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## **Las Soldaderas**

Gabrielle Medrano

Despite the vast research on the Mexican Revolution, little is known about the perspective of the women in the Mexican Revolution, specifically the group known as Las Soldaderas. The overall image that emerges from historical texts heavily relies on the male's perspective, roles, and contribution within the war. Whereas the women, are placed on the sidelines as dependent, shy, and delicate individuals that do not fraternize themselves with political issues. This research paper recovers Las Soldaderas perspective for a variation of audiences through images, newspaper articles, books, and journals. An analysis of these sources yields Las Soldaderas roles and contributions while challenging culturally and socially constructed stereotypes that undermine and subjugate women. Factors such as: 1) Besides being the support system for the male soldiers Las Soldaderas also had a variation of positions such as cooks, washers, nurses, and messengers. 2) Not every woman that was a soldadera voluntarily joined the war some were forced into becoming a soldadera by use of violence, kidnap, and rape. 3) Las Soldaderas were also replacing dead soldiers on the battlefield and taking up arms alike the male soldiers. This paper is part of a growing body of research on Las Soldaderas history and redefining gender roles in the war; this paper will contribute to future research on similar topics.