

For Christ and Country

Why did José de León Toral kill Álvaro Obregón, leader of the Mexican Revolution? So far, historians have characterized the motivations of the young Catholic militant as the fruit of fanaticism. This book offers new insights on how diverse sectors experienced the aftermath of the Revolution by exploring the religious, political, and cultural contentions of the 1920s. Far from an isolated fanatic, León Toral represented a generation of Mexicans who believed that the revolution had unleashed ancient barbarism, sinful consumerism, and anticlerical tyranny. Facing attacks against the Catholic essence of Mexican nationalism, they emphasized asceticism, sacrifice, and the redemptive potential of violence. Their reckless enthusiasm to launch assaults was a sign of their devotion. León Toral insisted that “only God” was his accomplice; in fact, he was cheered by thousands who dreamed of bringing the Kingdom of Christ to beleaguered Mexico.

Robert Weis is Professor of History at the University of Northern Colorado and the author of *Bakers and Basques: A Social History of Bread in Mexico* (2012).

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(continued after index)

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*Militant Catholic Youth in
Post-Revolutionary Mexico*

ROBERT WEIS

University of Northern Colorado



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Abbreviations

AGN	Archivo General de la Nación
AHAM	Archivo Histórico del Arzobispado de México
AHCM	Archivo Histórico de la Ciudad de Mexico
AHUNAM, MPV	Archivo Histórico de la Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Fondo Miguel Palomar y Viczarra
CEHM-Carso	Centro de Estudios de Historia de México Carso Fundación Slim México
FAPECFT	Fideicomiso Archivos Plutarco Elías Calles y Fernando Torreblanca
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