

ANALYTICAL SUMMARY

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THE PARAGUAYAN DEMOCRATIZATION PROCESS: ADVANCES AND OPPOSITION
América Latina Hoy, 60, April 2012, pp. 17-42

Based on the new conceptions of democracy in Latin America, this work attempts to evaluate the democratization process that is taking place in Paraguay, as a consequence of the historical defeat suffered by the Colorado Party in the presidential elections of 2008. The analysis identifies the reasons for the triumph of the heterogeneous coalition lead by ex-bishop Fernando Lugo and evaluates three aspects of the process: political democratization, social democratization and mass participation.

Key words: democratic change, political democratization, social democratization, mass participation.

ABENTE BRUN, Diego

STATENESS AND QUALITY OF DEMOCRACY IN PARAGUAY
América Latina Hoy, 60, April 2012, pp. 43-66

Taking into account the fact that in all existing indices of the quality of democracy Paraguay fares rather poorly, the author explores how «stateness» accounts for that poor performance. He argues that together with a pattern of truncated modernization that produced an invertebrate society conducive to generalized clientelism and the constitutional and institutional framework that reinforces and perpetuates it, the weakness of the State imposes additional severe constraints. These constraints manifest themselves in two dimensions: the weakness of the State apparatus and its narrow social base in terms of «state-for-the nation or the people».

Key words: stateness, quality of democracy, State apparatus, State for the nation, truncated modernization, clientelism.

FRETES CARRERAS, Luis Antonio
DEMOCRATIC CONSOLIDATION IN PARAGUAY
América Latina Hoy, 60, April 2012, pp. 67-82

This paper aims to identify weaknesses and mutations of the transition project started in Paraguay with the military coup of 1989 and also identify those elements that over twenty years allowed the continuity of the structures and practices originating in the authoritarian regime. That victory and the advent of the Patriotic Alliance for Change (APC) in 2008 meant a break with the foundations of the transition and altered the course of the political process transforming the strategic areas of dispute and incorporating new issues and actors.

This description is intended to affirm that the political process of Paraguay is a case that demonstrates how the constitutional changes, the introduction of new institutions and unusual punishment of democratic content standards do not automatically lead to the transition from an authoritarian to a democratic and advent of consolidation.

Key words: Paraguay, democracy, transition, consolidation.

CERNA VILLAGRA, Sarah Patricia
«YVI MARAE'Y»: THE CONFLICT OF THE STATE WITH THE INDIGENOUS VILLAGES IN PARAGUAY
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The 1992 Constitution recognizes the existence of people prior to the formation of the Paraguayan State and in that sense it gives them certain rights that protect their territory, identity and culture. This declaration of purpose constitutes a break with the previous model of dominant and exclusionary state policies toward indigenous peoples. However, the rights of indigenous peoples continue without respected, in spite of the space won in terms of social and political organizations, the struggle continues in this constant «search of the land without evil». This paper aims to describe the current situation of indigenous peoples from an analysis of access to public services, economic status, employability, employment discrimination and public policy. It also attempts to explain the factors that have influenced in the lack of consolidation of the indigenous movement in Paraguay.

Key words: indigenous peoples, territories, rights, public policy, Paraguayan State.

DUARTE RECALDE, Liliana
CHANGES IN ELECTORAL BEHAVIOR IN PARAGUAY
América Latina Hoy, 60, April 2012, pp. 117-138

The Paraguayan electoral process has been historically conditioned by the control of the *Asociación Nacional Republicana*, the dominant political party during the Stroessner dictatorship years and the period of transition towards democracy. For this reason, the change of political representation in the Presidency that occurred in 2008 as a result of the electoral process was a milestone in the country's political history and it highlighted the importance of analyzing the voting behavior of the Paraguayan population, its trends and the conjectural and structural elements that condition them. In this opportunity we review the parameters of electoral behavior present in the country's last three general elections, considering the electoral volatility rates resulting from such elections and the effective participation levels recorded, analyzing the socio-political context in which they occurred.

Key words: democratization, electoral volatility, participation, elections, political parties.

ORTIZ SANDOVAL, Luis
BILINGUALISM AND EDUCATION: SOCIAL DIFFERENTIATION OF SCHOOL LANGUAGE
América Latina Hoy, 60, April 2012, pp. 139-150

In Paraguay, an officially bilingual country, the national population has two main languages, which are very different from each other, both in its lexical, morphological and syntactic dimensions. But above all, the distinction between them is their sociolinguistic nature and it is expressed in a complexity of use and interaction cases. There are social groups whose sole language is the Spanish, others have the Spanish language as their main language but they also speak Guaraní, and others, meanwhile, have as their main language Guaraní but also speak Spanish and, finally, an important group of society has the Guaraní as their single language. This range of situations has an elective affinity with social differentiation, qualifying modes of knowledge construction for Groups speakers of different varieties as pedagogical schemes existing in society. Just how the Paraguayan educational system is designed, social groups with better school performance are those whose command of Spanish, esteemed and preferred by the economy and politics, is the most efficient. However, given that the educational system established and legitimated a bilingual education program, educational inequalities must be explained by a perspective that takes into account the sociolinguistic varieties, in order to show what factors explain these disparities and what the working class response is regarding their disadvantaged status in the social structure.

Key words: bilingualism, social inequity, social classes, sociolinguistics codes, educational performance.

ANGOSTO FERRÁNDEZ, Luis Fernando
 INDIGENOUS PARTICIPATION AND REPRESENTATION IN VENEZUELAN ELECTORAL PROCESSES
América Latina Hoy, 60, April 2012, pp. 153-182

This article examines the Venezuelan regional elections of 2008 as a contextual event for the analysis of electoral strategies and results associated with the indigenous representation. Three factors intertwined in the electoral moment are analyzed: 1. the existence of minimum guaranteed representation for indigenous population in legislative organs; 2. the participation of indigenous candidates and electors; 3. the maneuvers of political parties and civil organizations that attempt to channel and/or benefit from such indigenous representation and participation. The description of the electoral context facilitates the identification of factors that, beyond the normative structure of the State, condition the agency of individuals and parties involved in electoral processes. Among those factors are the symbolic value of indigeneity in the current process of national identity re-definition, the interest of political parties in controlling the vote of the indigenous representation and the tendency towards the consolidation of professionalized elites within the indigenous activism.

Key words: Venezuela, elections, ethnic politics, indigenous peoples, political agency.

LÓPEZ ARÉVALO, Jorge Alberto and PELÁEZ HERREROS, Óscar
 ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC CONVERGENCE WITHIN CHIAPAS MUNICIPALITIES, REGIONS AND APPARENT INCONSISTENCIES
América Latina Hoy, 60, April 2012, pp. 183-206

The data of annual per capita income estimated by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for the municipal human development index in Mexico shows that, in Chiapas, during the period 2000-2005, there was a strong convergence at the municipal level while there was no regional convergence. To explain this apparent inconsistency, the article «Regression towards mediocrity in hereditary stature», published by Galton in 1886, is examined, concluding that the clustering level of the data (municipal or regional) determines the convergence analysis results, because the grouping of municipalities in regions causes loss of information that can generate phenomena of «regression towards the mean» or just the opposite, as is the case. In Chiapas, the municipal convergence would have led to convergence within the regions but not between regions.

Key words: economic convergence, per capita income, regression towards the mean, variance decomposition, Chiapas.