



## Mexico: The Essentials

By William H. Beezley, Colin M. MacLachlan

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*Mexico: The Essentials* provides a concise introduction to Mexican history and culture built on ten fundamental aspects of Mexican life. Featuring a topical organization, the book offers readers easy access to these major themes--the "essentials"--that shape the nation and society: physical and living diversity, politics, family, economy, religion, Mexico City, popular arts, drugs and crimes, migration, and Mexico in global perspective. Authors William H. Beezley and Colin M. MacLachlan weave together each narrative with material from cultural investigations, ethnic and gender studies, and new sources--including visual and material evidence--to enrich and deepen students' understanding and appreciation of the Mexican past. Each of the essays is written from a historical perspective and begins with a brief section describing the colonial legacy.

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## **Mexico: The Essentials** By William H. Beezley, Colin M. MacLachlan Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #1383896 in Books
- Published on: 2015-10-16
- Released on: 2015-10-16
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 6.10" h x .40" w x 9.10" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 240 pages

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#### Review

"Beezley and MacLachlan, two leading historians of Mexico, have collaborated again on a unique interpretation of Mexican history defined in the broadest terms. *Mexico--The Essentials* ranges from the diversity of place, plants, and cultures, to the contemporary influence of Mexican cuisine in the United States. Even Mexicanists will encounter stimulating, fresh 'facts' about all aspects of their specialty. It is a diverse and thought-provoking introduction that will appeal to students and general readers."--Roderic Ai Camp, *Claremont McKenna College*

"Concise, readable, and engaging, *Mexico--The Essentials* is the perfect introduction to a dauntingly complex, notoriously diverse, and endlessly fascinating country. With chapters that range from such traditional topics as politics, economics, society, religion, and culture to contemporary issues like drugs, crime, and migration, this book provides a refreshingly eclectic take on 'the essentials.' Beezley and MacLachlan's lively introduction to Mexico is essential reading for novices and specialists alike."--Robert M. Buffington, *University of Colorado Boulder*

#### About the Author

**William H. Beezley** is Professor of History at the University of Arizona. He is the author of several books, including *The Oxford History of Mexico* (OUP, 2000).

**Colin M. MacLachlan** is John Christie Barr Distinguished Professor of History Emeritus at Tulane University. His most recent book is *Imperialism and the Origins of Mexican Culture* (2015).

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