

ABSTRACTS

ÉRIC LÉONARD AND BRUNO LOSCH, *The Entry of Mexican Agriculture into the North American Market: Structural Changes, Mutations of Public Actions and Recomposition of the Rural and Regional Economy.*

The decline of Mexican agriculture began with the economic liberalization process and accelerated with the entry into effect of NAFTA. However, the trade agreement did not produce the catastrophic results foreseen for various reasons: the prices of several products (corn, beans) were already falling, the growing volume of remittances sent by emigrants compensated for budget cuts, while some agricultural areas succeeded in entering the North American market, concealing the lag of the rest. Nevertheless, there is a growing gap between the regions that have succeeded in adapting to the change (north and west of the country) and those that live increasingly from poverty reduction and social welfare policies (part of the center and south of the territory).

Key words: NAFTA, agriculture, remittances, economic liberalization, corn production.

FRANCISCO E. GONZÁLEZ, *The Cycle of One-Party Domination: Mexico, India and Japan in Comparative Perspective.*

Authors who have studied the political authority wielded by a single party in different countries with non-totalitarian regimes have identified a “cycle of domination” (Pempel, ed., 1990). Along the same lines, this analysis concentrates on the political institutions, resources and social divisions to identify the origins, challenges and continuance (or extinction) of the dominance of a single party in Mexico, India and Japan. Despite the significant differ-

ences between these nations, the origins of their cycles of one-party dominance share a linkage of party elites, State bureaucrats and private capital that guaranteed positions and resources in the form of patronage and cronyism. In addition to material resources, the use of ideology (for example, the dominant party portrayed itself as the embodiment of the nation's central aspirations and values) was also crucial in creating and subsequently maintaining the dominance of a single party in these countries. In all three cases, dominance also faced similar challenges in the form of a significant split in the party in power or in the emergence of an opposition capable of obtaining sufficient credibility regarding its capacity to govern. Finally, the framework of institutions, resources and social divisions also throws light on the extinction of the dominance of a single party in India and Mexico, as well as on its continuance in Japan.

Key words: **dominance, ideology, single party, bureaucracy, Mexico, India, Japan.**

CARLOS FEDERICO DOMÍNGUEZ AVILA, *Brazil, the Greater Caribbean and the Reconfiguration of the Common Agenda: Trends, Challenges and Prospects in the Early Years of the 21st Century.*

The article analyzes the current economic, political and international security relations between Brazil and the 25 countries of the Caribbean Basin, that is, Mexico, Central America, the Antilles, Colombia, Venezuela, Guyana and Suriname, as well as some ten colonial territories administered by extra-regional powers. It can be verified that the economic relations are very intense, especially in trade terms and recently also as regards productive investments. The political dialogue among the parties is constructive, important and increasingly significant. As concerns security issues, it is worth highlighting their common features, but also certain profound differences of a geopolitical nature stemming from Brazil's South American project. At the end of the article three plausible scenarios are proposed for the future of Brazilian-Caribbean relations.

Key words: **Brazil, Greater Caribbean, international economy, international policy, international security.**

JORGE FERNÁNDEZ RUIZ, *Debt Reduction of the Poorest Countries and its Relation to Aid.*

The indebtedness of a group of very low-income countries grew rapidly in the 80s and in the beginning of the 90s, becoming a serious problem for their development. In 1996 the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank presented an initiative to relieve this debt which meant an important change in the manner of addressing the issue. The present article makes a survey of this initiative and examines its grounds and limitations, which serves as a basis for studying the role of debt reduction and other forms of aid as mechanisms to promote the development of the poorest countries.

Key words: foreign debt, foreign aid, debt relief, HIPC Initiative, poor countries.

JAMES MARTÍN CYPHER, *Back to the 19th Century? The Current Commodities Boom and the Primarization Process in Latin America.*

Latin America experienced strong economic growth between 2003 and 2007 due to a boom in the prices of primary goods. Net terms of trade have shifted in benefit of raw materials. The vigorous global demand for primary products, furthered by the high growth rates of Asian nations, is a unique opportunity for restructuring the economies of the region. The latter could undertake a thorough process of reindustrialization based on the domestic market. Nevertheless, national power groups would be opposed, as would foreign companies operating in key sectors which extract large quantities of resources. This article analyzes three possible results of the boom in primary goods. A return to the dependence of the 19th century seems the most likely.

Key words: primary goods, Prebisch-Singer hypothesis, terms of trade, commodities, revenue.

ANA BELÉN BENITO SÁNCHEZ, *The Judiciary, Accountability, and Transition to Democracy in Spain.*

The Spanish transition developed with the continuance of the main institutions of the dictatorial regime. The Judiciary was immersed in a new democratic context without losing the constituting elements of the former authoritarian regime: hidden under the appearance of the judicial neutrality of the old positivist legalism were the traditional acquiescence, servility and legitimization of the *statu quo*. What were the strategies to purge the judicial institution of its authoritarian legacy? How did the exercise of this institution's control agent (legal accountability) develop in the transition to democracy? The article argues that the purging strategy was external. A renewal imposed from outside through legal and political mechanisms, which was made possible as a result of the new scenario of political opportunity arising after the 1982 elections.

Key words: transition, the Judiciary, apoliticism, legal accountability, Constitutional Court.