

ANALYTICAL SUMMARY

KNÖBL, Wolfgang

THE CONTINGENCY OF INDEPENDENCE AND REVOLUTION: THEORETICAL AND
COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVES ON LATIN AMERICA

América Latina Hoy, 57, April, pp. 15-49

This article compares the U.S. and French-Revolution in the last third of the 18th century with independence and revolution in Spanish America at the beginning of the 19th century under a particular theoretical perspective. Focussing mainly on the initial stages of these revolutionary events it will be shown that: a) in all three cases the path towards a revolutionary break with the Old Regime was anything but predetermined and that b) particularly in the Americas the question of the Nation was not settled at all by the revolutionaries. This is one of the most important explanations why later onwards Nation –and State– building in the Americas, both in Latin America and in North-America, became anything but a smooth and linear process.

Key words: empire, revolution, contingency, political culture, nation, state-building.

LÓPEZ-ALVES, Fernando

PATHS OF MODERNITY: COMPARING EUROPE, THE UNITED STATES AND LATIN AMERICA
América Latina Hoy, 57, April, pp. 51-77

It is argued that Latin America contributed to modernity and the spread of what literature has called «the modern West». Rather than just imitating, reacting, or adjusting to the paradigms of modernity (and globalization), in the nineteenth century and early twentieth, the region elaborated and created modernity. This can be seen in two related but different processes: the formation of the Nation-State and the conceptualization of the Nation. While Latin America did, of course, look at Europe and the United States as possible models and attempted to emulate some of their modernity, no Latin American country seriously believed that they could reproduce Europe or the United States. Rather, in the context of post-colonialism, the region pioneered some of the precepts of modernity. The result was, as these brief comparisons with Europe and the United States suggest, a different path to modernity that later, in the twentieth century, one could find elsewhere in the global system.

Key words: modernization, State formation, globalization, nationalism, Latin America, Europe, United States.

MAHONEY, James

RADICAL, REFORMIST AND ABORTED LIBERALISM: ORIGINS OF NATIONAL REGIMES IN CENTRAL AMERICA
América Latina Hoy, 57, April, pp. 79-115

During the twentieth century, the countries of Central America were characterized by remarkably different political regimes: military-authoritarianism in Guatemala and El Salvador, progressive democracy in Costa Rica and traditional-authoritarianism in Honduras and Nicaragua. This article explains these contrasting regime outcomes by exploring the agrarian and state-building reforms pursued by political leaders during the nineteenth- and early twentieth century liberal reform period. Based on differences in the transformation of state and class structures, three types of liberalism are identified: radical liberalism in Guatemala and El Salvador, reformist liberalism in Costa Rica and aborted liberalism in Honduras and Nicaragua. It is argued that these types of liberalism set the Central American countries on contrasting paths of political development, culminating in diverse regime outcomes.

Key words: radical liberalism, reformist liberalism, aborted liberalism, regimes, Central America.

WEYLAND, Kurt

INSTITUTIONAL CHANGE IN LATIN AMERICA: EXTERNAL MODELS AND THEIR UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES

América Latina Hoy, 57, April, pp. 117-143

Influential theories claim that institutions shape actor behavior but are sustained by these actors' behavior. How do scholars escape from this trap of endogeneity? This article highlights a partially exogenous factor: institutional models and blueprints. Since these ideational schemes do not emerge from actor preferences, they play an independent, irreducible role in institutional creation. In fact, Latin America has borrowed many blueprints from the «First World». But transferred to a different setting, these imported models often fail to command firm, reliable compliance and do not operate well. Therefore, informal mechanisms arise and guide behavior. External borrowing thus produces persistent disjunctures in institutional development.

Key words: Latin America, institution, model, idea, diffusion.

GUILLÉN, Diana

«VOTE BY VOTE... BOX BY BOX...». FROM THE POST-ELECTORAL SLOGAN TO THE CITIZEN MOBILIZATION

América Latina Hoy, 57, April, pp. 147-176

From direct observation and hemerography sources, this article reconstructs the mobilizations that took place in Mexico city on June 8, 16 and 30 of 2006, in protestation of the results of the previous electoral day. An important challenge was set out for the institutions behind the slogan «Vote by vote... box by box» and a basic right to democracy was demanded, even in its more limited version: the certainty that what was individually expressed on the ballot boxes, would be counted according to reliable and dependable criteria and procedures. These mobilizations represented an unknown experience in the Mexican context. In contrast to previous actions against electoral fraud, one of the driving forces on this particular protest was the certainty that, from society, people could and should intervene. From such perspective, and regardless of the sympathies or dislikes that it might create, they constitute a milestone for social, political and contemporary history in Mexico. Hence, to recover and to systematize its central characteristics is of great importance.

Key words: Mexico, elections, social mobilization, citizenship.

JIMÉNEZ BADILLO, Margarita and SOLANO RAMÍREZ, Gabino
 INSTITUTIONAL TENSIONS BETWEEN THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES IN
 BRAZIL
 América Latina Hoy, 57, April, pp. 177-204

This study attempts to explain the mechanism through which the Brazilian president manages to govern in Brazil amidst a non majority parliamentary scenario with a highly fragmented party system, rising numbers of switchers, an ostensible lack of discipline of the political parties members, and a precarious party coalition. If the Brazilian political system has not yet fallen into an institutional paralysis of governability it is due to the ability of the Executive branch to obtain support from certain parliamentary coalitions and succeeding thereof to outdo actors with veto power, attempting to hinder relations between the Executive and the Legislative branches.

Key words: presidentialism, relation between Executive and Legislative branches, parliamentary non-majority government, political parties, veto players, governability, Brazil.

HEVIA, Felipe
 SOCIETY-STATE RELATIONSHIPS, CITIZEN PARTICIPATION AND POLITICAL CLIENTELISM
 INSIDE PROGRAMS THAT COMBAT POVERTY. THE CASE OF *BOLSA FAMILIA* IN BRAZIL
 América Latina Hoy, 57, April, pp. 205-238

Relations between poor people and the government that creates the *Programa Bolsa Familia* at Brazil may be summarized in two dimensions: 1) favor direct relationships without the intervention of collective action and 2) are distant relations in terms of type of interaction and communication between the authorities and beneficiaries. While there are instances of formal social control, operation of the program makes minimal intermediation and highly institutional and civic organizations have little room to act and to represent the beneficiaries of *Bolsa Familia* in institutionalized interfaces. Direct links generate positive effect low levels of political patronage vote buying and coercion, but also generate unintended effects such as the lack of program operation, difficulty to defend themselves collectively by irregularities and create an active citizenry.

Key words: citizen participation, clientelism, State-Society relations, social policy, civil society.