Directions: Plutarco Elias Calles was a general in the Mexican Revolution and president of Mexico from 1924 to 1928. In the two video clips you will watch, you will hear the voices of his daughter Alicia Calles and great-granddaughter Natalia Almada (who directed and produced the film). Please watch the clips and respond to the questions below.

Clip 1:

1. Why did Plutarco Elias Calles’ daughter Alicia Calles want to make the recordings? What do you think her perspective could contribute to the historical record?

2. Based on what you know from the video, how would you describe Alicia Calles’ relationship with her father?

3. In 1945, Plutarco Elias Calles was buried in Mexico’s Monument of the Revolution next to other revolutionaries who fought to overthrow the 30-year dictatorship of Porfirio Díaz. According to the plaque on the monument, what was the purpose of the revolution? How could such a burial influence the historical interpretation of Calles’ legacy?

Clip 2:

From 1926 to 1929, a bloody war was waged between militant Roman Catholics, known as Cristeros, and the Mexican government ruled by Calles. This war was known as the Cristiada. At issue was the political, social and economic power of the Church. During this war, atrocities were committed by both sides and 70,000 people died.

4. Does Alicia Calles think her father was anti-religious? Why or why not?

5. Describe Alicia Calles’ perspective on the Cristiada.. How do Alicia Calles’ memories of her father and her description of this conflict compare with the

historical images shown in the video?

7. What are the strengths and weaknesses of using Alicia Calles’ interview as a primary source regarding the Cristiada?

8. What other primary sources should historians consider when describing events from this conflict?