

DBQ: Document-Based Questions

Benito Juárez of La Reforma

“The constitution of 1824 was a compromise between progress and reaction, and that (it was a) seedbed of the incessant convulsions that the Republic has suffered, and that it will still suffer while society does not recover its balance by making effective the equality of rights and duties of all citizens and of all persons who inhabit the national territory, without privileges, without exemptions, without monopolies, and without odious distinctions...”

- Benito Juárez, *La Reforma*

Directions: Answer the following questions based on the reading and your knowledge of social studies.

1. What does Juárez mean by the phrase “the incessant convulsions that the Republic has suffered”?
2. Describe the stance that Juárez is taking on equality in Mexico.
3. Imagine that you are a Mexican of Indian heritage reading these words in the 1800s. How might you react? Would your reaction change as a Mexican of European heritage? Explain.