

latin american politics and society a comparative and historical analysis

Latin American Politics and Society: A Comparative and Historical Analysis

Introduction:

Latin America, a vibrant tapestry of cultures, histories, and geographies, presents a fascinating case study for political scientists and social analysts alike. From the legacies of colonialism to the rise of populism, the region's political and social landscape is characterized by profound complexities and dramatic shifts. This comprehensive analysis delves into the intertwined histories of Latin American politics and society, providing a comparative perspective that illuminates both common threads and unique national trajectories. We'll examine key themes, including colonialism's enduring impact, the challenges of nation-building, the rise and fall of various political ideologies, the role of social movements, and the persistent issues of inequality and social justice. Prepare for a journey through centuries of transformative events and enduring societal struggles that continue to shape the region's destiny.

1. The Long Shadow of Colonialism: A Foundation of Inequality

The colonial era (roughly 1500-1800s) laid the groundwork for many of the persistent challenges facing Latin America today. Spanish and Portuguese colonization created profoundly unequal societies based on extractive economies and a rigid social hierarchy. Indigenous populations were decimated, enslaved, or marginalized, while a small elite controlled vast landholdings and resources. This legacy of inequality continues to manifest in land distribution, wealth disparities, and social stratification, influencing political dynamics and hindering social mobility. The concentration of power in the hands of a few, a pattern established during colonialism, often fueled political instability and authoritarianism. Examining specific colonial policies and their long-term effects is crucial to understanding the region's contemporary struggles. Analyzing the contrasting experiences of different colonies – for example, comparing Brazil's Portuguese legacy with the Spanish influence in Mexico and Argentina – reveals important nuances in the development of distinct national identities and political systems.

1. Nation-Building and the Challenges of State Formation:

The struggle for independence in the early 19th century did not automatically translate into

stable and democratic nations. The newly independent states faced immense challenges in building effective institutions, establishing national identities, and integrating diverse populations. Frequent political instability, military coups, and civil wars plagued many nations. The weakness of state institutions often created space for caudillos (strongmen) and authoritarian regimes to seize power. Examining the varied approaches to nation-building – the contrasting paths of Mexico, Brazil, and Chile, for instance – reveals the diverse factors that influenced the development of different state capacities and political cultures. Factors such as geographic diversity, ethnic heterogeneity, and economic structures played significant roles in shaping the success or failure of nation-building initiatives.

1. Ideologies and Political Movements: From Populism to Revolution

Throughout the 20th century, Latin America witnessed a vibrant interplay of political ideologies. Populism, socialism, communism, and various forms of liberalism all competed for influence, shaping political agendas and mobilizing social movements. The rise and fall of revolutionary movements, such as the Cuban Revolution, profoundly impacted regional politics and sparked both emulation and fierce opposition. Analyzing the contexts in which specific ideologies gained traction allows for a deeper understanding of their impact on social and political structures. Examining the rise of populism in various contexts – from Peronism in Argentina to Chavez's Bolivarian Revolution in Venezuela – reveals commonalities and variations in their appeal and consequences. This section requires an exploration of the socio-economic factors that fueled the popularity of specific ideologies and the impact of these movements on the lives of ordinary citizens.

1. The Role of Social Movements and Civil Society:

Social movements have played a critical role in shaping Latin American politics and society. From labor movements to indigenous rights organizations and feminist groups, civil society actors have challenged authoritarian regimes, promoted social justice, and advocated for reforms. Examining the strategies and impact of these movements reveals their diverse forms of activism and their successes and failures in influencing policy and shaping societal norms. The analysis should include case studies showcasing the diverse tactics employed by various social movements and evaluate their effectiveness in advancing their respective agendas. The influence of globalization and transnational networks on social movements needs to be explored as well.

1. Inequality, Poverty, and Social Justice:

Despite periods of economic growth, Latin America continues to grapple with stark levels of inequality and poverty. The persistence of these issues is deeply intertwined with historical legacies, political structures, and economic policies. Analyzing the various dimensions of inequality – including income distribution, access to education and healthcare, and racial

discrimination – is crucial for understanding their consequences for social stability and political participation. This section should explore various policy approaches to address inequality and poverty, assessing their effectiveness and limitations. Examining the interconnectedness of economic policies, social justice initiatives, and political stability is essential for a complete understanding.

Book Outline: Latin American Politics and Society: A Comparative Journey

Introduction: Overview of Latin American history, diversity, and the complexities of its political systems.

Chapter 1: Colonial Legacy: Extractive economies, social hierarchies, and their enduring impact.

Chapter 2: Nation-Building and State Formation: Challenges, successes, and failures across different nations.

Chapter 3: Ideologies and Political Movements: Populism, revolution, socialism, and their impact.

Chapter 4: Social Movements and Civil Society: Labor unions, indigenous movements, feminist activism, and their role in shaping policy.

Chapter 5: Inequality, Poverty, and Social Justice: Persistent challenges, policy responses, and their effectiveness.

Chapter 6: Contemporary Challenges: Drug trafficking, migration, climate change, and their political implications.

Chapter 7: Comparative Analysis: Highlighting commonalities and differences across nations.

Conclusion: Reflections on the future of Latin American politics and society.

(Detailed explanation of each chapter would follow here, expanding on the points already made in the main body of the blog post. Each chapter would be a substantial section, exploring the nuances of each topic with historical context, relevant examples, and scholarly analysis. This would significantly increase the word count beyond the current limit.)

FAQs:

1. What is the most significant factor contributing to political instability in Latin America?
A complex interplay of factors, including historical legacies of inequality, weak state institutions, and the influence of powerful elites, all contribute to instability.
1. How has colonialism shaped contemporary Latin American society? Colonialism established deeply ingrained social and economic inequalities that persist today, influencing land ownership, wealth distribution, and social structures.

1. What are some key examples of successful social movements in Latin America? The Zapatistas in Mexico, the landless workers' movement (MST) in Brazil, and various feminist movements across the region are notable examples.
1. What is the role of populism in Latin American politics? Populism has historically appealed to marginalized populations, often promising radical social and economic change, sometimes leading to both progress and authoritarianism.
1. How does inequality affect political participation in Latin America? High levels of inequality can limit political participation, especially for marginalized groups, creating power imbalances and hindering democratic processes.
1. What are the major challenges facing Latin America today? Contemporary challenges include economic inequality, drug trafficking, climate change, migration, and political polarization.
1. How do different Latin American countries compare in terms of their political systems? Latin American countries exhibit a wide range of political systems, from presidential democracies to hybrid regimes and authoritarian tendencies, reflecting diverse historical experiences and socio-political contexts.
1. What is the impact of globalization on Latin American societies? Globalization has brought both opportunities and challenges, affecting economic development, social structures, and political landscapes in diverse ways across the region.
1. What is the future outlook for Latin American politics and society? The future of Latin America remains uncertain, with ongoing struggles for social justice, economic development, and democratic governance playing out in complex and dynamic ways.

Related Articles:

1. The Rise and Fall of Populism in Latin America: An exploration of the historical context

and impact of populist movements.

2. The Legacy of Colonialism in Latin American Economies: An analysis of the enduring effects of colonial policies on economic development.
3. Social Movements and Political Change in Latin America: Case studies of successful and unsuccessful social movements.
4. Inequality and Social Justice in Latin America: A detailed examination of the dimensions of inequality and policy responses.
5. The Role of the Military in Latin American Politics: An analysis of the military's influence on political stability and instability.
6. Indigenous Rights and Social Movements in Latin America: A focus on indigenous activism and its impact on policy.
7. The Impact of Globalization on Latin American Development: An exploration of the opportunities and challenges posed by globalization.
8. Latin American Political Thought: Key Ideas and Thinkers: An overview of prominent thinkers and their contributions to political theory.
9. Comparative Political Systems in Latin America: An examination of the variations and commonalities across national political systems.

This expanded response provides a more comprehensive and detailed article structure, although some content within the chapters would still need to be fleshed out to reach a 1500+ word count. Remember that generating truly unique content requires in-depth research and original analysis. This framework serves as a strong starting point for crafting such an article.

latin american politics and society a comparative and historical analysis: Latin American Politics and Society Gerardo L. Munck, Juan Pablo Luna, 2022-06-09 An engaging introduction to Latin America with a fresh, thematic approach to key political and social issues. This accessible undergraduate textbook examines the entirety of the region, addressing complex issues in a clear and direct manner. Grounded in cutting-edge research and data, concepts are illustrated through tables, maps, and timelines.

latin american politics and society a comparative and historical analysis: *The Oxford Handbook of Latin American Political Economy* Javier Santiso, Jeff Dayton-Johnson, 2012-05-09 Understanding Latin America's recent economic performance calls for a multidisciplinary analysis. This handbook looks at the interaction of economics and politics in the region and includes a number of contributions from top academic experts who have also served as key policy makers (a former president, ministers of finance, a central bank governor), reflecting upon the challenges of reform.

latin american politics and society a comparative and historical analysis: Democracy and the Left Evelyne Huber, John D. Stephens, 2012-09-01 Although inequality in Latin America

ranks among the worst in the world, it has notably declined over the last decade, offset by improvements in health care and education, enhanced programs for social assistance, and increases in the minimum wage. In *Democracy and the Left*, Evelyne Huber and John D. Stephens argue that the resurgence of democracy in Latin America is key to this change. In addition to directly affecting public policy, democratic institutions enable left-leaning political parties to emerge, significantly influencing the allocation of social spending on poverty and inequality. But while democracy is an important determinant of redistributive change, it is by no means the only factor. Drawing on a wealth of data, Huber and Stephens present quantitative analyses of eighteen countries and comparative historical analyses of the five most advanced social policy regimes in Latin America, showing how international power structures have influenced the direction of their social policy. They augment these analyses by comparing them to the development of social policy in democratic Portugal and Spain. The most ambitious examination of the development of social policy in Latin America to date, *Democracy and the Left* shows that inequality is far from intractable—a finding with crucial policy implications worldwide.

latin american politics and society a comparative and historical analysis: Comparative Politics of Latin America Daniel C. Hellinger, 2020-12-22 This new edition brings Daniel C. Hellinger's brilliantly succinct and accessible introduction to Latin America up to date for a new generation of educators. In crisp detail, Hellinger gives a panoramic overview of the continent and offers a unique balance of comparative politics theory and interdisciplinary country-specific context, of a thematic organization and in-depth country case studies, of culture and economics, of scholarship and pedagogy. Insightful historical background in early chapters provides students with ways to think about how the past influences the present. However, while history plays a part in this text, comparative politics is the primary focus, explaining through fully integrated, detailed case studies and carefully paced analysis. Country-specific narratives are integrated with concepts and theories from comparative politics, leading to a richer understanding of both. Updates to this new edition include: • Revisiting contemporary populism and the global emergence of right-wing populism. • The pros and cons of extractivism; the impact of Chinese investment and trade. • Contemporary crisis in Venezuela; expanded treatment of Colombia and Peru. • The role of the military; LGBTQ+ issues; corruption; violence; identity issues. • New sections on social media, artificial intelligence, and big data cyber technologies. • Examination of post-Castro Cuba; Costa Rica's exceptionalism. • Broader study of environmental movements; how governments relate to social movements. • Examination of personalist parties; refugee and asylum rights. • Interventionist policies of the current U.S. administration. • Early impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. *Comparative Politics of Latin America* is a thoughtful, ambitious, and thorough introductory textbook for students beginning Latin American Studies at the undergraduate level.

latin american politics and society a comparative and historical analysis: Politics, Religion, and Society in Latin America Daniel H. Levine, 2012 Long assumed to be an unchanging and unquestioned bulwark of established power and privilege, religion in Latin America has diversified and flourished, while taking on new social and political roles in more open societies. How did this change occur? Why did churches in the region embrace new ideas about rights, sponsor social movements, and become advocates for democracy? Are further changes on the horizon? Daniel Levine explores these issues, uniquely situating the Latin American experience in a rich theoretical and comparative context.

latin american politics and society a comparative and historical analysis: *The Political Economy of Taxation in Latin America* Gustavo Flores-Macias, 2019-06-27 Offers a comprehensive, region-wide analysis of the politics of taxation in Latin America to make reforms politically palatable and sustainable.

latin american politics and society a comparative and historical analysis: *Critical Junctures and Historical Legacies* David Collier, Gerardo L. Munck, 2022-02-28 Over the past 50 years, scholars across the social sciences have employed critical juncture analysis to understand how social orders are created, become entrenched, and change. In this book, leading scholars from

several disciplines offer the first coordinated effort to define this field of research, assess its theoretical and methodological foundations, and use a critical assessment of current practices as a basis for guiding its future. Contributors include stars in this field who have written some of the classic works on critical junctures, as well as the rising stars of the next generation who will continue to shape historical comparative analysis for years to come. *Critical Junctures and Historical Legacies* will be an indispensable resource for social science research methods scholars and students.

latin american politics and society a comparative and historical analysis: Gender and Representation in Latin America Leslie A. Schwindt-Bayer, 2018-01-04 In the past thirty years, women's representation and gender equality has developed unevenly in Latin America. Some countries have experienced large increases in gender equality in political offices, whereas others have not, and even within countries, some political arenas have become more gender equal whereas others continue to exude intense gender inequality. These patterns are inconsistent with explanations of social and cultural improvements in gender equality leading to improved gender equality in political office. *Gender and Representation in Latin America* argues instead that gender inequality in political representation in Latin America is rooted in institutions and the democratic challenges and political crises facing Latin American countries and that these challenges matter for the number of women and men elected to office, what they do once there, how much power they gain access to, and how their presence and actions influence democracy and society more broadly. The book draws upon the expertise of top scholars of women, gender, and political institutions in Latin America to analyze the institutional and contextual causes and consequences of women's representation in Latin America. It does this in part 1 with chapters that analyze gender and political representation regionwide in each of five different arenas of representation—the presidency, cabinets, national legislatures, political parties, and subnational governments. In part 2, it provides chapters that analyze gender and representation in each of seven different countries—Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, Uruguay, Mexico, Brazil, and Colombia. The authors bring novel insights and impressive new data to their analyses, helping to make this one of the most comprehensive books on gender and political representation in Latin America today.

latin american politics and society a comparative and historical analysis: Latin American State Building in Comparative Perspective Marcus J. Kurtz, 2013-03-25 This book provides an account of long-run institutional development in Latin America that emphasizes the social and political foundations of state-building processes.

latin american politics and society a comparative and historical analysis: Passion, Craft, and Method in Comparative Politics Gerardo L. Munck, Richard Snyder, 2007-07-02 In the first collection of interviews with the most prominent scholars in comparative politics since World War II, Gerardo L. Munck and Richard Snyder trace key developments in the field during the twentieth century. Organized around a broad set of themes—intellectual formation and training; major works and ideas; the craft and tools of research; colleagues, collaborators, and students; and the past and future of comparative politics—these in-depth interviews offer unique and candid reflections that bring the research process to life and shed light on the human dimension of scholarship. Giving voice to scholars who practice their craft in different ways yet share a passion for knowledge about global politics, *Passion, Craft, and Method in Comparative Politics* offers a wealth of insights into contemporary debates about the state of knowledge in comparative politics and the future of the field.

latin american politics and society a comparative and historical analysis: Coalitions and Compliance Kenneth C. Shadlen, 2017 This book offers systematic comparative analysis of the political economy of pharmaceutical patents in Latin America, and examines the diverse ways that international changes can reconfigure domestic politics.

latin american politics and society a comparative and historical analysis: *The New Latin American Left* Jeffery R. Webber, Barry Carr, 2013 This anthology—bringing together political scientists, anthropologists, historians, sociologists, economists, and journalists—provides a serious

and sophisticated theoretical and historical analysis of the state of the Latin American Left. The central thematic issues are addressed, followed by a number of case studies written by the most astute radical Left observers of the contemporary setting--

latin american politics and society a comparative and historical analysis: State Building in Latin America Hillel David Soifer, 2015-06-09 State Building in Latin America diverges from existing scholarship in developing explanations both for why state-building efforts in the region emerged and for their success or failure. First, Latin American state leaders chose to attempt concerted state-building only where they saw it as the means to political order and economic development. Fragmented regionalism led to the adoption of more laissez-faire ideas and the rejection of state-building. With dominant urban centers, developmentalist ideas and state-building efforts took hold, but not all state-building projects succeeded. The second plank of the book's argument centers on strategies of bureaucratic appointment to explain this variation. Filling administrative ranks with local elites caused even concerted state-building efforts to flounder, while appointing outsiders to serve as administrators underpinned success. Relying on extensive archival evidence, the book traces how these factors shaped the differential development of education, taxation, and conscription in Chile, Colombia, Mexico, and Peru.

latin american politics and society a comparative and historical analysis: Latin America Mauricio Tenorio-Trillo, 2017-04-13 "Latin America" is a concept firmly entrenched in its philosophical, moral, and historical meanings. And yet, Mauricio Tenorio-Trillo argues in this landmark book, it is an obsolescent racial-cultural idea that ought to have vanished long ago with the banishment of racial theory. *Latin America: The Allure and Power of an Idea* makes this case persuasively. Tenorio-Trillo builds the book on three interlocking steps: first, an intellectual history of the concept of Latin America in its natural historical habitat—mid-nineteenth-century redefinitions of empire and the cultural, political, and economic intellectualism; second, a serious and uncompromising critique of the current "Latin Americanism"—which circulates in United States-based humanities and social sciences; and, third, accepting that we might actually be stuck with "Latin America," Tenorio-Trillo charts a path forward for the writing and teaching of Latin American history. Accessible and forceful, rich in historical research and specificity, the book offers a distinctive, conceptual history of Latin America and its many connections and intersections of political and intellectual significance. Tenorio-Trillo's book is a masterpiece of interdisciplinary scholarship.

latin american politics and society a comparative and historical analysis: American Politics and Society David McKay, 2009-02-04 Completely revised and updated to take full account of the most recent and dramatic changes in the nature of American government, the sixth edition provides a clear and concise introduction to US politics for all students of political science and American studies. Explains, analyses and interprets the processes of US government and, crucially, appraises them from a non-US perspective. Includes commentary on the 2004 presidential election. Fills in the social background to American political and economic life, preparing the ground for the central discussion of the book: the institutions of the federal government, Congress, the Supreme Court and the Constitution, the federal system, the Presidency, the party bandwagons and the electoral system. Reduced emphasis on limited government and greater emphasis on foreign and domestic policy linked into the War on Terror. Rewritten throughout to reflect recent developments, with two completely new chapters on The Media and American Politics, and The Security State. Supported by a website, www.blackwellpublishing.com/mckay, including information on the book; its detailed contents; the author; controversies; sample chapters; selected tables; related titles; and links to other web resources. It will be regularly updated to ensure teachers and students have access to the most recent data.

latin american politics and society a comparative and historical analysis: State and Society in Conflict Paul W. Drake, Eric Hershberg, 2006-06-25 *State and Society in Conflict* analyzes one of the most volatile regions in Latin America, the Andean states of Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia. For the last twenty-five years, crises in these five Andean countries have

endangered Latin America's democracies and strained their relations with the United States. As these nations struggle to cope with demands from Washington on security policies (emphasizing drugs and terrorism), neoliberal economics, and democratic politics, their resulting domestic travails can be seen in poor economic growth, unequal wealth distribution, mounting social unrest, and escalating political instability. The contributors to this volume examine the histories, politics, and cultures of the Andean nations, and argue that, due to their shared history and modern circumstances, these countries are suffering a shared crisis of deteriorating relations between state and society that is best understood in regional, not purely national, terms. The results, in some cases, have been semi-authoritarian hybrid regimes that lurch from crisis to crisis, often controlled through force, though clinging to a notion of democracy. The solution to these problems—whether through democratic, authoritarian, peaceful, or violent means—will have profound implications for the region and its future relations with the world.

latin american politics and society a comparative and historical analysis: *Inside Countries* Agustina Giraudy, Eduardo Moncada, Richard Snyder, 2019-06-13 Offers a groundbreaking analysis of the distinctive substantive, theoretical and methodological contributions of subnational research in the field of comparative politics.

latin american politics and society a comparative and historical analysis: *Comparative Public Policy in Latin America* Jordi Diez, Susan Franceschet, 2012-11-23 This pioneering collection offers a comprehensive investigation into how to study public policy in Latin America. While this region exhibits many similarities with the North American and European countries that have traditionally served as sources for generating public policy knowledge, Latin American countries are also different in many fundamental ways. As such, existing policy concepts and frameworks may not always be the most effective tools of analysis for this unique region. To fill this gap, *Comparative Public Policy in Latin America* offers guidelines for refining current theories to suit Latin America's contemporary institutional and socio-economic realities. The contributors accomplish this task by identifying the features of the region that shape public policy, including informal norms and practices, social inequality, and weak institutions. This book promises to become the definitive work on contemporary public policy in Latin America, essential for those who study the area as well as comparative public policy more broadly.

latin american politics and society a comparative and historical analysis: *Social Policy Expansion in Latin America* Candelaria Garay, 2016-12-29 Throughout the twentieth century, much of the population in Latin America lacked access to social protection. Since the 1990s, however, social policy for millions of outsiders - rural, informal, and unemployed workers and dependents - has been expanded dramatically. *Social Policy Expansion in Latin America* shows that the critical factors driving expansion are electoral competition for the vote of outsiders and social mobilization for policy change. The balance of partisan power and the involvement of social movements in policy design explain cross-national variation in policy models, in terms of benefit levels, coverage, and civil society participation in implementation. The book draws on in-depth case studies of policy making in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and Mexico over several administrations and across three policy areas: health care, pensions, and income support. Secondary case studies illustrate how the theory applies to other developing countries.

latin american politics and society a comparative and historical analysis: *Reorganizing Popular Politics* Ruth Berins Collier, 2009 A comparative analysis of lower-class interest politics in Argentina, Chile, Peru, and Venezuela. Examines the proliferation of associations in Latin America's popular-sector neighborhoods, in the context of the historic problem of popular-sector voice and political representation in the region--Provided by publisher.

latin american politics and society a comparative and historical analysis: *Comparative Politics of Latin America* Daniel C. Hellinger, 2014-11-27 Students will explore and understand the evolutions and revolutions that have brought the region to where it is today in the fully-updated new edition of Daniel Hellinger's *Comparative Politics of Latin America*. This text offers a unique balance of comparative politics theory and interdisciplinary country-specific context, of a thematic

organization and in-depth country case studies, of culture and economics, of scholarship and pedagogy. No other textbook draws on such a diverse range of scholarly literature to help students understand the ins and outs of politics in Latin America today. Insightful historical background in early chapters provides students with a way to think about how the past influences the present. However, while history plays a part in this text, comparative politics is the primary focus, explaining through fully integrated, detailed case studies and carefully paced analysis such concepts as democratic breakdown and transition, formal and informal institutions, the rule of law, and the impact of globalization. Country-specific narratives integrate concepts and theories from comparative politics, leading to a richer understanding of both. Several important features of the 2nd edition ensure student success: Substantially reorganized text now with 16 chapters Focus Questions at the start of every chapter For Review boxes interspersed in every chapter to ensure comprehension New Punto de Vista boxes in every chapter, showcasing competing perspectives on democratization and development throughout the region Country locator maps spread throughout the book to help students orient themselves in the region Democracy Snapshot graphics show support for democracy in each Latin American country Bolded key terms focus attention on important concepts and a glossary at the end of the book provides a useful reference Discussion questions and Further Resources at the end of each chapter Integrated case studies on most countries in the region A companion website (<http://www.routledge.com/cw/hellinger>) with discussion questions and other useful study aids.

latin american politics and society a comparative and historical analysis: *Latin American Politics* Eduardo Alemán, 2020-07-23 While it is true that poverty, political instability, and economic under-performance continue to be major problems in Latin America, the region has made substantial progress in raising standards of living and overcoming military authoritarianism. Latin American Politics reflects just how much the region has changed in the last two decades. Eduardo Alemán draws on contemporary research in comparative studies on institutions, elections, and public opinion to highlight the big questions that political scientists seek to answer today: What are the causes of political instability? What factors have influenced changes in economic and gender inequality? What are the implications of different political institutions for political outcomes?

latin american politics and society a comparative and historical analysis: Seeking Rights from the Left Elisabeth Jay Friedman, 2018-12-31 Seeking Rights from the Left offers a unique comparative assessment of left-leaning Latin American governments by examining their engagement with feminist, women's, and LGBT movements and issues. Focusing on the "Pink Tide" in eight national cases—Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Uruguay, and Venezuela—the contributors evaluate how the Left addressed gender- and sexuality-based rights through the state. Most of these governments improved the basic conditions of poor women and their families. Many significantly advanced women's representation in national legislatures. Some legalized same-sex relationships and enabled their citizens to claim their own gender identity. They also opened opportunities for feminist and LGBT movements to press forward their demands. But at the same time, these governments have largely relied on heteropatriarchal relations of power, ignoring or rejecting the more challenging elements of a social agenda and engaging in strategic trade-offs among gender and sexual rights. Moreover, the comparative examination of such rights arenas reveals that the Left's more general political and economic projects have been profoundly, if at times unintentionally, informed by traditional understandings of gender and sexuality. Contributors: Sonia E. Alvarez, María Constanza Diaz, Rachel Elfenbein, Elisabeth Jay Friedman, Niki Johnson, Victoria Keller, Edurne Larracoechea Bohigas, Amy Lind, Marlise Matos, Shawna Mullenax, Ana Laura Rodríguez Gustá, Diego Sempol, Constanza Tabbush, Gwynn Thomas, Catalina Trebisacce, Annie Wilkinson

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of essential events in Latin American political development. It combines structural elements with a novel emphasis on the political incentives and bargaining that shaped the map we have today.--Hillel David Soifer, Governance Latin American governments systematically fail to provide the key public goods for their societies to prosper. Sebastián Mazzuca argues that the secret of Latin America's failure is that its states were born weak, in contrast to states in western Europe, North America, and Japan. State formation in post-Independence Latin America occurred in a period when capitalism, rather than war, was the key driver forging countries. In pursuing the short-term benefits of international trade, Latin American leaders created states with chronic weaknesses, notably patrimonial administrations and dysfunctional regional combinations. Mazzuca analyzes pathways leading to variations in country size and level of pacification: port-led state formation in Argentina and Brazil; party-led in Mexico, Colombia, and Uruguay; and lord-led in Central America, Venezuela, and Peru.

latin american politics and society a comparative and historical analysis: A Middle-Quality Institutional Trap: Democracy and State Capacity in Latin America Sebastián L. Mazzuca, Gerardo L. Munck, 2021-02-11 Latin America is currently caught in a middle-quality institutional trap, combining flawed democracies and low-to-medium capacity States. Yet, contrary to conventional wisdom, the sequence of development - Latin America has democratized before building capable States - does not explain the region's quandary. States can make democracy, but so too can democracy make States. Thus, the starting point of political developments is less important than whether the State-democracy relationship is a virtuous cycle, triggering causal mechanisms that reinforce each other. However, the State-democracy interaction generates a virtuous cycle only under certain macroconditions. In Latin America, the State-democracy interaction has not generated a virtuous cycle: problems regarding the State prevent full democratization and problems of democracy prevent the development of state capacity. Moreover, multiple macroconditions provide a foundation for this distinctive pattern of State-democracy interaction. The suboptimal political equilibrium in contemporary Latin America is a robust one.

latin american politics and society a comparative and historical analysis: Development, Democracy, and Welfare States Stephan Haggard, Robert R. Kaufman, 2008-09-14 Comparing the welfare states of Latin America, East Asia and Eastern Europe, the authors trace the origins of social policy in these regions to political changes in the mid-20th century, and show how the legacies of these early choices are influencing welfare reform following democratization and globalization.

latin american politics and society a comparative and historical analysis: The Oxford Handbook of Latin American History Jose C. Moya, 2011 This Oxford Handbook comprehensively examines the field of Latin American history.

latin american politics and society a comparative and historical analysis: The New Latin America Fernando Calderón, Manuel Castells, 2020-08-04 Latin America has experienced a profound transformation in the first two decades of the 21st century: it has been fully incorporated into the global economy, while excluding regions and populations devalued by the logic of capitalism. Technological modernization has gone hand-in-hand with the reshaping of old identities and the emergence of new ones. The transformation of Latin America has been shaped by social movements and political conflicts. The neoliberal model that dominated the first stage of the transformation induced widespread inequality and poverty, and triggered social explosions that led to its own collapse. A new model, neo-developmentalism, emerged from these crises as national populist movements were elected to government in several countries. The more the state intervened in the economy, the more it became vulnerable to corruption, until the rampant criminal economy came to penetrate state institutions. Upper middle classes defending their privileges and citizens indignant because of corruption of the political elites revolted against the new regimes, undermining the model of neo-developmentalism. In the midst of political disaffection and public despair, new social movements, women, youth, indigenous people, workers, peasants, opened up avenues of hope against the background of darkness invading the continent. This book, written by two leading scholars of Latin America, provides a comprehensive and up-to-date account of the new Latin

America that is in the process of taking shape today. It will be an indispensable text for students and scholars in Latin American Studies, sociology, politics and media and communication studies, and anyone interested in Latin America today.

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