

The Mexican Press and Civil Society: A Historical Exploration from 1940 to 1976

The Mexican press has played a pivotal role in shaping Mexican society, serving as a platform for dissent, social critique, and political mobilization. This article explores the dynamic relationship between the Mexican press and civil society from 1940 to 1976, a period marked by significant social, political, and economic transformations. By examining the press's coverage of key events and its role in promoting civil society organizations, this article sheds light on the complex interplay between media, society, and the state in Mexico.

The Press as a Watchdog: Exposing Corruption and Social Injustice

During the 1940s and 1950s, the Mexican press emerged as a powerful watchdog, exposing corruption, economic inequality, and social injustice. Independent newspapers such as *Excelsior* and *El Universal* published investigative reports that uncovered scandals involving government officials and business leaders. These exposés played a crucial role in holding the government accountable and fostering a climate of transparency and public scrutiny.

The Mexican Press and Civil Society, 1940–1976: Stories from the Newsroom, Stories from the Street

by Benjamin T. Smith

 4.3 out of 5

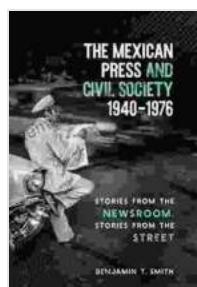
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The Press as a Platform for Dissent: Challenging the Authoritarian Regime

In the 1960s and 1970s, the Mexican press became a platform for dissent against the authoritarian regime of President Gustavo Díaz Ordaz.

Newspapers such as *Ovaciones* and *El Día* published articles criticizing government policies, corruption, and human rights abuses. These publications provided a space for opposition voices to be heard, contributing to the growing social movements of the period.



The Press and Civil Society: Fostering Social Mobilization

Beyond its role as a watchdog and platform for dissent, the Mexican press also played a crucial role in fostering civil society organizations.

Newspapers published articles promoting social causes, such as labor rights, education reform, and environmental protection. These publications helped to raise awareness of these issues and mobilized citizens to participate in social movements.

Social mobilization and social marketing to promote NaFeEDTA-fortified soya sauce in an iron-deficient population through a public-private partnership

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Abstract

Objective: The present pilot project aimed to assess the effectiveness of social mobilization and social marketing in improving knowledge, attitude and practice (KAP) and behaviour on Fe-deficiency population.

Design: An environmental, exploratory, community-based study, social mobilization and social marketing techniques were adopted. The intervention included KAP and behaviour survey approach followed by group-based Spring Out action centre and two rural villages of Fengtai County, Beijing, China.

Subjects: 3248 urban rural households and young children aged 6–10 years old from 12 randomly selected households in each of the 12 randomly selected villages.

Interventions: The KAP and behaviour survey was conducted twice, measured body RBC% at 30·5% (range 1·2–98·0%), body weight (mean 33·5 kg), height (mean 110·5 cm), age (mean 6·5 years), gender (51·2% male), education (mean 8·5 years), income (mean 10 000 RMB), family size (mean 3·2), and household size (mean 2·5).

Measurements: Social mobilization and social marketing activities had been evaluated by the KAP and behaviour survey approach.

Results: The KAP and behaviour survey approach found that 16·5% of people in rural areas had low knowledge and 16·5% had low behaviour on Fe-deficiency and anaemia. The intervention approach had changed people towards the prevention of iron deficiency anaemia. The percentage of number who had adopted the recommended ways were increased from 35·9% to 50·5% (range 1·2–98·0%), body weight increased significantly ($P < 0·05$), height increased significantly ($P < 0·05$), age increased significantly ($P < 0·05$), gender and family size increased significantly ($P < 0·05$).

Conclusion: Social mobilization and social marketing activities had been evaluated by the KAP and behaviour survey approach.

Keywords: Social mobilization, Social marketing, Iron deficiency, Iron-deficiency anaemia

Iron deficiency is a major health problem in developing countries and affects 25–30% of the global population throughout the world, mostly women of reproductive age, infants and young children.¹ Iron-deficiency anaemia (IDA) is the most common form of IDA globally. According to a WHO report,² in 2001 over 2 billion people suffered from IDA in China, the Second Survey and Analysis Survey in 2002 reported a high prevalence of anaemia among both young children and adults in urban regions.³ However, according to the 2002 national survey of the Chinese Nutrition and Health Survey, the prevalence of IDA has been declining steadily in the past 20 years, from 19·5% to 1·5%.⁴ The causes of IDA are mainly due to dietary influences. Some appear to be genetic, such as hereditary hemochromatosis and sickle-cell anaemia, and nutritional, such as dietary effects on iron absorption. IDA often progresses and leads to symptoms and thus damages vital organs, such as the heart and kidneys. IDA increases the chance of contracting the disease of IDA, especially iron-

deficiency and IDA or iron-deficiency anaemia expressed related to oxygen supply and human demands, the physical strength and work capacity of all IDA individuals is limited and the individuality leads to decreased survival of preadolescent, adult and elderly level.

The functions of the body when required in different age groups approach or withdraw (ie, prevalence of IDA)^{5,6,7}. Compared with the incidence and prevalence of anaemia, NaFeEDTA will be reduced in a timely absorption rate in the human body. Seven adverse effects and five benefits of the absorption of NaFeEDTA^{8,9}: (1) absorption rate is 90%; (2) absorption time is 10 min; (3) absorption is 100% bioavailable; (4) absorption of Fe(II) from NaFeEDTA is 100% bioavailable; (5) absorption of Fe(II) from NaFeEDTA is 100% bioavailable; (6) absorption of Fe(II) from NaFeEDTA is 100% bioavailable; (7) absorption of Fe(II) from NaFeEDTA is 100% bioavailable.

Government Control and Repression of the Press

The Mexican government's response to the press's critical coverage was often harsh and repressive. The government used a variety of tactics to control the media, including censorship, intimidation, and financial pressure. Journalists who wrote critical articles faced threats, harassment, and imprisonment. In 1976, the government cracked down on the

independent press, forcing several newspapers to close or sell out to pro-government owners.



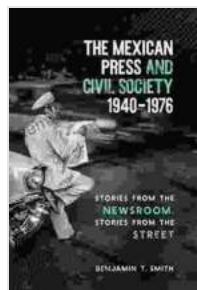
The period from 1940 to 1976 was a pivotal time in the history of the Mexican press and civil society. The press played a vital role in exposing corruption, challenging authoritarianism, and fostering social mobilization. However, the government's repressive response to critical coverage highlighted the ongoing struggle for press freedom and the importance of civil society organizations in promoting transparency and holding the government accountable.

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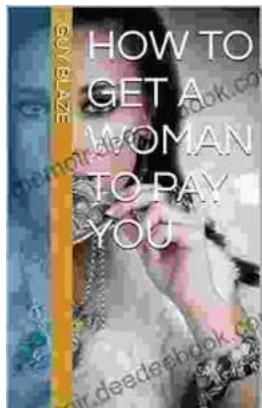
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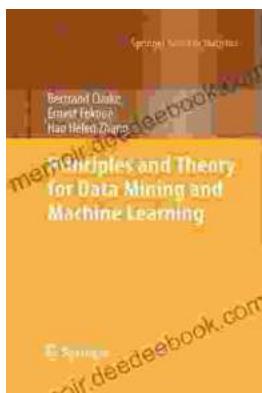


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