

ABSTRACTS

TATIANA SIDORENKO, *Russia's Foreign Debt: Dynamic, Structure, and Risks of the Conditions of Western Economic Sanctions*

At the start of the twenty-first century, thanks to the increase in income from exports, Russia managed to cancel the foreign debt inherited from the Soviet Union. However, beginning in 2006 Russian companies and banks, including those controlled by the state, began to borrow from European and US banks, leading to a deep dependence on loans from these banks, and the growth of Russia's corporate foreign debt. The conflict in Ukraine and the introduction of Western sanctions against Russia in 2014 radically changed the situation with regard to the foreign debt held by the country.

Keywords: Russia, foreign debt, corporate foreign debt, conflict in Ukraine, Western economic sanctions.

DANIEL AÑORVE AÑORVE, *The Annexation of Crimea: A Response to the Russian Federation's Demographic Crisis.*

The annexation of Crimea by the Russian Federation in 2014 has brought realpolitik into focus once more. On the one hand, the Russian Federation is a resurgent power; on the other, its declining population gives rise to military, economic, fiscal and national security problems. This qualitative paper suggests a

demographic realism approach as an alternative explanation for the annexation of Crimea. This annexation helps to solve different bottlenecks that compromise the consolidation of the Russian Federation as a regional power. The decision to annex Crimea to the Russian Federation is consistent with a number of official documents that seek to respond to the demographic crisis in Russia. Scenarios that could slow down Russian territorial expansion are analyzed.

**Keywords: demographic realism,
demographic crisis,
expansionism,
Russian Federation, Crimea.**

MARTA TAWIL, *The Study of the Middle East within the Discipline of International Relations in Mexico*

Predominant topics as well as methodological and theoretical tools are identified, which are then linked to the question of knowing how the growing interest in the Middle East among Mexican internationalists, and their efforts in this field, are effectively reflected in the policy relevance and public engagement of academics and scholars. The information presented here is mostly based on BA, Masters degree and PhD theses on Middle Eastern issues and countries that have been written by students of international relations since 1980 in four Mexican universities; it shows that there is a pending agenda, related to problems in research and documentation networks, a lack of financial resources, and the priorities set out by Mexico's geographical position, and its relationship with the United States.

**Key words: Middle East Studies,
International Relations,
Mexico's Foreign Policy, Colleges.**

RAÚL ZEPEDA GIL, *Democracy, the Army, and Foreign Policy in Mexico: The Case of the Absence of Mexican Military Personnel from UN Peacekeeping Operations.*

Until 2014, Mexico had refused to send military personnel to UN peacekeeping operations. This paper explains the change in position of the Ministry of Defense, which influenced the decision of the president, through an analysis of the political stakeholders involved using Allison's model of bureaucratic and organizational analysis, and Lindblom's incremental public policy model. The study of Mexico's absence from these operations reveals the changes in the country's foreign policy through changes in the incumbent political party, the rotation of bureaucratic cadres, and the dynamics of relations between civilians –in this case diplomats– and the military.

**Keywords: Peacekeeping operations,
military-civilian relations,
democratic transition,
foreign policy,
intergovernmental relations.**

GERMÁN PETERSEN CORTÉS, *Institutions, Agents, and Structural Reforms: The Energy Reforms of 2008 and 2013 in Comparative Perspective.*

In general terms, there are two major explanations for changes in public policy: institutions and agents. Which of these two explains why an incremental energy reform was approved in Mexico in 2008 –one that tinkered around the edges– and a more radical one in 2013, presenting deep-seated changes? Putting it in theoretical terms, what better explains the incremental or radical character of a structural reform, and in more abstract

terms, of the change in public policy? The comparison between the two reforms allows us to argue that the incremental or radical nature of the change is better explained by agents than by institutions.

Keywords: **Congress, strategy, Pact for Mexico, energy reform, executive-legislature relationship.**

GRISSEL SALAZAR REBOLLEDO, *The Toughness of the Glass: The Significance of Time in Explaining the Quality of Laws on Access to Information.*

The quality of laws on access to information can be explained by traditional static indicators as well as by dynamic variables such as the effects of time. The “traces of time” affect the quality of these laws. The moment at which a law on access to information is adopted has an impact on its quality, due to the process of learning and dissemination it involves; and in countries undergoing a transition to democracy, with a history of lack of transparency, the enactment of such a law is seen as a step that can reverse the perception of secrecy. Explanations based on static indicators, such as levels of political rights and civil liberties, fail to allow understanding of the diversity of content of transparency laws, nor their capacity for compliance.

Keywords: **transparency, access to information, accountability, time variable, administrative reforms.**

MARINA VITELLI, *South America: From Cooperative Security to Dissuasive Cooperation.*

The article reflects the apparent paradox of the existence of the South American Defense Council (CDS) in a context of both violence and cooperation in South America. The principal argument is that the model of regional security under construction represents a transformation with regard to the one established at the end of the Cold War. By studying the nature of the activities carried out by the CDS, this body is interpreted as the outcome of the relative failure of the US multidimensional security project, which brings together in its place cooperative security with the deterrence model, both tendencies associated with post-liberal regionalism.

Keywords: **defense,**
regional cooperation,
South American Defense Council,
cooperative security, autonomy.

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