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The Perpetual Crises of Democracy

Guillermo O'Donnell

This is a translation into Spanish language of the Life Achievement IPSA Prize speech of acceptance that the well known political scientist and sociologist Guillermo O'Donnell delivered at Fukuoka, Japan, on July 2006. In this presentation, the author makes a visitation to the main elements which still configure the theory of democracy nowadays. Even if there are substantial steps backward in our contemporary world arguing against it, O'Donnell claims to preserve an optimist vision in order to invigorate democracy despite its regular crisis across nations.

Key words: democracy, comparative policies, political crisis, government.

Democracy and Rule of Law. Between Post and Future

Antonella Attili

Mexico's political transformation of the last 30 years is a very complex and problematic process that can only be understood in the long run. This process has to be studied and shaped at the same time. The paper proposes a critical global diagnosis of the results and limits of Mexico's political transformation, with the objective of promoting an analysis of (1) how the social and political relations changed in the democratization process and, (2) the forms future political change could take. The relationship between democracy and the rule of law is crucial in more than one sense, despite the limits imposed by Mexico's current political situation. In fact, it is precisely the persistence of limits in that

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relation which makes it central and decisive for the analysis of Mexico's political transformation.

Key words: democracy, rule of law, political change, social transformation, institutions.

Origin and Nature of the Bolivarian Alternative to America

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The Bolivarian Alternative for Latin America and the Caribbean (ALBA), is an original proposal of sub-continental integration, promoted by the government of the Venezuelan president Hugo Chávez Frías, whose principles are orientated towards the social and economical reaffirmation of this region, confronting the Americas Free Trade Area (NAFTA). This paper work undertakes primarily the origin and nature of this integration initiative, its proposals, its magnitude and predominant objectives, tending to the elaboration of a counterproposal for the Caribbean and Latin-American integration, concluding on the mainly political and ideological character of it and its position facing the new political reality of the sub-continent, but also on the impossibility of this or any other initiative while the Latin American people can not consolidate the process, getting over their imbalances and building a civic conscience about the integration process.

Key words: economical integration, ALBA, Latin America, NAFTA, gobernability.

The New Historic Institutionalism and Social Policies

Guillermo Farfán Mendoza

The study of social policies have focused on evaluating its social impact and estimating its financial cost, however the making of social policies is primarily a political issue, a matter of decision making in the context of the relationship between agency and structures. Historic Neoinstitutionalism is a theoretical approach capable of explaining policy from the point of view of political science and sociology; our aim in this article is to offer an analytical approach to explain social policies as influenced or restricted by institutions such as *major socio-economic and political structures, political coalitions, communities of*

discourse; and institutional arrangements within the State.
Key words: social policies, policy, institution, State.

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The Construction of the Collective Identity in Alberto Melucci

Aquiles Chihu Amparán
Alejandro López Gallegos

This paper is aimed at analyzing the theory of collective action in Alberto Melucci, particularly based on two of his chief books: *Nomads of the Present* and *Challenging Codes*. The author's postulates derived from his contribution about the introduction of the identity paradigm in the theory of social movements are shown herein. Moreover, several key concepts in his work are explained.

Key words: constructivism, conflict and power in complex societies, new social movements, collective identity, ideology, visibility and latency.

Carlos A. Madrazo and the Impossible Reform of the PRI

Pedro Castro

This essay deals about the presidency of Carlos A. Madrazo in the Partido Revolucionario Institucional (PRI) from December 17, 1964 to November 17, 1965, under the Gustavo Díaz Ordaz administration. We point to his political background, the keys of the partisan reform and the plausible reasons of his resignation as president of the PRI. His failure to change the partisan structure evidenced the unsurpassable inertias coming from the sector leaders, governors and local bosses, under the direction of Díaz Ordaz. When he resigned, his almost one-year project collapsed, and his successors worked hard to destroy his legacy.

Key words: Madrazo, Partido Revolucionario Institucional (PRI), Díaz Ordaz, Tabasco, Ortega, Garrido Canabal, red shirts, Rojo Gómez, Sánchez Celis, governors, local bosses, Yáñez, Uruchurtu, Martínez Domínguez, temporary workers, Confederación Nacional Campesina (CNC).