

ABSTRACTS

RAFAEL SEGOVIA, *La resistencia al cambio*

The author states that the Mexican political system changed as a result of several compelling factors, such as the recurrent economic crises since the Echeverría administration; the growth of the middle classes; the country's cultural development; the increasing political awareness of the citizenry, and the growth of an increasingly powerful entrepreneurial class that was more and more involved in Mexico's politics. In spite of the fact that political, electoral and State reforms have all placed the PRI at the core of the problem, it is virtually impossible to identify the fractures and changes of a party that has been in power for seventy years.

For Segovia, changing electoral procedures is not urgent, because the electoral reform has been completed even though the State reform remains pending. In this process the PRI has been the greater loser; however, credibility, and participation and trust have witnessed a remarkable increase.

MARCO PALACIOS, *Colombia: ni estado de guerra, ni estado de paz; estado en proceso de paz*

Marco Palacios tries to explain why the armed conflict in Colombia has escalated rather than subsided, despite the fact that since 1982 the Colombian government has launched five "peace processes." The political and institutional fragmentation of not only various State actors but also of the guerrilla movement has been the constant of all these "peace processes." This is evident in the continual disputes between the presidents and the armed forces, the Executive and Congress, Congress and the Judiciary, the Senate and the Catholic Church. In recent times, the polemic between the government and the so-called civil society has intensified, as different actors become aware of the strategic importance of the "peace process" in the electoral arena. As regards the guerrilla, the FARC and the ELN are rivals that vie for a relevant role in said process. The fact that the coca growing areas are

controlled by the FARC—which has a marked influence on peasants—, supports the U.S. government's claim that the conflict is the result of "drug-terrorism." Of late, the U.S. has become the key mediator of the conflict. In spite of President Pastrana's reluctance to identify the guerrilla as drug-dealers, Washington seems to insist on doing so, and this only prolongs and makes an already complex situation even more so.

WAYNE A. CORNELIUS, *Acogida ambivalente: economía, cultura y etnia en las políticas de inmigración de los Estados Unidos*

This paper analyzes the sources of public resistance to immigration in the United States in the late twentieth century. The complex interplay between economic and socio-cultural factors in determining general-public attitudes toward immigration policy is documented, using data from national-level public opinion surveys conducted from 1946 through 1998. It is concluded that the Mexican and other post-1970 immigrants to the United States are being fully incorporated into the U.S. economy, mostly filling low-wage, low-skill jobs that native-born Americans typically avoid. To many native-born residents, however, the economic benefits of a large and constantly expanding supply of immigrant labor are either unrecognized or seen as being offset by non-economic costs, especially changes in the ethnic and linguistic balance within the U.S. population. Thus, despite an increasingly tight domestic labor market in the United States, public concern about "excessively" high levels of immigration persists.

MANUEL GOLLÁS, *El gobierno en el desarrollo económico de México*

This article discusses the role of the government in the economy. Two problems are analyzed: how to define and measure the government's presence, and how to measure the impact of its intervention in the economy. After reviewing the existing literature, Manuel Gollás makes estimates based on Mexican data. From his analysis of quantitative data, the author concludes that:

- a) It is risky to establish criteria regarding the nature and impact, in the long run, of the government size *vis-à-vis* economic development;
- b) In the short term, the relationship between government size and economic growth is positive for almost all variables used as indicators of government size;

- c) As regards the question of whether a private investment peso generates a greater net impact than a peso spent by the government, during a five-year period the net impact was greater when the peso was invested by private enterprise;
- d) When comparing expenditures in human capital, the results were the opposite: each peso invested by the government in human capital had a greater positive impact on growth than those achieved by private enterprise.

PABLO THELMAN SÁNCHEZ RAMÍREZ, *El conflicto en Chechenia ¿un nuevo Líbano?*

In this paper Pablo Thelman discusses the historical background of the conflict in Chechnya, its resurgence during Gorbachov's *Perestroika*, and its escalation in the 1990s. The author makes an historical and theoretical analysis of the conflict's development and its implications for Russia's domestic and foreign policy. The Caucasus, and Chechnya in particular, is of vital importance for Russia, for security, geopolitical, and economic reasons.

ANSELMO FLORES ANDRADE, *La importancia del contexto socioeconómico e institucional en el comportamiento de los empresarios durante la transición a la democracia: los casos de Chile y España*

The author analyzes the relationship between the institutional and structural elements of political change in Chile and Spain, as well as actors' characteristics, context, and peculiarities during the transition toward democracy, with a special emphasis on entrepreneurs.

While the authoritarian regimes in both countries enjoyed wide social support, the institutional framework of Chile's political transition was strong and limiting, whereas in Spain Franco's death and King Juan Carlos' strong support facilitated a more flexible transformation.

Entrepreneurs had spokespeople that were socially and politically accepted, and both in Chile and Spain they negotiated more stable political conditions. Unlike Chilean businessmen, their Spanish counterparts openly rejected labor laws and fiscal reform. However, in both countries entrepreneurs succeeded in changing the public's negative opinion of them.