

1968: A Global Perspective

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Remember the Tlatelolco Massacre: How the 1968 Student Movement Changed Mexican Identity

In the study of history it seems important to remember that memory is influenced by perception. With this in mind I mean to examine the 1968 Tlatelolco Massacre in Mexico City through the eyes of different participants and witnesses. Through the examination of this event in Mexican history, I intend to analyze the creation of public memory and the apparent discrepancies that result from individual perceptions.

Some questions that I aim to answer include: What was the role of the media in Mexico before and after the Tlatelolco Massacre? What do Tlatelolco's participants remember in contrast to that memory of Mexico's government officials? How is this interpreted in 2008?

In order to get to the answers of my research questions, I will examine Mexican Newspapers, U.S. government documents regarding Tlatelolco, and Mexican government documents that are available. In addition I intend to add to my research an oral history through interviews with reporters and former students that were involved in the strike that became the Tlatelolco massacre.

Through the diverse sources that I have uncovered I hope to examine the divergent memories that have become the history of Tlatelolco. Each source, both secondary and primary, has come not only a different interpretation, but also a number of conflicting "facts" regarding the movement as well as the resulting massacre. By evaluating each of these resources, my research promises to give a unique perspective of the Tlatolco massacre and this should allow the "messiness" of memory and history to be revealed.