



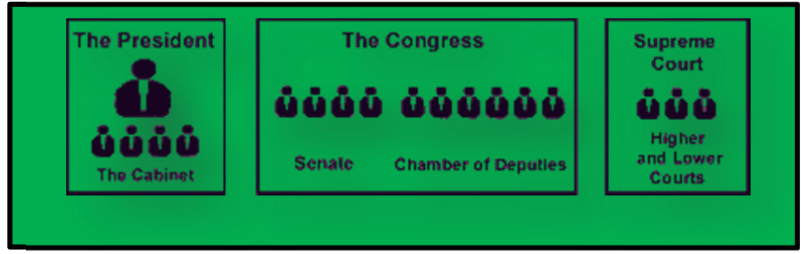
The Government

Mexico is divided into 31 states and a Federal District (Mexico City). In Mexico, we have three Government levels: central, state and local. Each state elects its own Governor and its own Congress. Every state is divided into smaller municipalities with their own elected mayors.



Mexico's written Constitution was enacted in 1917, after a long and bloody Revolution. Unlike Britain, Mexico is a **Federal Republic**, and therefore it has no King or Queen. Instead, the Constitution states that the power to rule Mexico is divided between three branches. These are the Presidency, the Congress and the Courts.

GOVERNMENT



The Presidency

The President of the **United Mexican States** (which is the official name of the country) is **Enrique Peña Nieto**, who began his term of office in 2012. The President is directly elected by the people, whoever wins a simple plurality of the national vote is elected. Presidents are limited for a single **six year term** and cannot be re-elected.

The President appoints his Cabinet, to help him rule the country. President Peña Nieto's cabinet is formed by 20 members. They work in all areas of Government such as health, education, transport, finance, agriculture, foreign affairs, ecology and defense.



The Congress

The Congress is similar to a Parliament. It is divided into a **Chamber of Deputies** and a **Senate**.



Within Congress, Senators and Deputies debate and make new laws or renew old ones. Each state is represented by four senators, and the people are represented by deputies (similar to MPs). Elections for the Chamber of Deputies (500 seats) are held every three years, and for the Senate (128 seats) every

six years. The members of Congress are directly elected by the people.

The Courts

There are three judicial levels:

- Lower Court
- High Court
- Supreme Court

The courts enforce and interpret the law, by passing a sentence. The **Supreme Court** is the most important one and has 11 judges.



Mexican Political Parties

Mexico has recently changed from a predominant party system to a multiparty system. The different parties compete for public power under legal conditions. The dominating parties in Mexico are: *Partido Revolucionario Institucional (PRI)*, *Partido Acción Nacional (PAN)* and *Partido de la Revolución Democrática (PRD)*.



Logos of the Political Parties in Mexico (as in 2012)