

**REVISTA CIDOB D'AFERS
INTERNACIONALS 85-86.**

**LOS RETOS DE AMÉRICA LATINA EN
UN MUNDO EN CAMBIO**

ABSTRACTS

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The state in Latin America

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How capable is the Latin American state? This article analyses tax, civil service, and electoral data as well as performance measurements in the areas of public safety, rule of law, economic regulation and social services, to compare the region with other parts of the world and to define intra-regional differentiation. Generally speaking, the Latin American state is not very strong or effective, but the states of Chile and Brazil are perhaps the best in the region.

Key words: state, Latin America, rule of law, infrastructure, taxes

Citizenship, rights and justice in Latin America: The *citizenisation-judicialisation* of politics

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The aim of this article is to study the phenomena of the *judicialisation* of politics and the *citizenisation* of the political discourse in Latin America in recent years. The article begins by presenting a definition of these phenomena, after which the author explains the phenomena through three different areas: the changes in civil society that have led to a discovery of law and the language of law; institutional reforms and specifically the reforms of judicial power in recent years, and the changes in the legitimisation discourse of the political system around the concepts of democracy and citizenship of rights.

Key words: Latin America, law, civil law, rule of law, judicial power, political system, citizenship

The multiple debates (and realities) of democracy in Latin America

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The study presents an overview of the ways in which the process of establishing and maintaining democratic regimes in Latin America has been analysed in recent years. To this end, the text is divided into two parts: the first contains a critical summary of the literature that analyses the processes of transition from authoritarian regimes to democratic ones, while the second examines how analysts have interpreted the democratic regimes that exist in the region. For this purpose, the second part contains three sections that briefly cover the following issues: the ways in which this type of democracies has been described, what the connection is between the nature of the regimes and democracy and, finally, the current state of the debate on the “quality of democracy”. In this last section, the author places emphasis on the dilemma experienced by analysts attempting to study the subject of democracy from an empirical or normative perspective.

Key words: Latin America, democracy, rule of law, governability, transition

The new left and democracy in Latin America

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Without embarking on a theoretical debate over the meaning of the term, it is obvious that the left is on the rise in Latin America. However, we should not ignore the fact that the coming to power of left-wing and centre-left parties and movements presents a certain amount of paradoxes and questions. One of the most important of the many paradoxes is the fact that, in spite of the leftwards electoral shift in the region, there is no evidence that the electorate of Latin America has moved to the left in a significant manner. As for the questions, these concern the connection between left-wing governments and democracy, and especially the future challenges that these governments must face to preserve and develop democracy. In an attempt to unravel the paradox and answer these questions, this article examines the roots, contexts and political challenges

of left-wing governments in Latin America. To this end, the author analyses a number of issues, such as the tensions between different logics of political representation and their implications for democracy, in addition to discussing the conditions under which the tensions between the different logics of political representation can contribute (or not) to the developing of democracy in the region.

Key words: Latin America, democracy, government, political parties, left-wing

Indigenous peoples and their demands in political systems

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During the last two decades of the 20th century, indigenous groups mobilised themselves in many countries in Latin America with the aim of calling for various rights based on their ethnic status. This phenomenon is the subject that the author tackles in this article. To this end, he places the emergence of these movements in context, describes their characteristics, analyses their proposals and discusses the prominence that indigenous movements have acquired in different national political arenas. He also presents the impact that certain indigenous demands have had –such as those of the self-determination of land, the use of their own resources and the implementation of ethno-development– on the way in which politics is carried out (and understood) in Latin American countries. Finally, the text analyses how indigenous movements have become important social actors for the *new left*, and the ways in which they have developed new ways of organisation and mobilisation through networks, alternative discourses and new repertoires of collective action. In view of all of this, the author concludes that Latin America has become, once again, a fascinating laboratory that is deserving of the attention of scholars, both in the region itself and in other parts of the planet.

Key words: Latin America, indigenism, political systems, cultural plurality, political participation, social participation

Macroeconomic policies for development in Latin America

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This article analyses the link between the macroeconomic environment and development (economic growth with equity). The aim of the analysis is to compare two alternative approaches to interpreting and implementing macroeconomics. The first to come under analysis is the *financialist* or neoliberal approach, which places the emphasis on macroeconomic balance, giving particular weight to the two cornerstones of low inflation and control of the fiscal budget, together with general openness of the capital account. The second approach –which we will call the “alternative”– is the *productivist* approach, which places the emphasis on a comprehensive group of macroeconomic balances: or rather, in addition to low inflation and fiscal responsibility, it involves a real balanced economy; that is to say, an aggregate demand that is consistent with the economy’s productive capacity and with a sustainable external balance. This second approach involves, firstly, a high coefficient of the use of productive factors (capital and work) while, secondly, it attempts to prevent vulnerability in front of costly crises of external origin. Finally, the author argues that the broadest macroeconomic objectives demand more and better political instruments in the context of the globalisation of financial volatility.

Key words: Latin America, economic policy, economic crisis, development

A reasonable model or a liberal failure? The economic model in Latin America from the 1990s to the great crisis

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This paper critically evaluates the results in terms of economic growth and structural transformation of the new economic model implemented by most Latin American countries since the early 1990s. The new model, which had macroeconomic stability and export orientation as its core components, has been unable to develop more dynamic comparative advantages in the current global era and, as a result, has resulted in lower

rates of economic growth than in Asia. The paper closes with an analysis of the impact of the current financial crisis in the region. It highlights the short-term costs, but also acknowledges the opportunities that the crisis is creating to promote a greater number of new progressive development alternatives that place more emphasis on the role of learning and innovation.

Key words: Latin America, economic policy, globalisation, economic crisis, development, exports, economic growth

Poverty and inequality in Latin America: From growth to conditional transfers of income

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This article focuses on the scale, interpretation and policies of the fight against inequality and poverty in Latin America. To this end, the article presents, firstly, the continent's situation with respect to inequality and poverty, as well as its evolution over the past decades. Secondly, the authors examine the changing interpretation that has been made – through the economy and economic policy – of the importance of inequality and poverty in development processes. The article then offers a review of this debate, providing information on the link between economic growth and poverty in Latin America, given the fact that independently of this link, many policies exist aimed at combating poverty, whether to reduce its intensity or its effects. Finally, and prior to the conclusions, the authors present an overview of this kind of policies in Latin America, focusing particularly on the ones that have proven most effective.

Key words: Latin America, inequality, poverty, economy

Agreements and disagreements in the strategic Euro-Latin American association: Balance and asymmetry

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Ten years on from the launching of the Strategic Association between the European Union (EU) and Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), it is time to carry out an assessment of its progress. During this period, many changes have taken place, both within each of the regions and in the international context, and these have affected different areas of the Association. There is awareness of the need to cooperate and develop the bi-regional association, but the expectations and incentives of the various countries and sub-regions are different. In the time that remains until the next EU-LAC summit, priority attention will be focused on the progress of the ongoing negotiations with the three blocs: Central America, the countries of CAN (Andean Community) and MERCOSUR (*Mercado Común del Sur*, or Southern Common Market). With respect to the two cooperation priorities, support for regional integration and social cohesion should be made integral components of the policies devised for the region. The definition of a more constructive EU role in light of the reshaping of the map of Latin American integration makes it necessary to identify the real incentives, and to this end generate synergies between the different cooperation instruments, based on greater policy coherence.

Key words: Latin America, European Union, cooperation, regional integration

Foreign policy models and strategic options: The case of Latin America compared with the United States

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The essay aims to identify the foreign policy models that have predominated in Latin America in recent years, placing particular emphasis on the decade of the 1990s. Based on a series of premises, trends and conditions, the author examines the region's strategic options as compared to the United States. The text highlights three alternatives available to Latin

American countries, and which could shape links with Washington in the future. These take the form of a series of specific issues and problems that interconnect the United States with Latin America.

Key words: Latin America, United States, foreign policy, cooperation

China's impact on Latin America

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China's rapid economic growth and increased openness has been one of the most significant developments in the global economy over the past 25 years. This paper analyses China's impacts on the Latin American economies, and in particular the challenges that China poses for the region. It discusses both the direct impacts arising from bilateral trade and investment flows between China and Latin America, the indirect impacts associated with Chinese competition in export markets and for foreign direct investment, and the positive terms of trade effects resulting from China's increased demand for raw materials. Challenges identified include the recent rapid increase of competition from Chinese imports in the Latin American market, the concentration of exports to China in a narrow range of primary products and the uneven distribution of profits from trade with China within Latin America.

*Key words: China, Latin America, exports, imports, foreign direct investment,
competition*