

## Wall Street Wins Presidential Election in Mexico

by Gretchen Small

National Action Party (PAN) candidate and former Coca Cola executive Vicente Fox won a decisive victory in Mexico's July 2 Presidential elections, defeating the candidate of the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), Francisco Labastida, by over six percentage points. Fox's victory was hailed by the U.S. government and the international media as a "triumph of democracy," which, they crow, will put an end to 70 years of "dictatorship" over Mexico by the "authoritarian" PRI, and provide a much-needed boost for globalization's now-shaky grip over Ibero-America. Many called it a political revolution equivalent to the fall of the Berlin Wall.

The rave reviews are not surprising: Fox was backed all the way by London and Wall Street financial interests, and there are good indications that he got a quiet boost from the U.S. government, as well. Fox has been given an assignment. As the *Wall Street Journal* put it on July 5, his job is to use the "political revolution" which got him elected, "to fan the free-market revolution."

Fox has taken up his job with gusto. "A country which does not submit to the rules of the financial markets, is a country which will pay the price," he told *CNN en Español*, in one of the dozens of interviews he has given since his election victory. My mission, he said, is to run "a government which does not get in the way of investors." So blindly submissive is Fox to foreign interests, that he announced publicly that he is hiring *foreign* firms to help him pick his cabinet!

Fox's economic advisers have already been on the phone with Mexico's Wall Street creditors, to assure them that the new administration will "squeeze more bang out of a bare-bones budget," by such measures as quickly selling off the state electricity sector, cutting federal payments to the states, and extending a value-added sales tax to the most basic of necessities: food and medicine.

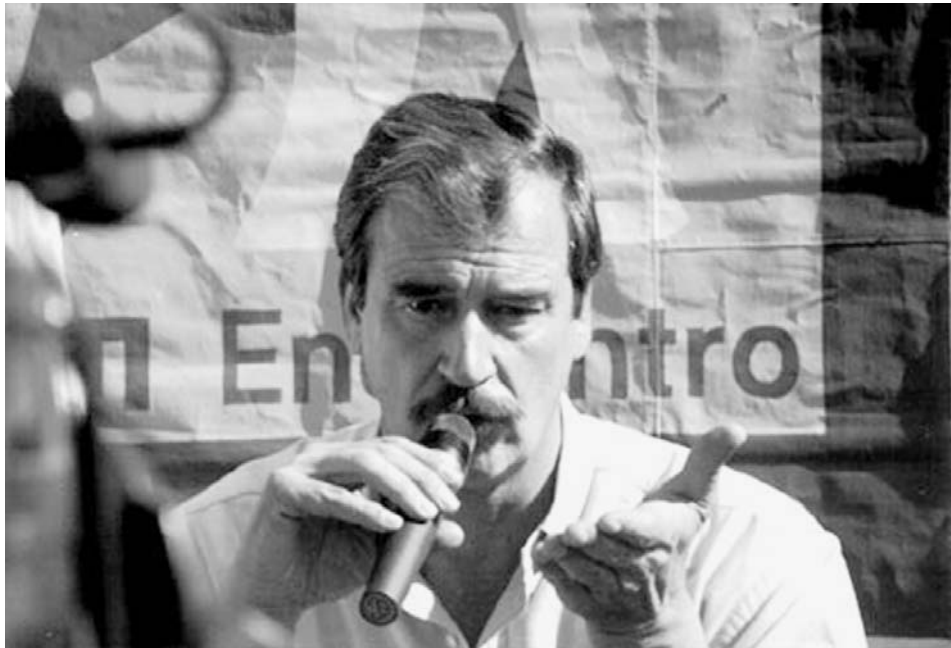
What is on the table, however, is more than simply deepening the looting of Mexico; Fox's controllers are going for nothing less than the final annihilation of Mexico as a nation. With Fox's victory, the Wall Street crowd is "Preparing to Remake Mexico," as the *New York Times* headlined its July 7 lead editorial on Fox's victory.

Fox announced in his first post-victory press conference—to which only foreign correspondents were invited, naturally—that he intends to radically reform the structure of the three branches of government (executive, judicial, and legislative), as well as Mexico's military, its foreign policy, and its economy, in order to make Mexico more enticing for foreign capital (see Mexican MSIA statement, below).

### A Scab Foreign Policy

One of the most dramatic changes Fox promises to make, is that of reversing Mexico's historic policy of fierce adherence to respect for sovereignty and non-intervention into the affairs of other nations. In several interviews, Fox announced that he is "determined to denounce cases of clear violations of human rights, political killings, or behaviors that are not democratic. We need to make some adjustments in the Estrada Doctrine of non-intervention." For decades, Mexican foreign policy, whether under good Presidents or bad, has been constrained by the "Estrada Doctrine," enunciated at the turn of the 20th century, under which Mexico recognizes only nation-states, and not particular governments. That is, that the internal affairs of each nation are matters of their own sovereign concern, and not matters upon which the Mexican government would comment or act.

The *Miami Herald's* chief Ibero-American analyst, globalist ideologue Andrés Oppenheimer, captured the ecstasy which this decision aroused in U.S. State Department circles,



*Mexico's President-elect Vicente Fox. Fox's problem, is that he was elected not so much out of support for his program, but by deep hatred for the very economic program which he now proposes to intensify.*

that a major shift in hemispheric affairs can now be effected. "Mexico has long been the biggest stumbling block for collective efforts to support democracy and human rights" in the Americas, he wrote. Signalling that Fox will play ball all the way, a senior Fox foreign policy adviser assured Oppenheimer that if Fox had been President of Mexico at the time of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States in Windsor, Ontario in June, "Fox would have taken a very different position. He would not have fought against the U.S. proposal to condemn [Peruvian President Alberto] Fujimori's re-election."

### **A North American Common Auschwitz?**

According to Fox's vision, the radical restructuring of Mexico's government is but a step in laying the foundation for a future North American Common Market, which would end the sovereignty of Canada, the United States, and Mexico alike, some 20 to 30 years hence. Fox told *CNN en Español* that he looks forward to the day in which the three countries "come to have a common North American parliament . . . open borders . . . consistent plans for our natural resources, of ecology, economic development . . . a single currency, and a single central bank."

Texas Governor George W. Bush was one of the first to welcome Fox's victory, which he called "historic." Small wonder. Fox is a New Age remake under a conservative profile, of the policies of Carlos Salinas de Gortari, the former Mexican President (1988-94) who was President George Bush's partner in erecting the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which has decimated the physical economies of the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

NAFTA was conceived as a stepping stone toward a full

North American Common Market, a scheme cooked up by the Henry Kissinger and New York Council on Foreign Relations crowd back in the 1970s. Fox told CNN that he has already discussed his eliminate-the-borders proposals with U.S. Congressmen, members of the Clinton cabinet, and "with Henry Kissinger himself." He now looks forward to a partnership with a President George W. Bush come next year, to finish the job, and turn the entire region from Canada to Mexico into one giant slave-labor Auschwitz.

What Fox has already proposed to the United States, is that together, the two countries implement fascist controls on Mexican labor—now, not 20 years hence. While he has told Mexicans that he is requesting that the United States significantly increase the number of visas it issues for Mexicans (currently limited to 70,000 a year), less publicity has been given to what he has "offered" in return. Those details were leaked in the July 7 *Wall Street Journal*, which reported that it had received a copy of the Fox campaign working paper on immigration policy. Fox is prepared to accept "co-responsibility in regulating the flow of undocumented migrants" to the United States, the document states, which "means restricting in some ways the free travel of Mexicans within the Republic." Various "dissuasive" measures are proposed to stop migration. The Mexican government would strip illegal migrants of their rights to *ejido* lands (communal farmland), while family members who remained behind would be declared ineligible for any programs for the poor.

As "carrots" to keep people within Mexico, the Fox team proposes to offer special financial and tax incentives for foreign investors to set up *maquiladora* assembly plants in the interior of the country, rather than along the border where the majority are now located. "It's not very nice, but if you can

get 250,000 legal visas, then for the country as a whole it's good," one of Fox's advisers told the *Journal*.

The interests running Fox have like-minded plans for U.S. citizens, as well. On May 5 of this year, the *Houston Chronicle* published an article by the New York Council on Foreign Relations's Walter Russell Mead, outlining steps to deepen NAFTA. One of his proposals, for "Medicare transportability," is outright Hitlerian. Mead proposes, that to cheapen U.S. Medicare costs over the next decades, the U.S. and Mexican governments should reach an agreement under which "millions" of retired Americans would be driven into Mexico—where costs are low because its people have been sold into slavery under NAFTA—as a "cheap and relatively easy" way to cut costs.

### Not So Quick, There

Talk is one thing; it is another to implement such policies. There is an element of bluff in these proclamations that the proud nation of Mexico is soon to find itself ripped to pieces. With the global financial system nearing terminal blow-out, Wall Street hopes they can terrify Mexicans into capitulating without a fight, before they have time to regroup, and rally to join the nations acting to defend themselves. Although Fox seeks to co-govern now, he is not to be inaugurated until Dec. 1.

Fox's problem, is that he was elected not so much out of support for his program, but by deep hatred for the very economic program which he now proposes to intensify. The voters who swept the PRI out of office came largely from the urban middle class and new young voters, not allied to any political machine. They turned against the PRI as the party which for 12 years had implemented NAFTA, which destroyed Mexican agriculture, replaced the country's already-limited industrial manufacturing base with *maquiladoras*, drove tens of millions of the middle class into bankruptcy and poverty, and tens of millions of already-poor into outright starvation.

Sixteen million Mexicans voted for Fox (42.6% of the turn-out), but 18.5 million people voted for the PRI and for Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas's Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD) combined. The PRI received 36% of the vote; the PRD, 16.6%. And, while Fox's "Alliance for Change" coalition (formed by the PAN and the small Mexican Green Party) won a majority of the seats in the Mexican Chamber of Deputies, and won the two governorships that were up for re-election (Morelos, and Fox's home state of Guanajuato), the PRI held on to the largest share of the Senate seats (60), and the PRI still governs 21 of the 31 Mexican states.

The PRD is preparing itself to capture the leadership of the left-wing forces for that right-left battle which it would hope to see explode in the country. The big question is, what will become of the PRI? Leadership changes and maybe even a split are likely, following its beating at the polls, but reports of its death are certainly premature.

The fundamental divide within PRI ranks during its past

18 years of backing International Monetary Fund policies, has been the battle between the technocrats, who argue, like Fox, that finance capital rules the world, and so-called "dinosaurs," as the nationalists in the PRI who believe in national economics and real constituency politics are known. Recognizing that "the fate of President-elect Vicente Fox's ambitious reform program hinges on the future of the defeated PRI," according to the July 10 *Wall Street Journal*, Wall Street is concentrating its attention—and undoubtedly, some of its money—on who wins the battle now raging between those two factions.

Given that a straight technocrat takeover of the PRI remains politically difficult, Wall Street is promoting the ascension of Roberto Madrazo, the Governor of the state of Tabasco, as an acceptable new PRI head. Although Madrazo parades as a "dinosaur," he has long been known as a key operative of the filthy Carlos Salinas machine.

Others, such as former Puebla Governor Manuel Bartlett, have called upon nationalists in the PRI to block a drive by "economic groups" with big money, to seize control of the party. The PRI "lost its moorings" when it bought into the idea that neo-liberal, free trade economics was the only option, Bartlett stated in several prominent interviews following the Fox victory. This was "an epidemic. . . . International bodies like the IMF, were pressuring all the countries to follow." He dismissed the "lynching environment" against the PRI, as driven by the fact that "the PRI is an obstacle, because it has been a nationalist party." The only way it can preserve its historic force now, Bartlett is saying, is for it now to put itself forward as the *opposition* to Fox.

## A Wolf in Fox's Clothing: The Reelection of Carlos Salinas in Mexico

*The following statement was released by the Ibero-American Solidarity Movement (MSIA).*

Vicente Fox's election victory on July 2, confirms that the final phase of Salinism has begun. The idea of "change" is a cruel joke with which Fox's candidacy was sold to a population tired of the neo-liberal, free trade policies imposed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank. With the "democracy" party over, his economic and political program remains as the purest continuation of Salinism. In fact, this is nothing less than the reelection of the most despised former President of Mexico, Carlos Salinas de Gortari.

A full one-quarter of the Mexican electorate voted for Fox, of the National Action Party (PAN). They voted for the executioner of all those who swallowed the "Fox populi"