

dates aspiring to the presidency. In the September 1957 election, victory went to Dr. François Duvalier, a popular candidate with a moderate reform program. The continuance of chronic economic difficulties and severe political strife has provoked this initially democratic administration to assume an increasingly authoritarian complexion during 1958 and 1959.

HONDURAS

The development of a stable government and a sound economy in Honduras is handicapped by a lack of material resources and the underdevelopment of human resources. The high rate of illiteracy and lack of capital and communications have long hampered her political and economic progress. A minor political thaw came to the country in 1948, when Gen. Tiburcio Carías Andino, strong man since 1932, was succeeded by the more democratically inclined Gen. Juan Manuel Gálvez. Result of the new political freedom was the winning of a plurality in the 1954 presidential election by the popular-backed Liberal Party, led by Dr. Villeda Morales. In the absence of any of the three presidential contestants having a majority, Vice President Dr. Julio Lozano assumed the top political office.

In 1956, in the face of widespread antagonism toward the increasingly unpopular Lozano government, young army officers staged a successful coup d'état. The late 1957 elections were decisively won by the Liberals, whereupon the armed forces stepped aside and allowed the presidency to be assumed by Villeda Morales. The present government, since its assumption of power, has been politically stable and economically viable. It is representative and appears to be responsible and honest.

MEXICO

In contrast to the turbulent post-World War II political histories of most other Latin American nations, that of Mexico has been peaceful and orderly. There have been no crises, no revolutions. Such political calm can be largely attributed to the fact that this nation underwent a liberating political and social upheaval earlier in the century (1910-20). Ever since, the political energies of the nation have been focused upon consolidation of the gains achieved in the great revolution. Slowly but steadily internal order was restored, the people began to be educated, agrarian reform (principally land redistribution) proceeded, economic reconstruction and development took place, the material lot of the masses was improved, political democracy began to become more effective, and the army was relegated to its proper place as defender of the nation and custodian of order.

The radical, social-reform phase of the great revolution ended on the eve of World War II with the termination of the administration of Lázaro Cárdenas. All four of his successors in the presidential office—Ávila Camacho (1940-46), Miguel Alemán (1946-52), Ruiz Cortines (1952-58), and López Mateos (1958-), have been moderates who identified themselves with Mexico's rapidly growing urban middle groups. Since World War II, the economy has grown steadily, and political processes have been conducted quietly and efficiently.