

The true story of Emiliano Zapata, the honest peasant who heard the cry of the people, was recorded for history in the second decade of this century in Mexico. When he sees his own brother cry in anguish as his family is wiped out, Zapata tries to find a solution to recover the land for his people. All legal means fail and Zapata is pinpointed as the underground leader of the peasants. He escapes a trap set by wealthy landholders and is joined by hundreds of peasants who want him to lead their fight. They destroy ranches of the landowners and recover land for the common people. A wealthy landowner's niece falls in love with Zapata and he takes her for his wife. Battle after battle ensues, and no amount of injustice is excused. Zapata becomes a man respected by friends and enemies alike. He mobilizes 20,000 men, including women, who fight alongside the men. Politics hamper the revolution. A president is murdered, and a traitor becomes the political leader of the country. He challenges Zapata's forces and loses. The traitor has to flee the country. As time goes on, Zapata becomes revolution weary. An ambush destroys much of his army, and he begins to loose hope when his brother is murdered by a member of his own forces. Zapata remains alone. Betrayed by the military, he is cut down by 600 bullets from supposedly friendly troops. His bulletriddled corpse is dragged through the city-square. The sight of this turns Zapata into a martyr, and the people reunite to destroy the despots of their country. With a cast of 160 actor and 60.000 extras in the major battle scenes, ZAPATA is the most spectacular movie ever made about Mexico's legendary hero.