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978-0-521-10205-6 - The Cristero Rebellion: The Mexican People Between Church
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Jean A. Meyer

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BETWEEN CHURCH AND STATE

1926–1929

JEAN A. MEYER

L'Université de Perpignan, France

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PREFACE

The English version of *La Cristiada* is the last of several versions to appear, which is paradoxical, since it has played a decisive role in the publication of my work in various forms. The work originated as a thesis of 2,500 mimeographed pages, at the end of seven years' research – a manuscript unpublishable as it stood, from which publishers recoiled!

It is the Cambridge University Press who deserve the credit for having restored the author's hope and awakened the interest of other publishers; the encouragement of its academic readers and the invitation to sign a contract to transform this enormous manuscript into a different book led me to rewrite entirely (and not simply to summarise) my thesis. Reassured by the scholarly guarantee that this commitment on the part of the Cambridge University Press represented, the other publishers made up their minds. Siglo XXI published the reconstructed thesis in Mexico (1973–4), recast (but not rewritten) in three almost self-contained volumes (*La Guerra de los Cristeros; El Conflicto entre la Iglesia y el Estado; Los Cristeros: sociedad e ideología*), under the general title *La Cristiada*. Gallimard published in 1974, in Paris, *Apocalypse et Révolution au Mexique: la guerre des Cristeros* (a collection of documents with commentary), and Payot, also in Paris, brought out in 1975 *La Christiade: l'Eglise, l'Etat et le Peuple dans la Révolution Mexicaine*, a book that corresponds to, without entirely duplicating, the present English edition.

Practical problems and the time needed for translation have caused this book to come out well after the others, but one should bear in mind that it is properly the first, and that what one has here is an original text and not the translation of a French book.

To the Cambridge University Press I express my gratitude; my thanks to its academic readers and its officers who have made this book possible.

August 1975
Perpignan and Mexico, DF.

J.A.M.

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CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

1921

February. Bomb explosion in doorway of Archbishop's Palace, Mexico City.

May. Red flag hoisted on the Cathedral at Morelia. Violent clashes between Catholics, Socialists, and police. Similar incidents in Jacona (Michoacán).

June. Bomb explosion in Archbishop's Palace, Guadalajara.

July. Profanation of the Church of Gómez Palacio (Durango). Public festivities at Tacambaro to welcome the Bishop.

October. Eucharistic Congress at Puebla.

November. Bomb explosion in the sanctuary of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Demonstration of protest in the streets of Mexico City.

1922

January. Services of expiation.

April. Catholic Workers' Congress at Guadalajara. Violent clashes with State trade unionists.

May–June. Coronation of the Virgins of Morelia and Irapuato. Consecration of several Bishops.

1923

January. Laying of the first stone of the monument to Christ the King; expulsion of the Apostolic Delegate.

March. Looting of the Church of Actopán (Hidalgo).

April. Services of expiation for the insults to the Sacred Heart.

May. The State of Durango limits to 25 the number of priests permitted in the State.

July. Outbreaks of violence in Chihuahua, where the number of priests had been fixed at 75.

August. The State refuses permission to build a new church in El Cubilete (Monument to Christ the King).

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Chronology of Events

December. Rebellion of De la Huerta.

Throughout the year: coronations of the Virgin (Talpa, Mexico City); consecration of six bishops.

1924

4–12 October. Eucharistic Congress in Mexico City, accompanied by ceremonies of unprecedented magnificence, provoking a reaction on the part of the Government. Some Ministries dismiss employees who have taken part directly or indirectly in this demonstration.

ABBREVIATIONS

AAA	Archives of Aurelio Acevedo
AGN	Archivo General de la Nación, Mexico City, 'Presidente' section
DAAC	Departamento de Asuntos Agrarios y Colonización, Mexico City
DSR	Department of State Records, Washington, DC
MID	Military Intelligence Division, Washington, DC
SJ	Archives of the Society of Jesus, Mexican Province
UNAM	Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Department of History, Archives of the League and of Palomar and Vizcarra

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