

## Bureaucrats and Educators: The Governance of Basic Education in Mexico

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## The National Teachers Union

The Mexican corporatist system

SNTE, founded by the state, not the workers

Strong Leadership


## Corporatism, Philippe Schmitter

Corporatism can be defined as a system of interest representation in which the constituent units are organized into a limited number of singular, compulsory, noncompetitive, hierarchically ordered and functionally differentiated categories, recognized or licensed (if not created) by the state and granted a deliberate representational monopoly within their respective categories in exchange for observing certain controls on their selection of leaders and articulation of demands and supports.

Schmitter, Philippe C. 1974. Still the Century of Corporatism? *The Review of Politics*, 36, 1: 85-131.


### SNTE's Corporatist Features

- Compulsory
- Noncompetitive
- Hierarchically ordered
- Functionally differentiated categories
- Ruled by strong groups and caciques (peculiarity)

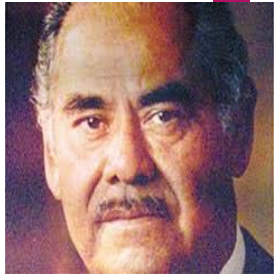


Launching Ceremony  
 Founded in December 1943; official recognition, March 1944

Jesús Robles Martínez  
 First labor boss of SNTE  
 General secretary 1949-1952  
 Strong man (cacique) 1949-1972



Carlos Jonguitud Barrios  
 General secretary 1972-1976  
 Cacique 1975-1989 (Revolutionary Vanguard of Teachers)



Elba Esther Gordillo


1989-2013

General secretary, 1989, 1994.

Cacique, 1995-2013



The power and the Authority



Colonization

- ▶ In early 1950's SNTE's leadership designed a long term strategy to colonize the bureaucratic structures of basic education
- ▶ 1946 School principals
- ▶ 1951-1954 Inspectors and sector heads
- ▶ 1955-1964 All director generals in the states; Undersecretariat for elemental education
- ▶ 1993... most secretaries of education in the states
- ▶ 2006-2012 the jewel of the Crown, the Undersecretariat for basic education (the son-in-law of Ms. Gordillo)

From teacher to functionary  
Ideal traits of the professional bureaucrat

Weber	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge of their field</li> <li>• Commitment to their work</li> </ul>
Other authors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dedication to service</li> <li>• Punctuality</li> </ul>
Legal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proper treatment to citizens</li> <li>• Respect for the law and loyalty to the institution</li> </ul>

## Supremacy of SNTE cadres on the governance of basic education

**SEP**

- ▶ The Peña Nieto Administration began a decolonization of the Federal Department of Public Education, in December 2012.
- ▶ Nowadays if somebody loyal to SNTE still is there, is invisible.
- ▶ Most of the functionaries are teachers by training, most of them with higher degrees

**States**

- ▶ The secretaries of education of 20 states were product of "negotiations" between Ms. Gordillo and the governor of the state.
- ▶ Most of the undersecretaries for basic education are SNTE cadres.

## Dead wrong

Employees of Mexican schools, '000, 2014

Category	Value ('000)
Total	2,247
Actual teachers	978.1
Other staff	971.0
On leave	30.7
Figments of the imagination	39.2
Quit, retired or died	115.0
Have another job	113.3

Sources: INEGI; Ministry of Education

The outcome of colonization

## Conclusion

The colonization process took decades

The decolonization may take years

Decolonize will create political problems

The principal aim of the Peña Nieto education reform is to recover the control of basic education governance

## Paying debts

