

MEXICO

Country Profiles



This profile is a part of our Leading Multiculturalism: Canada's Impact on Global Diversity Policies series

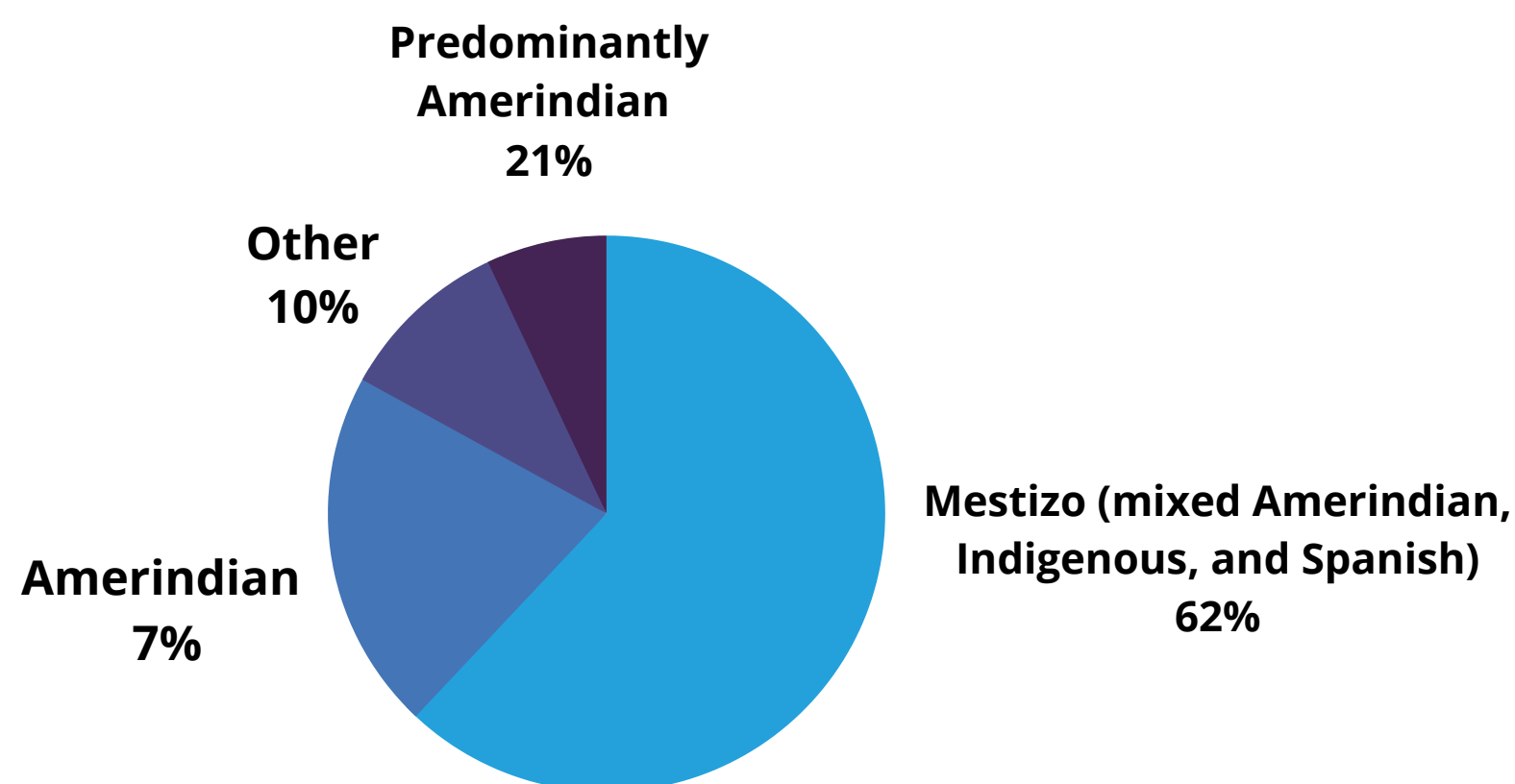
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HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Mexico's 1917 revolution was followed by a long and divisive "Indigenismo" period that attempted to assimilate and integrate Indigenous people. Around the 20th century, the Mexican government began to transition to an "intercultural" policy that has manifested itself in recent years in constitutional revisions and a broad government and civil society coalition dedicated to cultural diversity.

DEMOGRAPHICS



MULTICULTURALISM POLICY

- **Term:** "Multiculturalism" used in the constitution, "cultural diversity" among civil society organizations
- **Approach:** Top-down, government initiates policies

DOMESTIC

- 2003 Federal Law to Prevent and Eliminate Discrimination (LFPED) prohibits discrimination and creates state obligations to introduce reconciliatory or affirmative actions to promote equality
- 2005- the National Movement for Cultural Diversity in Mexico was introduced (a local, regional, national coalition formed to promote cultural diversity and address discrimination)--it now has 16 member institutions
- Members include educational, legal, cultural, Indigenous and health care institutions
- Governmental multicultural education (described as "intercultural and bilingual education") aims to preserve Indigenous languages
- Multiculturalism integration efforts are mainly educational, as evidenced by the official CGEIB that coordinates bilingual education and educational resources

INTERNATIONAL

Treaties

- ✓ International Covenant on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
- ✓ International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

Mexico

Background

- **Population:** 128.65 million in 2020ⁱ
- **Demographics:** 62% mestizo (mixed Amerindian Indigenous and Spanish), 21% predominantly Amerindian, 10% other, 7% Amerindian in 2012ⁱⁱ
- **Languages:** 92.7% Spanish, 5.7% Spanish and Indigenous languages, 0.8% Indigenous only, 0.8% unspecified in 2005ⁱⁱⁱ
- **Terms:** "Multiculturalism" used in the constitution, "cultural diversity" among civil society organizations
- **Approach:** Top-down

Mexico presents an interesting case study for this project due to its sizeable Indigenous population (about 10% of Mexico's population, descended from 68 different Indigenous groups^{iv}) and its recent efforts to revise its constitution with additional protections for Indigenous people. Mexico's 1917 revolution was followed by a long and divisive "Indigenismo" period that attempted to assimilate and integrate Indigenous people.^v Around the 20th century, the Mexican government began to transition to an "intercultural" policy^{vi} that has manifested itself in recent years in constitutional revisions and a broad government and civil society coalition dedicated to cultural diversity.

Comparative Analysis: Domestic Legal

Approach

Government-led; not civil society

2003 Federal Law to Prevent and Eliminate Discrimination (LFPED) prohibits discrimination and creates state obligations to introduce reconciliatory or affirmative actions to promote equality^{vii}

Constitutional Protections

Constitutional protections for equal rights (1917 rev. 2015)^{viii}

- Article 1 (reformed in 2001) prohibits discrimination on the basis of ethnic or national origin, religion and other forms
- Article 2 addresses the "multicultural" nature of the country given its significant Indigenous population and includes extensive protections (part A includes the right to self-determination, own legal systems, language protection, land maintenance, local representation, state jurisdiction)
- Article 2(B) is aimed at Indigenous rights pertaining to the economy, education, health, living conditions, women, infrastructure, social policies and development
- Note: Most minority protections are in the first two articles of the Constitution

Explicit Recognition of Multiculturalism

There is no explicit recognition.

Comparative Analysis: Domestic Practical

Valuing and Active Promotion of Diversity^{ix}

In 2005, the National Movement for Cultural Diversity in Mexico was introduced (a local, regional, national coalition formed to promote cultural diversity and address discrimination) – it now has 16 member institutions

Members include educational, legal, cultural, Indigenous and health care institutions

One member, the General Coordination of Intercultural and Bilingual Education (CGEIB), produces and distributes bilingual education materials

Governmental multicultural education (described as “intercultural and bilingual education”) aims to preserve Indigenous languages

Another member, the National Council to Prevent Discrimination (CONAPRED), monitors compliance in the LFPED (mentioned under “government-led” actions)

Multiculturalism as a Means to Integration

Integration efforts are mainly educational, as evidenced by the official CGEIB that coordinates bilingual education and educational resources^x

Affirmative Action Policies

There are no affirmative action policies.

Comparative Analysis: International

International Treaties^{xi}

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1976) was ratified by Mexico in 1981.

International Covenant on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (1969) was signed by Mexico in 1966 and ratified in 1975.

International Promotion of Multiculturalism

No promotion in the international sphere.

ⁱ “Mexico,” The World Factbook, Central Intelligence Agency, accessed on October 21, 2020, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/mx.html>.

ⁱⁱ Central Intelligence Agency, “Mexico.”

ⁱⁱⁱ Central Intelligence Agency, “Mexico.”

^{iv} Gunther Dietz, “Multicultural Education in Mexico,” in the *Encyclopedia of Diversity in Education*, ed. James Banks (Los Angeles: SAGE Publications, 2012), 1484.

^v Dietz, “Multicultural Education in Mexico,” 1484.

^{vi} Dietz, “Multicultural Education in Mexico,” 1484.

^{vii} “National Movement for Cultural Diversity in Mexico,” UNESCO, accessed on October 21, 2020, <https://en.unesco.org/creativity/policy-monitoring-platform/national-movement-cultural>.

^{viii} “Mexico 1917 (rev. 2015),” Constitute Project, accessed October 21, 2020, https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Mexico_2015?lang=en.

^{ix} UNESCO, “National Movement for Cultural Diversity in Mexico.”

^x UNESCO, “National Movement for Cultural Diversity in Mexico.”

^{xi} “Ratification of 18 International Human Rights Treaties,” Status of Ratification Interactive Dashboard, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, accessed October 21, 2020, <https://indicators.ohchr.org/>.