

# POLI 332. Politics and Governments of Latin America

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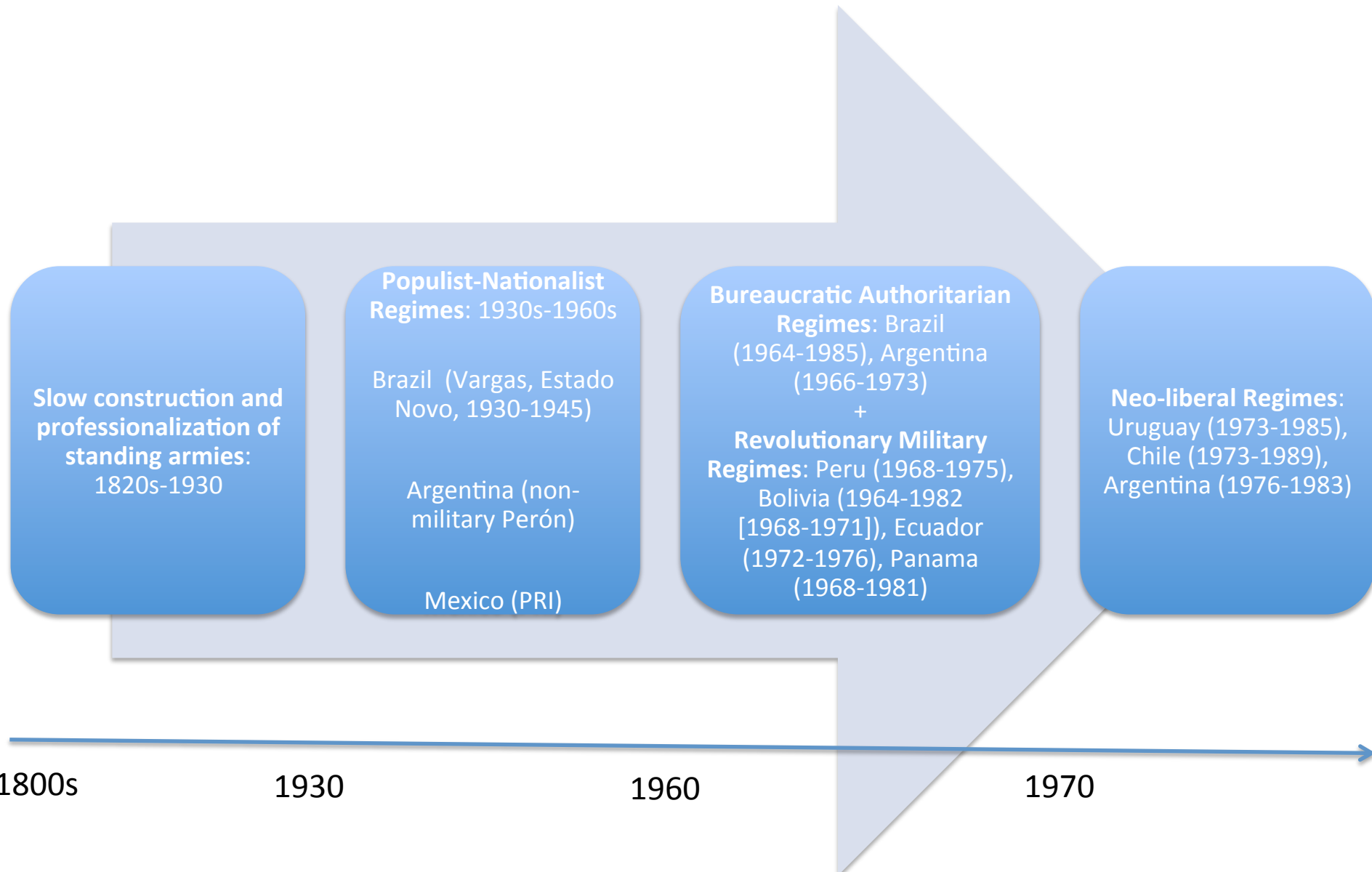
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Course website: <http://blogs.ubc.ca/latinamerica/>

# Session 7. Transitions to Democracy

# Stages of Authoritarianism and Military Involvement in Latin America



## Transitions to Democracy in Latin America

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

# 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?