

ABSTRACTS

ENRIQUE PAREDES FRÍAS and EZEQUIEL CONTRERAS PIÑA, *Mexico voting patterns at the UN General Assembly between 1994 and 2015: the issues of the Middle East and Palestine.*

This paper proposes the Controversy Index (ICO) as a tool for measuring the level of disagreement in a resolution approved by the UN General Assembly, as well as studying how Mexico voted on resolutions relating to the Middle East and Palestine between 1994 and 2015. The authors show that Mexico tends to abstain from voting when the resolutions are controversial, unless there is a specific interest involved.

Keywords: **international, Mexico, UN, Middle East.**

ESTEFANÍA CRUZ LERA, *Forced displacement as a result of drug trafficking dynamics: variables for an analysis of Mexicans seeking asylum from violence in the U.S.*

The intention of this paper is to analyze the conditions of Mexican refugees in the U.S. due to drug trafficking violence, a sub-system of global capitalism based on demand and profit, which treats social costs as collateral effects. The normative problems with the Refugee Act and its Protocol are explained, as documents that fail to consider current needs and need to be revised. The increase in asylum requests made by Mexicans in the U.S. is analyzed together with the obstacles they face in the process. Finally, the paper argues that it is not enough to make legislation more flexible, since

asylum and refuge are meant to involve isolated situations rather than large-scale movements of people, since destination countries are unable to deal with them.

Keywords: refugees, drug trafficking, forced migration, asylum in the United States.

MARCELO DE ALMEIDA MEDEIROS, MIKELLI MARZZINI L. A. RIBEIRO and MARIANA P. O. DE LYRA, *In search of affirmation: security and the BRICS countries in international governance.*

Since it was first identified, the BRICS group of countries (comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) has followed a process that has raised their agenda in high-level meetings of the states, as may be observed by the number of issues covered by declarations, which rose from 16 in 2009 to 77 in 2015. Hence, this paper examines the set of issues related to security in the group's agenda. Based on the premises of the English School, it is observed that the increase in matters concerning security reflects a search for affirmation and the perception that this group can act as a fundamental player in international governance. This analysis employed the qualitative content method associated with counting keywords. As an auxiliary tool, it made use of the R software version 3.1.0. Finally, a significant quantitative and qualitative increase is observed on issues relating to security in high-level declarations, which suggests that the BRICS countries believe they are capable of managing the most delicate issues in international governance.

Keywords: BRICS, English School, security, international governance, emerging powers.

IRMA MÉNDEZ DE HOYOS, *Manipulation of the legal framework of elections in Latin America between 2000 and 2012: a methodological approach.*

There is a long list of electoral bad practices that create an uneven playing field for parties and candidates to compete in many emerging democracies, damaging confidence in political institutions and in the legitimacy of elected governments. How are we to understand, measure, and compare some of these practices? This paper presents an analytical framework for examining and measuring one of the most widespread forms of manipulation in Latin America: the design of the electoral laws. In this context, it examines the cases of 16 countries in the region between 2000 and 2012, in four areas critical to electoral integrity: media coverage, campaign finances, electoral bodies and the use of state resources.

Keywords: **elections, political parties, legitimacy, integrity, electoral bad practices, Latin America.**

TANIA NAVARRO RODRÍGUEZ, *Strategic uses of election monitoring. The case of the Alianza Cívica in Mexico (1994-2012).*

Debates have raged in Mexico on electoral fraud since the late 1980s. This led to the foundation of an organization aimed at protecting political and electoral rights: the Alianza Cívica. Intended since its creation to observe elections, the organization has implemented activities to better monitor the practices of those in power. Based on extensive social and historical research, this paper sets out how the organization's range of activities was established and expanded. Introducing the sociology of law and texts on international relations, it also reveals, on the one hand, the current

tensions between Alianza Cívica and diverse international actors that promote “free and fair” elections and, on the other, how recourse to the law enables actors on the margins of the political contest to raise questions about delicate matters such as trust in public institutions and political authority.

Keywords: **election monitoring,**
electoral fraud,
Alianza Cívica,
elections, Mexico.

Traducción de GONZALO CELORIO MORAYTA