

## ANALYTICAL SUMMARY

BASABE-SERRANO, Santiago and LLANOS ESCOBAR, Santiago  
ECUADOR'S SUPREME COURT IN THE DEMOCRATIC PERIOD 1979-2013: BETWEEN  
INSTITUTIONAL INSTABILITY AND POLITICAL INFLUENCE  
*América Latina Hoy*, 67, August 2014, pp. 15-63

This paper analyses political party influence over appointment of supreme justices in weakly institutionalized democracies. While the classic approach points out the effect of the presence of weak presidents leading to more judicial independence, we argue that in cases of weak presidents, it is the legislature that takes political control in the courts. Using original data regarding the Ecuadorian Supreme Court (1979-2013) and historical narratives, we show that changes in the legislative coalitions usually imply changes in the composition of the Supreme Court. Only in cases of strong presidents, such as Rafael Correa, has the Executive been a determining actor in political control of Supreme Court judges.

*Key words:* Ecuador, Supreme Court, Presidentialism, Justices, Judicial Independence.

TREMINIO, Ilka  
RAFAEL CORREA'S CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM, THE CASE OF PRESIDENTIAL  
RE-ELECTION IN ECUADOR  
*América Latina Hoy*, 67, August 2014, pp. 65-90

The result of the recent constitutional process in Ecuador in 2008 was a new constitution that would guide the precepts of the «Citizens' Revolution» initiated by Rafael Correa since he came to power for the first time in 2007. Immediate re-election was adopted as one of the main institutional changes within the new document. This clause

put aside the criteria of alternation and added Ecuador to an increasing trend in the Latin American region associated with the lifting of term limits.

The new clause has allowed the president to remain in office for the last eight years and currently in discussion in the political arena is if the president will seek to further expand the term limits, following the logic of incremental constitutional change. In this context the paper seeks to answer «How did Rafael Correa manage to get the presidential re-election reform passed?». All this is discussed in the light of the celebration of the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Ecuadorian democratic regime and the conditions that ensured the successful incorporation of continuous re-election in the 2008 Constitution.

*Key words:* Re-election, Citizen Revolution, Rafael Correa, Presidentialism.

POLGA-HECIMOVICH, John

OVERCOMING THE REGIONAL CLEAVAGE? POLITICAL PARTY NATIONALIZATION IN ECUADOR SINCE THE RETURN TO DEMOCRACY  
 América Latina Hoy, 67, August 2014, pp. 91-118

This work analyses the evolution of Ecuadorian political parties' territorial coverage since the return to democracy. It uses district-level electoral returns from between 1979 and 2013 for three different types of elections (presidential, national deputy, provincial deputy) to evaluate the territorial homogeneity of the parties in each period («static» nationalization) as well as the homogeneity of temporal change («dynamic» nationalization). Through use of electoral cartography, as well as mixed model statistical analysis, the results show a high level of volatility along both dimensions of nationalization for all parties, including the government's ALIANZA PAIS. The analysis also reveals that widespread voter support for legislators from a single party is driven by presidential coattails rather than through developing deep roots in districts. The geographical analysis indicates that regionalism has persisted in Ecuadorian political parties since 1979 despite the success of Rafael Correa's party at the polls.

*Key words:* Political party nationalization, Ecuador, ALIANZA PAIS, electoral cartography.

JUTEAU-MARTINEAU, Guilhem; BECERRA, Sylvia and MAURICE, Laurence

ENVIRONMENT, OIL AND POLITICAL VULNERABILITY IN THE ECUADORIAN AMAZON:  
 TOWARDS NEW FORMS OF ENERGY GOVERNANCE?  
 América Latina Hoy, 67, August 2014, pp. 119-137

This study proposes a historical analysis of oil exploitation governance in the Ecuadorian Amazon Region (RAE), regarding its strong social and environmental impacts

from the 1960's until today. We identify three steps in the evolution of governance, leading up to the recent institutionalization of the regulation of impacts caused by oil-related activities, through centralized public policies. The relevance, feasibility and efficiency of these policies, as well as the role of decentralized governments regarding this regulation, are key factors in the evolution of social vulnerability to the impacts of oil-related activities.

*Key words:* energy governance, oil, vulnerability, public policy, Ecuadorian Amazon.

CARIA, Sara and DOMÍNGUEZ, Rafael

THE FUTURE OF AN ILLUSION: THE IDEOLOGY OF «BUEN VIVIR»

América Latina Hoy, 67, August 2014, pp. 139-163

The article aims to analyse the concept and official strategies of «Buen Vivir» through the lens of the main ideological definitions adopted by the Marxist, psychoanalytic and cognitive traditions as a false conscience, mobilizing programme or hegemonic discourse and as a cognitive mechanism to reduce complexity, respectively. To that purpose, the official discourse of «Buen Vivir», as expressed in the 2008 Constitution, the National Development Plans of 2009-2013 and 2013-2017, as well as in the interventions and declarations of Ecuadorian political authorities, will be compared against the orientation and results of public policy, which appears to lead to a developmental process based on an as of yet still unachieved diversification of the productive structure.

*Key words:* ideology, «Buen Vivir», Citizen Revolution, socialism of the XXI century.

GONZÁLEZ, Lucas

FEDERAL TRANSFERS, INTERREGIONAL INEQUALITY AND REDISTRIBUTION IN LATIN AMERICA

América Latina Hoy, 67, August 2014, pp. 167-190

This work analyses the impact of federal transfers and subnational expenditure in human development and interregional equity. Data on federal transfers and subnational spending in Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Chile, and Colombia, between 1983 and 2011, indicate that the redistributive power of the central government is statistically associated with improvements in interregional equity but not with better values in the human development index. Exactly the opposite results are found for subnational social spending.

*Key words:* Federalism, Interregional Inequality, Development, Redistribution.

PALMA, Esperanza and MORALES, Gilberto  
GEOGRAPHY OF PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGNS IN MEXICO IN 2012  
*América Latina Hoy*, 67, August 2014, pp. 191-209

This article addresses the question of how presidential candidates distributed their appearances in public in the municipalities in 2012. It shows results of a research project on the municipalities visited by the presidential candidates during the 2012 campaign in Mexico, visits that can be understood as part of a territorial strategy. We built a data base that registered the appearances of each candidate to the municipalities which were classified according to electoral position of each political party. The issue addressed by each candidate in each municipality was also registered in order to pose a hypothesis about the relation between the statement of the candidate and the places they visited during the campaign. This research provides information about the relationship between candidates' strategies and the geographical-territorial position of their parties.

*Key words:* territorial strategy, presidential campaigns, Mexico, electoral geography, municipalities.