

The Mexican Parallel Voting System and Institutional Changes in Democratisation

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ABSTRACT

Today people have seen remarkable changes in the political language system that defines political life in different countries, reflective of both economic shifts in the global economy and technological competition forms as well as the concomitant moves in the political systems of most countries. Democratization as a process of exploring, insisting upon, and institutionalizing democratic practice has become a basic judgment on the direction of the national political landscape not only the normal operation of the domestic political system and the important ways by which people view public life today. This chapter seeks to analyze the sources and consequences of governance of the country's insecurity and explore policy and institutional alternatives for its mitigation facing a responsible international political situation.

Keywords: Political science, Democratisation, Electoral system, Parallel voting system.

1. INTRODUCTION

The current electoral system in Mexico is a parallel electoral system. Current studies of the Mexican electoral system, such as Todd Eisenstadt, Jonathan Hiskey, and Vikram Chand, as well as the long-standing arguments of such Mexican scholars as Alberto Aziz Nas-sif and Tonatiuh Guillén López, academics generally agree that Mexico's transition would be propelled by anti-centrist forces. Caroline Beer equally makes an important contribution to this approach to Mexican democratization. Changes in Mexico's electoral system reflect the continuous improvement of its democracy and should be correlated in scholarship with its democratization process. In order to understand the current Mexican electoral system and the link between the electoral system and the process of democratization, this paper will provide an overview of the topic through three aspects: the mainstream electoral system in the world today, the current electoral system in Mexico, and the process of transformation from authoritarian to democratic politics in Mexico.

2. MAINSTREAM ELECTORAL SYSTEMS IN THE WORLD POLITICS TODAY

Before conducting a study of Mexico's electoral system, it is necessary to have an understanding of the current mainstream electoral systems in the world. Nowadays, the mainstream election mode in the world is roughly divided into three types: majority system, proportional representation system, and mixed system.

Among them, The Majority System (the majority elected system is the simplest and oldest method of election, which votes for candidates or political parties and wins the election) is divided into the Relative Majority System (also known as the First-past-the-post system). It refers to the electoral system in which a candidate can be elected only by obtaining the largest number of votes in a constituency without a majority) and the Supermajority System (Supermajority System means that a candidate must obtain more than half of the valid votes in a constituency to be elected).

The Proportional Electoral System is also known as the "Proportional Representation System" or the "Proportional Representation Election System". The core of the system is the proportional

allocation of seats based on the number of votes cast for each party contesting the election. It ensures that the number of seats in Parliament for each party is roughly proportional to the number of votes it receives in national or regional elections. The system is designed to achieve wider political representation and diversity and to ensure that the voices of different political views and social groups are represented in Parliament.

The Mixed Electoral System is further divided into the Mixed-Member Proportional representation, MMP (in the total number of seats obtained by each party according to the percentage of votes obtained by the second vote, it must also subtract the constituency seats obtained by the first vote, and the difference is the number of seats allocated to each party. It is closer to a proportional representation parliamentary election system. (Germany, New Zealand, Italy) and the Parallel Voting System\Mixed-Member Majoritarian systems, MMM (also known as the two-vote round system, that is, the left side of a ballot is the first vote. The second vote is on the right. The first vote is cast directly by voters for candidates in the constituency, and half of all members are elected by a plurality system. The second vote goes to the political party, which presents a list of state candidates in each state. In Mexico, parties allocate seats to be elected by proportional representation according to their share of the vote, regardless of the number of seats each party has already won in a single constituency, as opposed to federalism[1].

The electoral system currently used in Mexico is the Parallel Voting System, which is a mixed electoral system. Also known as a Mixed-Member Majoritarian system (MMM), the Supplementary Member system (SUP or SM), is a two-vote single-constituency electoral system. Seats elected from constituencies are counted separately from those obtained by parties in proportion to their votes.

3. THE CURRENT ELECTORAL SYSTEM IN MEXICO

This paper will deal with parallel voting in Mexico from four points: basic information; protection of voters' rights; nomination of candidates; and procedures and rules for the organization of voting.

3.1 Basic Information

In Mexico, the vote is universal, free, secret, direct, personal and not transferable. All persons

with Mexican nationality, by birth or by naturalization, who are 18 years of age or older, and have an honest way of living, have the right to vote.

In Mexico, the exclusion from suffrage is consistent with most countries and includes minors, --those under the age of 18, those who have been convicted while serving their sentences, those who have been deprived of political rights for life, and those deemed incapacitated by the courts. It is worth noting that the clergy in Mexico are excluded from suffrage.

3.2 Protection of Voters' Rights

Mexico's protection of the rights of the electorate is primarily reflected in its Constitution, electoral system, and the relevant laws and supervisory bodies. However, it is important to note that when elections are held in Mexico, four basic instruments appear in the Federal Voter Registry: the General Electoral Roll, the Voter Roll, the Photo Voting Card, and the Voter List. With these four basic instruments, the coverage and reliability of the electoral power are guaranteed to a great extent at the practical level.

In addition to a relatively perfect registration system for voters, the Establishment of electoral facilities and the timely updating of voter registration information also effectively protect voters' rights.

In this way, while confirming the real identity of voters, it can also provide convenience for voters to vote as much as possible. At the same time, a fundamental measure to ensure the protection of voter rights is to ensure the Coverage and Reliability of the Electoral Roll and the Voters Lists.

3.3 Nomination of Candidates

Candidates for the Senate and the House of Representatives are designated by the political parties and then run for election in the relevant district or state. Elections for both the House and Senate are scheduled for the first Sunday in July of an election year.

Both the Senate and the House of Representatives carry out "bundled" elections, that is, each candidate for the Senate and the House must participate in the election with one of their own alternate members. When a member of the Senate and the House is elected, his or her alternate member is automatically elected, and when a

member of the House is defeated, his or her alternate member is also automatically defeated. When a member of the Senate and the Houses is unable to exercise his or her office for some reason, the alternate member automatically succeeds him or her. An alternate Member may be re-elected if he or she does not become a full Member during the term; However, if he becomes a regular lawmaker, he is not allowed to run for the next term regardless of the length of his term. Similarly, a Member of the current session may not be elected as an alternate Member of the next session of the same House.

3.4 Procedures and Rules for the Organisation of Voting

First, it is necessary to be clear about Mexico's electoral procedures: the first is to determine the type of election and eligibility; the second is the formation of election commissions: before elections, states and constituencies form election commissions to organize and administer the election process; the third is to publish the list of candidates: Candidates are required to register with the Election Commission and submit relevant materials, including personal resumes, academic certificates, political platforms, etc. After vetting, the list of candidates will be published in state media; the fourth is the publicity and campaign activities: Candidates may carry out publicity and campaign activities within the specified time, including advertising in the media, giving speeches, participating in debates, etc.; the fifth is the voting and counting: On election day, voters go to the polls to cast their ballots, and the Election Commission is responsible for overseeing the voting process and counting the votes; the sixth is the announcement of results and swearing-in: The results of the election will be published in the official media, and the elected members will be required to take the oath of office within a specified period to begin the new parliamentary term.

Then there is the relevant information on the rules. The Federal Parliament is divided into two chambers, which exercise legislative power. Members of both houses may not be re-elected but may run for re-election in alternate terms. The Senate is composed of 128 senators. Of these, 96 are elected by majority representation in 31 states and Federal districts, and the remaining 32 are elected by proportional representation. The House of Representatives consists of 500 members, of whom 300 are elected by majority vote and 200 by

proportional representation of political parties for a three-year term.

4. THE PROCESS OF TRANSFORMATION FROM AUTHORITARIAN TO DEMOCRATIC POLITICS IN MEXICO

Mexico's transition from an authoritarian to a democratically elected government is described and analyzed in this paper by describing and analyzing three parts: the background of Mexico's transition from an authoritarian to a democratic government; the electoral reforms of the Salinas government; and the electoral reforms of the Zedillo government and the formation of the current system.

4.1 The Background of Mexico's Transition from an Authoritarian to a Democratic Government

The Mexican Revolution began in 1910. During the ensuing two decades of civil war, the institutional revolutionary party (Partido Revolucionario Institucional) came to power. From 1929, when the (PRI) came to power, to 1988, Mexico's political situation remained relatively stable during the electoral process of more than half a century.

There are two reasons. First, the main reason is that from the 1930s to the 1980s, Mexico pursued the import-substitution industrialization model and sustained economic growth, which accumulated a large number of resources for Mexico, and the PRI allocated these resources to voters, especially rural voters in remote areas and unionized workers, to win votes with material benefits. In this way, the PRI has gained popular support. The second reason is that before the 1980s, Mexico's people had a low sense of political participation, the opposition was too weak, and the PRI resorted to electoral fraud to gain control of power.

However, due to the energy crisis in 1973, and the debt crisis that erupted in 1982, Mexico's political impact. In the second half of the 20th century, Mexico witnessed several civil rights movements, such as the 1986 Chihuahua electoral revolt, the 1988 presidential election revolt, the Green Movement, and the *El Bason* Movement.

In the 1988 presidential election, when the vote count showed Cardenas ahead of Salinas, the computers crashed, delaying the announcement for

a week, giving the PRI enough time to tamper with the results. Popular discontent with the PRI grew in the wake of the 1988 election fraud. The opposition party on popular discontent by boycotting the inauguration in Salinas and organising demonstrations outside the venue. The legitimacy of the Salinas Government is seriously challenged

4.2 The Electoral Reforms of the Salinas Government

During Carlos Salinas six years in office (1988-1994), Salinas sought changes to ensure the legitimacy of his political party. In 1989, 1993, and 1994, Salinas carried out three electoral system reforms to redefine the distribution of parliamentary seats. Reforms have been made to the composition of the federal electoral institutions, their responsibilities, and electoral procedures, such as voter registration, election monitoring, and the handling of electoral disputes. This was the beginning of the emergence of the current Mexican electoral system.

4.2.1 The Allocation of Seats

In 1987, the proportional representation system was expanded from 100 to 200 seats, with 300 of the 500 seats being elected by single-member constituencies and the remaining 200 by proportional representation.

With the PRI able to win almost every single electoral district, it holds two-thirds of the seats in the Chamber of Deputies. PRI can work without consultation with the opposition party, which serves as a foil to Mexican democracy.

1988 After the election events, in February 1989, a hearing was held on the issue of electoral system reform, attended by representatives of the Senate, the House of Representatives, and political parties, and on June 27, 1989, a special session was held to propose establishment of a local government agency - the Federal Election Association, establishment of an electoral tribunal to settle electoral disputes, the Senate and the House of Representatives, each calling themselves the electoral college, determining the legitimacy of the election, and promulgating the Governability Clause.

In the 1993 electoral reform, the "governability clause" was abolished, preventing the PRI from holding more than two-thirds of the seats in the Senate and House. After 1994, the PRI could not

change the constitution without the cooperation of other parties. There has been a gradual shift towards proportional representation.

4.2.2 Independence and Professionalization of Electoral Institutions

In 1990, the Salinas government established the Federal Election Institute (IFE), whose main organizations were: the general council, general executive board, general direction

In 1994 the six votes-councillors were replaced by who were elected by the House of Representatives from lists submitted by political parties by a two-thirds majority, avoiding the PRI's manipulation of the citizen-councillors.

In short, in the three electoral reforms, the IFE has gradually become independent from the government and theoretically ensures the authenticity of election results as much as possible.

4.2.3 Open and Fair of the Election Process

Voter card improvement: The voter card must be affixed with the voter's photo, with the voter's name, address, voter ID number, cashier, and signature. Ballot papers will not be issued until voter cards are checked.

Increased election monitoring: In 1988, the interest of the urban population in the electoral process increased. In this context, civil society organizations were formed. The 1991 Mid-term elections saw the emergence of a national election monitoring organization represented by Civil Unions (Alianza Civica). The 1993 reform established the preconditions for the operation of such organizations and the obligations to be fulfilled, emphasizing that their activities should not be contrary to the relevant principles of the Constitution. In 1994, 81,620 Mexican citizens registered as election observers, and 16 organizations recognized by the United Nations Electoral Assistance Office.

4.3 The Electoral Reforms of the Zedillo Government and the Formation of the Current System

The 1994 election is considered the last legitimate and honest election in Mexican history. Ernesto Zedillo (Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de Leon)

was elected. Domestic developments pushed Zedillo to further accelerate the democratization process. At the same time, external factors: the democratic transition in other Latin American countries, and Mexico's accession to the North American Free Trade Agreement, international institutions to strengthen the monitoring of Mexico's political legitimacy.

The main elements of the 1996 electoral reforms were: no party could have more than two-thirds of the vote; The Federal Election Commission became an independent agency, and the Federal Election Court became autonomous; Voters in the Federal District can elect their local government, directly electing the mayor of Mexico City; Expand the number of senators based on proportional representation; Political parties could get more free publicity on radio and television; Reduce the high proportion of representatives in rural areas and reconstruct 300 electoral districts. In addition, Zedillo announced an end to the Assignment system (dedazo system), deciding to end the practice of having the incumbent president designate the next presidential candidate, starting with him.

In the presidential elections of July 2000, the National Action Party Candidate Vicente Fox Quesada (Vicente Fox Quesada) was elected president. Ending 71 years of rule by the PRI, Mexico's political party system has been dominated by one party to a three-party — Institutional Revolutionary Party (Partido Revolucionario Institucional), National Action Party (Partido Acción Nacional), Democratic Revolutionary Party (Partido revolucionario democrático) situation. It has made a successful transition from one-party authoritarianism to democracy.

In 2012 Mexico Commitment Alliance (Compromiso por Mexico), Institutional Revolutionary Party, and Green Ecology Party the proposed candidate, Enrique Peña Nieto (Enrique Peña Nieto), was elected president. The (PRI) returned to power and also became the largest party in the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress, promoting the second rotation of political parties in Mexico, so as to bring the national political development process to a new level. For Mexico, the realization of the second round not only marks the initial results of Mexico's progressive constitutional democracy, but also indicates that it has completely bid farewell to the one-party dominant system, and the current multi-party competition system has been consolidated.

5. CONCLUSION

The evolution of Mexico's electoral system reflects the democratization process of its government, which has struck a balance between the following four aspects.

The first is that it creates a balance between government efficiency, authority and representation. In a period of rapid economic development, the contradiction between the efficiency, authority, and representativeness of the government may not be obvious, but once the period of economic stagnation, this contradiction will be highlighted. The emergence of the parallel voting system, to a certain extent, takes into account the authority and representativeness of the election system, alleviates this contradiction in a certain period and scope.

The second is that it creates a balance between singular and plural constituencies. Balance of singular and plural constituencies. In a less polarized society, the more concentrated opinions of the odd-numbered constituencies can effectively integrate public opinion, and the elected representatives are more closely linked to the constituencies. However, due to the unique national conditions of Mexico, in a society obviously influenced by traditional factors, various parties, clans, groups, classes, regions, and other factors affect the society. Simply emphasizing the odd number of electoral districts will cause extreme polarization, and it is difficult to effectively represent public opinion. Plural electoral districts give voters the opportunity to vote for different political parties, which can reduce the risk of choice for voters, promote the rationalization of voters, reduce the polarization of opposition, and promote the checks and balances between political parties.

The parallel voting system combines the advantages of these two constituencies to a certain extent, and at the same time can avoid the chaos of the election. The "one person, two votes system" can not only ensure the stability of the odd-numbered constituencies but also give voters more choices in terms of proportional voting and ensure the representation of diverse interests, so as to achieve an effective balance.

The third is that it creates a balance between choosing a party and choosing a politician. In political elections, a candidate's personal charisma is an important factor in attracting votes, and some candidates with strong personal charisma can even break the original electoral power pattern. Voters

can choose candidates with stronger personal charisma as representatives of their own interests.

At the same time, voters can vote for political parties according to their personal interests, and then the proportional parliamentary election system, in which political parties propose lists to allocate quotas, avoids internal infighting among parties, ensures the clear unity of the core program of political parties, and is conducive to the strengthening of political parties. The parallel voting system itself is an election system combining the selection of candidates and parties, which can promote the balance between candidates and parties to a certain extent.

The fourth is that it creates a balance between the election's complexity and the vote's objectiveness. The complexity of the electoral system and ballot design is directly related to the election result, and the design of the electoral system and ballot must make the voters clear about the relationship between their voting and the election result. If the electoral system is obscure, the ballot calculation method is too complicated, or the voting goal is too scattered and vague, the voting quality will be greatly affected and the election result will be interfered with. Reduce voter enthusiasm. Mexico has not carried out truly democratic electoral politics for a long time, and voters have direct requirements for voting purposes. In the parallel parliamentary election system, majority votes and proportional votes are counted separately, and the seats generated by each are simply added together without interfering with each other. Under the premise of appropriately increasing the complexity of the electoral system and votes, it is easy for voters to understand and vote. It is an acceptable electoral system that balances objectives with complexity

As a result, the current Mexican electoral system has been able to strike a balance between these four aspects in order to ensure the interests of the electorate to a greater extent. This reflects the close link between changes in the electoral system and the democratization process.

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