

## Symposium: Mexico in 1915. Epidemics, hunger, and health care

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### Abstract

The symposium presented, *Mexico in 1915; Epidemics, hunger, and health care* contains four studies: *The epidemic of typhus* by Martha Eugenia Rodríguez; *Hunger and disease* by Carlos Viesca; *Events in medical units* by Guillermo Fajardo Ortiz; and *Military medicine* by Antonio Moreno Guzman. Jointly, they analyze the consequences that the Mexican Revolution was leaving, framed between 1910 and 1917. Although it is true that Mexico was suffering from misery and many endemics and epidemics before the Revolution, the armed movement intensified them to the point of calling the year 1915 "the year of hunger". The war movement affected all the life of the country. The war itself demanded attention and a bigger government budget, setting aside public services and the production and supply of food and health services, among others. Taken together, these studies are about the Mexico of a hundred years ago, characterized by the presence of infectious diseases, malnutrition, food shortages, unemployment, and a very unstable economy that impeded the best performance of medical services. However, because of the urgent situation, "blood" hospitals, the sanitary trains, and the Red, White, and Green Crosses emerged. On the other hand, military doctors, who reached high professionalism, played an important role in dealing with traumas of all kinds despite the shortage of treatment materials, used mostly for the needs of the First World War. (Gac Med Mex. 2016;152:225)

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