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Unarmed Latin America's Radical Left
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Legacies of the Left Turn in Latin America
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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 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 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

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

lope de aguirre anti imperialism and the latin american left the wrath of liberation examines why anti imperialist projects have the tendency to become tyrannies with a focus on latin america alfredo ignacio poggi discusses the figure of lope de aguirre the first modern revolutionary leader and his various historical representations in literature essays theater film and comics as a vehicle to interrogate the latin american anti imperialist imagination poggi argues that the experience of anger is a constituent element of latin american anti imperialism and that the social imaginary that emerged in the late nineteenth century following the intellectual tradition of liberation and the continental political left has a wrathful dimension capable of generating political programs of revenge finding an echo in latin american leaders like che guevara and hugo Chávez poggi ultimately proposes to renovate liberationist thinking by offering mercy as an alternative anti imperialist emotion that can overcome the dangers implicit in anger s radicalization as wrath scholars of history latin american studies international relations and political science will find this book particularly useful

transnational solidarity movements often play an important role in reshaping structures of global power jessica stites mor looks at four in depth case studies in the global south which act as a much needed road map to navigate our current political climate and show us how solidarity movements might approach future struggles

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 zaremberg

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

following events such as the cochabamba water war in bolivia and the election of hugo chavez to the presidency in venezuela latin american politics over the past two decades have been radicalized their governments populated with former activists and trade union leaders yet in the past few years latin america s left have suffered many setbacks and reactionary challenges leading many to wonder whether the pink tide is now on the

wane in this book renowned latin americanist mike gonzalez explores the rocky course of the left in latin american politics although the left wing developments of the past twenty years have been widely celebrated by activists gonzalez cautions us to consider the problems and conflicts that have arisen during their tenure as well through critical examination of the failings of argentina bolivia brazil chile ecuador and venezuela gonzalez is able to identify both weaknesses and strengths and to suggest possible future pathways for the renewal of the left in nations across latin america providing a critical but sympathetic analysis of the records of the left governments across the continent gonzalez offers a refreshing reflection on the prospects and future of latin american politics

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

between 2005 and 2008 the share of latin american presidents from a right wing party fell to 33 compared to 64 in the early 1990s by 2009 more than two thirds of the countries in the region had a president from a left or center left party despite common sociopolitical and economic developments with its neighboring countries colombia elected a leftist president for the first time in its modern history only this year the present paper examines the factors that might explain colombia s comparatively late political left turn to this end it explores the historic conditions that hindered the consolidation of a leftist political party or coalition with broad electoral support until the foundation of the historic pact for colombia moreover it draws attention to the recent social political and economic developments that have fostered the expansion of this left wing coalition yet considering that the efforts to cement a leftist political alternative date back to the last century

legacies of the left turn in latin america the promise of inclusive citizenship contains original essays by a diverse group of leading and emerging scholars from north america europe and latin america the book speaks to wide ranging debates on democracy the left and citizenship in latin america what were the effects of a decade and a half of left and center left governments the central purpose of this book is to evaluate both the positive and negative effects of the left turn on state society relations and inclusion promises of social inclusion and the expansion of citizenship rights were paramount to the center left discourses upon the factions arrival to power in the late 1990s and early 2000s this book is a first step in understanding to what extent these initial promises

were or were not fulfilled and why in analyzing these issues the authors demonstrate that these years yield both signs of progress in some areas and the deepening of historical problems in others the contributors to this book reveal variation among and within countries and across policy and issue areas such as democratic institution reforms human rights minorities rights environmental questions and violence this focus on issues rather than countries distinguishes the book from other recent volumes on the left in latin america and the book will speak to a broad and multi dimensional audience both inside and outside the academic world contributors manuel balán françoise montambeault philip oxhorn maxwell a cameron kenneth m roberts nathalia sandoval rojas daniel m brinks benjamin goldfrank roberta rice elizabeth jelin celina van dembroucke nora nagels merike blofield jordi díez eve bratman gabriel kessler olivier dabène jared abbott steve levitsky

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