

ABSTRACTS

RODRIGO VELÁZQUEZ, *Mexican Realities: Democracy's Effect on Bureaucratic - Legislative Relations.*

The article evaluates whether democratization has increased Congress's oversight of bureaucrats in Mexico. To this end it analyzes the investigation commissions created by the Chamber of Deputies between 1997 and 2006. Since the PRI lost its absolute majority in the lower chamber the political conditions and climate have been in place to allow legislators to exercise greater control over public policies. However, Congress's effectiveness at really holding the government to account is still limited. The results show that the number of investigation commissions have multiplied since 1997, but their effectiveness at highlighting misdemeanors by bureaucrats remains poor. A "most likely case" is studied to illustrate the factors that hinder the accomplishment of effective supervision.

Keywords: bureaucratic-legislative power relationships, democratization, investigation commissions, Mexico, legislative control.

DAVID ARELLANO GAULT, ALEJANDRA MEDINA AND ROBERTO RODRÍGUEZ, *Implementing a Whistleblowers Policy: A Viable Mechanism for Attacking Corruption in Mexico?*

Establishing norms to institutionalize the figure of the whistleblower is a highly-complex decision for any democracy. A comparative analysis is made of the experiences of ten countries (and the 2011 Mexican legal initiative) that have passed legislation on this issue and may provide interesting lessons for countries such as Mexico. There are significant limits, due to the difficulty of regulating individual behavior and organizational actors in situations of limited rationality. Consideration of this mechanism confronts uncertainties (such as the precise definition of a corrupt act) in an

institutional and organizational context immersed in political and organizational pressures of all kinds.

Keywords: whistleblower, corruption, protection, denunciation, organizational change.

RAFAEL ARANDA AND LIONEL RODRÍGUEZ BURGUETE, *The Asphalt Road of Political Alternance in Mexico: From Urban Centers to the Periphery.*

In Mexico, political changes emerge principally in cities, where socio-economic flows converge at the junctions of the intercity federal highway network. Many of these poles of regional development and urban/industrial corridors were the triggers for transfers of political power in their respective areas of influence, which followed the urban hierarchy marked out by the intercity highway network. The country was broken up into a mosaic of sub-national pluralist competitive units that co-existed with authoritarian enclaves, where marginalization with regard to the socio-economic flows of the urban hierarchy made them resistant to the effects of democratization.

Keywords: municipal elections, democratic transition, socio-economic flows, urban centers, periphery.

PABLO TELMAN SÁNCHEZ RAMÍREZ, *The Unfolding of Kremlin Policy over the last 25 Years: Hits and Misses.*

This article looks back at the hits and misses made by the Russian Federation since the 1980s, with the arrival of Perestroika and the break-up of the Soviet Union. Since then radical and contradictory restructuring and reform processes have developed in the Soviet and post-Soviet space that are without precedent in the national political panorama. Amidst liberal reforms, the attempt to democratize society, the flourishing of nationalism and the new idea of Russia, internal wars advance and retreat almost simultaneously. Russia returns to the international stage as a major, leading power, displaying notable advances in the political, social and economic order

compared to previous decades, including the Leonid Brezhnev epoch in the 1970s.

Keywords: Perestroika, nationalist ideology, super-presidentialism, pragmatism, strengthened State.

JORGELINA LOZA, *Considerations on the Nation Question: The Processes of Constructing the National Idea in Argentina, Uruguay and Mexico.*

This article reviews a number of theoretical contributions to the concept of the nation. Given these theorizations were influenced by the social and political moments in which context they emerged, these contributions are discussed with a view to reflecting on the current Latin American context. Furthermore, a review of how the nation is constructed in the south and north of this region – in Argentina, Uruguay and Mexico – allows application of these ideas about the nation to be put to the test in concrete examples.

Keywords: nation, representations, identities, Argentina, Uruguay, Mexico.

RAÚL ORNELAS, *The Capitalist Crisis: the End of U.S. Hegemony? A Study from the Point of View of Competition between Transnational Companies.*

The recent crisis has struck a deep blow to the U.S. economy and businesses, entailing spectacular bankruptcies and a relative withdrawal on the part of the world's leading power. However, analysis of competition reveals a complementary process of concentration of property and economic power without precedent in recent history. The financialization of the world economy established relationships of interdependence between the principal bourgeoisies, together with a considerable advantage held by U.S.-based transnational companies in strategic sectors of the world economy. As such,

it is too early to declare an end to U.S. hegemony, at least in the sphere of competition between businesses.

Keywords: **hegemony, geopolitics, transnational companies, competition, United States.**

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