

Meyibó

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TIGHTENING THE REINS OF CONTROL OVER THE COUNTRY'S BORDERS: THE ROLE OF GOVERNOR RODOLFO SÁNCHEZ TABOADA IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE *PLAN CARDENISTA* IN BAJA CALIFORNIA

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he various facets of the Plan Cardenista that were applied to the Territorio Norte de la Baja California during the *sexenio* from 1934-1940 not only marked a decisive step in the advancement of the area toward statehood, but also greatly strengthened its ties with the rest of the country.

The man who would become the federal government's chief instrument in the carrying out of these changes was Colonel Rodolfo Sánchez Taboada, a competent official in whom President Cárdenas placed his implicit trust and confidence with regard to implementing the federal plan for the region. As governor of the Territorio Norte de la Baja California for the major portion of the Cardenista period, Sánchez Taboada carried out his duties with zeal and dedication. By the end of the *sexenio*, he had largely put into effect the process of land reform and initiated the colonization projects that the federal government had planned for the region.

However, while historians have tended to view the period as a particularly successful example of the application of the Cardenista development measures to a regional setting, from the beginning these changes were fraught with certain problems

