

ABSTRACTS

The State on the Frontiers of Globalization. Changes and Prospects

Franklin Molina

This article analyses three general global tendencies: firstly, globalisation as the central characteristic of the current international system; second, the modifications in the role of the State within this general process; and finally, the qualitative and quantitative changes produced by the epistemological transformation of international relations and, in general, of the construction of a post-international politics.

Key Words: Globalization, international, relation ships.

Latin America: A Horizon of Possibilities

Sulbey Naranjo de Adames

What is the specifically Latin American? is a question that has haunted intellectual reflection in the continent for decades. This article suggests that the thought of Martin Heidegger offers a key to the answer, with its insistence on the sense of Being, its characterisation of the contemporary era as that of Technique and its influence on modern man, and its view of History as the possibility of transcendence.

Key Words: Identity, Sense of Being, Latin American Will, Reappropriation of History, Existential Immanence.

Restructuring, Flexibility and Work in Latin America

Eduardo Aquevedo S.

This article analyses the impact of work flexibilization on the labour market and on the democratic process in various Latin American countries. Special attention is paid to the increasingly precarious character of the work relationship, as a result of the growing use of temporary employment, with or without a formal contract, as a means of reducing labour costs.

Key Words: Labour Market, Labour Relations, Flexibility, Temporary Employment, Latin America

The Family Matrix in the Era of the World-System

Mario Quiroz N.

This essay invites the reader to think about the impact of the current World-System on the family as an institution. 'Traditional values' and 'ideological sovereignty', associated with it, have clearly been weakened. The author asks himself whether the family can still be considered a private affair or if the increasing incidence of an interconnected world calls for a corresponding responsibility on the part of the State. The functions of the family are analysed with a view to elaborating a new concept of it, which rests on new typologies and recognises the increasing importance of an individual responsibility, given the exhaustion of the patriarchal model. Finally, the author examines the relationship between the individual and society and explores the possibilities of mutual cooperation between families.

Key Words: Family, World-System, Globalisation, Typologies.

Happy but Poor. The 'Culture of Evasion' in Venezuela

Samuel Hurtado

This article insists on the limitations of those analyses of poverty that the author calls "economicist" and suggests widening the analytical perspective to include cultural factors. After the obligatory critical reference to the concept of "culture of poverty", coined by Oscar Lewis, the article underlines the importance of interpretative myths such as that of a "rich" Venezuela. The author appeals to the concept of a "poor society" to synthesise the compulsive disdain for, and evasion of, hard realities and the predominant conception of redistribution as a multiplication of 'gifts', which naturally favor some more than others and thus account for the coexistence of poverty and privilege.

Key Words: Poverty, Culture of Poverty, Culture of Evasion, Poor Society, Myths.

Legal and Social Comments on the Fundamental Constitutional Rights in Venezuela: The Case of Education

Morella Ávila Hernández & Luz Martínez de Correa

This article examines the way in which the new Venezuelan Constitution of 1999 broaches the question of Educational Rights. The authors place the discussion within the context of the Venezuelan constitutional tradition and

analyse the way in which the actual legal text reflects the principles of a Democratic and Social State and are inspired in the principles of social justice, human dignity, social security, the economy at the service of human needs, an equitable distribution of resources and social solidarity

Key Words: Social and Democratic State, Education, Social Rights, Constitution.

The Right to Social Security in the Constitution of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

Absalón Méndez Cegarra

This article summarises a more extensive study of the process which culminated in the inclusion of the Right to Social Security in the new Constitutional text. Amongst the antecedents, the author analyses the tradition of social constitutionalism prior to 1999 and the different Pre-Projects submitted to the National Assembly for its consideration. An analysis of Article N° 86 allows the author to identify the institutions and precepts on social security which ought to prevail in the elaboration of the Organic Law on Social Security and which are offered in the Pre-Project presented by the **Federación de Asociaciones de Profesores Universitarios de Venezuela (FAPUV)**, the **Asociación de Profesores de la Universidad Central de Venezuela (APUCV)**, the **Postgraduate Studies in Social Security (FACES-UCV)** and the **Fondos de Jubilaciones y Pensiones de las Universidades Nacionales**.

Key Words: Social Security, Right to Social Security, Constitution of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

Violence out of Control: A Feature of End of the Century Venezuela

Cristina Mateo

When the author refers to 'violence out of control', she is referring to the combination of an increase in the forms of violence to which we are more or less accustomed, together with the appearance of new and unexpected forms. The article argues that the multiple individual and collective forms of violence are the expression of a social structure, violent since its origins, which has been affected by an uncontrolled economic, political and social violence associated with the globalization process. It concludes suggesting the importance of deepening the

democratic process, promoting a culture for peace, and stimulating profound changes directed at modifying the conjunctural and structural conditions, which have made it possible.

Key Words: Violence, Types of Violence, Venezuela.

The Victim and Venezuelan Penal Justice from the Perspective of the victim

Maria Josefina Ferrer

This article examines the rights and the obligations of the Victim in the functioning of the Venezuelan judicial system. It stresses the importance of defining the different categories of victims recognised in the Venezuelan legislation and notes that these are inevitably related to the complementary definitions of 'crime' and 'criminals', precisely because it is within the framework of the penal process that some victim's rights have been recognised. In this sense, the author confesses that the notion of 'victim' is being used in a restricted sense, which is derived from its legal definition. She underlines the importance of those victim rights which have been legally recognised but argues the need to advance, if this formal recognition is not to remain merely symbolic. The article concludes suggesting that currently there is no effective guarantee of the rights to retribution and protection and that, as a result, one of the three basic objectives of the judicial process (COPP: Arts. 13 and 115), are not realised and, as ever, the victim is victimised.

Key Words: Victim, Victimise, Rights and Obligations of Victims.

Venezuelan Political Economy: Past (1999), Present (2000) and Future (2001)

Franklin González

This article begins by analysing the first year of the Chavez' administration, registering the relevant political, economic and social indicators and emphasising how the pessimistic forecasts of economic collapse and social disaster proved unfounded. After registering the data for 2000, the author offers predictions for the following year. The article underlines the importance for the government of human capital formation and suggests the measures necessary to stabilise the country and ensure economic growth. Finally the author argues that the

deterioration in living conditions has been stemmed, and that, in consequence, a structural pessimism ought to give way to more optimistic expectations.

Key Words: Political Economy, Macroeconomics, Microeconomics, Disequilibrium, Political, Economic and Social Variables.

Variability of the Labor Force Participation Rate in Venezuela, 1977-1997. Strand and Dernberg Model. Applications

Ana Rodríguez

This article offers some of the results of the author's research on models designed to register variations in the participation of the work force in Venezuela, taking into account the changes which have occurred in the referents of terms such as 'unemployment rate' and 'employment rate for men and for women'. On the basis of an evaluation of the Strand and Dernberg model, the author proposes a new model, while recognising that both permit an analysis of the net effect of the unmotivated or superfluous worker.

Key Words: Econometrics, Statistics, Labor Force, Social Sciences, Labor Force Participation Rate, Unemployment Rate, Employment Rate.

A Procedure for Quantifying Qualitative Variables Based on the Principles of Reciprocal Averaging and Homogeneity Analysis

Maura Vásquez, Guillermo Ramírez & Alberto Camardiel

This article proposes a methodology for quantifying qualitative variables, based on the concepts of Reciprocal Averaging and Homogeneity Analysis, as a preliminary phase in the eventual construction of an indicator which the authors have called the Synthetic Poverty Index. The need to quantify arises because the variables used in measuring poverty are of a 'categorical' type and are thus not susceptible to analyses based on the most efficient statistical methods for the construction of indexes. The formal aspects of the Optimum Quantitative Valoration are discussed and the authors offer an example in which they quantify an index of 'the quality of life' from the perspective of its relation to the classes defined by the Poverty Line Method, with the result expressed in a typology of homes ordered in terms of a gradient of social stratification.

Key Words: Poverty, Poverty Line, Synthetic Index, Reciprocal Averaging, Homogeneity Analysis, Optimum Quantitative Valoration, Surveys.