
EDITOR'S FOREWORD

Will the apparent demise of the Cold War have a major effect on the field of Latin American studies? Given the importance of anti-Communism as a driving force behind U.S. foreign policy toward Latin America during the period following World War II, the answer might seem to be obvious. Many of the landmarks of Latin American history in this period were partially if not entirely episodes of the Cold War, such as U.S. participation in the overthrow of the Arbenz government in Guatemala in 1954, the Cuban Revolution of 1959, the U.S.-sponsored invasion of Cuba at Playa Girón (the Bay of Pigs) in 1961, the Cuban missile crisis of 1962, the 1964 coup replacing the Goulart government with the Brazilian military, the U.S.-led Dominican intervention of 1965, the overthrow of the Allende government by the Chilean military in 1973, the Sandinista Revolution in Nicaragua in 1979, and the U.S. invasion of Grenada in 1983.

The field of Latin American studies in the postwar period was affected and even partially inspired by these events, although their effects were diverse. Some of those who became interested in the field were reacting against U.S. anti-Communist policies in Latin America or viewed them as attempts to sustain U.S. hegemony in the Western Hemisphere, a stance that might be termed "combating the empire." Others may have been motivated by an effort to implement U.S. policies more effectively through better expertise ("staffing the empire"), while yet others sought a more constructive set of policies ("reforming the empire"). Most Latin Americanists, however, were simply fascinated by Latin America itself and were "ignoring the empire."

As the mists of the Cold War now disperse, the landscape that we glimpse is not entirely familiar. The empire that was to be defended against Communism is scarcely visible. U.S. consumer products that were once ubiquitous in Latin America seem to have been replaced by

Asian and European manufactures. U.S. direct investment in Latin America is being elbowed aside by Japanese investment. Like Latin America, the United States owes large debts to foreigners, faces severe trade imbalances, and must deal with chronic deficits in the public sector. Most Latin American countries no longer receive U.S. foreign aid, and only a handful of governments can now be termed U.S. client states.

It may not be too farfetched to assert that while the Cold War preoccupied public attention and highlighted the U.S. role in the hemisphere, more significant social, cultural, and political developments were taking place in Latin America itself. Albert Hirschman called our attention to some of them in the pages of this journal (in Volume 23, Number 3): a sweeping process of urbanization leading to improved living standards for a larger population, falling birthrates leading toward a demographic transition, and an unprecedented period of sustained investment and growth from World War II to the start of the debt crisis in 1982. While the length and depth of the crisis were also unprecedented, it coincided with a consolidation of democracy in Latin America that belied old stereotypes and underscored the importance of the social changes that had already taken place.

It may therefore be that the Cold War in general and U.S. policy in particular were somewhat epiphenomenal as far as Latin America was concerned. The real action was taking place not so much at the level of international politics and nation-state alliances as at the level of social and cultural change. If anything, the Cold War probably distorted rather than reflected Latin American realities. It follows then that Latin American studies may be less affected by the evaporation of the Cold War than might have been expected.

A review of the contents of *LARR* since its inception twenty-five years ago supports the idea that the Cold War did not significantly influence the content of the research published in this journal. The issues that have preoccupied policymakers have not been entirely absent from the pages of *LARR*, but they have seldom been treated from a policy perspective. *LARR*'s pages have dealt primarily with the transformation of Latin American realities, whether economic, social, political, or cultural. The passing of the Cold War therefore seems unlikely to have a dramatic impact on the future content of this journal.

Manuscript submissions to *LARR* during the year running from June 1989 through May 1990 showed considerable continuity with the pattern of recent years. During the 1989–90 period, 128 manuscripts were received as compared with 135 for the previous report period and 120 for the year before that. Of these 128 submissions, 27 were book review essays and 3 were commissioned comments. The remaining 98 manuscripts entered the review process. By mid-June of 1990, 12 of these manuscripts had been accepted for publication, 1 had been withdrawn, 60 were rejected, and 25 were still under review. The publication rate for

articles and research notes that were fully processed (those accepted or rejected) continues to be one of every five submissions.

The distribution by discipline reflected a continuing rise in political science submissions to 37 percent of the total. Second place was again held by history with 19 percent of submissions, followed closely by economics with 16 percent and sociology with 12 percent. Language and literature submissions fell to 6 percent of the total, while anthropology submissions increased modestly but remained in sixth place with 5 percent of submissions. Other fields such as biology, communications, geography, and music accounted for the remaining 5 percent of submissions.

<i>Discipline</i>	<i>June 89– May 90</i>	<i>June 88– May 89</i>	<i>June 87– May 88</i>
Political Science	37%	27%	31%
History	19	23	16
Economics	16	18	18
Sociology	12	9	14
Languages and Literature	6	10	8
Anthropology	5	5	5
Other fields	5	8	8
Totals	100%	100%	100%

Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian authors or coauthors, including those living in Europe and North America, submitted 35 percent of all submissions, as compared with 27 percent for the previous year. Women authored or coauthored 26 percent of submissions, as compared with 29 percent in the last manuscript report and 22 percent for the year before that.

Twenty-one percent of the manuscripts came from outside the United States, as compared with 20 percent for the previous period. Fifty-five percent of these non-U.S. manuscripts came from Latin America, as compared with 50 percent in the preceding report period. Latin American countries represented were Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Guatemala, Mexico, Paraguay, and Venezuela. Other countries represented included Canada, England, France, Israel, Italy, the Netherlands, and West Germany.

Inasmuch as the editors are continuing the policy of not soliciting articles or research notes, *LARR's* contents reflect the research interests of its authors and the informed judgments of its referees. We especially welcome manuscripts that survey the current state of research on Latin America in a particular field or subfield as well as those that represent original research contributions of general and interdisciplinary interest.

Gilbert W. Merx
Albuquerque, New Mexico