

This is an alternate history of a war fought in 2017 between the U.S. and Mexico.

THE U.S.-MEXICAN WAR OF 2017

Second Edition

by Anthony Genualdi

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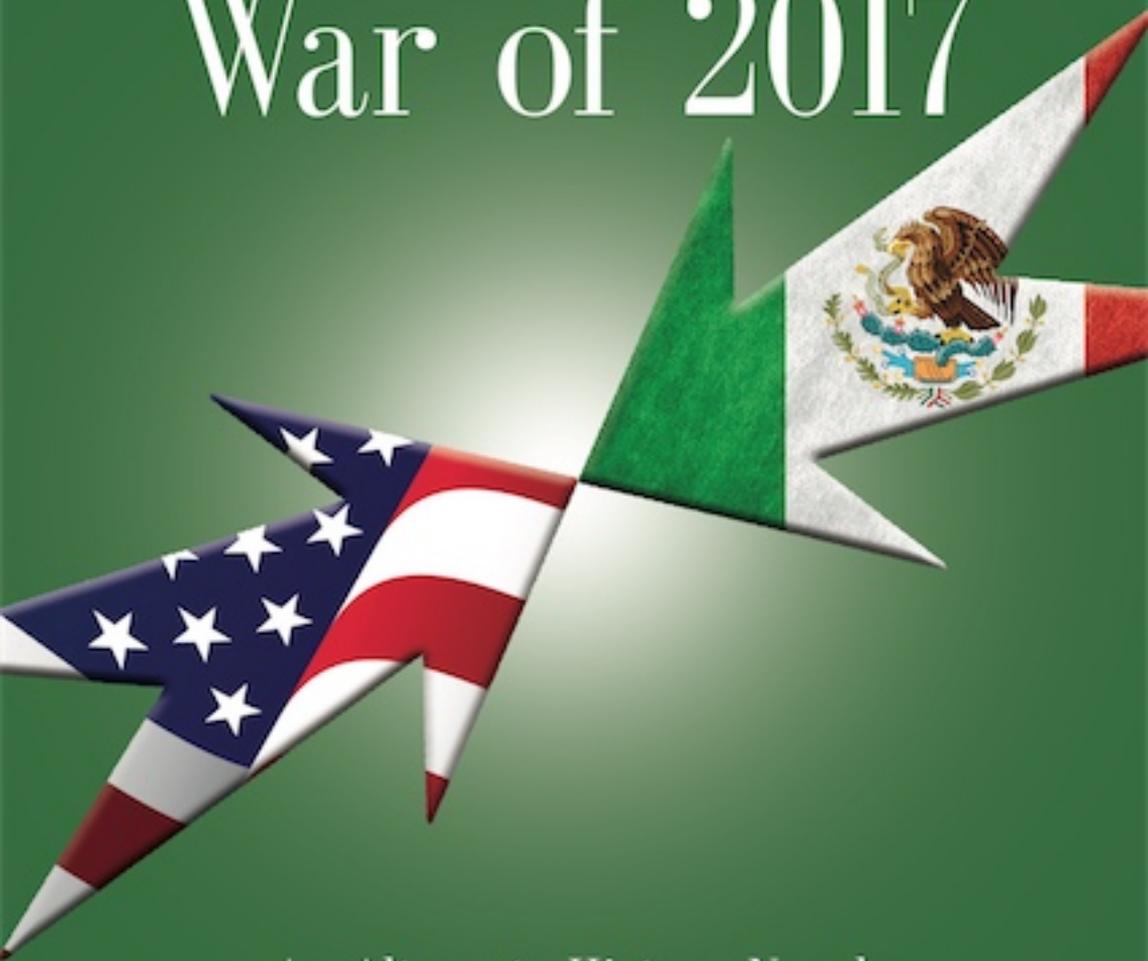
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The

U.S. - Mexican

War of 2017



An Alternate History Novel

Anthony Genualdi

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CHAPTER ONE

SETTING THE STAGE

The causes for the second war between the U.S. and Mexico could be found, just as the roots of World War Two could be found in World War One, with the first U.S.-Mexican War in 1847.

The fledgling United States had annexed the Republic of Texas in 1845 and made it a state. The question of its boundary with Mexico was the great bone of contention between the countries. The Texans and the U.S. claimed it should be fixed at the Rio Grande, whereas the Mexican government said it should be further north at the Nueces River. The Mexican Army tried to enforce that border and ended up fighting American troops between those rivers. This brought about a declaration of war by the U.S. on May 13, 1846.

The American Army in Texas, under Zachary Taylor, not only beat the Mexicans in Texas, but also drove south to take the battle to them in their own front yard. His campaign ended with the taking of the northern city of Monterrey and the victory at Buena Vista. Further south, American General Winfield Scott made an amphibious landing at Veracruz and moved on Mexico City. Mexico City fell on September 13, 1847, after a long struggle.

In addition to losing Texas, Mexico also lost California and New Mexico to American invasion forces, and formally gave them up in the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo on February 2, 1847. They were also to give up more land in Arizona in 1853 under the Gadsden Purchase for \$10 million.

The bitter pill of resentment became harder to swallow over time. It was a hatred that had never abated and was nurtured through the years. Mexican presidents made themselves popular by “standing up” to the U.S. When the “Punitive Expedition” sent to catch Pancho Villa and his men for attacking the town of Columbus, New Mexico in 1916 came, though it failed, it only added to Mexican hatred of the *Yanqui*.

During World War Two, the nations did become close in order to defeat the Axis. Mexico provided a fighter squadron, the *Águilas Aztecas*, or Aztec Eagles, to fight for the liberation of the Philippines in 1945. They also helped to hunt down German U-Boats in the Gulf of Mexico, which were a menace to Mexican oil tankers.

However, in the second half of the 20th Century, relations slowly began to come apart. There had been a real guest worker program in the U.S. up until the 1960s, and after that Mexicans would come illegally to work and, more importantly, to settle in the U.S., especially in the southwest, which had once

been Mexican territory. As we know now, this was a plan by Mexico to reoccupy the area it had lost in the 19th Century.

The movement for *Aztlan*, the homeland for Mexican-Americans in the southwest, had been going on for many years. It had its start in the late 1960s in California universities and with armed militants called the “Brown Berets.” It encouraged illegal aliens to come and settle. The Mexican government made it their policy during the 1980s and ‘90s. This attitude was typified by Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo when, speaking to a gathering of Mexican-American politicians in Texas in 1995, he told them, “You are Mexicans, Mexicans living in the United States!”

Later, President Vicente Fox carried this on policy, lobbying for more rights for Mexicans who were coming north without legal papers, and deriding anyone who dared to put a stop to this sneak invasion as racists. Proposals in the early part of the last decade to build a border wall were condemned as a “new Berlin Wall.” This was changed when it was pointed out that people crossed the Berlin Wall to get away from injustice and poverty, which, of course, was true in Mexico, but would not be admitted.

It was not just illegal aliens who came over the border. Soldiers of the Mexican Army were also making crossings into the U.S. as if they owned the place. Sightings starting in the early ‘90s were followed by shootings of U.S. Border Patrol and Forest Service agents by Mexican soldiers. In the mid-2000s, these incidents also resulted in gunfights between Mexican troops and sheriff’s deputies in Texas. Such things were dismissed by the Mexican government, and sadly, by the U.S. Government, as being the work of rouge soldiers working for drug and illegal alien smugglers.

Patrols by citizens such as the Minuteman Patrol helped to channel some illegals to other areas where they were not setup, and it was also reported that the Mexican government used carpools and vanpools to move people going north illegally to areas where the Minutemen were known not to be.

There were also found by the U.S. Border Patrol many tunnels going under the border, which were used for moving illegals as well as narcotics. They grew more elaborate over time, including concrete floors, electric lighting, and air conditioning. It has since been confirmed by many Mexican troops that Mexican soldiers were moved through these tunnels at the beginning of the war.

These made conditions ripe for the battles to come.

CHAPTER TWO

ENTER THE MADMAN

The razor thin margin of victory by the PAN (Partido de Acción Nacional) over the PRD (Partido de la Revolución Democrática) in 2006, and the subsequent civil disruption campaign by the supporters of the losing party, would come to play a part in the war to come.

Among those who manned the protest lines in Mexico City in the late summer and early fall of 2006 was Eva Reyes Martinez. She was a 23-year old student at the UNAM (Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico) and a fervent PRD supporter.

“We were going to stay forever so we could get justice,” she recalls, “We knew the election was stolen, and we wanted a vote by vote recount. The government, however, was equally determined to put the election behind them and have Felipe Calderon take the place of Vicente Fox, and continue with business as usual.

“We didn’t want to let them,” Reyes recalled. “We were determined to stay and be heard. No way were we going to let the establishment step on us. Many of us were prepared to stay all year, and some of us were even prepared to die for what we believed.”

In September of 2006, the partial recount ordered by the Electoral Court had been carried out, and Calderon declared the winner. PRD supporters left Mexico City, resigned to the outcome. Some, like Reyes, however, came back the next summer, blocking the main thoroughfare, the Paseo de la Reforma and the Zócalo Square in front of the National Palace, where the president had his office. Altogether, some 10,000 strong were blocking the avenue. They chanted and marched by the National Palace, demanding their party be given the victory. By their disruption of business, by blocking the stock exchange entrance, disrupting the 2007 Independence Day parade, and tying up traffic, they grew to be enough of a problem for Presidente Calderon, in September of 2007, to call in the Army to break them up.

“It was like a nightmare,” Reyes recalled. “They came about midnight, led by tanks, just like at Tiananmen Square. Some of us made a human chain, but they drove right over us. They started shooting us too. Not firing over our heads, but machine gunning us. It was so terrible. I turned to run, but they shot me in the back. I thought that was the end. I cried, ‘Oh God, punish them. Do something. Hit them with lightning.’ But, well, I guess they’ll get their just punishment sometime.”

Reyes was taken to the hospital with five bullets in her back and one in her skull. After her life was saved by the doctors, she was arrested and charged with treason. After her trial, she was sent to prison for twenty years, but was let out after just five years.

The bloodshed leads to a new birth of popularity for the PRD. They had martyrs now. They desired to get the power by whatever means. This was to lead to a new party chairman. His name was Alejandro Marcos Lizarraga Olvidez.

Lizarraga Olvidez was, like the party standard bearer before him, a former Mexico City official. He had served in the city government in various functions, ending up as deputy mayor in 2007. He resigned his post in protest of the massacre on the Paseo de la Reforma, in which some 450 people were killed and another 500 wounded.

He became an impassioned champion for the PRD, and for radical reforms in the governing of his country. His ex-wife, Magdalena, recalls:

“Alejandro had become a changed man after the massacre. Before, he sided with the PRD only because it was family tradition. But, after the killing, he wanted to take over the country and punish the murderers. He grew impossible to live with, always ranting about the massacre, and the poor people and all that. I was the one who gave him the nickname ‘The Madman.’ I don’t regret saying it, because he was just crazy after the killings. Our children were not there, but they might as well have been, the way Alejandro kept going on.”

“It grew to the point where at party meetings, when he was giving speeches, he would cry out, ‘Death to the enemies of real Mexicans!’ By that, he came to mean death to America, for he was convinced that the PAN party was a puppet of the United States.”

Among those who heard the fifty-year-old silver-haired firebrand was Diego Altamirano, a journalist from Argentina who had come to cover the story of the massacre, and was kept on by the newspaper that hired him, to chart the rise of Lizarraga Olvidez and his movement. He described the scene on March 1st, 2008.

“This man would cry treason and terror, and no one did anything but cheer him. He denounced the killings of the previous summer, lionizing the victims, and called them, ‘The Martyrs of September.’ He called on the PRD faithful. He called them true sons and daughters of Mexico. He enjoined them to help defeat the PAN and their Yankee handlers. He said also, ‘We need to think of our brothers and sisters north of the border. They will come to need our protection. We must one day go to their aid, and take what we need from the Americans.’”

“He also called for a struggle in Mexico to free the people. He wanted the farmers to be free of NAFTA, and to keep cheap American corn from flooding the country. He called on the military not to obey the leaders of the country. He called on soldiers not to repeat the massacre, and instead, when the people marched, to march with them. He wanted, I’m sure, to get people to fight right away.

“I really felt like running away. I got very scared. I saw the way he whipped up the people in the convention hall. It made me think of the films of Hitler talking to his people. I remembered how they got all mad and hysterical, and I was seeing it here and now. At the same time as I felt terror, I felt I might get carried away with his talk. He was really so forceful. This man Lizarraga was such a magnet. The way he waved and pointed and yelled and then whispered, it was all so effective.

“There are people who call him mad. But, I think he was not so mad, but brilliant, like Hitler was.” It was on this first Saturday night in March that Lizarraga Olvidez would take hold of the far left in Mexico. On the next day, he became the unanimously elected chairman of the PRD in a special election. He used his new power to help rally the country’s disaffected and unemployed. He used that power to pave the way for the most profound shift in Mexico’s politics since the turn of the 21st Century.

Lizarraga Olvidez would galvanize the unions of Mexico and cause massive disruptions. Many strikes occurred in the key industries of manufacturing and petroleum. The effect on the economy rippled around the world and brought this man the attention he needed.

He used the contact with foreign media to portray Mexico as nearing civil war. He spoke of breadlines, and government death squads. However, he did not mention that most of this was caused by his own paramilitaries. Militias of both the left and right started to pop up after 2009. The old Zapatista Liberation Army began to attack again in the state of Chiapas, funded by Lizarraga Olvidez and the PRD. Violence could also be attributed to drug traffickers trying to gain power as they saw Mexico start to come apart at the seams.

The pressure slowly began to build. It looked like mutiny in the Army would come soon, as testified to by Army *Capitan Primero* (First Captain) Agustín Campos Ramos.

“In every military region in Mexico, discipline was breaking down, and officers were shown no respect. There was a lottery for recruits, and no one would show up to see if their number was called. The eighteen-year olds used to do this, and they would also join up voluntarily. But enlistment was down,

posts were dangerously undermanned. This was also true in the Air Force and Navy. The government started to keep men from going home after their term was up.

“This problem was greatest in the First and Twelfth Military Regions, that is, in the Mexico City area and to the west of it. The Sixth Military Region, to the east of Mexico City, and including Veracruz, was all right. Also, near the U.S. border, they were maintaining good numbers.

“But, in fighting the militias, there were problems. Depending on one’s politics, some men would only fight certain fights, not against every militia unit. In the north, for instance, where the PAN party was strong, the right-wing militias weren’t fought with as much gusto as were the PRD aligned groups. Conversely, in the south, the Zapatistas had more to fear from PAN militias than from local Army units, who were more likely to be friendly to them since the soldiers most likely had grown up with these men. The officers wouldn’t have this feeling, since they came from other parts of the country. The enlisted men and noncoms would be from that area, as was government policy for so long, and would more likely fight the strangers in the area than those who were from there.”

Even though civilian firearms were registered with the government through the Army, the militias were getting guns from not only citizens, but from outside the country and even from soldiers and other military men who were sympathetic to their groups. Many surplus weapons, such as German made G3 rifles, which Mexico had disposed of in favor of the domestically produced FX-05, and the ammunition needed to use them, were finding their way to both sides. In the left-wing militia’s case, this was attributable to Lizarraga Olvidez and the PRD.

In this time, also, Lizarraga Olvidez was making friends with the dragon, Communist China, not only for money and weapons for the PRD militias, but for the future, when he would envision coming to power and needing more.

CHAPTER THREE

THE TROUBLED GIANT

While the Mexican left struggled to gain control, their northern neighbor, the United States, tried to come to grips with its own war, halfway around the world.

The U.S. was also a fragmented country, its people divided between those working to stop what was felt to be an unjust war, and those who would prosecute it at the expense of the safety of our own southern boundary.

The lightning rod for the anti-war groups in the U.S. was the man who would be president of the U.S. A coalition of both left- and right-wing opponents of America's adventure in Iraq found itself rallying behind the Reform Party candidate for president in the 2012 election. That man was Joseph Bartelli.

Bartelli was fifty-six years old when he became the first person to break the two-party stranglehold on power in the U.S. with his stunning electoral victory. He was a former Army Colonel, a graduate of West Point, and, later, a real estate salesman. He was a thirty-year veteran who had served in the Gulf Wars, and Afghanistan, as well as several UN peacekeeping tours in the Balkans.

"I could tell people from firsthand experience," President Bartelli said, "that war is only supposed to be a last resort. I'd grown up believing this, and had it instilled in me by my father. As a career officer, I knew the terrible price. I also knew, that whatever the doves might tell you, you do need to fight it when the reason is right. You don't cave in when it's your neck on the line."

Bartelli campaigned not only on "bringing the boys home," but also on doing something about the illegal aliens and the problems he felt they caused. "I'd been to the Balkans, and I saw what happens when people are allowed to let themselves be divided along such lines as religion and ethnicity. I saw, also, the consequences of outside intrusion into a country's affairs, such as Muslim fighters coming from outside the former Yugoslavia to fight for their kind, and I felt that would happen here, not only based on religion, but on language and color.

"This was something I'd become aware of when I was stationed in Texas. There was a whole Mexican community that carried on there as if it were Mexico. I also saw this when I went on leave in California to see my in-laws, and when I retired to Arizona. There was a whole group of people who refused to assimilate and learn English.

“When people try to play the race card on the issue, I know they are wrong. My great-grandparents, and millions like them, came here legally and wanted to be part of the country. They would make their kids learn English, and not teach them the language of the old country. We could never have come together and made the 20th Century into ‘The American Century’ if we’d stayed as a bunch of groups, speaking our own languages, and not come together when it was needed. These Mexicans, and other Latinos, who refused to learn English, and kept their own newspapers, radio and TV stations, they were the ones playing the race card. So, go ahead and call me names! I know I’m in the right.”

Bartelli made getting the troops back home his number one job, and by 2017, the boys were indeed home from Iraq. He wanted to put them on the border with Mexico with the utmost dispatch, but an Establishment led Congress, and a news media aligned with them, tried, if not to get him to entangle the U.S. in another foreign quagmire, to at least draw down the military to a skeleton force.

This led to much acrimony, and calls for impeachment, between the two-party systems that tried to bring down the outsider, and a populist president, whose opinion poll numbers stayed high even when his enemies tried to smear him in many ways. The most verbose of the attacks against President Bartelli came from the leftist Latino groups. Their leadership, which included Ramon Salas Dominguez, leader of the “Brown Berets,” the openly paramilitary group in the U.S. southwest, which aligned itself with Alejandro Marcos Lizarraga Olvidez, tried to portray Bartelli as a racist for trying to stem the flow of illegal aliens from Mexico.

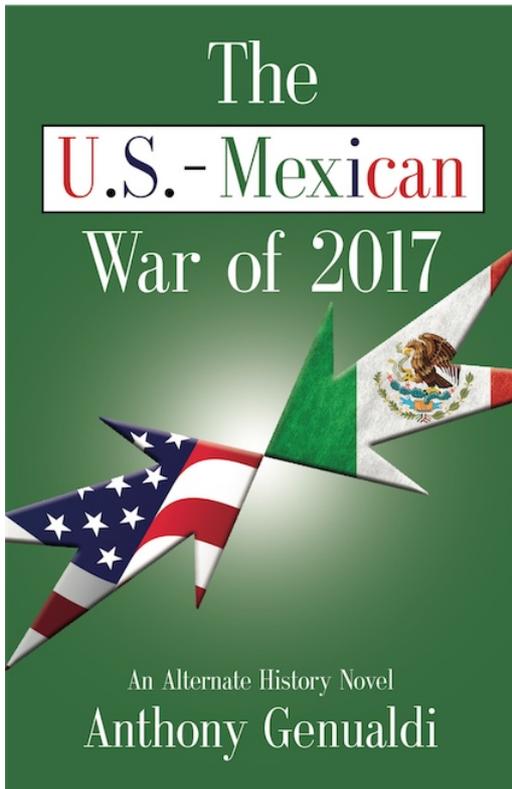
“Bartelli is a mobster with no compassion,” Salas Dominguez said in a 2014 rally in Los Angeles, “He hates and wants to kill all of our *raza*. We must fight for our rights and turn him out and all of his goons.”

Despite the push from the extreme left and the Republican and Democrat parties, Bartelli would not give any ground. “This rhetoric by Salas just proves the need for the U.S. military to be on the border. That’s what it’s there for. I’m not saying there should be martial law in California or anywhere else, but we need to keep the country safe.”

Bartelli did, after the 2014 mid-term elections, move on his own to put the Army and Marines on the border. People flooded the Capitol switchboard and filled their Representatives and Senators e-mail boxes with support for Bartelli, and with various threats for recall votes for anyone who tried to stop him. Congress was forced under popular pressure to let President Bartelli send

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the military to the border with Mexico, which had the effect of stemming the illegal tide. Also, it kept the cork in a bottle which couldn't stand the pressure.



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