

ABSTRACTS

JOHN TUTINO, *Capitalism, the National State, and the Limits of Revolution: Three Pivotal Moments in 20th Century in Mexican History*.

This essay is built on the historical erudition of Adolfo Gilly and Friedrich Katz, and faced with the theoretical perspectives of Barrington Moore, Theda Skocpol and Richard Adams. It focuses on three junctures in which the relations between the power of the State, national social forces, and global capitalism altered the course of Mexican History. In 1914-1915, Carranza tapped the wealth of Atlantic capitalism to block popular mobilizations. In 1938, Cárdenas negotiated, based on campesino and workers' mobilizations, to nationalize petroleum and claim maximum power for Mexico at a time of weakened capitalism. In 1994, Salinas incorporated Mexico into global capitalism; at the same time, he inhibited popular assertions of power and delayed democratization.

Key words: **Mexican Revolution, constitutionalism, Cardenism, capitalism, globalization.**

LAURENCE WHITEHEAD, *An Update on US Hegemony 50 years After the Founding of the CEI and 20 years after the "End of History."*

The article updates some of the author's earlier reflections and stresses the complexity and relative indecisiveness of the forces that shape global political expectations. Five pivotal points –temporality, hegemonic presumption, academic selectivity, the restlessness of internal politics and the unpredictability of international challenges– confirm that the factors surrounding the evolution (or erosion) of Washington's international hegemony are more structural than a comparison of successive presidential terms (Bush and Obama) might suggest.

Key words: **US hegemony, Mexico-United States, special relations, constructivism, post-Cold War.**

ROGELIO HERNÁNDEZ RODRÍGUEZ, *Does the Opposition Learn to Govern? The PAN's Presidential Cabinets, 2000-2010.*

The careers of the cabinet members of presidents Vicente Fox and Felipe Calderón are reviewed, in order to analyze their experience and preparation in administrative and political tasks. The purpose is to observe whether the PAN, in opposition until 2000, has had the capacity to govern Mexico immediately after achieving political alternation and thus bringing the democratic transition formally to an end. The review shows that in appointing collaborators both leaders have favored managers, entrepreneurs, specialists trained in the years of PRI domination, and, specially, friends. With the exception of the specialists, the rest display notable inexperience in the entrusted tasks.

Key words: political elite, presidential cabinets, presidents, State ministers, Partido Acción Nacional.

GONZALO CASTAÑEDA AND IGNACIO IBARRA, *Campaigns, Discussion Networks and Volatility of Political Preferences: An Analysis of the 2006 Mexican Elections.*

The electoral contest for the presidency of Mexico in 2006 is analyzed by means of an agent-based computer model. By conceiving the contest as a complex, adaptable system it is possible to formally study the forming of preferences based on political discussion networks. Certain statistical regularities observed at the district level can be replicated with the model. In particular, the model accurately reproduces the frequency of percentages of votes received by the three main candidates. Similarly, evidence is presented that the discussion networks and the influence of the media are critical in explaining the volatility observed in individual preferences throughout the campaign.

Key words: party preferences, political discussion networks, simulation, complex adaptable systems, Mexican elections.

MARCELO MORICONI, *Victims, Accomplices and Indifferent People: Rhetoric as a Rethinking of Citizen Security (and Education) Policies.*

The paper seeks to rethink insecurity from a theory of reproduction of social struggle. This theory analyzes ideas and complementary activities that

determine the appeal and symbolic value of offense and crime. Despite the abundant literature on *citizen security*, insecurity and violence continue to be regarded from simple and lineal paradigms marked by cause-consequence. However, complex thinking has much to contribute to the subject; particularly in relation to the nature of human beings and the basic axioms of contemporary society. In this context, rhetorical politics emerges as a possible strategy for peace.

Key words: **Insecurity, violence, rhetoric, education, complex thinking.**