

*Journal of Economic Literature*  
(An American Economic Association Publication)  
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*Journal of Economic Literature*  
Volume 31, no. 4, December 1993

Fox, Jonathan. *The politics of food in Mexico: State power and social mobilization*. Food Systems and Agrarian Change series. Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press, 1992. Pp. x, 280. \$39.95. ISBN 0-8014-2716-9.

JEL 93-1641

Compares the range of Mexican food policies over the period 1978-82, particularly the Mexican Food System reform experience of the early 1980s, a state initiative that raises fundamental questions about the limits and possibilities of state-initiated social change in Mexico. Discusses state-society interaction and distributive reform in Mexico. Examines the revolutionary roots of reform in Mexico and the changes in national political environment that made it possible for food policy reform to become a major presidential priority in 1980. Presents evidence showing that, in practice, most food programs during the Mexican Food System period delivered more resources to traditionally favored elites than to peasants. Discusses the Rural Marketing Support program and the Peasant Store program, two national programs during the Mexican Food System period that tried to change the balance of power between peasants and rural elites. Argues that the rural food program permitted autonomous peasant organization at the regional level. Draws lessons for understanding political change in Mexico. Fox is Associate Professor of Political Science at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Bibliography; index.