

ABSTRACTS

SOLEDAD LOAEZA, *The United States and the Containment of Communism in Mexico and Latin America*

Latin American countries experienced and suffered from the atmosphere of rivalry between America and the Soviet Union during the Cold War. Faced with the potential threat of Moscow-backed communist subversion, Washington's geostrategic security plans impacted on institutions and processes in the region, leading to instability, guerilla struggles, coups d'état and military dictatorships. Furthermore, this atmosphere enabled the authoritarian regime in power in Mexico to develop and entrench itself, establishing itself as the frame of reference for political struggle and contributing to the re-definition of nationalism as a third way between communism and capitalism.

Keywords: Cold War, Latin America, containment, geopolitics, Mexican political regime.

CÉSAR MARTÍNEZ ÁLVAREZ and HUMBERTO GARZA ELIZONDO, *Geopolitics of Mexico and its effects on national security, 1820-2012.*

Faced with the return of the *politics of power* to the international stage and the reevaluation of studies based on the territorial characteristics of a country, it becomes relevant to ask: What is the geopolitical situation of Mexico and what are the consequences of this for national security? To answer this question, the basic concepts of geopolitics are summarized before applying them to the case of Mexico. This is followed by an analysis of the regional changes that took place at different historical stages of the country and the effects of these on the origin and scope of threats to national security.

Keywords: geopolitics, Mexico, national security, strategic effects, border control.

JULIEN BUFFET, *The Metamorphoses of Russian National Feeling: From Boris Yeltsin to Vladimir Putin.*

The collapse of the Soviet Union and the failure of its modernization project have eroded the trust of the Russian nation, giving rise to a serious cultural crisis. Eager to join the great Western powers, the anticommunist nationalism of Boris Yeltsin did not respond appropriately to the expectations of the Russian people regarding the definition of a new role for their nation in world history. The reversal in the early years of the new century marks the transformation of nationalism into a political resource and its appropriation by Vladimir Putin as leader of the nation. As the key element of the new modernization project, State nationalism must serve to stabilize the country. This implies revitalizing the social contract and updating the sovereign power of the State, to the detriment of the political system.

Keywords: national feeling, stabilization, Vladimir Putin, state power, values, Russia.

OLGA AIKIN AND ALEJANDRO ANAYA MUÑOZ, *Human Rights Crisis for Migrants Transiting Mexico: Transnational Networks and Pressure.*

One of the most serious human rights problems facing Mexico today is the situation of migrants transiting the country. Since 2009, a transnational network to promote and defend their rights has rapidly grown up, leading to pressure “from outside” on the Mexican government. What are the characteristics of this network? How broad is it and how strong is it? What level of pressure has it succeeded in generating? What are the limitations to this network and to the pressure it has generated? Is it likely this pressure will increase in future? This article seeks to answer these questions, following the postulates of an influential body of academic literature on international human rights activism and the transnational networks to promote and defend rights.

Keywords: migrants in transit, human rights, transnational network for promotion and defense of rights.

ESTEBAN SERRANI, *Latin America's Oil Policy in the Light of Recent International Trends: Regional Perspectives from an Analysis of Brazil and Argentina.*

The long cycle of high commodity prices, driven by oil prices that also remain high, as does demand in leading industrial economies, finds oil-producing countries in Latin America in an expectant position. This article proposes to analyze recent trends in the political economy of the oil industry in the region and, based on case studies in Brazil and Argentina, examine how these global oil trends were dealt with and what were the principal measures taken by the sector over the last decade. Using these case studies, the article concludes with a detailed analysis on the outlook of the region in the medium term.

Keywords: oil, energy, Argentina, Brazil, Latin America.

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