

The Resurgence Of The Latin American Left

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The New Mole
NACLA's Latin America & Empire Report
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latin america experienced an unprecedented wave of left leaning governments between 1998 and 2010 this volume

examines the causes of this leftward turn and the consequences it carries for the region in the twenty first century the resurgence of the latin american left asks three central questions why have left wing parties and candidates flourished in latin america how have these leftist parties governed particularly in terms of social and economic policy what effects has the rise of the left had on democracy and development in the region the book addresses these questions through two sections the first looks at several major themes regarding the contemporary latin american left including whether latin american public opinion actually shifted leftward in the 2000s why the left won in some countries but not in others and how the left turn has affected market economies social welfare popular participation in politics and citizenship rights the second section examines social and economic policy and regime trajectories in eight cases those of leftist governments in argentina bolivia brazil chile ecuador uruguay and venezuela as well as that of a historically populist party that governed on the right in peru featuring a new typology of left parties in latin america an original framework for identifying and categorizing variation among these governments and contributions from prominent and influential scholars of latin american politics this historical institutional approach to understanding the region s left turn and variation within it is the most comprehensive explanation to date on the topic

in recent years the simultaneous development of prominent social movements and the election of left and centre left governments has radically altered the political landscape in latin america these social movements have ranged from the community based piqueteros of argentina that brought down three governments in the space of a month in 2001 to the indigenous movements in ecuador and bolivia that were instrumental in toppling five governments in the last decade and in the cases of venezuela and brazil social movements helped to provide the political base from which leftist leaders like hugo Chávez and lula were swept into power by election this wide ranging volume moves beyond simple discussion of these social movements to address an issue that is crucial for politics in the region today but has yet to be properly analysed specifically what is the position of the social movements after progressive governments take power are they co opted in support of government policies or do they remain at arm s length as continuing opponents how many of the movement s demands are actually met and what happens when the government almost inevitably disappoints its supporters in such movements this unique and important work explores these questions shedding new light on how these social movements continue to operate in latin america

in the impasse of the latin american left franck gaudichaud massimo modonesi and jeffery r webber explore the

region's pink tide as a political economic and cultural phenomenon at the turn of the twenty first century latin american politics experienced an upsurge in progressive movements as popular uprisings for land and autonomy led to the election of left and center left governments across latin america these progressive parties institutionalized social movements and established forms of state capitalism that sought to redistribute resources and challenge neoliberalism yet as the authors demonstrate these governments failed to transform the underlying class structures of their societies or challenge the imperial strategies of the united states and china now as the pink tide has largely receded the authors offer a portrait of this watershed period in latin american history in order to evaluate the successes and failures of the left and to offer a clear eyed account of the conditions that allowed for a right wing resurgence

this volume sheds light on regional national and individual level factors that have led to major developments for same sex relationship equality in latin america and explores institutional political and social barriers for same sex couples in the region it analyzes cross national patterns of same sex relationship policies in latin america and examines country cases of recent policies for same sex couples in the region

written by a diverse group of scholars and practitioners from latin america the us and europe and taking into consideration the recent global financial crisis the book offers a multifaceted insight into the expectations as well as the possible threats related to latin america's incorporation into the sphere of global interconnectedness

in eight country studies contributors examine the lessons drawn from the failure of guerilla strategies in the 1960s the challenge to the traditional left posed by the emergence of new social movements and the new emphasis on democratic reforms over socioeconomic change

after more than a century of assorted dictatorships and innumerable fiscal crises the majority of latin america's states are governed today by constitutional democratic regimes some analysts and scholars argue that latin america weathered the 2008 fiscal crisis much better than the united states how did this happen jorge i domínguez and michael shifter asked area specialists to examine the electoral and governance factors that shed light on this transformation and the region's prospects they gather their findings in the fourth edition of constructing democratic governance in latin america this new edition is completely updated part i is thematic covering issues of media

constitutionalism the commodities boom and fiscal management vis à vis governance part ii focuses on eight important countries in the regionâ argentina brazil bolivia chile colombia mexico peru and venezuela already widely used in courses constructing democratic governance in latin america will continue to interest students of latin american politics democratization studies and comparative politics as well as policymakers

written by specialists on the region this book provides a comprehensive account of the left across latin america

it was widely predicted that the end of the cold war would lead to a prolonged period of us friendly neo liberal hegemony in latin america in fact the left has re emerged as a serious political actor today leftist or progressive political forces are in government in nine latin american nations and social movements continue to challenge neo liberalism in several other countries br br this book is a comprehensive study of the wide variety of leftist governments parties and movements in the region including argentina bolivia brazil colombia mexico uruguay and venezuela br br it is essential for students of latin american politics political theory social movements and international relations

since 2006 venezuela has witnessed an explosion of different forms of popular power and participatory democracy over 47 000 grassroots neighborhood based communal councils and 3 000 communes have been constructed in communes and the venezuelan state the struggle for participatory democracy in a time of crisis anderson bean offers a critical analysis of these experiments in popular and workers power and their potential for societal transformation within and beyond venezuela drawing on extensive ethnographic research bean demonstrates how workers and peasants through networks of popular power exercise agency over their own development while facing challenges from the capitalist state most importantly this book connects with the far reaching implications that the communal movement in venezuela has for building a society responsive more to the needs of ordinary people than to the desires of the elites

explores how and to what effect diverse forces on the left in latin american politics have taken hold of the reins of government

the left in the city explores examples of the left in local and state government from across the continent from mexico

to uruguay and examines its successes and failures in government

while the neoliberal model continues to dominate economic and political life in latin america people throughout the region have begun to strategize about how to move beyond this model what are the alternatives they imagine do these alternatives represent a genuine break twelve cutting edge papers investigate how latin americans are struggling to articulate a future in which neoliberalism is reconfigured

in the early twenty first century the citizens of many latin american countries such as argentina bolivia brazil ecuador and venezuela elected left wing governments explicitly rejecting and attempting to reverse the policies of neoliberal structural economic adjustment that had prevailed in the region during the 1990s however in other countries such as chile colombia mexico and peru continuity and even extension of the neoliberal agenda have been the norm what were the consequences of rejecting the neoliberal consensus in latin america why did some countries stay on the neoliberal course contributors to latin america since the left turn address these questions and more as they frame the tensions and contradictions that currently characterize latin american societies and politics divided into three sections the book begins with an examination of the political economy from models of development to taxation and spending patterns to regionalization of trade and human migration the second section analyzes the changes in democracy and political identities the last part explores the themes of citizenship constitutionalism and new forms of civic participation with essays by the foremost scholars in the field latin america since the left turn not only delves into the cases of specific countries but also surveys the region as a whole contributors isabella alcañiz sandra botero marcella cerrutti george ciccariello maher tula g falleti roberto gargarella adrian gurza lavalle juliet hooker evelyne huber ernesto isunza vera nora lustig paulina ochoa espejo emilio a parrado claudiney pereira thamy pogrebinschi irina carlota silber david smilde john d stephens maristella svampa oscar vega camacho gisela zaremborg

this provocative multidisciplinary work explores the dramatic resurgence of the left in latin america since the late 1990s offering a comprehensive account of the complexities and nuances of the shifting political tides in the region the book provides both a theoretical framework for assessing the state of the left and a set of cases highlighting key movements successes and failures its theoretical scope covers socialist strategy working class formation peasant social movements the role of women in popular politics and the response of outside powers these themes provide the foundation for rich country studies of the new left in bolivia venezuela ecuador argentina brazil mexico chile

nicaragua el salvador guatemala and honduras too often the book argues the rise of the new left has been the subject of caricature either through conservative defamation or populist romanticism working from a range of critical perspectives the contributors consider the left's hopes aims and prospects as well as its contradictions and fissures as the first book to systematically consider the contemporary relevance of the left it will be central to any understanding of latin american politics and society today contributions by ricardo antunes marc becker jared bibler barry carr emilia castorina todd gordon sujatha fernandes claudio katz fernando leiva marco mojica h ctor perla jr richard roman susan spronk edur velasco arregui henry veltmeyer leandro vergara camus jeffery r webber and gregory wilpert

castro's cuba is isolated the guerrillas who once spread havoc through uruguay and argentina are dead dispersed or running for office as moderates and in 1990 nicaragua's sandinistas were rejected at the polls by their own constituents are these symptoms of the fall of the latin american left or are they merely temporary lulls in an ongoing revolution that may yet transform our hemisphere this perceptive and richly eventful study by one of mexico's most distinguished political scientists tells the story behind the failed movements of the past thirty years while suggesting that the left has a continuing relevance in a continent that suffers from destitution and social inequality combining insider's accounts of intrigue and armed struggle with a clear sighted analysis of the mechanisms of day to day power utopia unarmed is an indispensable work of scholarship reportage and political prognosis

social and political transitions during the left turn in latin america provides fourteen contributions to understand from a multidisciplinary perspective processes of socio political reconfigurations in the region from the early 2000s to the mid 2010s the left turn was the regional shift to left of center governments and social movements that sought to replace the neoliberal policies of the 1990s this volume aims to answer the overarching research question how do state and societal national and transnational actors trigger and shape processes of political and socio economic transitions in latin america from the rise to the decline of the left turn the book presents case studies in which transitions are moments of change and uncertainty which one cannot predict their definitive outcomes the various case studies presented in the book place actors and processes in specific historical and socio political contexts which are influenced directly or indirectly by the historical trajectory of latin america's left turn this book is essential reading for students and scholars of social and political history latin american history and those interested in the social and

political developments in latin america more broadly

this timely book explores the unique challenges facing the left in latin america today the contributors offer clear and comprehensive assessments of the difficult conditions and conflicting forces that have brought to power the current leftist regimes in latin american and the caribbean and are shaping their development avoiding the widely accepted but simplistic dichotomy of good and bad left or democratic and antidemocratic left the book first sets the theoretical and historical context for understanding the rise of the left in the region it then provides case studies of the radical left in power in venezuela bolivia and ecuador and its influence in nicaragua el salvador and cuba thematic chapters consider social and labor movements and debates over problems arising from the democratic transition to socialism the book points to concrete circumstances in which theoretical issues related to reform and change have played out in nations where the left is in power these include prioritization of social over economic objectives the role of the state in the democratic road to socialism and ecological as opposed to developmentalist strategies finally the book examines the opposition to radical governments in power coming not only from the right but also from movements to their left with its balanced and thorough assessment this study will provide readers with a deep and nuanced understanding of the complexity of the political economic and sociocultural reality of contemporary latin america and the caribbean contributions by marc becker roger burbach george ciccariello maher h ctor m cruz feliciano steve ellner federico fuentes marcel nelson hector perla jr camila pi eiro harnecker thomas purcell diana raby william i robinson and kevin young

the new mole is a major new analysis of recent developments in latin american politics by one of the continent s leading political thinkers emir sader explains the resurgence of radicalism in terms of the region s history and explores its theoretical underpinning the book is unusual in combining succinct judgments with broad chronological and geographical sweep covering a period running from the early twentieth century to the present and detailing the political interplay between nations sader points to areas where latin america offers new insights to the world on indigenous questions for example and areas where political thought lags behind practice as in venezuela he also examines the process of regional integration under way in latin america which stands out because it is occurring independently of washington looking at the role of political and ideological struggles in defining the continent s trajectory sader concludes with an optimistic affirmation of agency that is all the more convincing for its sobriety

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Introduction

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