

## ABSTRACTS

ROGELIO HERNÁNDEZ RODRÍGUEZ and WIL G. PANSTERS, *Democracy in Mexico and the Return of the PRI*.

In 2012 the Mexican democratic system confronted a new kind of alternation of governments. One of the principal characteristics of this challenge was the electoral recovery of the PRI, which seemed certain to win, representing for some a return to authoritarian rule. The essay considers this possibility in the light of analysis of the institutional maturity of political changes (electoral, in competency and participation, relations between branches of power and between the federation and the states), and concludes that such a return to the past is unlikely. However, this conclusion does not mean that democracy is becoming entrenched, given the resistance offered by numerous informal practices such as clientelism, corporatism, corruption and the lack of effective rule of law.

Keywords: **democracy, alternation of governments, institutional change, political parties, weaknesses of democracy, rule of law.**

GRACIELA BENSUSÁN AREOUS and KEVIN J. MIDDLEBROOK, *Organized Labor and Democratization in Mexico*.

This article analyzes the response of the Mexican workers' movement to democratization and the various consequences of this process for labor policies, providing a contribution to the comparative politics debate on the role of labor unionism in democratic change. The system that governs the State-worker relationship, a legacy of Mexico's authoritarian past, helps to explain the calculations made by labor union leaders and government officials regarding the country's democratic transition. This document analyzes changes to political representation in labor unions and the electoral

behavior of unionized workers, together with the successive failures experienced by the proposed reform to the Federal Working Law since 2000 and the implications for the workers' movement and Mexican society.

**Keywords: workers' movement, democratization, State-worker relationship.**

MARKUS-MICHAEL MÜLLER, *Transformations to Clientelism: Democratization, (In)security and Urban Policies in the Federal District.*

In theory, under the conditions of open electoral competition, an active civil society and institutions that guarantee accountability, clientelism and vote-buying lose their attraction and disappear in the long run. Based on an analysis of political processes in the Federal District, this article examines the survival and transformation of political clientelism in democratic Mexico. An attempt is made to evaluate the causes and consequences of the persistence and continued relevance of political clientelism, placing emphasis on the diversification of "client supply" in the context of local democratization. This diversification increasingly includes the provision of individualized benefits relating to public security, in exchange for political support.

**Keywords: Mexico, Distrito Federal, political clientelism, informal policies, democratization, insecurity.**

SALVADOR MARTÍ I PUIG, *Citizenship and Political Culture in Mexico After Two Presidential Terms of Alternation of Government.*

This article describes the viewpoints and attitudes of Mexican citizens during the presidential term of Felipe Calderón and the most significant lines of political culture in Mexico, together with the discussion on the quality of democracy, in order to observe the level of satisfaction of citizens and politicians with Mexican democracy. The attitudes of citizens with regard to their party links and participation in a range of political and social activities

are analyzed. Based on the data provided, the article reflects on political citizenship in Mexico ten years after alternation of government began.

**Keywords: political culture, citizenship, democracy, participation, political parties.**

FERNANDA SOMUANO, *On Why Mexicans Join and Participate in Non-Governmental Organizations.*

Mexico is not noted for its highly politically-active citizens. With the exception of the vote, other activities common in established democracies, such as contacting a political representative, attending a local council meeting, signing a petition or participating in a non-governmental organization, are unusual activities for Mexicans. This article considers what leads an individual to decide to join and become involved in a non-governmental organization in Mexico; what leads people to channel their demands using this type of organization rather than through interest groups, social movements, political parties or businesses; and how to encourage participation and citizen organization in a democracy such as that of Mexico?

**Keywords: political participation, Mexico, civil organization, civil society, associationism.**

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