

# ***Zapatista Ideology***

## **Background**

On January 1, 1994, the Zapatista Liberation Army (EZLN) declared war on the Mexican government and garnered international attention and support for its cause. Through the group's first public communiqué, it communicated that its fight was dedicated to obtaining "work, land, housing, food, health, education, independence, liberty, democracy, justice, and peace" Since 1994, this movement for indigenous rights and autonomy has evolved and adapted and continue to do so today. The Zapatistas are continually working to construct innovative and meaningful strategies for achieving their revolution.

## **Learning Objectives**

This workshop attempts to give participants an overview of the Zapatista movement, focusing on the movement's ideological evolution and major events. Each participant is responsible for researching a particular period in the movement and then compiling a timeline of that period which categorizes the relevant happenings during that time.

## **Preparation**

Participant research

## **Directions**

This is a research based workshop that requires each participant to prepare a 10-15 minute presentation on a period from 1994 to the present. Depending on the number of participants, the facilitator may choose the assign periods anywhere from two-five years. Each participant should organize the major events in his-her time period under 5 sub-topics:

- Key Events
- International Politics
- Women • National Politics
- Human Rights.

Each participant than shares his/her portion with the rest of the group in chronological order. With each presentation the other non-presenting group members who should construct a comprehensive timeline which comprises each individual's research.

## **Texts**

- Zapatista Timeline 1994-2005: <http://www.sipaz.org/crono/proceng.htm>
- Basta! Land & the Zapatista Rebellion in Chiapas, George Collier, LPC
- First World, Ha Ha Ha! The Zapatista Challenge, ed Elaine Katzenburger
- Our Word is Our Weapon: Selected Writings, Subcomandante Insurgente Marcos
- The War Against Oblivion: Zapatista Chronicles, 1994-2000 John Ross
- Rebellion in Chiapas, John Womack

## **Visuals**

- Photos from the 2001 Zapatista march to Mexico City  
<http://www.aztlan.net/zapafotos.htm>
- Map of Zapatista Caracoles as of August 2003  
<http://www.ciepac.org/images/maps/caracol03.jpg>
- Map of Municipalities with a Zapatista presence  
<http://www.ciepac.org/images/maps/zapatist.gif>