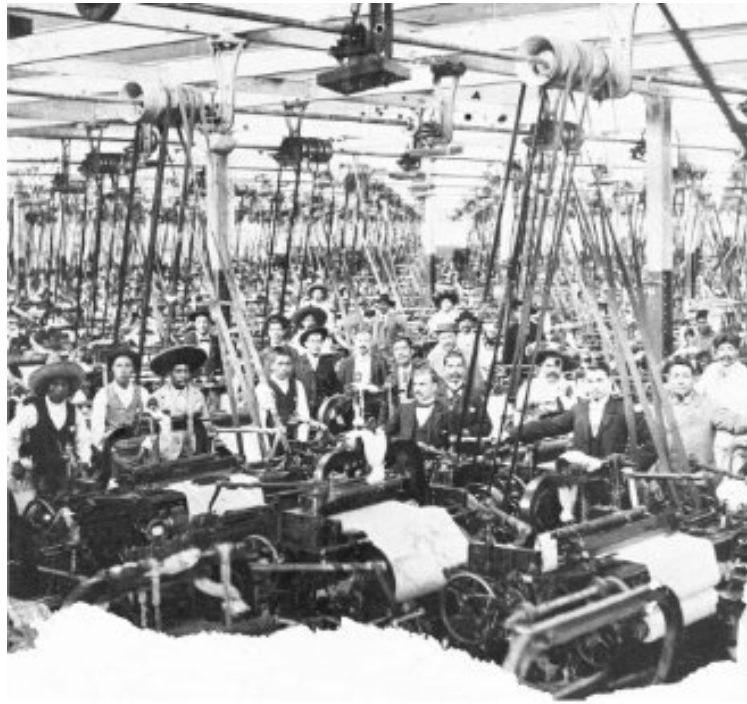


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## Industry and Revolution: Social and Economic Change in the Orizaba Valley, Mexico (Harvard Historical Studies)

*Aurora Goacute;mez-Galvarriato*  
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### **Industry & Revolution**

Social and Economic Change in the  
Orizaba Valley, Mexico

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**Aurora Goacute;mez-Galvarriato : Industry and Revolution: Social and Economic Change in the Orizaba Valley, Mexico (Harvard Historical Studies)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Industry and Revolution: Social and Economic Change in the Orizaba Valley, Mexico (Harvard Historical Studies):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A marvelous account of how Mexico "modernized" and suffered the consequences. By El Viejo Topo. This is an academic book, but I think someone interested in how Mexico got to be what it was before NAFTA would find it enlightening. The author deals with aspects of the textile workers and mills in the Orizaba Valley. It is superb. The data she has assembled alone make the book worthwhile, as does her nuanced understanding of the labor history of the period from 1890 through 1940. But what really distinguished the book is its sophistication and its lack of Manichean perspective in a field that is as politicized as you will find--this is not good guys bad guys labor history, with heroic workers and evil capitalists. Very carefully, and with an exceptionally sophisticated use of economics (which is unobtrusive and not obviously technical, but is quite insightful nonetheless), the author shows how Mexico developed its "Miracle" model, complete with high tariffs, low productivity industries, rent-seeking capitalists, pseudo-militant unions, and a lot more. The costs of this model were, of course paid by Mexican consumers, ordinary people who paid high prices for shoddy goods, and by the foreign producers who could not get into the market. It was all about incentives, and the author does a rather brilliant job of making them all too clear. In my mind, this is really one of the best books on labor in the Mexican Revolution to ever appear, and really the first modern one that balances equal parts history and economics. It is also, thank Heavens, not yet another of the why Mexico isn't China or some such blather that seems to entertain economic historians who don't appear to know much about either. You won't regret buying this and reading it very carefully. It probably will make more than a few people unhappy with its studied neutrality, but that's the price you pay for analysis, not ideology.

Industrial workers, not just peasants, played an essential role in the Mexican Revolution. Tracing the introduction of mechanized industry into the Orizaba Valley, Aurora Goacutemez-Galvarriato argues convincingly that the revolution cannot be understood apart from the Industrial Revolution, and thus provides a fresh perspective on both transformations.

Goacutemez-Galvarriato's sophisticated analysis of economic and labor history investigates the intersections of the Industrial Revolution in the textile industry with the revolutionary changes taking place in the Mexican political and social arena in 1910. Through careful research in government and textile company archives, oral history, and local and national newspapers, the author demonstrates that industrial labor won important postrevolutionary gains in how laborers worked and lived. (J. B. Kirkwood Choice 2014-01-01) A new and exciting contribution to our understanding of modern Mexico. Ambitious in scope and compelling in the strength of its analysis and argument, this is a superb economic history of the Mexican textile industry that also addresses the critical issues of politics and workers' welfare. Industry and Revolution will become a must-read for all historians of Mexico. (Edward Beatty, University of Notre Dame) Industry and Revolution is an important addition to both the literature on the economic history of Mexico and to the literature on the economic effects of civil wars and revolutions. It is a powerful demonstration of how careful archival research can be marshaled to answer big social science questions. (Stephen Haber, Stanford University) About the Author Aurora Goacutemez-Galvarriato is Professor of Economic History at CIDE (Centro de Investigaci3n y Docencia Econ3micas) and head of the Archivo General de la Naci3n de M3xico, Mexico's national public records office.