

Hello everyone,

Here are some pointers about next week's readings.

On Tuesday, we will focus on the period that followed the independence of Latin American countries from Spain and Portugal, that is, roughly from the 1820s to the 1900s. We will pay particular attention to the processes of state formation and how the position of Latin America in the international system influenced those trajectories.

For the first part of the lecture, I will spend some time talking about the following points:

- (1) the ways in which Latin American economies evolved during this period;
- (2) how social relations were transformed (or not) by the Wars of Independence in the early 19th century;
- (3) the collapse of political authority during the Wars of Independence and the centrifugal tendencies that pushed politics away from the national centers and into the provinces, strengthening local strongmen, caudillos, warlords, and oligarchs.

For the second part of the lecture, we will work through the argument of Centeno's article (the assigned reading for Tuesday). Again, as you read this piece, try to reflect on four points:

- 1) What is the causal logic of the argument? That is to say: How exactly is it hypothesized that war contributes to the formation of strong state institutions? (ARGUMENT)**
- 2) In what ways do the Latin American cases challenge the "bellicist" theory of state formation crafted around the European experience? Why is it that warfare didn't seem to have the same effects in Latin America as in Europe? (PREVIOUS LITERATURE)**
- 3) Are you convinced by Centeno's use of evidence? (USE OF EVIDENCE)**
- 4) What are the similarities between Lange, Mahoney and Vom Hau's argument with Centeno's theory? Would they generally agree or disagree with one another? On which points? (IMPLICATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS)**

The second optional book assigned for those of you planning to submit the book review this week is Centeno's *Blood and Debt*, where he presents a full-blown theory of state formation in Latin America, based on these original insights.

On Thursday, we will move on to the 20th Century. I will begin with a brief recap of the content that we have covered so far, especially the development of political and economic institutions and how this shaped the social and economic structures of Latin America. We will then spend most of the lecture talking about the rise of military governments and other authoritarian regimes in the region. It was largely during the

period between 1930 and 1980 that Latin America acquired the image of being particularly prone to authoritarianism and military dictatorships.

Here are the instructions for assigned reading:

Rouquié's piece is a very long text but also a very informative one. It provides a succinct history of the evolution of dictatorship and democracy in Latin America throughout most of the 20th century, so be patient and try to read as attentively as possible. Here are some tricks, however, to make your reading more efficient:

1. Pay close attention to the first section (pp. 237-244). Here Rouquié offers a very schematic description of the general tendencies in the region regarding the creation of standing armies and their participation in politics.
2. The core of the chapter is developed between p. 247 and p. 280. Here, Rouquié offers a typology of military regimes in Latin America and provides some historical background for each country. As always for this course, focus more on the general argument about the differences in the behaviour and tendencies of the military in each country, rather than on the details. I don't expect you to memorize dates or proper names, but I do want you to know the general patterns followed by the major countries and what explains these patterns.
3. After p. 280, Rouquié goes on to explain the transitions to democracy after 1980. If you are pressed with time, skip this section for now. We will return to this topic the following week when we will spend a couple of lectures talking about the democratic transitions. You might want to go back and read these pages then.

I look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday.

Best,
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