

Welcome to Volume 2 of *The Toro Historical Review*!

The research articles contributed to this issue emerged out of Dr. Talamante's Fall 2016 History 490 Senior Seminar, the capstone course in the Department of History. Introductory readings addressed a broad overview of revolutionary movements and analysis by historians to help students understand the evolution of revolutionary ideas in modern and recent history. Students responded to a CFP for our *Global Revolutionary Studies Mini-Conference: Evolving Revolutionary Frameworks for Social Justice*. The articles in Volume 2 mainly address questions regarding twentieth-century revolutions and movements for justice.

The revolutions explored deal with a range of shorter and longer term issues that relate to countries achieving independence from European control. The influence of the United States also came to bear upon these revolutions. While Mexico enjoyed independence from Spain for nearly a century before its revolution, remaining issues of economic and social justice came to a head under the extended presidency of Porfirio Diaz. Anysse Lopez examines the political and social struggles for land reform during the Mexican Revolution and the road to Mexican economic recovery and growth initiated by the Constitution of 1919.

Aurora Lara's research on the Nicaraguan Revolution allowed her to better understand her mother's experiences as a revolutionary, including eventual motivations for immigration to the United States. Lara demonstrates how the revolutionaries went beyond guerilla tactics and intimidation. She focuses on their use of political and social movements tying together the nationalist, women's and anti-imperialist movements.

The work of M. Anees Aref and Lauren Saldana places the focus on the Iranian Revolution. Aref's research unpacks how the revolutionary rhetoric of the Ayatollah Khomeini combined elements of Shia Islamic critiques and anti-imperialism to dominate the independence movement and establish the Islamic Republic of Iran. Saldana's work looks at revolutionary expectations and experiences of women under the Islamic Republic. The women supported independence but did not foresee how revolutionary success would create a government that challenged their own independence.

Each paper demonstrates how revolutionary movements confronted existing social and political injustices in the wake of previous foreign control and influence. Revolutionary governments did not necessarily succeed in eliminating social and political injustices and, at times, created new forms of oppression. At

the same time, the authors reveal how some individuals and groups found a new voice in society and became part of the forces for revolutionary change.