NOTES ON THE MEXICAN OIL INDUSTRY IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

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The oil production in Europe and North America during the first half of the nineteenth century was run by a proto-industrial system, marked by absence of mechanization, limited outcomes, and, mainly, penalized by the lack of a target market. During the sixties of the nineteenth century new practices and production techniques were introduced into the petroleum sector; the result of a cumulative process of experience and innovations that started to develop in the first decade of the century. From this path arose a new technological system in which oil research, drilling, and refining taken over new value and meaning. This particular conjunction between processes and physical artifacts took place for the first time in Pennsylvania; the satisfactory outcomes of this model would have influence across the years, as a domino effect, in all countries in which had active early oil operations. Each oily country
has its own oil history in which growth was marked by internal economic, social, and scientific factors, all influenced by external components. Aim of this presentation is to describe selected significant moments of the development of the modern Mexican oil industry in the second part of XIX century. This analysis intends to highlight the connections and the interdependencies that existed between the Mexican case and the development of the oil system of other countries.