

ANALYTICAL SUMMARY

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AID FOR TRADE IN LATIN AMERICA: ANALYSIS AND CHARACTERIZATION OF THE FLOWS
América Latina Hoy, 63, April 2013, pp. 15-44

The Initiative of Aid for Trade, launched in 2005 during the Sixth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, aims to articulate a coherent strategy to support trade as an engine of growth and poverty reduction in developing countries. It has expanded both the conceptual scope of this type of interventions (going beyond the limits of the classic technical assistance) and the coverage of beneficiary countries (taking into account not only the least developed countries, but also the middle income countries –among them, the Latin American ones–). The goal of this article is to identify and analyze the main characteristics of the aid for trade flows in the case of 17 Latin American countries, assessing to what extent these characteristics adapt to the needs and priorities of recipient countries.

Key words: trade, growth, development cooperation, aid for trade, Latin America.

LARRÚ RAMOS, José María

POLARIZATION, INEQUALITY AND DEVELOPMENT AID IN LATIN AMERICA
América Latina Hoy, 63, April 2013, pp. 45-64

The aim of this article is to study whether development aid shows some empirical association with the polarization of income in Latin America. The main hypothesis to be verified is that aid flows, focused on people in the lowest income brackets, could generate lower polarization. To examine this effect, the hypothesis is first inserted into a theoretical framework related to the transfer problem, and then define the indicator of income polarization and study their evolution in 18 countries between 1990 and 2009. This is followed by an econometric regression using the Generalized Method of Moments system estimator. The main result is that aid shows a significant positive association with the polarization, which is interpreted as a lack of effectiveness in its focus on the lowest income decile or an inability to counter-rising incomes in the highest decile of income. In addition, polarization also appears positively associated with public spending and remittances and negatively with Conditional Cash Transfers.

Key words: Latin America, foreign aid, inequality, polarization.

BENZI, Daniele and ZAPATA, Ximena

GEOPOLITICS, ECONOMY AND INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY IN THE NEW SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION: THE CASE OF BOLIVARIAN VENEZUELA AND PETROCARIBE
América Latina Hoy, 63, April 2013, pp. 65-89

This article aims to show an overview of the energy cooperation scheme called PETROCARIBE, proposed in 2005 by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the Caribbean and Central American countries. It argues that the emergence of this project, like other South-South cooperation initiatives, is clearly linked to several strategic foreign policy goals, which basically refer to geopolitical, economic, security and, last but not least, international solidarity parameters. The first section outlines some general characteristics of South-South cooperation and current trends and debates. The following presents the peculiar features of the Bolivarian foreign and energy policies. The next presents a general description of the PETROCARIBE framework, working mechanisms and its most important projects. Finally, after a discussion on PETROCARIBE as a South-South cooperation initiative, by highlighting its scopes, problems and vulnerabilities, some conclusions are drawn.

Key words: South-South cooperation, emerging donors, Venezuela, ALBA-TCP, PETROCARIBE.

SANTOS PINHO, Carlos Eduardo

SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT:

BRAZIL-AFRICA RELATIONS IN THE PROMOTION OF PUBLIC POLICIES (2003-2012)

América Latina Hoy, 63, April 2013, pp. 91-112

Unlike the classical development cooperation provided by rich countries (North-South Cooperation - CNS), the South-South Cooperation (CSS) is designed as a horizontal partnership between countries sharing similar problems and development challenges. Once recipient of development aid for decades, Brazil claims it has a better understanding of the needs of poor countries. Since 2003, Brazil has been deepening relations with sub-Saharan Africa both from the projection of their companies as through the internationalization of public policy. Despite the «limitations» and «tensions» of this type of embryonic CSS, the article argues that Brazil has contributed substantially to the development of the African continent.

Key words: South-South cooperation, development, public policies, relationships Brazil-Africa.

RODRÍGUEZ GARCÍA, María

THE VENEZUELAN COOPERATION IN LATIN AMERICA: FROM RETHORIC TO ACTION

América Latina Hoy, 63, April 2013, pp. 113-137

This work sets to analyze coherence between the discourse around South-South cooperation and the practice of Venezuela in Latin America and the Caribbean. In order to this, interests, values and categories of identity specified in South-South cooperation discourses from South, like an assumed homogeneous group of non-development countries, and the particularities from Latin America and Venezuela, will be compared with the practice of Venezuelan Bilateral Cooperation applied in Latin America from Hugo Chávez power access in 1999.

Key words: Venezuela, South-South cooperation, coherence, energetic cooperation, financial cooperation.

TEMKIN YEDWAB, Benjamín and PENAGOS VÁSQUEZ, Diana
POLITICAL ATTITUDES AND OPINIONS OF THE INFORMALLY EMPLOYED IN LATIN AMERICA
América Latina Hoy, 63, April 2013, pp. 141-176

Although labor informality has been identified for years as a central issue for Latin American countries' public policy, there is still scant information about the characteristics of informal employment in different spheres. The main objective of this study is to identify the views and political attitudes of informal workers in Latin America, and compare them to those held by their formal counterparts. Through a «proxy» variable used to identify informal participants in the labor force in two opinion polls that apply to a broad set of countries in the region, it was possible to show that Latin American informals constitute a social group with political opinions and attitudes significantly contrasting with formal participants in the workforce.

Key words: informal employment, attitudes, democracy, government, political participation.

CONTRERAS GARCÍA, Delia
CATHOLIC CHURCH AND STATE IN CUBA: PAST AND PRESENT RELATIONSHIPS
América Latina Hoy, 63, April 2013, pp. 177-195

After centuries of a deep presence in Cuba, the Catholic Church has always been part of a complex relationship with the political establishment. The break between Church and State that occurred after the Revolution, would soon show the institution's ability to survive in unfavorable conditions. Now, after more than fifty years of revolutionary experience, the Catholic Church has become the sole internal interlocutor with the regime. The aim of this article is to analyze the process by which the Cuban Catholic Church has managed its relations with the Castro regime, balancing its pastoral mission with its social responsibilities, that has been increasing as new factors emerged, on both the national stage and on the International Relations front.

Key words: Cuban regimen, Catholic Church, relationship between Church and State, Raúl Castro.