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Abstracts

Autonomy and the Resolution of Ethnic Conflicts: a Perspective on the San Andrés Larráinzar agreement

Natividad Gutiérrez Chong

The author studies government response beginning with the agreements of San Andrés Larráinzar, Chiapas (1996). The article first explains the conflict and the negotiation between rebels and the federal government. It then goes on to analyze the principles and commitments comprised in the San Andrés accords and explores their importance for three historical and theoretically topical expressions of the nation: the end of the grand narrative of "mestizoism", modernity and multiculturalism. It then studies the intensity experienced by the entire country, and in particular by Mexico City, on March 2001 with the Zapatista march, and the failure of Vicente Fox's strategy in terms of the COCOPA law to politically capitalize on peace in Chiapas. In the fourth section, making reference to article four of the Constitution, the author concentrates on the theoretical debate on autonomy, self-determination and free determination. The article concludes with a reference to the kind of autonomy regulated in the laws of the states of Oaxaca and Quintana Roo, as well as reflecting on the state of uncertainty that exists between the federal legislature, the EZLN and the government.

Key words: ethnic conflict, autonomy, self-determination and free determination.
Text received on October 15, 2002 and approved on March 11, 2003.

Nunavut, Aboriginal Rights and Federalism in Canada

Julián Castro Rea

This work deals with the new administrative division in Canada from which the Nunavut Territory in the Canadian Arctic emerged. Nunavut embodies an experience in the conciliation of aboriginal claims to ancestral rights with the institutions of a modern liberal democratic State.

The author argues that it is possible to conciliate the claims of ancestral peoples with modern democracy through the federalism that exists in both Canada and Mexico. He first describes the outlook for aboriginal claims and the reform of federalism in Canada, showing how these issues have reached a constitutional impasse. To underscore the importance of negotiation in the creation of the Nunavut Territory, he describes the elements that allowed for its success. He subsequently presents an outline of the new territorial government and its peculiarities within the Canadian federal scheme. He analyzes the challenges the new government must face in order to make the Nunavit promise a reality. The author concludes with a discussion on why the Nunavut experience can contribute to the debate on indigenous self-government that is currently taking place in Mexico.

Key words: aboriginal rights, federalism, reforms, territory, negotiation.
Text received on May 17, 2001 and approved on November 20, 2002.

Ethnic Mobilizations and Political Opportunities in Latin America

Águeda Gómez Suárez

This article analyzes the structure of political opportunity that has allowed for and favored the construction of indigenous political mobilizations in Latin America over the past two decades. It explores whether these mobilizations have simply had their origin in the traditional "uses and customs" of the communities, or whether they are the result of a different series of contextual variables that have favored the design of these political claims in this concrete historical moment.

In order to do this, the historical context of these indigenous mobilizations, built over the past two decades, is studied through the methodological application of the "structure of political opportunity" theoretical model. Various indicators are taken into account, designated by theoreticians of this model, such as the degree of relative aperture of the institutionalized international political system, the level of instability of alliances among the elites, the presence or absence of allies of the indigenous movements that are in power, the capacity of the State for repression and the state's tendency towards the implementation of public policies. Finally, it analyzes the "struc-

ture of ideological opportunity" that exists in the construction and legitimation of indigenist discourses.

Key words: indigenous movements, political system, ideology, legislation.
Text received on September 18, 2001 and approved on May 14, 2002.

The Inclusion of Forms of Political Representation of Oaxaca's Indigenous

Silvia Ramírez

The article deals with the right of indigenous peoples to elect and be elected using their forms of organization, participation and political representation as a starting point, without this leading to their exclusion from representation by political parties. It begins with a case study in the state of Oaxaca on the coexistence of two electoral systems in the municipal arena, where the system of "uses and customs" in electing municipal authorities has been recognized alongside the system of representation by political parties.

The context of a national debate where political parties are involved is presented at the outset. Also, the Oaxacan experience in government and electoral matters in the municipal arena is understood as an experience in management in the context of important political transformations, where tensions emerged in the Oaxacan municipalities between the system of "uses and customs" and the PRI. The work concludes that electing municipal authorities under consuetudinary rights does not exempt the indigenous population from exerting their right to vote in any other type of election.

Key words: political rights, uses and customs, representation, political parties.
Text received on January 16, 2001 and approved on July 13, 2002.

The Quiptic Ta Lecubtesel: Autonomy and Collective Action

Marcela Acosta Chávez

This article investigates a collectivity that, despite its organizational importance in the zone, has until now not been much explored: the Quiptic Ta Lecubtesel (United through our Strength). The Quiptic is an organization that has existed for 27 years in the Lacandonia, dating back to 1975, and became the Rural Association of Collective Interest (ARIC) in 1988. This organization has not been Zapatista, but neither can it be considered pro-government nor paramilitary in the service of local Cacique interests. In the first part of the article, concepts are looked for in social theory that can

help interpret how collective action and autonomy is made manifest in the organization. The second part seeks the origins of the Quiptic; in the third part, the author describes the orientation of its collective action and finally, in the fourth section, he points out the pressures it has been under and the mechanisms that have allowed it to maintain its autonomy.

Key words: organization, collective action, autonomy, orientation.
Text received on July 10, 2002 and approved on January 21, 2003.

The Tepehua in its Difference: Ethnology in the Otomí-Tepehua Sierra

David Lagunas Arias

The article builds on an empirical study on a minority ethnic group from the state of Hidalgo, the Tepehuas from Huehuetla City and Barrio Aztlán, in order to reflect on their social reality, their production, myths, topics, and the commonplaces and mental representations on local or ethnic identity produced by discourses of power.

This work discusses discourses and associated practices in the analysis of indigenous communities and tries to reflect on the reality of an object of study, as well as on the production of that very object, in order to present new problems. The author proposes we consider that "what is Tepehua" *("lo Tepehua")*, by the very complexity of its articulation at the core of modern society, is producing relevant data. Taking into account that "what is indigenous" *("lo indígena")* is being reinvented, within its own limitations, in the management of processes of globalization, starting from a local context.

Key words: community, social reality, representations, identity, modernity.
Text received on November 23, 2001 and approved on August 20, 2002.

Rural Youth: Theoretical Trajectories and Identitarian Dilemmas

Yanko González Cangas

This article takes a critical journey through the production of knowledge on youth, particularly rural, in Latin America. It suggests, among other things, a lack in social scientific investigation — especially on behalf of rural anthropology and sociology — in fundamental areas such as the formation of rural youth as identitarian subjects and social actors. It analyzes contextual theoretical elements that provoke this deficiency, as well as the contributions that could cement a systematic social scientific concern.

The study proposes the conceptual restructuring of some theoretical approximations to youth identity with the aim of filling some of the gaps in the generation of knowledge on these actors, more frequently than not denied and thus made "invisible" or stereotyped from the point of view of their socio-cultural existence. Finally, it presents some advances in anthropological investigation in Chile, starting from life histories with the aim of offering feedback to the discussion on the emergence of rural youth as social actors and identitarian subjects from a diachronic point of view.

Key words: rural youth, identity, culture, theoretical construction.
Text received on November 18, 2002 and approved on January 15, 2003.

"Costalero" Groups in Seville: An Anthropological Study of the "Costal" and the "Trabajadera"

María del Pilar Fernández Angulo

The author studies an area composed by an accumulation of perfectly structured relationships where nothing is accidental: the "costalero" groups (*cuadrillas de costaleros*). This work analyzes the figure of the "costalero" in Seville's Easter, beginning with the honorable task of carrying images on their shoulders in street processions and emphasizing its signification, representativeness and prominence in the celebration.

The article explores the role of the fiesta in general and of Easter week in particular as a starting point, ending up in the prominence acquired by the *"costalero" group* collectives. After a brief examination of the collective's historical evolution and a demonstration of the transformations that have taken place, the article studies concrete and significant aspects that define the "costalero", despite the growing change in values among youth. These are new forms of sociability in extremely heterogeneous groups that identify as an *"us"* as opposed to *the others*.

Key words: cuadrillas (groups), costaleros, procession, fiesta, Easter, sociability, masculinity.
Text received on March 9, 2001 and approved on August 26, 2002.