

MEXICAN REVOLUTION

Despite sitting on the US border and being the gateway to illegal immigration, drug trafficking, and trade, the 2006 political upheaval in Mexico hardly made the US news.

Claiming that the '06 presidential election was stolen and refusing to concede defeat, Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador and his supporters have established a counter government to Felipe Calderon who officially became Mexico's president on 1 December.

Meanwhile, in Oaxaca, the popular gringo tourist city, the six month battle that began with a teachers' strike and devolved into an open revolt following a government crackdown that left 16 people dead, still rages.

Regardless of the outcome or when it ends, the battle of Oaxaca and the parallel government set up by Obrador are predictors of more unrest to follow and expectations that negative residue from the unrest will seep across Mexico's northern border. ■

SECESSIONISM

It was just a blip on the news radar screen in 2006, and while it's the start of something big, the people pushing the trend are fighting for something small.

Believing that the United States has too many people and is too complex for a "one-size-fits-all" Federal dictate to control the entire nation, America's second revolutionaries held their first "North American Secessionist Convention" in Burlington, Vermont this past November.

Hosted by the Middlebury Institute, delegates representing 18 states came from Hawaii to Maine and North to South. The Alaskans and Hawaiians wanted their countries back. Others wanted informal alliances with Washington, some wanted nothing to do with DC ... and all agreed that they wanted nothing to do with the crew in control of the nation ... or the party in waiting. ■

THE TOP TRENDS OF 2007

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Continued from page 1

businesses are contracting and the "can do" spirit hardly shines. Prohibited by high government barriers that regulate every aspect of business life, entrepreneurs with big dreams and full of drive can't afford the cost of entry to make it on their own. (See "Plantation Economy," page 7.)

Mimicking the centralization of their former Red enemy, the Washingtonian economic doctrine tilts the playing field to benefit the favored few. With tax breaks, grants, loans, giveaways and sweetheart deals earmarked for the business giants, sport team owners and big developers ... the odds of the little guy winning are a long shot.

And like its communist counterpart who controls the masses through fear and submission, the American Big Brother also breaks into homes, spies on dissidents, monitors its public, stifles protest, abrogates rights, throws people in jail, locks the door and throws away the key.

Trendpost: *The business pioneers of the Wild East ... charged with ambition, seeing no limits and ready for risk ... seek sound business information to help better understand the current and future needs of foreign markets. While supercharged for action, the artistry of innovation is just being awakened after being stifled by government censors for many decades. Services, software, courses and*

conferences that can heighten these skills are market opportunities to explore.

Trendpost: *China expert, Oded Shankar, author of "The Chinese Century," says that while "opportunities abound" in China for both US firms and entrepreneurs to succeed, they must develop new strategies and employ advanced models of operation ... in anticipation that their ideas will be swiftly imitated by the Chinese.*

Business opportunities also exist for consulting services, learning manuals, and courseware that teaches students, management and employees to think and act globally.

"Americans must start learning about the world," says Mr. Shankar, also a professor of Global Business Management at Ohio State University. "Unfortunately our business schools, for instance, go in the opposite direction, junking international business in favor of "global strategy" that has nothing global about it - i.e., students no longer learn about different cultures, about international institutions, etc., just the opposite of what we should be doing."

Trendpost: *To control America's massive population ... projected to reach 400 million in just 35 years ... Washington will continue to resort to China-like authority to maintain its rules of law and order. A counter-trend to the federal clamp down will be a proliferation of secessionist movements, such as those spearheaded by the "Second*