

ABSTRACTS

LORENZO MEYER, *Mexico and Relative Sovereignty. The to and fro of Reaches and Limits.*

Since the 1830s decade the United States has been the great constant in Mexico's relationship with its setting. That is why the significant variables that explain the history of its foreign policy are: *a)* the specific circumstances of the international system, *b)* the nature of the national project vis-à-vis the United States in each period, *c)* the internal elements of power and *d)* the skill and ability of the Mexican ruling class to maximize its relative sovereignty at every stage or in every situation. This article observes the behavior of those four variables, from World War II to date.

Key words: **Mexico, United States, sovereignty, independence, regime.**

SYLVAIN F. TURCOTTE, *Brazil's Policy for South America: Between Willingness and Resistance.*

Since its coming to power, Lula's government has made South America the top priority of its foreign policy. The aim is to give Brazil the status of a regional power and reinforce its positions on a multilateral scale. The attempt has failed due to the keen competition and aspirations of Argentina and Venezuela. This is compounded by the difficult political relations with neighboring countries and the Brazilian inability to manage the area politically due to lack of means. An analysis of its position vis-à-vis Mercosur and Unasur points up the failings of the project and stresses the need to fully assume the costs implicit in developing a status of regional power.

Key words: **Brazil, Mercosur, regional integration, South America, Andean nationalism.**

JEAN CASIMIR, *Haiti and Its Elites: The Unending Dialogue of the Deaf.*

The Haitian nation was born of numerous ethnic groups that the dominant classes considered a homogenous mass of slaves or former African slaves. In contrast to the racial discrimination that justified colonial labor relations, they invented a colony of populating that expressly included the original ethnic groups within and Americanist, rebellious conception which was probably unique in the 18th century. The isolation of local elites by the international community after 1804 led to endogenous development and favored a state organization different from that which prevailed during that period. These elites questioned nineteenth-century racism, without ceasing to adhere to Western civilizing aims. The American occupation of 1915 absorbed them and began the political marginalization of the masses, so that from independence to date no conscious dialogue between the elites and the masses has taken place.

Key words: **Haiti, ethnic group, slavery, racism, nation-state.**

NURIA TABANERA GARCÍA, *Roots and Nuances, in European Code, of the Relations between Spain and the United States in the Early 21st Century.*

This article seeks to contextualize the relations between Spain and the United States during the last term of office of President José María Aznar, indicating the changes that these relations introduced in the priorities set in Spanish foreign policy during the transition. These relations are linked to the recent transformations experienced in the relations between Europe and the United States, and a connection is made, especially, between the Spanish rapprochement with the United States and Great Britain and the evolution of the European discussion on the expansion of the Union and the approval of its so-called Constitution.

Key words: **Spanish Foreign policy, Europeanism, Atlanticism, Anti-Americanism.**

FABIOLA RODRÍGUEZ BARBA, *Mexico and the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of Diversity of Cultural Expressions of UNESCO.*

This article deals with the *Convention on the protection and promotion of diversity of cultural expressions of UNESCO* as a pioneering document of International Law that expressly recognizes the specific nature of cultural goods and services as bearers of values. In this regard, it underscores its importance as one of the founding texts of International Law of culture. Similarly, it outlines Mexico's role in the process of preparation of the *Convention*, and the importance of the latter for Mexico.

Key words: **Mexico, UNESCO, cultural diversity.**

TATIANA SIDORENKO, *Russian Energy Policy and its Projection in Asia.*

The purpose of this paper is to analyze the objectives and the key directions of the Asian projection of Russia's energy policy up to the year 2020, and to show its first real results. In particular, emphasis is placed on how the development of the Asian projection of Russian energy policy conditions industrial policy (gas and petroleum extraction) and the policy of internal infrastructures (transport of hydrocarbons), with its implications on regional development. Special emphasis is placed on analyzing the cooperation of Russian petroleum and gas companies with the countries of the Community of Independent States in the energy sector, the purpose of which is to incorporate additional energy resources into Russia's energy balance.

Key words: **energy policy, Russia, Asian market.**

RAFAEL MARTÍNEZ PUÓN, *Notes to Establish a Professionalization System for High-Level Public Officials in Mexico.*

The purpose of the article is to stress the importance of professionalizing the managerial function in contemporary bureaucracies by means of the establishment of a specific system for this purpose, set up in parallel to the existence and functioning of civil and professional career services. The aim is for this body of public officials to act as liaison between the political personnel and the administrative personnel. Whith regard to Mexico's case, although

it is true that progress in the professionalization of public servants at the different levels of government and in the different spheres of the public administration is still part of an incipient exercise, it is believed that we will soon advance toward the professionalization of personnel specialized in managerial functions, hence the importance of beginning to build the foundations.

Key words: managerial function, public officials, civil or professional career service, professionalization, public administration.

JOSÉ LUIS BUSTOS VILLEGAS, *Reform of the Public Administration in Australia 1974-2007: Some Lessons in Implementation.*

One of the advantages of analyzing experiences that have achieved far-reaching changes in public administration is drawing lessons for the implementation of administrative reform initiatives. In this regard, this research project has a two-fold objective. First it seeks to find the motivating forces, the main features and the results of the reforms of Australia's federal public administration during the period 1974-2007. Second, it aims to draw lessons for the public administration that seek to undertake reforms similar to those that have been carried out in Australia. It is shown that such reforms have transformed that country's public administration, making it result-oriented. Also, at least eight important lessons are set forth.

Key words: Australia, federal public administration, administrative reform, new public administration.