

The Mexican election: Third time lucky for AMLO?



After twelve years of campaigning, the controversial populist looks set finally to clinch the presidency, but what might his election mean for Mexico

Tuesday, 19 June, 15.00 UK time

The Mexican election: Third time lucky for AMLO?

After twelve years of campaigning, the controversial populist looks set finally to clinch the presidency, but what might his election mean for Mexico

Mexico's ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) is on course for a crushing defeat and President Enrique Peña Nieto looks set to leave office as one of the most unpopular leaders the country has had. Corruption allegations, soaring violence, controversial reforms and a breakdown of relations with the United States have marked his presidency, feeding the rhetoric of populist challenger Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador (AMLO) and his National Regeneration Movement (MORENA). Barring a shock result on polling day, AMLO will take the presidency, raising major questions over Mexico's future, not least whether he will live up to the worst fears of his critics and the hopes of the most radical elements within his party, or whether pragmatism will win out.

- Is there any chance that a challenger may still defeat AMLO?
- What are the prospects for Peña Nieto's liberalising reforms under an AMLO government?
- How business friendly or hostile is an AMLO government likely to be?
- What are the likely drivers of insecurity and how might a radical shift in security policies affect violence levels?
- What are the prospects for the future of NAFTA and of broader US-Mexico relations?

Share your thoughts on the above and raise anything else that concerns or excites you about the upcoming elections in our conference call on Tuesday, 19 June, 15:00 UK, 10.00 EDT.

Chair

Paul Maidment, Director of Analysis and Managing Editor, Oxford Analytica

Paul Maidment joined Oxford Analytica in December 2014 as the Director of Analysis and Managing Editor of the Oxford Analytica Daily Brief.

He is an award-winning journalist who founded the New York-based digital editorial consultancy Bystander Media in 2010. A pioneer in combining digital and print journalism, he was previously Editor of Forbes.com and Executive Editor of Forbes, transforming a magazine website into the leading online destination for business, finance and up-scale lifestyle. Before joining Forbes in 2001, Paul was the founding Editor of the Financial Times' award-winning web site FT.com and Assistant Editor of the newspaper. His early career as an editor and foreign correspondent encompassed The Economist, the Asian Wall Street Journal and the BBC in the U.K, the U.S. and Asia — a depth of journalistic experience and breadth of media that gives him a unique perspective on the changes transforming publishing and the world economy. Paul was inducted into the Digital Hall of Fame in New York in 2010.

Panelists

Emma Campos-Redman, Independent Political Risk Analyst - Latin America

Emma Campos-Redman is an independent risk analyst based in the UK. She specialises in political, social, and security risks in the Americas, in particular her native Mexico. She writes regularly for risk consultancies, insurance companies, and specialised publications covering Latin American issues in the US, Europe and Mexico. During her 10-year career with Control Risks, Emma travelled extensively in the region providing her with insights about difficult issues companies and business executives face in Latin America

Raymundo Campos Vazquez, El Colegio de México, Centro de Estudios Económicos

Dr. Raymundo M. Campos Vazquez has a PhD in Economics from the University of California, Berkeley. He is a Professor at El Colegio de México Centro de Estudios Económicos in Mexico City. His specializations are Applied Microeconomics, Labour Economics and Public Sector Economics. He has several publications in national and international journals. He was a visiting research scholar at the Center for Labour Economics at UC Berkeley during the academic year 2016-2017.

Monica Serrano, Professor of International Relations, El Colegio de México, Centro de Estudios Internacionales

Mónica Serrano is Research-Professor of International Relations at El Colegio de México, Senior Fellow at Ralph Bunche Institute, and Senior Research Associate at the Centre for International Studies, Oxford University. She was educated in Mexico, at El Colegio de México and received her Doctorate (DPhil) from Oxford University. Previously she was Coordinator of the North American Studies Programme at El Colegio de México, Executive Director of the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, a member of the International Advisory Board of the FRAME Project “Fostering Human Rights Among European (External and Internal) Policies” and co-editor of Global Governance. Dr. Serrano served as Coordinator of the World Economic Forum’s Human Rights and Protection Council, and as founder and coordinator of Mexico’s Security Studies Group. She has participated in several international research projects, and has acted as consultant to various national scientific bodies on research funding evaluation and project reviews. Dr Serrano’s research interests are in the International Relations of Latin America and North America, with particular reference to international institutions, security, human rights, and transnational crime. Her current research focuses on drug policy and the last generation of human rights violations in Mexico and Latin America.

Laurence Whitehead, Senior Research Fellow, Nuffield College, University of Oxford

Laurence Whitehead is a Senior Research Fellow in Politics at Nuffield College, Oxford University, and until 2015 was Senior Fellow of the College. During 2005/6 he served as Acting Warden there. In 2011/2 he served as Senior Proctor of the University.

He has written extensively on Latin American politics and topics relating to democracy and democratisation. His most recent edited publications include; *Let the People Rule? Direct Democracy in the 21st Century* (ECPR Studies in European Political Science, 2017) edited jointly with Saskia Ruth and Yanina Welp, and *Illiberal Practices: Territorial Variance within Large Federal Democracies* (Johns Hopkins UP, 2016) which he co-edited with Jacqueline Behrend.

He is editor of an Oxford University Press series, ‘Studies in Democratization’ and President of the Conseil Scientifique of the Institut des Ameriques in Paris, and belongs to the steering committee of the Red Eurolatinoamericana de Gobernabilidad para el Desarrollo.