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Vol 22 Edited by **James W. Wilkie** and **Stephen Haber** (Los Angeles UCLA Latin American Center Publications, 1982 Pp. 712. Cloth \$75 00) This volume contains much statistical data on Mexico in many of the works 763 tables: and it includes three important articles.

James Wilkie's Mexico's 'New' Financial Crisis of 1982 in Historical Perspective opens the volume by tracing the devaluation of 1982 back to 1970 when President Luis Echeverría (1970-1976) changed Mexico's development policy from that of 'stabilized economic growth' to that of "shared economic growth." Unfortunately for Mexico, the latter policy resulted in "destabilized economic growth" and the suffering of the country's population owing

to levels of inflation unheard of since the violent 1910s. Going beyond analysis of the public and private debt of Mexico. Wilkie measures gigantic increase in money supply begun by Echeverría and continued by his former Treasury Minister José López Portillo (President of Mexico, 1976-1982) Wilkie argues that within the lore of "Permanent Revolution," the crises of 1976 and 1982 were necessary to justify the continued rule of the country's official party Wilkie concludes that the unstated ethic of the Party of Institutionalized Revolution can be summed up in the slogan:

From each president of Mexico according to his need to create crises;

To each president of Mexico according to his ability to "resolve" them.

Samuel Schmidt's article "Las Distintas Caras de la Deuda Pública Mexicana, 1970-1976" tests in many different ways the size and importance of the debt He finds that although the debt had grown substantially up to 1976, it did not yet constitute a danger to the country's economic well-being. (In constant prices, Mexico's public and private debt over 90 days in term increased from \$1 2.1 billion in 1970 to \$30.5 billion in 1976; the great crisis of 1982 did not come until the amount in real terms reached \$57 4 billion in 1982.) Samuel Schmidt, formerly a Fulbright post-doctoral fellow in history at UCLA, is a professor of political science at UNAM.

Stephen Haber's 'Modernization and Change in Mexican Communities 1930-1970' develops measures to examine life in 103 villages and towns in all regions of Mexico. His Social Modernization Index is based upon but not identical to Wilkie's Poverty



Index that measured change at the state level by decade from 1910 to 1970. Haber concludes that, for the better or for the worse, almost every community in Mexico, no matter how remote, has been affected by the modernization process; that it is not entirely accurate to speak of an urban-rural dichotomy in terms of modernization; and that the development of a social gap between rural Mexico and the rest of the nation probably will not continue. This study is a continuation of Haber's previous study "Mexican Community Studies in a Historical Framework 1930-1970, *Statistical Abstract of Latin America* 21, pp 567-576. Haber is currently a Fulbright fellow from UCLA studying the history of Mexico's industrialization process.