Truman and Pemex: An Early Expression of Neoliberalism?

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Abstract

Nothing was more central to US-Mexican relations in the middle of the twentieth century than petroleum. This paper explores the contradictory positions within the Truman administration over the treatment of the Mexican petroleum monopoly. Issues of economic advantage, business practice, diplomacy and cultural nationalism all interacted as various positions within the US government clashed. Even the president found some forces too strong to oppose.