***The Economist*: Special Report on Mexico**

From darkness, dawn

1. The author cites seven factors which might suggest reasons to be optimistic for Mexico. Briefly list five of them.
2. Offer three insights one might glean from the map on page 2.
3. How is PRI and Pena Nieto dependent on PAN?
4. Pena Nieto is fighting a two front war…
   1. What challenges does Congress pose?
   2. Considering unions and the internet, what challenges do the people pose?
5. What is the thesis of this special report on Mexico?

### Señores, start your engines

### Why did Mexico get hit so hard by the economic crisis that began in 2007?

### Discuss the relationship between Chinese and Mexican manufacturing and the United States.

### Why will the U.S. will become increasingly dependent in Mexican manufacturing?

### Explain what the author means when he argues that Mexican businesses are forced to fight with one hand tied behind their backs.

### Given what you’ve seen in Russia and Nigeria, accompanied by what you’ve read in this article, explain the Mexican oil dilemma.

### Discuss the impact of monopolies in Mexico. In so doing, explain the author’s conclusion.

Bureaucrats and backhanders

1. Discuss the impact of bureaucratic red tape and bribery in Mexican political economy.

Drugs and violence: A glimmer of hope

1. Describe the drug gang violence situation in Mexico.
2. Cite evidence to demonstrate how the gang violence peril is declining.
3. How might the Mexican federal system be poorly suited to ending this epidemic?
4. How does the gang violence problem harm small business?
5. Describe the federal government’s initiative in Juarez.
6. Extrapolate on the evidence in the article to explain the relationship between political legitimacy and gang violence in Mexico.

### The gain before the pain: Mexico’s demographic dividend will be short-lived

### In the 1960s Mexican women had an average of \_\_\_\_\_ children each; now they have only \_\_\_\_, and before 2020 the number is expected to drop below \_\_\_\_.

### Cite some of the factors that contributed to Mexico’s tradition of having many children. Then cite some factors that have led to the baby bust.

### Define the term “dependency ratio”.

### What is the “almighty time bomb” discussed in the article?

### Asian tigers capitalized on their demographic dividend by developing world-class schools. How is Mexican education performing?

### Discuss how the informal sector challenges the government safety net.

### The author suggests the government can rely more on consumption taxes than payroll taxes. Explain this solution. What are the risks of this solution?

Stretching the safety net: Falling ill is no longer an economic disaster

1. Cite some of the successes of Seguro Popular.
2. How has insurance reduced poverty?
3. Though it was lauded as a “remarkable feat” by the Lancet, Seguro Popular still faces numerous challenges. Discuss some of these.
4. Mexico is the fattest country in the world. This public health crisis is a political problem. So what, if anything, should the government do to combat this?

## Mexico’s states: The 31 banana republics

## Discuss the political significance of the Augusta Westland helicopter gaffe.

## The author argues that the ban on consecutive re-election results in a democratic deficit that cripples Mexican politics. What is his argument to this end?

## The author argues, despite the noble intentions of the non-re-election clause, the effects of non-re-election are damaging. What is your position on this issue?

## What do Camin and Casteneda mean when they speak of “feuderalism”?

## The author poses what the federal government can “beef up its role”. What is meant by this?

## Yet the author argues it would be better to “force states to do their jobs”. What has been done to this end thus far? What more might need to be done to accomplish this?