

Or in English: The Institutionalized Revolutionary Party, is a political party that by the year 2000, had ruled México for more than 50 years in a "perfect dictatorship", having elections, celebrating the 1910 Revolution and democracy but forcing the nation -through complete control of television and all media, making itself the only party, "disappearing" all dissidents, complete manipulation of all elections, to accept PRI leaders embezzle and enrich themselves in billions from state oil, energy, telephone and resource companies.



It was a disastrous presidency after another. My grandfather, who worked at the state-owned petroleum company, Pemex, for more than 50 years would say

"PRI men only know two things:

how to sell away the country to the Americans, and steal whatever is left." Which is how you get to a country praised by the World Bank and neoliberal economists for its open-market policies...

but miles and miles of shanty towns outside Mexico City, the biggest city in the Americas,



¡Fox!

¡Fox!

¡Fox!



But in 2000, PAN
a tall, very tall
man with a moustache
and boots, from a
medium-sized party,
PAN appeared and captured

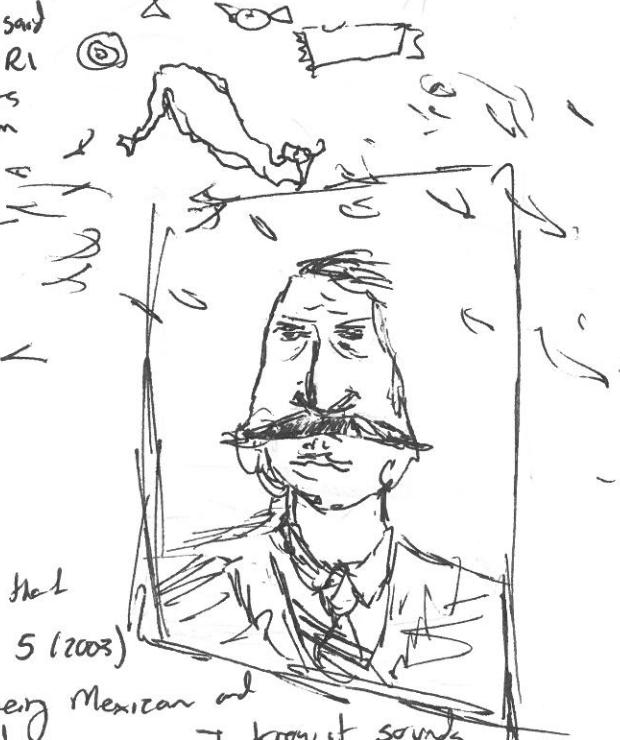
the nation. He said

he would take the PRI
and "fists". presidential mansion himself, though "dicts
and everybody in Mexico and the world kept
saying "democracy". I remember everyday in
kindergarten, our teacher would say "we live in a
democracy, because?" And we'd all stand
up and cheer, "Fox! Because of Fox!" When
we'd play games during recess, the loser would

get called "el PRI".

Wherever I heard that word, since I was 5 (2003)

I was so proud of being Mexican and
the face of Fox would appear. I know it sounds
silly, but I was little and you'd hear "democracy" and
"Fox" in the same sentence, everywhere, everyday.





And how successful was Fox, really?

If you ask him, he'll tell you he's the best president in history. If you ask most Mexicans, they've forgotten about him, only remembering for what happened in 2000. But my grandfather remembers "as soon as he became president, he filled his cabinet with the old PRI, his wife embezzled millions, he said yes to anything Bush told him." But by the time Fox's term ended, my mom and I already lived in the US, and I had thought I knew what democracy was before, but the US, life here, changed everything!



Even as a young kid, and even now, I am in constant awe of the way democracy exists in this nation. Clearly, the promise of democracy, equality and justice for all is far from being achieved, but everyone here always strives, fights and yearns for democracy.

For a system where all voices are heard to create a consensus, from town halls to corporations, everyone is exposed to this idea and attempts to chase it. When there is a lack of democracy here,

there are protests, strikes, essays published, wow!

How much do I wish that right now, in Mexico, now that the PRI has been reelected could the daily act of searching democracy could blossom, as democracy occurs every day, not once every 50 years...