

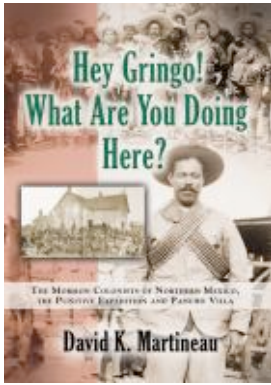
# Hey Gringo! What Are You Doing Here?



THE MORMON COLONISTS OF NORTHERN MEXICO,  
THE PUNITIVE EXPEDITION AND PANCHO VILLA



**David K. Martineau**



*This book of historical fiction contains a summary of the Mormon Colonization in northern Mexico and the Mexican Revolution, as well as some biographies of early colonists. It tells the story of a Mormon Colonist boy who is captured by Pancho Villa's raiding party enroute to Columbus, New Mexico, his subsequent hire by the Pershing Punitive Expedition into Mexico searching for Pancho Villa, and their exploits.*

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David K. Martineau

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# **PART ONE - THE MORMON COLONIES AND THE REVOLUTION**

## **Chapter 1**

### **Background**

As I put my left foot into the left stirrup and swung my right leg over the horse, into the right stirrup and settled down into my saddle, I was excited to begin my assigned task, but had no idea of the unexpected adventure I was going to have. My name is Daniel Pratt, and I was born 23 January 1900, in Colonia Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico. My assigned task was simple enough, to ride up to Colonia Garcia, check on the status of my family's property, check out as many cattle and livestock as I could find, and generally assess conditions for the family's return to Colonia Garcia. My family owned a ranch between Colonia Garcia and Colonia Chuichupa, which had been abandoned at the time of the Mormon Exodus in 1912, during the Mexican Revolution.

Mormon pioneer settlers, many of whom were polygamists, had come across the plains from the U.S Eastern States and from Europe, seeking a place to live their Mormon religion in peace, in the Western part of the United States. They had colonized and settled in Utah, Arizona, California and New Mexico. As pressure began to build within the United States against the Mormon doctrinal practice of polygamy, US law enforcement began to seek out those Mormon men who had more than one wife, and began putting them in prison. The leadership of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day-Saints (LDS, also known as Mormons) started actively looking for other places Mormon men in peril of the law could live. One logical choice was south of the border, in Mexico.

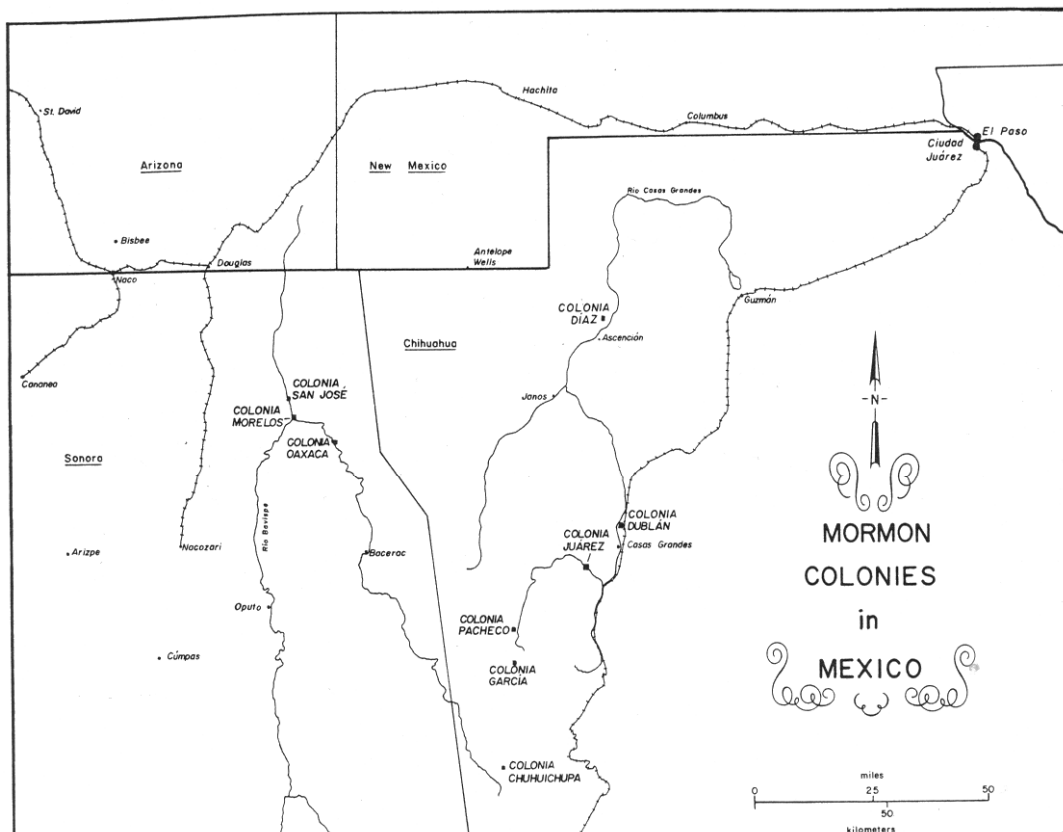
Polygamy was also illegal in Mexico, but the President of Mexico, General Porfirio Diaz, who favored and encouraged foreign immigration into Mexico, when asked about the practice of polygamy, replied to the effect that, it does not matter in Mexico whether you drive your horses tandem or four abreast<sup>1</sup>, clearly illustrating that official Mexico would ignore polygamy. As a result, Mormon families began to make plans to relocate in the largely unpopulated areas of northern Mexico, at sites purchased through the Church-sponsored Mexican Colonization and Agricultural Company. These properties were for sale/redistribution to individual colonists at very favorable rates, ultimately in the Mexican States of Sonora, and Chihuahua.



General Porfirio Diaz. This image was copied from [http://www.emersonkent.com/images/pres\\_p\\_diaz.jpg](http://www.emersonkent.com/images/pres_p_diaz.jpg), on 11/28/2014.

Between 1885 and 1910 (when the Mexican Revolution began), Mormon colonists in Mexico established Mormon Colonies at Colonia Diaz, Colonia Juarez, Colonia Dublan, (all three along rivers in the State of Chihuahua, below the Sierra Madre mountain range, also known as plateau colonies), as well as Colonia Pacheco, Colonia Garcia (also known as Round Valley), and Colonia Chuichupa (originally known as Chuhuichupa) (all three in the mountains on the eastern slope of the Sierra Madre in the State of Chihuahua, also known as the mountain colonies). A little later on, Mormon Colonies were also established in the State of Sonora, along the Bavispe River, at Colonia Oaxaca, Colonia Morelos, and Colonia San Jose (on the western slope of the Sierra Madre Mountains). There were also several smaller sites, in the vicinity of established colonies, where Mormon families dwelt, such as Cave Valley.

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Permission to use this map, which accompanied the article written by Barney T. Burns and Thomas H. Naylor, "Colonia Morelos: A Short History of a Mormon Colony in Sonora, Mexico, *The Smoke Signal* (Spring, 1973), pp. 142-180, was given by Thomas H. Naylor.

Map of southern Arizona and New Mexico, and northern Mexican states of Sonora and Chihuahua, depicting the establishment of Mormon Colonies. This image was copied from [http://johnson.naflood.com/mormon\\_colonies/mormon\\_colonies.png](http://johnson.naflood.com/mormon_colonies/mormon_colonies.png).

Most Mormons left the Colonies in Mexico during the Mexican Revolution, in the summer of 1912, known as the Mormon Exodus from Mexico. Almost immediately thereafter, small groups of Mormons re-entered Mexico, for short periods of time, to protect their properties, to remove cattle and horses from their properties for resale in the United States, and to try to determine when it would be safe to return to their colonies. The colonies of Juarez and Dublan, among the plateau colonies, were the first to begin to be repopulated. Colonia Diaz had been virtually destroyed by the revolutionaries, and was never restored as a Mormon colony. The mountain colonies were still considered too dangerous for a generalized Mormon colonist return, as there were many revolutionary forces, and bandits



throughout the Sierra Madre Mountains. The Sonora colonies were also not restored as Mormon colonies after the Exodus.

A few Mormon colonists, including some of my family, feeling that Mexico was their home, began trickling back to the Colonies shortly after the Exodus, settling in Colonia Juarez and Colonia Dublan, since it was still too dangerous to return to the mountain colonies. My family, owning property in the mountains, between Colonia Garcia and Colonia Chuichupa, had to settle temporarily in Colonia Juarez. This core of returning colonists, continued to grow, until 1915, when the revolutionary leader Pancho Villa brought his army to within close proximity of Colonia Dublan for rest and reconstitution, before beginning his disastrous Sonora Campaign. This Villa army presence at Colonia Dublan took place in September 1915. While there, Villa's forces had confiscated all the horses they could find from the local Mexicans as well as the Mormon Colonists. The colonists found themselves without their saddle horses for transportation, and their farm horses, used in agriculture. A delegation of Mormon colonists went to Villa, requesting that their work horses be returned, so they could continue their farming, for survival. Villa consented, and some of their horses were returned. During the interval between the Exodus and Villa's Sonora campaign, my family periodically sent someone up into the mountains, to check on the ranch, the cattle, and to assess conditions for return. This is how I became tasked for this assignment, and on March 2, 1916, I mounted my horse in Colonia Juarez, and rode off toward Colonia Garcia.

Before proceeding, I need to give you a little bit of information about the Mexican Revolution. General Jose de la Cruz Porfirio Diaz Mori, commonly known as Porfirio Diaz, was a politician and soldier, who served as President of Mexico for three decades, between 1876 and 1911. He was born about 15 September 1830, in Oaxaca, the capital city of the Mexican State of Oaxaca. As a young soldier he was a supporter of the reformist Benito Juarez, but he turned away from supporting Benito Juarez. He led Mexican forces against the French-imposed Emperor Maximilian, becoming a hero of Mexico in that struggle; including the *Cinco de Mayo* battle of Puebla. The period of time he was the Dictator of Mexico is known in history as the *Porfiriato*, during which Mexico recovered from the long period of the reform and the French intervention. The country made significant strides forward in modernization, and economic growth. Porfirio Diaz was a supporter of foreign investment, foreign immigration of hard-working people who could introduce modern agricultural methods, especially in the areas of mining, cattle-raising, and railroads. He was a direct supporter of the immigration of Mormon colonists



into the states of Chihuahua and Sonora, hoping they would improve agriculture, and help improve the economic status of Northern Mexico. Additionally, due to his policies and support many mines, cattle ranches and railroads, owned or managed by Americans developed. However, the Dictator Diaz also favored the land-owning classes in Mexico, known as *hacendados* (owners/operators of large haciendas), and sponsored schemes that resulted in stripping land away from the peasant classes and Indians. Diaz awarded or granted political positions to his friends and relatives, or people of his class. The result was that the majority of lands in Mexico were in the hands of a few privileged families, and the common man had none. The people were forced to work for the *hacendados*, as share-croppers or poorly paid hacienda employees. They lived on the land they worked, and obtained all their food, clothing and personal items from the *tiendas de raya*, which were stores belonging to the haciendas, which charged more than the workers' wages, thus keeping the workers perpetually in debt and tethered to the hacienda. After three decades of this, the people of Mexico were ripe for a revolution, land reform, and a political change. In an interview in 1908, a couple of years before the end of the dictator's seventh term of office as President, Diaz granted an interview to a journalist, and stated that he thought Mexico might be ready for a change of leadership, suggesting that he might be willing to allow elections and a new younger President. A few challengers took the bait and began planning and campaigning to run against Diaz in the upcoming election of 1910.

One of the most serious challengers was Francisco I. Madero, a member of the *hacendado* class, since his family owned a large hacienda in the northern Mexico State of Coahuila. However, he was familiar with democracy, and advocated political change, and agrarian reform.



Francisco I. Madero. This image was copied from [http://americasouthandnorth.files.wordpress.com/2013/02/503px-francisco\\_i\\_madero.jpg](http://americasouthandnorth.files.wordpress.com/2013/02/503px-francisco_i_madero.jpg) on 12/5/2014.

The working classes were looking for change, and strongly supported him. Porfirio Diaz saw the popular appeal to Madero, and changed his mind about the elections of 1910, deciding to run again, for an eighth term of office. Prior to the elections, Diaz had Madero arrested and imprisoned. The Diaz regime announced to the public that Diaz had overwhelmingly won the election, and would resume as the President. Madero escaped, and went to the United States, to San Antonio, Texas. There, Madero wrote a “letter from jail”, called the *Plan de San Luis Potosi*, offering free suffrage and no re-election. It declared the Diaz regime illegal, and called for revolt against Diaz, to start on the 20<sup>th</sup> of November, 1910<sup>2</sup>.

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On or about the day called for the revolt to begin, several personalities who became well known during the Mexican Revolution, in fact, raised in armed revolt against federal forces belonging to the Porfirio Diaz regime, including: the Father of the Mexican Revolution – Francisco I. Madero, Pascual Orozco near Guerrero, Chihuahua, Pancho Villa also in Chihuahua, Emiliano Zapata in the state of Morelos, and Venustiano Carranza in Coahuila. Toribio Ortega is considered by many to be the first Revolutionary Leader, having anticipated the designated date, by revolting 10 Nov 1910, in Cuchillo Parado, Chihuahua. Pascual Orozco and Pancho Villa were philosophical supporters of the Madero revolt, and soon became two of his primary military subordinates. The first major battle of the revolution took place in Casas Grandes, Chihuahua, near the Mormon Colonies of Juarez and Dublan, on 5 Mar 1911. The battle was led by Francisco I. Madero, against the federal forces at the garrison of Casas Grandes. As the battle progressed, additional federal forces from the Ascension area, under Colonel Garcia Cuellar, joined the battle, tipping the scale in favor of the federals. Madero's first battle was lost. He himself was injured in the arm, and was forced to retreat with his forces to his temporary headquarters, located at Hacienda San Diego, a few miles southwest of Casas Grandes, and south of Colonia Juarez. This large hacienda belonged to the largest cattle owner in Mexico, Don Luiz Terrazas. The main house of his hacienda was located near the river junction of the Casas Grandes River, and its tributary, the Piedras Verdes River. From there, Madero and his defeated Army further withdrew to Hacienda Bustillos, closer to the center of the State of Chihuahua.



Francisco I. Madero and his forces at Hacienda San Diego. This image was copied from [http://www.bookdrum.com/images/books/126785\\_m.jpg](http://www.bookdrum.com/images/books/126785_m.jpg), on 12/5/2014.

As the Madero revolution pressed forward and won several battles, Pascual Orozco and Pancho Villa (neither of whom was present at the first battle of Casas Grandes), jointly with the rest of the Madero forces, attacked the Federal Garrison at Ciudad Juarez (across the border from El Paso, Texas) on 10 May 1911 and successfully took it. This resulted in the collapse of the Porfirio Diaz regime, and his departure from Mexico. Francisco I. Madero insisted on a new election, before taking power. He was elected, and became President of Mexico in late 1911, heading to Mexico City, to set up a Government.

The Mexican Revolution took place over a ten year period of time, from 1910 through 1920. It progressed in stages, beginning with the Madero revolt against the dictator Diaz, then to betrayal of Madero by Huerta, to open civil war among revolutionary leaders seeking to reform the Government and take over control of the country, formed in accordance with their own ideas of what Mexico should be. In order to understand the revolution, one must understand several specific terms, including the following: *Federales*, *Rurales*, *Colorados*, *Carrancistas*, *Villistas*, and *Zapatistas*.

*Federales* was a term used to refer specifically to the military forces representing the Government in power (as opposed to revolutionary forces fighting against the Government). Alliances among leaders frequently changed. At first, the *federales* were Porfirio Diaz's forces. Then the *federales* were the Francisco I. Madero forces, followed by Victoriano Huerta's *federales*.

*Rurales* was the term used to describe the Mexican *Guardia Rural* (Rural Guard), a force of mounted police or gendarmerie from 1861 through 1914. This force had multiple duties, including: border protection, fighting Apaches, putting down large strikes, protecting money transfers, and general police duties in the countryside. Their officers generally came from the Federal Army, and many of their soldiers were little more than armed thugs in trouble from the law, which were recruited into service with the *rurales* rather than serve prison terms. The *ley fuga*, fugitive law where suspects were killed "trying to escape" was used liberally. Porfirio Diaz used the *Rurales* to enforce his policies in the countryside, and Victoriano Huerta used them to assassinate President Francisco I. Madero and his Vice President, Jose Maria Pino Suarez. In practice the *Rurales* operated similar to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police or the Texas Rangers. A *Rurales* Commanding Officer in the State of Sonora, Emilio Kosterlitzky, sold a large estate he owned to the Mormon Colonists, who established Colonia Oaxaca there.

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*Colorados* or red flaggers, due to their characteristic red armbands or hatbands, or red handkerchiefs worn around their necks, were, at first, followers of one of the oldest revolutionary forces against Porfirio Diaz, the Flores Magon brothers, who founded the *Partido Liberal Mexicano* (the Mexican Liberal Party). When Pascual Orozco started his break-away from Madero movement, most of his followers adopted the red hatbands or neckerchiefs. Then the whole *Orozquista* movement wore the red, and followed Pascual Orozco, first against Francisco I. Madero, then in support of Victoriano Huerta against all other revolutionaries.<sup>3</sup> They were also sometimes known as *Liberales* functioning mainly in the State of Chihuahua, and were largely responsible for the Mormon Exodus from Mexico in 1912, the destruction of Colonia Diaz, and the destruction of the Sonora colonies.

*Carrancistas* were followers of Venustiano Carranza, also known as *Constitucionistas*.

*Villistas* were those who followed Pancho Villa, also sometimes known as *Convencionistas*.

*Zapatistas* were the revolutionary forces in the southern part of the country, mainly the State of Morelos, who followed Emiliano Zapata.



Photograph Brown Brothers

Revolutionary leaders during the truce meetings at Ciudad Juárez

Seated: Venustiano Carranza, Francisco Vázquez Gómez, Francisco I. Madero, Abraham González, José Maytorena, Alberto Fuentes D., and Pascual Orozco; standing: Francisco Villa, Gustavo Madero, Don Francisco Madero, José Garibaldi, Federico González Garza, José de la Luz Blanco, Juan Sánchez Azcona, and Alfonso Madero

Note that President Francisco I. Madero is seated third, left to right. Pascual Orozco is seated seventh, left to right, and Pancho Villa is standing, first on the left. This image was copied from

<http://publications.newberry.org/digitalexhibitions/exhibits/show/mexicanrevolution, on 12/5/2014.>

Francisco I. Madero was president for only a short period of time. He was thought by many to be a weak leader, torn between supporting his economic class, wishing to not make a big stir at first sweeping out all of the old regime, and implementing new reforms. As a result, he did not make large agrarian land reforms, as expected by many, and created discontent. Pascual Orozco felt betrayed by his policies, and personally betrayed by not receiving the desired appointment as Minister of War in Madero's new cabinet, which went to Venustiano Carranza, whose revolutionary activities to that point were rather small. Orozco broke with Madero, launching his own revolutionary movement, known as the *Colorados*, or red-flaggers, due to their characteristic red handkerchiefs worn around their necks. Other Generals, such as Jose Ines Salazar, Antonio Rojas, and Maximo Castillo readily joined him, and began fighting against President Madero.

Madero retained the military services of General Victoriano Huerta, a former Diaz regime officer, and assigned Huerta to lead the federal forces against Pascual Orozco and his *Colorados*. Pancho Villa remained a loyal supporter of Madero, and fought alongside Huerta among the *Federales* against the *Colorados*. At one point Huerta, who did not trust Pancho Villa, accused Villa of stealing a horse, and had him arrested, scheduled for a firing squad. President Madero intervened, preventing the firing squad, sending Villa instead into prison at the Tlatelolco Military Prison near Mexico City. Villa escaped, and went into exile in the United States for a while.

Meanwhile, Huerta put down the Orozco revolt, but soon realized that as the strongest military leader in the country, he was just a step away from becoming President himself. Consequently Victoriano Huerta betrayed President Francisco I. Madero, and forced him out of office in a *coup d'etat* in 1913 known as the *decena tragica* (the tragic 10-days). Shortly thereafter Huerta had President Madero and Vice President Pino Suarez assassinated, and Huerta assumed the Presidency of Mexico. Huerta also had the former Governor of Chihuahua, Abraham Gonzales, assassinated. Gonzales was the political mentor of Pancho Villa, and his assassination highly infuriated Villa, who had become Huerta's mortal enemy.

The Mormon colonists tried to maintain a strict neutrality policy between the *Federales* and all other revolutionary groups, a policy initiated from the leaders of the Mormon faith in Salt Lake City, Utah, and supported by the church leaders in the Mormon colonies of Mexico. Especially during the Pascual Orozco revolt of the *Colorados*, it became very difficult to maintain neutrality, as both revolutionaries and *Federales* made constant demands for horses, saddles, cattle and foodstuffs from the colonists (as well as the *hacendados* in northern Mexico). The neutrality policy also had the effect of alienating both sides. In July of 1912, Jose Ines Salazar, a subordinate of Pascual Orozco, demanded of the Mormon colonists that they surrender all weapons to his forces. He set an ultimatum of the next day for the surrender of arms to be accomplished. The colonists reacted to this ultimatum by instructing all the Mormon Colonies to send all their women and children out of Mexico, for their own safety. Consequently, word circulated among the colonists to gather a few clothing and household items per family, and to board the train, at Colonia Dublan, or at Pearson station (known today as Mata Ortiz, closer for the mountain colonists to go to), and travel to El Paso, Texas. Upon arrival at El Paso, the people there received them and provided some living accommodations and an old lumber yard, where they could live until further living arrangements could be made. Within a couple of weeks,



the men also were instructed by church leaders to leave Mexico, and did so in a long train of horses, buggies, and cattle, directly to the border and into Hachita, New Mexico. At about the same time, colonists from the Sonora colonies and Colonia Diaz crossed in wagons and on horseback north into Arizona and New Mexico. Mormon colonists leaving Mexico were assisted by the people of El Paso, Fort Bliss, as well as a U.S. Government fund which was established to help pay their transportation expenses to any location in the U.S. where they chose, in order to be cared for by relatives, or to start over again in new settlements. This completed the Mormon Exodus from Mexico in 1912. As stated before, Mormon colonists began, almost immediately, to return to the Colonies to resume their life in Mexico.



Women and children leaving Mexico on the train in 1912. This image was copied from <http://www.bing.com/images/search?q=mexican+revolution&qv=mexican+revolution&on> 11/26/2014.

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Mormon women and children living in a lumber yard provided by the benevolent citizens of El Paso. This image was copied from <https://www.google.com/search?q=Mormon+colonies+in+mexico&cli>, on 12/7/2014.



Men from the Colonies leaving Mexico in 1912. This image was copied from: <http://www.bing.com/imagesw/search?q=mormon+exodus+from+mexico&qpvt=mormon+e>, on 12/8/2014.

It is now time to introduce to you the revolutionary leader Pancho Villa.



Pancho Villa at the head of a column of cavalry. This image was copied from: <http://codiceinformativo.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/Pancho-Villa.gif>, on 12/8/2014.

The revolutionary we know as Pancho Villa was born Jose Doroteo Arango Arambula, 5 Jun 1878, at *Rancho de la Coyotada* in San Juan del Rio which, was one of the largest haciendas in the state of Durango. Doroteo was the oldest of five children, and received some education from a local church-run school, but quit school and became a sharecropper after his father died, when Doroteo was about 15 years old. He was a typical sharecropping farmer in the old *Porfiriato* era hacienda culture, indebted to and tied down to the hacienda. He experienced first-hand and developed a dislike for the policies and practices of Porfirio Diaz. At about age 16 Doroteo tracked down the hacienda owner, Agustin Lopez Negrete, who had raped Doroteo's sister, and shot and killed him (or just wounded him according to which source you read), having then to adopt the life of an outlaw and hide out from the law enforcement authorities. He then stole a horse and fled to the Sierra Madre Occidental region in Durango, where he roamed the hills as a bandit. At some point during his bandit life, he acquired the handle Pancho Villa. For the next few years he survived in the mountains of Durango and Chihuahua as a bandit, periodically working at various conventional jobs

such as a miner, or butcher. Some of the time he stole cattle from ranchers, butchered the cattle, and then sold the meat at a butcher shop. As a young man he met Abraham Gonzalez, who instructed young Pancho Villa about Francisco I. Madero's vision of a new Mexico, and converted him to the Madero Revolution. Pancho Villa joined the Madero forces and was a firm supporter of Madero from then on.

After the death of Madero and Villa's brief exile in the United States, he crossed back into Mexico, to initiate his revolution against Victoriano Huerta. For a period of time he was allied with other revolutionaries, in their struggle against Huerta, such as Venustiano Carranza, Alvaro Obregon, and Emiliano Zapata. Huerta was defeated and exiled into the United States, where he soon died. Carranza and Obregon soon turned against the *Villistas* and *Zapatistas*. The *Villistas* and *Zapatistas* were very successful for a time, with Villa developing into a strong force in the northern part of Mexico, and Zapata in the southern part. These two were immensely popular with the common man, as both supported agrarian reform and land redistribution ideas, much more so than did Carranza and Obregon. The United States at this point favored policies to prevent further border crossing of weapons, ammunition, and war materiel, and enforced border neutrality and prevention of activities which could favor revolutionary movements. Villa was so popular that U.S. leaders frequently behaved and made statements which encouraged Villa, and seemed to favor backing him in his revolutionary endeavors. In 1914 a revolutionary convention was held in Aguascalientes. The result of that convention was a split between the *Villistas* and *Zapatistas* (jointly known as the *Convencionistas*), on one side, and the *Carrancistas* on the other (known as the *Constitucionalistas*). During this period Pancho Villa was at his strongest and most influential. At the height of his influence, he had an army of over 50,000 men, and was temporarily the Governor of the State of Chihuahua.



Pancho Villa (center) in a Madero camp, 1911. This image was copied from <http://www.veteranstoday.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/03.000B-Pancho-Villa-en-un-campamento...>, accessed 4/13/2015.

The *Villistas* were very successful for a good while, but ultimately began to lose battles, starting with a large battle in Celaya, Guanajuato. After a few more battles, Villa moved his remaining forces to Chihuahua, for a rest. He hoped to regain his former influence and strength, and planned a campaign in the State of Sonora. However, as Villa was moving his Army from his camp near Colonia Dublan, toward Agua Prieta, Sonora (across the border from Douglas, Arizona), and President Wilson decided to back the de facto President of Mexico, Venustiano Carranza, instead of Villa. The U.S. allowed the *Carrancistas* to load troops and war materiel onto trains belonging to the El Paso and Southwestern Railroad, in the U.S. at Eagle Pass and El Paso, Texas, and be transported to Douglas, to reinforce the *Carrancista* garrison across the border in Agua Prieta. While Villa was marching his Army across the mountainous border between Chihuahua and Sonora through Pulpit Pass, Carranza and Obregon were reinforcing General Plutarco Elias Calles at Agua Prieta. Additionally, the U.S. forces at Douglas either provided or allowed positioning of powerful search lights, and electricity, allowing Calles to illuminate the battlefield at night (Villa favored and frequently used night cavalry assaults, including in this one, the Battle of Agua Prieta). As a result, Villa thought he had numerical superiority during the battle, but did not, since Calles had reinforced his soldier strength considerably with usage of the U.S. railroad. Villa and his forces lost this battle, and also lost most of the other engagements during his Sonora campaign. He blamed his losses largely on U.S. policy, now favoring Carranza. While Villa was an expert at mounted cavalry charges, his opponent in Sonora, General Alvaro Obregon, followed developments in the ongoing European War, World War One, and utilized

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the lessons learned, namely, that mounted cavalry could be defeated by the use of emplaced machineguns, trenches, barbed wire, and search lights, all of which were utilized in the Battle of Agua Prieta against the *Villistas*. Villa's opinions against the United States and Americans became much stronger (as did the opinions of many of his followers). Villa and his Army returned to Chihuahua to lick their wounds, and plan a vengeance operation, to attack a U.S. town. Around four in the morning of March 9, 1916, Pancho Villa began an attack on Columbus, New Mexico. Immediately, three groups of *Villistas* began swarming Columbus and the nearby Camp Furlong, setting fire to many buildings. The soldiers at Camp Furlong quickly began firing back, and after 30 or 40 minutes, began to gain the upper hand. During the battle, about 18 Americans were killed, including military and civilian, but many more *Villistas* were killed. Colonel Slocum, Commanding Officer, authorized Major Frank Tompkins of the 13<sup>th</sup> US Cavalry to mount up a troop and pursue the fleeing *Villistas* a ways into Mexico<sup>4</sup>. The American people, especially President Wilson, were so outraged by this invasion of US territory that pressure immediately caused the creation of a military punitive expedition to be formed and launched into Mexico within a few days.

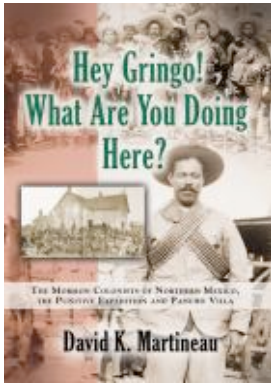


Columbus New Mexico before the 1916 raid by Pancho Villa. This image was copied from [http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Mexican\\_Revolution\\_\(168\).jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Mexican_Revolution_(168).jpg), on 12/9/2014.



Columbus New Mexico after Villa raid in 1916. This image was copied from <http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Columbus.jpg>, on 12/9/2014.





*This book of historical fiction contains a summary of the Mormon Colonization in northern Mexico and the Mexican Revolution, as well as some biographies of early colonists. It tells the story of a Mormon Colonist boy who is captured by Pancho Villa's raiding party enroute to Columbus, New Mexico, his subsequent hire by the Pershing Punitive Expedition into Mexico searching for Pancho Villa, and their exploits.*

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