discretionary and selective industrial policy. NAFINSA fulfilled this mission with new issues. To avoid any competition, the National

⁴⁶Caso, 1971, p. 33-4.

⁴⁷ De la Fuente 1993 p 97.

⁴⁸ Caso 1971; Ramírez 2007, p. 43; Hernández 1988, p. 153

⁴⁹ Hernández 1988, p. 153; Haber 1997.

⁵⁰ Caso 1971 p. 7; Bash 1990.

⁵¹ Riguzzi, 2003.

Securities Commission (Comisión Nacional de Valores) tightened the access criteria for firms wanting to enter the Stock Exchange, arguing that this restriction was necessary to avoid penetration by foreign capital, which was more demonized than ever before. The number of equities traded as well as their trading volume returned to insignificant numbers (Figure 9).

Only large corporations with financial subsidiaries could obtain resources on the Stock Exchange by issuing mortgage bonds. This financing strategy was adopted by the members of the so-called Monterrey Group⁵². This collective consisted of entrepreneurs from this part of northern Mexico and even had its own Stock Exchange beginning in 1950.

In sum, the high point of the interventionist and autarchic Cárdenas project conducted by Mateo Alemán was the origin of monopoly formation, which integrated financial and industrial activities vertically: not due to strategic decisions, as was the case in the United States, but due to stimuli described, with some excess and yet right on target, as “feudal⁵³”. The Stock Exchange, paradoxically, was the instrument to achieve this goal⁵⁴.

The opportunities for export to the United States provided by the Korean War (1950-1953) and the anti-inflationary policy of Adolfo Ruiz Cortines, elected president in 1951, slightly revived share transactions (Figure 2 and 6)⁵⁵. However, as soon as the conflict ended, the apathy of the capital market returned. The Government, under the strain of runaway inflation and employer pressure, had to approve a significant devaluation of the peso on Holy Saturday 1954. Ruiz Cortines used this instrument, which had been so unpopular in 1958, one more time at the end of his term in office. The Stock Exchange bid him farewell with well-known drops in dividends (Figures 2 and 8)⁵⁶.

⁵²Cardero 1984, pp. 120-121; Ejea, Garrido, Leriche & Quintana 1991, pp. 30-31; Lagunilla 1977, vol. II, p.77; Cárdenas & Del Ángel (2011), p. 23

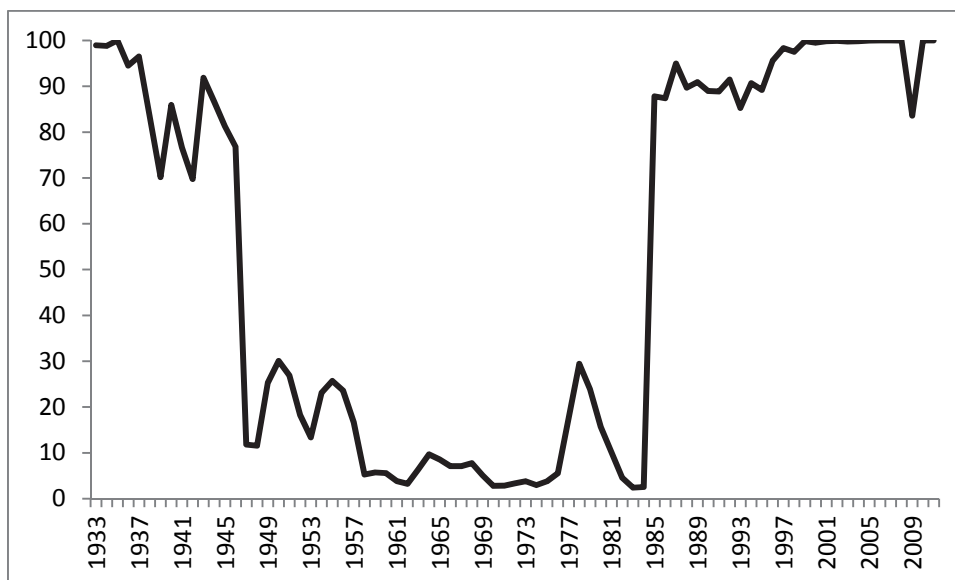
⁵³ Caso 1971, p. 66.

⁵⁴ Castañeda 2010.

⁵⁵ Cevazos 1976, pp. 98-109; Cárdenas 1996, pp 41-46.

⁵⁶ Cevazos 1976, pp. 100-3.

Figure 9. EQUITY TRADING IN THE MEXICAN STOCK EXCHANGE, 1933-2011 (in percentages of the total amount of private instruments traded)



Sources: Nacional Financiera 1977 pp. 340-348; INEGI 2009 and 2012.

THE STOCK EXCHANGE AND THE MEXICAN ECONOMIC MIRACLE (1959-1975)

Although his predecessor had done the dirty work, the new president, Adolfo López Mateos, was faced with a desolate economic outlook when sworn into office at the end of 1958: inflation was over 40%, the peso was free-falling, and GDP growth had slowed due to the decline in exports. In response to this situation, the new Minister of Finance and Public Treasury, Antonio Ortiz Mena, designed a new model of “stabilized” growth (“crecimiento estabilizador”). The new priorities were now a stable currency (denouncing the idea of competitive devaluations), reining in inflation, a balanced budget, and investment financing through resources obtained from abroad⁵⁷.

With this new growth strategy, which departed from the most entrenched tenets of the Revolution, and with significant achievements in growth and prosperity, the Government wanted to assign a greater role to the Stock

⁵⁷Ortiz Mena 1970, pp. 417-41.

Exchange in corporate financing. This philosophy was behind the new Law regulating its activity, which was approved in 1960. Further protection was awarded by the regulations signed into law in 1963, which declared Stock Exchange activity to be “public” with the intention of removing all obstacles set up by prior presidents. Additionally, the first investment funds, financial hybrids that up until that moment had been unknown in Mexico, were created and traded by Brokerage Firms and Mutual Funds whose activity was encouraged. The Government even allowed the opening of a new Stock Exchange in Guadalajara in 1963.

In practice, the results of this opening were very limited, despite the expected financial modernization⁵⁸. It is true that the number of publicly traded companies grew. Throughout 1963, 356 companies joined the Stock Exchange, with the majority from the industrial sector⁵⁹. However, only 54 were regularly traded. The owners of the rest entered the stock market to facilitate collateral loans from Banks and the sale of their shares to NAFINSA⁶⁰.

The stock market did not gain popularity among the middle class, even though the Mexican telephone company (Telmex) required its clients to buy its shares to receive service⁶¹. In fact, the creation of the National Association of Stock Exchange Brokers in 1966 contributed in practice to the creation of new barriers to market entry by banning individual operators from the stock market.⁶² The clients of the Stock Exchange, in effect, did not change much. The usual buyer was a member of the “Financial Group” with a minimally diversified portfolio who was only willing to speculate on the New York Stock Exchange⁶³. Banking Houses (including *Merrill Lynch*) and Mutual Funds could capture very few clients due to the lack of legal guarantees⁶⁴. In 1968, they handled only 1.4% of the value of stock traded⁶⁵. The lethargic brokers (82 in 1969) confined themselves to reluctantly executing orders from their clients (never more than fifty on average), never really developing their bidding skills, due to their limited

⁵⁸ Caso 1971, p.20; Ángel 2010; Solís 1979.

⁵⁹ Caso, 1971 p.21.

⁶⁰ Caso, 1971 p..21.

⁶¹ Eiteman 1966, p. 12.

⁶² Cárdenas & Del Ángel, 2011, p. 34.

⁶³ Caso 1971, p.19.

⁶⁴ Cárdenas & Del Ángel 2011, p. 35.

⁶⁵ Caso 1971, p.35.

incentives to do their job compared to other countries⁶⁶. In these circumstances, the trading volume never exceeded 0.1% of GDP.

However, above all, as was denounced by the Stock Exchange brokers themselves in 1963, the negligible scale of equity securities trading weighed on the stock market development in the country (Figure 9)⁶⁷. In 1964, shares represented 5% of the total trading volume of the Mexican Stock Exchange, compared to 92.2% in Rio de Janeiro and 45.5% in Sao Paulo (61.2% on average for the country as a whole)⁶⁸.

It is true that NAFINSA saw diminished control over trading activity (its instruments went from making up 80% of the trading volume in 1960 to a meager 19%) in favor of Financiera Banamex and Telmex⁶⁹. However, the damage done by NAFINSA was done outside the Stock Exchange. In 1965, it lent to companies and underwrote their activities to the amount of 10.624 billion pesos, of which at least 46.4% went to listed companies. Furthermore, NAFINSA bought their shares on the primary market to the amount of 2.239 billion pesos. In all, the transactions driven away from the Stock Exchange in share trading can be estimated at 7.710 billion pesos. Altogether, the activity of NAFINSA diminished the size of the equity market by a factor of five⁷⁰.

Furthermore, counter sales, now known as the “free market” and already officially recognized, gained extraordinary importance at the expense of stock market trading, while the Government actually claimed it was pursuing the opposite goal (Table 1)⁷¹.

The insignificant size of the Stock Exchange was also due to the investors who avoided it due to the lack of sufficient incentives and legal certainty. Not even property rights were properly defined⁷². In the Mexican Stock Exchange, as opposed to the rest of Latin America, not even registered shares were issued or exchanged. Selling in a circle, the Mexican Stock Exchange was the most archaic, cumbersome, and slow stock market of the

⁶⁶ Caso 1971, p.30.

⁶⁷ Lagunilla 1973, vol. II, p.156.

⁶⁸ Eiteman 1966.

⁶⁹ Comisión Nacional de Valores 1969, pp. 35-7.

⁷⁰ Nacional Financiera 1965 pp. 248-50.

⁷¹ Comisión Nacional de Valores, *Boletín*, 1960-72.,

⁷² Caso 1971 p.19.

Americas⁷³. “Silent auctions” were not implemented, despite signing a computerization contract with IBM to this end⁷⁴. Furthermore, trading was subject to significant fiscal pressure, which could be avoided by leaving the Stock Exchange⁷⁵.

In such circumstances, the stock index fell in this period due to lower gold prices and, above all, cheap oil (Figures 2 and 4), together with the fall in imports caused by foreign trade restrictions established by the administration of President Johnson from 1964. The stagnation of the American economy, together with the political uncertainty caused by Mexican student revolts in 1968, sharpened the fall.

Things grew worse with the start of the Luis Echevarría presidency in 1971. Echevarría expressed his intention of doing away with what he called the “strike of private investment” using a Stock Exchange reform in 1974, now considered a vital instrument in the strategy of “shared development” (“crecimiento compartido”). He even aimed to open the institution to new investors who would share his goal of “Mexicanizing the industry”⁷⁶. However, these changes were never made.

With the appointment of Ortiz Mena as president of the Interamerican Development Bank, the PRI lost its most qualified leader in economic policy. The new executive allowed a statist, populist, and autarchic drift, starting with the nationalization of Telmex⁷⁷. The income from growing oil exports (Figure 4) was insufficient. The industrializing project of Echevarría had to be financed through the intervention of NAFINSA in the Stock Exchange, which again became an instrument serving the Government⁷⁸.

Once more, this autarchic economic policy led to chaos. In 1976, inflation grew exponentially, while the public deficit exceeded 10% of GDP⁷⁹. The strong

⁷³Eiteman 1966, pp. 12-14.

⁷⁴Lagunilla 1973, vol. II, p.173.

⁷⁵Kassler 1999, 42.

⁷⁶Ejea, Garrido, Leriche & Quintana 1991, pp. 33-7; Kessler 1999, p. 42-43; Tello 1979 and 2007, p. 581.

⁷⁷Cevazos 1976, p. 119. Cárdenas 1996, pp. 93-94.

⁷⁸Cypher 1990, pp. 96-107.

⁷⁹Newell & Rubio 1981, p.141; Kessler 1999, 42-43. Cárdenas 1996, pp. 86-106; Hernández 1988, p. 41.

devaluation of the peso that year, with which Echevarría ended his term in office, led to inevitable drops in stock prices and dividends (Figures 2 and 8)⁸⁰.

ECONOMIC LIBERALIZATION, GLOBALIZATION, AND FINANCIAL CYCLES, 1977-2012

López Portillo, who became president of the Republic in December 1976, initially worked prudently on the execution of economic policy, guided by his Minister of Programming, Carlos Tello, due to fears of a *coup d'état*, something unheard of in the history of Mexico⁸¹.

The new President finally noticed the possibilities of the Stock Exchange as a financial intermediary⁸². López Portillo undertook the modernization of this institution, already freed from under NAFINSA supervision in 1978, with full management autonomy. In the same year, the Stock Exchange developed its own index (the IPC) (Figure 10). Not only did this development lead to improved trading, but for the first time in decades, investment in equities rose (Figure 9). Mexico, now a solvent country thanks to the introduction of a value added tax (VAT), was rewarded for the fiscal adjustment with generous loans from the IMF⁸³.

However, López Portillo, seduced by the discovery of new oilfields, did not take long to fall into the trap of using internal and external debt to pay for fixed social capital investment programs, plagued by megalomania and corruption⁸⁴. The Stock Exchange once again became merely a financial pawn of the State.

In effect, in 1978, the Treasury issued new short-term debt instruments (known as CETES), highly liquid and highly profitable (Figure 10), and bonds of the oil company PEMEX (Petrobonds)⁸⁵. The new bonds replaced equity securities almost entirely, despite beginning to earn negative returns. No wonder that the majority of subscribers were small investors who did not have significant experience in the stock market⁸⁶.

⁸⁰ Tello 1979, pp. 146-82; Torres, 1980, pp. 340-58.

⁸¹ Cárdenas & Del Ángel, 2011, p. 48; Kessler 1999, pp. 15-18.

⁸² Cypher 1990, 107-116; Cárdenas 1995, 106-113.

⁸³ Hernández 1998.

⁸⁴ Kessler 1999, pp. 30-31.

⁸⁵ Kessler 1999, pp. 40-1; Ejea, Garrido, Leriche & Quintana, 1991

⁸⁶ Kessler 1999, pp. 60-2

The price of oil experienced an accelerated decline in 1981 once tensions in the Persian Gulf were overcome (Figure 4)⁸⁷. López Portillo, who had committed to the stability of the peso, had no alternative but to monetize the debt, spurring hyperinflation (which exceeded 500%) and subsequent capital flight. By the end of February 1982, he had devaluated the currency by 581%, decreed control of foreign exchange, and suspended payments of external debt. Despite converting deposits, he could not prevent the massive withdrawals of bank deposits. In September, he announced their nationalization⁸⁸. Obviously, the IPC fell (Figure 2). The comparison with the behavior of the Stock Exchange in the other large Latin American economy, Brazil (Figure 10), and the stock market in New York (Figure 7) shows the poor state of Mexican finances. López Portillo left the country economically devastated, with a public deficit of approximately 15% of GDP, a stagnant capital market, a Stock Exchange under interference, and unrealistic foreign debt.

The situation did not improve during the bleak term of Manuel de la Madrid (December 1982-December 1988)⁸⁹. The president persevered in foreign debt escalation (equivalent to 60.5% of GDP in 1986), tolerance for inflation (which reached 3000%), and disdain for capital markets. Mexico's accession to the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT) in 1985 was the only positive signal for investors (Figures 2 and 10)⁹⁰. However, to suggest a boom on the stock market would be excessive⁹¹. The pressure on the demand for securities amounted to very little, as can be observed by comparison with Brazil (Figure 10). In such circumstances, the crash of October 1987, despite the alarm and capital flight it caused, had less impact than in Mexico. In this country, things could not get worse⁹². Indeed, national investors lost money, but only in the New York Stock Exchange or in bond speculation (Figures 7 and 10).

⁸⁷ Cárdenas 1996, p. 113.

⁸⁸ Cárdenas & Del Ángel, 2011, pp. 73-4; Del Ángel, Bazdresch & Suárez (1985); Hernández, 1988; Maxfield 1990, 148-53; Cypher 1990, pp. 1206; Listing, 2002.

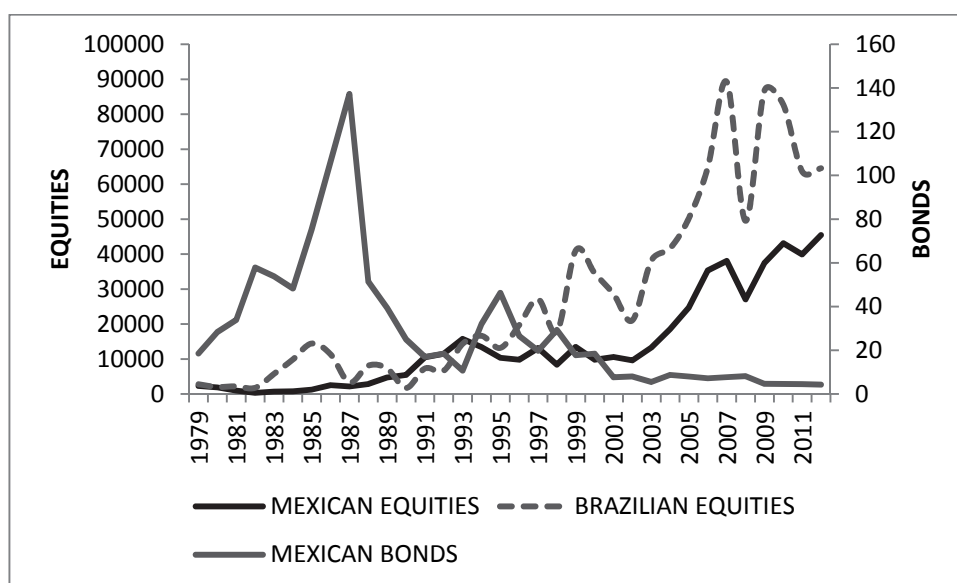
⁸⁹ See Cárdenas 1996, pp. 118-152.

⁹⁰ Flores, 1998, pp. 258-339..

⁹¹ Kessler 1999, pp. 60-62; Cypher 1990, pp. 155-6.

⁹² Ejea, Garrido, Leriche & Quintana, 1991, pp. 90-100; Tello 2007, p.642.

Figure 10 MEXICAN STOCK EXCHANGE INDEX (IPC), SAO PAULO INDEX (BOVESPA), AND TRADING IN 90-DAY CETES, 1978-2013 IN MEXICO



Source: Bolsa de Valores de México and BOVESPA

The victory in 1988 of Carlos Salinas de Gortari led to a radical turn for Mexican economic policy. Salinas tried to reconcile a policy of income redistribution (embodied in the so-called Solidarity Pact) with the gradual liberalization of the country's economy and its opening to the outside world. In 1990, he signed a free trade pact with the United States and Canada, healed public finance (in 1992 Mexico recorded a budget surplus of 4.5%), substantially reduced foreign debt to 21.6% in the same year by taking advantage of the Brady Plan, and tackled inflation⁹³.

In 1990, Salinas put an end to the legacy of the Revolution in the stock market. NAFINSA was expelled from the market and relegated to dealing with credit for small companies. The president even allowed the participation of foreign investors in the Stock Exchange, which had been taboo since 1932. In exchange, to maintain the corporatist status quo, new regulations provided greater legal certainty and support for the old "Financial Groups"⁹⁴.

This improvement in defining the institutional framework and property rights, together with a wave of privatizations, provided vitality to the Stock

⁹³ Cárdenas & Ángel, 2011, pp. 99-101; Cárdenas 1996, pp. 158-164.; Aspe 1993, pp. 13-61.

⁹⁴ Aspe 1993, pp. 74-85.

Exchange⁹⁵. The demand for equity securities achieved values unknown in the economic history of Mexico (Figure 9)⁹⁶. In the Stock Exchange, the Grupo Carso grew to large proportions as the property of Carlos Slim, who was awarded Telmex in a controversial auction⁹⁷.

In all, this growth model, which placed Mexico as one of the most dynamic emerging markets, was based on the fixed exchange rate of the peso and unusually high oil prices. The pillars of the new Mexican miracle would soon crumble.

Increased public expenditure in 1994 (a usual practice in the last year in office of outgoing presidents), falling crude prices (Figure 2), the Zapatista uprising, and the assassination of Colossio (the PRI candidate) and Ruiz Massieu (president of the party) incited panic among economic agents. Investors dumped their *Tesebonos* (debt securities redeemable in dollars issued since 1989), draining the reserves of the Bank of Mexico.

Ernesto Zedillo, immediately after being sworn in as President on December 1st 1994, negotiated a modest devaluation of the peso (15%) with national and international investors. However, the disclosure of his intentions (the so-called “December error”) led to a much larger fall in the exchange rate. Zedillo was forced to announce the free flotation of the peso. This announcement was followed by inevitable capital flight and decreasing investment⁹⁸. The “Tequila crisis” (Figure 10) caught thousands of foreign investors by surprise, who had previously been persuaded to confidence by the improved property rights⁹⁹.

American help, oil price appreciation, and the socialization of the large financial and corporate companies through the Bank Savings Protection Fund (FOBAPROA for its initials in Spanish) lifted the country from financial collapse. However, contagion from the Asian crisis in 1998 slowed the recovery of the stock indices, which had already been slowed for a long time by the aftermath of the 1994 crash (Figure 10).

⁹⁵See Haber 2005.

⁹⁶Kessler 1999, 100-4.

⁹⁷Martínez 2002; Castañeda 2010.

⁹⁸Del Angel (2010); Del Ángel, Haber & Musacchio (2006); Kessler 1999, 120-22; Cárdenas 1996, pp. 183-190; Muñoz 2004; Listing 2002, pp.191-278.

⁹⁹Reinhart, & Rogoff 2009, p. 46.

After seven decades of PRI rule, the victory of the PAN party and its candidate Vicente Fox in 2000 instilled a sense of euphoria in Mexican business circles, together with promises of economic liberalization. In fact, during a five-year period, the Mexican Stock Exchange registered higher increases than ever before, despite the repercussions of the Argentine crisis in 2001. This financial euphoria was the consequence of rising oil prices, the 2002 emancipation of the Stock Exchange from the Government, the new wave of privatization, and foreign investment. Felipe Calderón, also a PAN politician, who was elected president in the 2006 elections, maintained this economic policy of deregulation of the capital markets.

The Stock Exchange finally occupied its rightful place as a financial intermediary free from government control. In the years of the second globalization, Mexico relived the investment enthusiasm experienced at the end of the XIX century due to the same impulse coming from abroad and the abandonment of self-sufficiency and intervention paradigms.

Furthermore, sustained by high oil prices (Figure 4), the losses in the Mexican Stock Exchange between September and November 2008 (41.9%) were clearly smaller than the losses experienced in Buenos Aires (48.4%), Sao Paulo (51.5%), and even in New York (56.6%), Amsterdam (74.6%), Milan (52.8%), or Madrid (57.1%)¹⁰⁰. In fact, it was the Latin American Stock Exchange that resisted the crash to the highest degree, immediately after Lima (with 38% of losses). The same result occurred with the new stock market losses of 2011, also more attenuated (Figure 10) thanks to the application of the same preventive measures against speculative activity as were used in the US.

However, the Mexican Stock Exchange did not achieve the importance enjoyed by its peers in neighboring countries. The Stock Exchange maintained its commitment to financing the needs of the public sector, especially after Mexico's inclusion in the World Government Bond Index (WGBI). The identity of the most active agents did not change substantially: they were the "Financial Groups", now including Carlos Slim and his Grupo Carso¹⁰¹.

¹⁰⁰ See Vázquez (2008).

¹⁰¹ Kessler 1999, pp. 40-1; Ejea, Garrido, Leriche & Quintana 1990, p. 123; Basave 1996.

Comparisons with neighboring countries lead to clear conclusions regarding the slow stock market development in Mexico¹⁰². Indeed, its capital market was much less vigorous than in Brazil (Figure 10). Small wonder that in 2002, Mexican companies obtained just 17% of their financing from the Stock Exchange, as opposed to 68% in other emerging markets and 84% in developed countries. The volume of market capitalization, measured against GDP (never exceeding 0.5%) was, after Argentina, the lowest indicator in Latin America.

Paradoxically, however, in 2011 the companies traded on the Mexican Stock Exchange occupied the third place globally (2.836 billion dollars) behind the United States (3.388) and Brazil (3.122)¹⁰³. Mexico had a diminutive Stock Exchange that financed gigantic companies.

In July 2012, the Mexican Stock Exchange suffered severe losses due to strictly endogenous factors: violence, presidential elections, and stalling economic growth. In effect, in this year the GDP grew by only 2.6%, only ahead of El Salvador among Latin American countries. This point was when the first signs of the end of the growth period became evident: falling prices of raw materials, fluctuations of the Stock Exchange in Brazil, and the difficulties faced by Argentina¹⁰⁴. Mexico had again lost its opportunity to strengthen the Stock Exchange.

CONCLUSIONS AND DISCUSSION

Despite its apparent vitality at the beginning of the XXI century due to high regard among foreign investors and their opinions of the potential and investment opportunities in this emerging economy, the Stock Exchange has played a residual role in the economic development of Mexico. I am not saying that the backwardness in Mexico is due to the inadequate functioning of this institution, but that Mexico grew despite this fact.

¹⁰² Manuelito & Jiménez 2010; Kessler 1999, pp. 40-1; Ejea, Garrido, Leriche & Quintana 1991, pp. 144-145.

¹⁰³ *Valores. Boletín de la Asociación Mexicana de Intermediarios Bursátiles*, City of Mexico, various dates.

¹⁰⁴ Banco de Mexico 2012, p. 2.

This phenomenon was in large part caused by the traditional disdain of politicians towards the Stock Exchange. While the “scientists” of Porfirio Díaz regarded it with mistrust, the Governments running the country since the Revolution completely compromised its mission. After the rise to power of Cárdenas, it became an instrument to satisfy the financing needs of the State. Additionally, the Stock Exchange became a tool needed by the Executive to financially sustain its client network, allocating resources through NAFINSA to large corporations that were stagnant due to minimal risk. All PRI Governments used the Stock Exchange for this non-economic end, be it resource provision or privatization. NAFINSA, as a completely anomalous institution in a modern capital market of a democratic country, due to both its nature and its inner workings, is the best evidence in the Mexican case that an inappropriate and rigid definition of property rights in the financial system facilitates State abuse¹⁰⁵.

If financial system modernization is inconceivable in a country such as Mexico, where there was no effective competition between political parties until 2000, the modernization of the Stock Exchange is even more difficult¹⁰⁶. The democratization of investment (understood as broadening the range of agents active in the capital market to a large spectrum of the population), the public nature requirements of traded companies, the financial situation of the State itself, free speculator activities, and the anonymous character of transactions are difficult to fit into an authoritarian regime. And Mexico suffered 70 years of PRI domination, notwithstanding the reductionism and controversy of this statement. In fact, the conversion of the Mexican Stock Exchange to one of the main players among emerging markets was contemporaneous with the political reforms that swept the country. Violence and reversals in real competition between the parties were barriers to its growth, which nonetheless could not happen in any other way¹⁰⁷.

It is not at all unusual that small savers avoided the Stock Exchange. Given the uncertainty and favoritism, they preferred preserving wealth to

¹⁰⁵ Haber, Kieff& Paredes 2008, pp. 216-217; Kessler 1999, p. 19; Tello 2007, 755.

¹⁰⁶ Haber 2008, p. 12.

¹⁰⁷ Haber 2008, p. 48.

multiplying it. This investment behavior is not an inherent feature of Mexico. It is a logical consequence of inefficient political institutions.

However, the small number of agents active on the stock exchange, enveloped by the State, also made it possible to create large fortunes and integrate corporations. Carlos Slim most likely could not have become the richest man on the planet on the New York or London Stock Exchange. Apart from his abilities, only on a Stock Exchange with limited access to information, with intervention, that is hermetic and ruled by public authorities, could he have done what he did. In all, the case of Mexico suggests that state intervention, co-opting, and the small size of the Stock Exchange facilitate the formation of large vertically integrated companies. Its creators were the “Financial Groups”, leading agents on the securities market who manipulated it according to their wishes from the Revolution onward.

The submission to the State attenuated cyclical fluctuations, with overall downward trending.¹⁰⁸ However, in time, this dependence led the Stock Exchange into critical situations due to the obstinate policy of Mexican Governments of ignoring the public deficit and hinging the destiny of the Mexican economy on the price of oil. In the case of a stock market such as the Mexican market, intervened in and replaced by the State, the Minsky (1982) & Kindleberger (1978) models of financial crises are not entirely applicable. In Mexico, they were the result of political contingencies and excessive public debt, with the sole exception, if any, of the crashes of 2008 and 2011¹⁰⁹.

If we judge the History of the Mexican Stock Exchange from the perspective of financial orthodoxy, it has been a failure, as it has participated at a negligible level in corporate financing. However, we must analyze it from the corporatist point of view, as it was conceived under those principles. Seen in this way, its achievements are undeniable, as it reinforced the client network of the PRI, financially sustained political domination through NAFINSA, helped the Treasury, and facilitated the formation of large monopolistic corporations. In reality, what the PRI did, by means of the Stock Exchange and NAFINSA, was to provide an institutional entity for ongoing practices in the economic history of Mexico, precisely characterized by Coastworth (1978) and Haber (1998): the

¹⁰⁸Reinhart & Rogoff 2009, pp.281-6.

¹⁰⁹Newll & Rubio 1984; Cárdenas 1996, pp. 203-08 and 2013, p. 212; Tello 2007.

politicization of property rights, contractual practices, and the obtaining of hegemonic positions on the market.

BILBIOGRAPHY

Abraham Aparicio Cabreram Abraham. "Series Históricas de la Economía Mexicana en el Siglo XX". *Economía Informa* 639 (2011): 63-85.

Ángel, Gustavo del." Paradoxes of Financial Development. The Construction of the Mexican Banking System". Ph. D. Diss. University of Stannford, 2002.

_____. "La paradoja del sistema financiero". In *Historia Económica General de México. De la Colonia a Nuestros Días* edited by Sandra Kuntz. City of Mexico: FCE, 2010, 635-66.

Ángel, Gustavo del, Carlos Bazdresch & Francisco Suárez. *Cuando el Estado se Hizo Banquero*. City of México: Fondo de Cultura Económica, 2005.

Ángel, Gustavo del, Haber, Stephen & Musacchio, Aldo. "Normas contables en México. Una Guía para Legos a Diez Años de la Crisis de 1995". *Trimestre Económico*, 292 (2006): 903-26.

Aspe, Pedro. *El camino mexicano a la transformación económica*. City of México: FCE, 1993.

Aubey, Robert T. *Nacional Financiera and Mexican Industry; and Study on Financial Relationship between the Government and the Private sector of Mexico*. Los Angeles: University of California Press, 2005.

Banco de México. *Informe Anual*. City of Mexico: Banco de México. 1925-2012.
Basave, Jorge. Los grandes grupos de capital financiero en México (1974-1995). City of Mexico: UNAM/El Caballito, 1996.

Basch, Antonín. *El mercado de capitales en México*. City of Mexico: CEMLA. 1990.

Bolsa de Valores de México. *Boletín Financiero y Bursátil*. City of Mexico: BMV, 1978-2012

Cárdenas, Enrique. *La Industrialización Mexicana Durante la Gran Depresión*. City of México: Colmex, 1987.

_____. *La Hacienda Pública y la Política Económica, 1929-1945*. City of Mexico: FCE, 1994.

_____. *La Política Económica en México, 1950-1994*. City of Mexico: Colmex/FCE, 1996.

_____ Cuando se Originó el Atraso Económico de México. La Economía Mexicana en el Largo Siglo XIX, 1780-1920. Madrid: El Arquero, 2003

Cárdenas, Enrique & Ángel, Gustavo del . *Acciones y Valores. La Mejor Inversión Está en México*. City of Mexico: Accival, 2011.

Cárdenas, Enrique & Manns, Carlos. "Inflación y Estabilización Monetaria en México Durante la Revolución". *Trimestre Económico* 56 (1989): 57-80.

Cardero, Elena. *Patrón Monetario y Acumulación en México*. City of Mexico: Siglo XXI, 1984.

Caso Bercht, Jorge. *El Mercado de Acciones en México*. City of Mexico: Centro de Estudios Monetarios Latinoamericano, 1971.

Castañeda, Gonzalo. "Evolución de los grupos económicos durante el período 1940-2008". In *Historia Económica General de México. De la Colonia a Nuestros Días* edited by Sandra Kuntz. City of Mexico: FCE, 2010, 603-34.

Cavazos, Manuel. "Cincuenta Años de Política Monetaria". In *Cincuenta Años de Banca Central. Ensayos Conmemorativos, 1925-1975* edited by Fernández, Ernesto, 55-121. City of Mexico: FCE, 1976.

Coastworth, John H. "Obstacles to Economic Growth in Nineteenth Century Mexico". *American Historical Review* 83 (1978): 80-101.

_____ *Los Orígenes del Atraso. Nueve Ensayos de Historia Económica de México en los Siglos XVIII y XIX*. City of Mexico, Alianza Editorial Mexicana, 1990.

Comisión Nacional de Valores. *Memoria Anual*. City of Mexico: Comisión Nacional de Valores, 1946-1969.

Costeloe, Michael. *Bonds and Bonds Holders. British Investors and Mexico's Foreign Debt, 1824-1888*. London: Greenwood Publishing Inc. Co., 2003.

Couyoumdjian, Juan Ricardo, Millar, René, Tocornal, Josefina. *Historia de la Bolsa de Comercio de Santiago, 1893-1993. Un Siglo del Mercado de Valores de Chile*. Santiago de Chile: Bolsa de Comercio de Santiago, 1992.

Cypher, James M. *State and Capital in Mexico. Development Policy Since 1940*. Boulder: Westview Press.

Eiteman, David K. *Stock Exchanges in Latin America*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan, 1966.

Ejea, Garrido, Celoso, Leriche, Cristina y Quintana, Enrique. *Mercado de Valores, Crisis y Nuevos Circuitos Financieros en México, 1970-1990*. México: UMA, 1991,

Flores Quiroga, Aldo R. *Proteccionismo versus Libremercado. La Economía Política de la Protección Comercial en México, 1970-1994*. City of Mexico:FCE, 1998.

Fuente, Jesús de la. *Comisión Nacional Bancaria, Bancaria*. City of México: NAFINSA, 1993.

Gómez- Galvarriato, Aurora & Musacchio, Aldo. “Un Nuevo Índice de Precios para México, 1886-1829”. *El Trimestre Económico*, vol. 67, 265 (1) (2000): . 47-91.

Haber, Stephen H. *Industry and Underdevelopment: The Industrialization of Mexico, 1890-1940*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1989.

_____ “Industrial Concentration and the Capital Markets: A Comparative Study of Brazil, Mexico and the United States, 1830-1930”. *The Journal of Economic History*, 51, 3, (Sept.) (1991): 559-80.

_____ “Financial Markets and Industrial Development. A Comparative Study of Governmental Regulation, Financial Innovation and Industrial Structure in Brazil and Mexico, 1840-1930”. In *How Latin American Fell Behind*. Essays on Economic Histories of Brazil and Mexico, 1800-1914 edited by Stephen Haber, 146-177. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1997.

_____ “Mexico’s Experiments with Bank Privatization and Liberalization, 1991-2003”. *Journal of Banking & Finance* 29 (2005): 2325-53.

_____ “Political Institutions and Financial Development: Evidence from the Political Economy of Bank Regulations”. In *Political Institutions and Financial Development*, edited by Haber, Stephen, North, Douglass C. & Wingast, Barry, 10-59. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2008.

Haber, Stephen, Razo, Armando & Maurer, Noel *The Politics of Property Rights. Political Instability, Credible Commitments and Economic Growth in Mexico, 1976-1929*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Haber, Stephen, H, Kieff, F. Scott & Paredes, Troy A. “On the importance to Economic Success of Property Rights in Finance and Innovation”. *Washington University Journal of Law and Policy* 26 (2008): 215-44.

Hernández, Rogelio. *Empresarios, Banca y Estado. El Conflicto durante el Gobierno de José López Portillo, 1976-1982*. City of México: Porrúa, 1988.

Manuelito, Sandra & Jiménez, Luis Felipe. “Los Mercados Financieros en América Latina y el Financiamiento de la Inversión: Hechos Estilizados y Propuestas para una Estrategia de Desarrollo”. (107), CEPAL working paper 107, *Macroeconomía del Desarrollo*, Santiago de Chile, 2010.

Kindleberger, Charles P. *Manias, Panics and Crisis*. New York: John Willey & Sons, 1978.

Kunzt, Sandra. *El comercio Exterior Mexicano en la Era del Capitalismo Liberal*. City of Mexico: FCE, 2007.

INEGI. *Estadísticas Históricas de México*. City of Mexico: INEGI, 2009

_____. *Anuario Estadístico de México*. City of Mexico: INEGI, 2009-12.

Lagunilla, Alfredo. *La Bolsa en el Mercado de Valores de México y su Ambiente Empresarial*. Ciudad de México: Bolsa de Valores, 1973.

_____. *Historia de la banca y la moneda en México*. City of Mexico: Jus, 1981.

League of Nations, *Statistical Year-Book (1936-37)*. Geneva: Economic Intelligence Service, 1937.

Levy, María Bárbara. *História de la Bolsa de Río de Janeiro*. Rio de Janeiro:IBMEC, 1977.

Listing, Nora. *México. Hacia la Reconstrucción de una Economía*. City of Mexico: Colmex/FCE, 2002.

López, Pedro J. “La Nacional Financiera durante la industrialización vía sustitución de importaciones en México”. *América Latina en la Historia Económica*, 19 (septiembre-diciembre), 2012: 129-62.

Ludlow, Leonor. “El Banco Nacional Mexicano y el Banco Mercantil Mexicano: Radiografía Social de sus Primeros Accionistas”. *Historia Mexicana* 39, 4 (April-June): 997-1027.

Maxfield, Sylvia. *Governing Capital. International Finance and Mexican Politics*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.

Macedo, Pablo. *La Evolución Mercantil. Comunicaciones y Obras Públicas. La Hacienda Pública.; Tres Monografías que dan Idea de una Parte de la Evolución Económica de México*. City of Mexico: J. Villaseca A y S, Sucesores, 1905.

Marichal, Carlos “Foreign Loans, Banks and Capital Markets in Mexico, 1880-1910”. In *La deuda pública en América Latina en Perspectiva Histórica* edited by Reinhard Liehr, 337-74. Madrid/Vervuert Verlagsgesellschaft: Iberoamericana, 1993.

_____. “Obstacles to Development of Capital Markets in Nineteenth-Century Mexico”. In *How Latin American Fell Behind. Essays on Economic Histories of Brazil and Mexico, 1800-1914* edited by Stephen Haber, 118-145. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1997.

_____ “The Construction of Credibility: Financial Market Reform and the Renegotiation of Mexico’s External Debt in the 1880’s”. In *The Mexican Economy, 1870-1930: Essays on the Economic History of Institutions, Revolution and Growth* edited by Bortz, Jeffrey L. & Haber, Stephen H, 93-120. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2002.

Martínez, José. *Carlos Slim. Retrato Inédito. City of México*: Oceano, 2002.

Maurer, Noel. *The Power and the Money. The Mexican Financial System, 1876-1932*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2002.

Minsky, Hyaman P. *Can “it” happen again? Essays an Instability and Finance*. New York. M.E. Sharpe, 1982.

Moreno Lázaro, Javier. “La Bolsa de La Habana, el Mercado Mundial de Azúcar y las Fluctuaciones de la Economía Cubana, 1910-1959”. *Revista de Historia Económica/Journal of Iberian and Latin American Economic History* 31 (1) (2013):pp. 111-43.

Muñoz Bandala, Jesús Gerardo. *Colapsos Financiero-Cooperativos: Un Estudio de México tras la Crisis de 1994*. Morelia: Instituto de Investigaciones Económicas y Empresariales.

Nacional Financiera. *Statistics of the Mexican Economy. City of México*: Nacional Financiera, 1977.

_____ *Informe Anual*. City of Mexico: Nacional Financiera, 1941-77.

Newell, Roberto & Rubio, Luis. Mexico’s Dilema. *The Political Origin’s of Economic Crisis*. Boulder: Westview Press, 1984.

Noriega, Antonio & Rodríguez Pérez, Cid. “Estacionariedad, Cambios Estructurales y Desarrollo Económico en México, 1895-2008”. Working Paper, Banco de México, October, 2011.

Oñate, Abdiel. “La Batalla por el Banco Central. Las Negociaciones de México con los Banqueros Internacionales”. *Historia Mexicana*, 49 ,4 (2000):631-672.

Ortiz Mena, Antonio. “El Desarrollo Estabilizador. Una década de Estrategia de Crecimiento en México”. *El Trimestre Económico* 37, vol. 154 (1970):417-41.

Paz Sánchez, Fernando. *La Política Económica de la Revolución Mexicana, 1911-1924*. City of Mexico: UNAM, 2006.

Quiroz, Francisco. *Tablas de Precios de Compra de Valores*. City of Mexico: Banco de México, 1952.

Otero de la Torre, Ignacio. *La creación de una Bolsa Nacional de Valores y Productos; sus Efectos en la Economía Nacional*. Ciudad de México: Secretaría de la Economía Nacional, 1935.

Ramírez Solano, Ernesto. *Moneda, Banca y Mercado. Instituciones e Instrumentos en Países en Desarrollo*. Naucalpan: Pearson, 2007.

Reinhart, Carmen & Rogoff, Kenneth. *This Time is Different. Eight Centuries of Financial Folly*. Princenton: Princenton University Press.

Reina Hermosillo, Práxedes, *La vigilancia del Estado sobre el mercado de valores*. City of México: Comisión Nacional de Valores, 1946.

Riguzzi, Paolo. "Revolución y Finanzas Públicas: El Caso del Estado de México, 1910-1928". *Política y Cultura*, 16. 2001: 203-234.

_____ *¿Reciprocidad Imposible? La política de Comercio entre México y Estados Unidos, 1857-1938*. Toluca: Instituto Mora/El Colegio Mexiquense, 2003.

Romero Sotelo, María Eugenia. "Patrón Oro y Estabilidad Cambiaria en México, 1905-1910". *América Latina en la Historia Económica* 32 (jul. Dic). 2009:81-109.

Solís, Leopoldo. *Evolución del sistema financiero mexicano hacia los umbrales del siglo XXI*, City of Mexico: Siglo XX, 1997.

_____ "El sistema financiero en 1980". In *El Perfil de México en 1980* edited by Ibarra, David, Navarrete, Ifigenia de, Solís, Leopoldo, Urquidi, Victor, 73-87. City of México: Siglo XXI, 1979-

Tedde, Piero y Marichal, Carlos. *La Formación de los Bancos Centrales en España y América Latina (siglos XIX y XX)*. Madrid: Servicios de Estudios del Banco de España, 1994.

Tello, Carlos. *La Política Económica en México. 1970-1976*. City of Mexico: Siglo XXI, 1979.

_____ *Estado y Desarrollo Económico: México, 1920-2006*. City of Mexico, 2007.

Torres Gaytán, Ricardo. *Un Siglo de Devaluación del Peso Mexicano*. City of Mexico: Siglo XXI, 1980.

Vázquez, Jorge. "El Comportamiento del Precio de las Acciones y Recesión Económica. EE.UU. y México". *Problemas del Desarrollo. Revista Latinoamericana de Economía* 41, 160 (Jan-March). 2010: 84-107.

Vega, Ángel, Ángel de la. *La evolución del componente petrolero en el desarrollo y la transición de México* Ciudad de México: UNAM, 1999.

Zabaldúa, Emilio. *Banqueros y Revolucionarios. La Soberanía Financiera de México, 1914-1929*. City of Mexico: FCE/Colmex, 1994.

ANEXUS. STOCK PRICE INDEX IN THE STOCK EXCHANGE IN MEXICO CITY IN REAL TERMS, 1888-2012, AND GDP PER CAPITA (in current a real term, base index numbers for 1980)

YEAR	CURRENT TERMS	REAL TERMS	YEAR	CURRENT TERMS	1980 PESOS
1888	1.62	277.00	1951	5.29	72.43
1889	2.19	353.24	1952	5.36	67.81
1890	2.79	476.83	1953	5.26	67.43
1891	8.06	1472.93	1954	5.66	65.77
1892	13.50	2242.49	1955	6.20	63.92
1893	11.92	1891.90	1956	7.22	69.46
1894	26.83	4211.73	1957	7.77	69.98
1895	22.89	3724.38	1958	7.12	60.85
1896	8.55	1387.22	1959	6.92	56.76
1897	13.67	2167.91	1960	6.97	54.42
1898	8.13	1290.82	1961	6.58	49.50
1899	10.59	1619.82	1962	6.22	45.41
1900	7.57	1081.66	1963	6.44	45.33
1901	5.71	634.52	1964	7.23	47.89
1902	6.90	766.97	1965	8.03	51.77
1903	7.92	880.16	1966	7.59	46.87
1904	8.06	1007.27	1967	7.59	45.43
1905	8.38	930.68	1968	7.29	43.12
1906	11.03	1226.10	1969	7.41	40.95
1907	9.24	1026.40	1970	7.40	38.94
1908	7.95	883.23	1971	7.36	36.45
1909	10.67	1066.98	1972	7.78	36.02
1910	7.28	606.66	1973	8.92	36.25
1911	5.75	562.38	1974	8.40	27.64
1912	5.86	560.05	1975	7.53	21.21
1913	5.17	482.91	1976	9.10	21.51
1914	4.85	409.05	1977	9.10	16.36
1915	14.00	324.89	1978	60.06	92.82
1916	14.66	9.15	1979	94.06	120.75
1917	3.10	207.33	1980	100.00	100.00
1918	4.91	321.72	1981	68.71	54.54

1919	6.03	310.63	1982	47.21	23.28
1920	3.49	152.95	1983	171.23	44.34
1921	1.94	102.09	1984	281.98	45.91
1922	1.69	105.70	1985	781.91	81.18
1923	2.06	120.89	1986	3289.15	196.70
1924	1.52	94.95	1987	7374.24	184.01
1925	2.17	127.37	1988	14755.45	184.56
1926	1.63	95.66	1989	29252.53	290.86
1927	1.15	71.75	1990	43875.31	336.96
1928	2.69	167.88	1991	99929.27	630.99
1929	2.13	133.17	1992	122862.03	677.04
1930	1.26	78.69	1993	174719.11	879.05
1931	1.48	105.85	1994	171925.84	797.47
1932	1.00	76.73	1995	193992.68	652.62
1933	0.84	60.16	1996	234704.60	603.93
1934	3.52	251.48	1997	365150.36	798.37
1935	0.98	70.06	1998	267804.87	507.46
1936	1.80	120.19	1999	494199.49	813.64
1937	1.69	89.18	2000	394689.21	579.67
1938	0.81	40.69	2001	444968.09	617.22
1939	1.59	79.66	2002	427440.31	554.35
1940	1.70	80.78	2003	614170.48	733.77
1941	2.15	97.63	2004	902017.07	988.00
1942	2.72	113.22	2005	1243145.30	1301.83
1943	6.04	215.71	2006	1860877.20	1826.18
1944	6.58	177.80	2007	2062551.38	1937.29
1945	5.03	128.95	2008	1563044.67	1376.77
1946	6.08	121.65	2009	2312828.47	1940.91
1947	4.19	77.55	2010	2692015.02	2154.80
1948	4.11	74.64	2011	2589152.81	1381.64
1949	5.90	101.78	2012	2875882.09	2557.75
1950	3.77	61.78			