

## ABSTRACTS

GIANDOMENICO MAJONE, *“Social Europe”, Policy Harmonization, and the Challenge of Socioeconomic Heterogeneity.*

For several reasons, redistributive social policy has always played a minor role in the European Union. Basically, the only distinctive European social policy consists in consumer protection, and in the protection of individuals against any form of discrimination based on nationality or gender. Such social protection is an important example of “negative” integration, while the enforcement of positive social rights would require not only a much larger budget, but also a level of top-down harmonization which is unfeasible under present circumstances. Hence, each enlargement of the EU (or, more generally, of a regional bloc) changes the calculus of the benefits and costs of policy harmonization. In sum, the main limits to deep regional integration are social rather than economic or even, strictly speaking, political.

Key words: **harmonization, monetary union, negative integration, regional integration, democratic deficit.**

CARLOS FEDERICO DOMÍNGUEZ AVILA, *The Democratic Transition in Bulgaria (1989-1992): A Study Based on Brazilian Sources.*

This article explores the successful and little studied political and economic Bulgarian transition between 1989 and 1992. The paper is the result of research into recently declassified primary sources in the Historical Archive of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil (AHMRE, located in Brazilia), as well as specialized literature and secondary sources. This article arises facing the twentieth anniversary of the implosion of the former socialist area, of the end of the Cold War, and of the democratization of Eastern Europe.

Key words: **Bulgaria, democratic transition, Eastern Europe, history of international relations.**

MAURICIO CRUZ GARCÍA, *Government and Mexican Social Movements Faced with World War II.*

Manuel Ávila Camacho's government had a direct interest in joining the great multinational alliance headed by the United States during World War II. It therefore carried out an extensive propagandistic task to get the public opinion approval to take part in the international anti-Fascist coalition. Eric Hobsbawm's statement that the coalition was a major confrontation between revolutionary or liberal forces and reactionary forces, not only at international level but also at the heart of most nations, can be fully proved in Mexico's case. Here a confrontation took place between the forces of the left (official or independent) and the rightist opposition. Ávila Camacho's forces then took advantage to consolidate the authoritarian strength of the post-revolutionary regime.

Key words: **Mexico, social movement, Manuel Ávila Camacho, antifascism, Party of the Mexican Revolution.**

JOSÉ ANTONIO HERNÁNDEZ COMPANY, *Presidential Election: Did Issue Stances Matter?*

Research on public opinion has found that respondents to survey questions lack true attitudes towards different economic and moral issues. Given the latter, these respondents do not use their stance towards these issues to decide for which party or candidate to vote for. One of the main reasons for these dismal findings lies on the existence of measurement error. The paper presents a technique that corrects for measurement error and tests the importance of issues stances in the vote choice of the Mexican electorate during the 2006 Presidential Election. The paper also analyzes the significance of a "perceived issue space" and demonstrates that this concept is important to understand which *particular* issue stances matter and which ones do not in a voting decision.

Key words: **issue stances, measurement error, perception of issue space, vote choice, Mexico's 2006 Presidential Election.**

GABRIEL FARFÁN-MARES, *The Political Economy of Mexico's Rentier State (1970-2010)*.

This paper is comprised by four sections. The first tries to explain why Mexico eventually turned into a full Rentier State (i.e. a State which intensively and consistently depends upon oil crude to finance its activities). The second section traces back, using public finance detailed data, the trajectory and rationale for rentier policy. The third and fourth sections analyze the gains and costs of maintaining such policy. Finally, this paper sets forth a theoretical and methodological refinement of the available literature on the resource curse thesis and rentier States upon a comparative quantitative exercise ( $n = 30$ ).

Key words: **tax collection, budget, oil, institutions, comparative politics.**

Traducción de GONZALO CELORIO MORAYTA