

ABSTRACTS

NATALIA CEPPI, *The Subject of Energy in the Relations between Argentina and Bolivia. Agreements and Setbacks Regarding Natural Gas.*

During the 90s decade most of the Latin American countries experienced privatization processes that led to the restructuring and liberalization of key sectors of their economies. In the cases of Argentina and Bolivia, the energy sphere –centering on petroleum and natural gas– did not remain on the sidelines of the reforms, so that transnational corporations occupied a key position in the different points of the productive chain. In the first few months of 2004 Argentina was immersed in a deep energy crisis and, since then, natural gas has played a leading role in its bilateral relations with Bolivia. Nonetheless, the existence of internal factors peculiar to each State makes compliance with international agreements difficult, which causes certain *gray areas* in the links between Argentina and Bolivia.

Key words: **Argentina, Bolivia, natural gas, energy crisis, agreements.**

JOSÉ BRICEÑO RUIZ AND MIRIAM GOMES SARAIVA, *Different Viewpoints on the Building of Mercosur in Argentina, Brazil and Venezuela.*

This article analyzes the views on Mercosur held by the main political actors in the largest countries that comprise it. The aim is to appraise the arguments in the public sphere in support or rejection of this regional initiative. To achieve this objective the ideas defended in Argentina and Brazil are analyzed, and an assessment is also made of how far the political actors in Venezuela have participated in their country's process of incorporation into Mercosur.

Key words: **Mercosur, South American integration, ideas, foreign policy.**

EMILIO DE ANTUÑANO, *Memory of the Spanish Civil War: On the Background and Outcomes of the 2007 "Law of Historical Memory."*

In 2007 the Spanish Congress discussed and approved its controversial Law of Historical Memory. Promoted by a Socialist government, the law implies an important change in the way in which Spain confronts its past of civil war and dictatorship. During the transition to Spanish democracy, the war became a threatening, divisive past that had to be silenced and averted before understanding or commemorating it. The return of the subject of the Civil War to Spanish public debate has an undoubted political component. In view of the fact that there is no consensus among the Spanish political elite regarding the significance of the events, its interpretations are used to link political positions, as well as screens where current differences and conflicts can be expressed.

Key words: Law of Historical Memory, Spanish Civil War, transition, People's Party (PP), Spanish Socialist Workers' Party (PSOE).

RENÉ MILLÁN, *The Change in Mexican Society: Dimension and Significance.*

What has changed is the way in which society is integrated, puts itself in order. A model of analysis is prepared with the concepts of diversification and social complexity that makes it possible to refer the transformations of different systems (political, economic, juridical) to the sphere of social integration. Due to the state centralization that governs it, the post-revolutionary order makes politics the key function of integration and its own system the predominant one. Social coordination is high, but the internal alternatives are restricted. Political hyperfunction decreases with the new order: the autonomy of the other systems self-limits it. Social coordination diminishes structurally and increasing it requires criteria and principles different from those of post-revolutionary society.

Key words: México social and political change, social integration, diversification, complexity, social coordination.

LUISA BÉJAR ALGAZI, *From Centralization to Decentralization. The New Institutional Design of the Congress of the Union.*

Contrary to what might be expected, the shift in Mexico from a highly centralized political system to a decentralized one has barely given rise to a small reduction in voting unity among the parliamentary groups. In this context, this article questions the transformations experienced in the regulatory framework of the Congress of the Union to contain indiscipline and lack of cohesion among their number. The modification of that body's internal procedures has pointed toward increasing the powers of the group coordinators as members of the Political Coordination Board. That strategy has been in response to a dual purpose: 1) reinforcing control over the members of their group; 2) facilitating legislators' negotiations in benefit of the sub-national stakeholders on whom their political future now depends.

Key words: political system, Congress, internal procedures, parties, elections.