POLI 332. Politics and Governments of Latin America

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Session 7. Transitions to Democracy

Stages of Authoritarianism and Military Involvement in Latin America

Slow construction and professionalization of standing armies: 1820s-1930

Populist-Nationalist Regimes: 1930s-1960s

Brazil (Vargas, Estado Novo, 1930-1945)

> Argentina (nonmilitary Perón)

Mexico (PRI)

Bureaucratic Authoritarian Regimes: Brazil (1964-1985), Argentina (1966-1973)

Revolutionary Military Regimes: Peru (1968-1975), Bolivia (1964-1982 [1968-1971]), Ecuador (1972-1976), Panama (1968-1981) Neo-liberal Regimes: Uruguay (1973-1985), Chile (1973-1989), Argentina (1976-1983)

1800s 1930 1960 1970

Transitions to Democracy in Latin America

Country	Year
Costa Rica	1949
Colombia	1958
Venezuela	1958
Ecuador	1979
Peru	1980
Bolivia	1982
Argentina	1983
Uruguay	1984
Brazil	1985
Chile	1989
Paraguay	1992
Mexico	2000
Panama	1977 (1989)
Honduras	1982
Nicaragua	1984 (1990?)
El Salvador	1989 (1992 end of CW)
Guatemala	1996 (end of CW)

The International Context

The end of the Cold War and a global hegemon: US

Third Wave of Democracy: a change in political culture

1980s are a period of (mostly) global recession,
1990s are period of booming economies.

Transitions to Democracy

- The "Transitions" approach (O'Donnell & Schmitter)
- The role of civil society (Collier; Collier & Mahoney)
- The new democratic regimes
 - Establishing formal institutions: elections, free press, human rights
 - Moderates in power:
 - CENTER AND CENTER-RIGHT PARTIES GENERALLY TAKE POWER
 - POPULAR PARTIES REMAIN ON THE MARGINS
 - In older democracies (Colombia, Venezuela, Costa Rica) old pacts kept radical and left-wing parties outside electoral competition, by 1980s Left parties are weak.
 - Dual transitions: continuation of liberal policies (Uruguay, Argentina, Chile, Mexico) or liberalization (Brazil, Peru)
 - NO RADICAL REDISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH

No and the Chilean Transition to Democracy

Actors involved

Issues at stake

Consequences of the transition

 What should we (can we) expect from democracy?