

## **ABSTRACS**

### **Latin America and development problems: reflections on Amartya Sen's proposals**

*Karla Valverde*

Although it's true that processes of change and the challenges they represent vary from country to country, during the twentieth century they all have a common denominator: the growth of poverty. In this article, the author identifies some of the problems for development in Latin America, incorporating some of the basic propositions of Amartya Sen which are considered of a pioneer nature because they reunite philosophical and economic considerations, restoring for ethics a central role in the debate over current economic problems.

**Key Words:** Latin America, Growing Poverty, Development, Amartya Sen, Liberty, Social Choice, Human Development.

### **Free Trade, environment and sustainable development**

*Jorge Gallo M.*

The aim of this article is to locate the debate over trade and environment within the framework of sustainable development, especially in Latin America. Evidently, the agreements and institutions favoring free trade have had unfavorable consequences for sustainable development and this has provoked controversies within international institutions, governments and nongovernmental organizations. The author, within the framework of an evaluation of the Rio Agreements, argues the urgent need for regional agreements to regulate the trade liberalization in order to favor sustainability in the social, environmental and even political fields.

**Key Words:** Trade, Environment, Sustainable development, Poverty, Liberalization.

### **Changes introduced by the business sector and their impact on the labor market in Latin America**

*María C. Useche & Alberto Castellano*

This article examines the changes, which have been introduced in the Latin American business sector in recent year and their impact on the labor market. In the face of conjunctural situations, this sector has responded with policies of

flexibilization of their organizational processes and an introduction of more advanced technology, provoking higher levels of unemployment and the precariousness and increased mobility of the labor force.

**Key Words:** Latin America, labor market, business sector, changes, precariousness of the labor force.

### **The third wave of democracy in Latin America and the role of the OAS**

*Eira Ramos M.*

The Organization of American States (OAS) has tried to adapt to the changes, which, in different spheres and in response to global transformations, have been occurring in Latin America. One of the most important changes is related to the political sphere: the process of democratization, which characterized the continent in the eighties. The OAS's attempts to adapt are reflected in a series of mechanisms and instruments designed to facilitate responses to themes considered priorities. The current debate is over whether these mechanisms and instruments are sufficient to confront the current political reality of the continent.

**Key Words:** Role of the OAS, Latin America, Democracy and Globalisation.

### **The Main Guidelines for a Population Policy for Latin America. The United Nations Proposals for the Period 1960-1980.**

*María M. García*

This essay examines the UN recommendations relating to population policy for Latin America during the period 1960-1980, emphasizing its underlying guidelines. The author begins by outlining the origin, organizational structure and basic principles of the UN and examining its contribution to the conformation of the international system after the second world war and to the way in which the analysis of goals and strategies for economic and social development were incorporated to the agenda of international organizations. Particular attention is paid to the UN perspective on the relationship between population and development. The essay then examines the demographic situation in Latin America, using above all the statistical information provided by the UN itself, before presenting the main guidelines of UN policy recommendations. Finally, it notes the difficulties encountered in the elaboration of the policy recommendations and offers some critical comments on the conception of population policy as a key element for development.

**Key Words:** Demography, Population, Development, Latin America, United Nations.

**Elements for a Rereading of Latin America***Sulbey Naranjo de Adarmes*

We may well recognize life's loss of sense as a general contemporary phenomenon. Nevertheless, for Latin America, this indication of the collapse of values which underlie our culture appears particularly accentuated and is not only reflected in a loss of moral orientation, but can also be seen as the projection of a transcontinental collective unconscious, imposed rather than inherited, which despises primordial images which, had they prospered in our culture, would have permitted another type of humanity and society.

The complicated relationship provoked by the contact between Europe and America has produced a disorder in the evolution of the Latin American consciousness, with its impact on the creation of a political and social order markedly negative for our subcontinent, in which the 'visitor' assumes a leading role while the 'host' is excluded. The exploration of this relationship is conceived of as an invitation to continue detoxifying the profound roots of our cultural trajectory.

**Key Words:** Latin American consciousness, mythical and aesthetic valuation, national projects, regional projects.

**An Approximation to Hugo Chávez' International Proposal. The Concepts of Democracy and Integration***María Teresa Romero & Elsa Cardozo*

This article offers an overview of the ideological assumptions underlying Venezuelan foreign policy since 1999 and which inspire the international proposal designed to mould the world scene together, of course, with that of the hemisphere and the region. On examining the concepts of democracy and integration used by the Chávez government, the authors detect the seeds of a revolutionary hemispheric project, different from that in force during the governments of the democratic era (1958-1998).

**Key Words:** Venezuelan foreign policy, International proposal, Democracy, Integration.

**Frontiers, Environment and Sustainable Development***Alexander Luzardo*

The author analyzes the discourse on settlement and development of the frontier regions in Venezuela during the second half of the twentieth century and begin-

ning of the twenty-first. He argues that, as conceived, this process risks provoking environmental damage and an irreversible sociopolitical impact. The Venezuelan frontiers coincide with ecologically fragile areas that have been long occupied by indigenous groups. Concentrating on the frontiers with Colombia and Brazil, he suggests that, if some of the proposed mining, forestry or industrial projects are developed in these fragile frontier areas, this constitutes a serious risk for biodiversity and threatens water resources. The alternative proposed is an integral and transdisciplinary frontier policy, respecting the rights of the indigenous population, and the incorporation of the national parks and other areas into a special administrative regime.

**Key Words:** Sustainable Development, Frontiers, Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Environment.

### **Transforming Learning in the family and in education**

*Margarita Rojas*

In this essay, the author stresses the importance of formal institutions, such as the schools, and informal institutions, particularly the family, in the formation of contented human beings, as the basis for a transforming learning process. The latter conceives education as a continuous life-long process, beyond grades, levels or titles, in which multiple actors intervene, but in which the principal protagonist is the individual himself with high standards of personal and social consciousness.

**Key Words:** Education, learning, family.

### **Incentives systems based on the recognition of a more strategic approach**

*María A. Cabeza*

Despite the fact the incentives to improve security in companies continue to be widely used in the industrial sector, research and practical experience have demonstrated that inadequately designed systems of security incentives may have harmful effects. If they are not designed according to a conscious strategy and implemented with integrity and intelligence, they may well provoke an inadequate functioning of a company's entire security administration. The philosophy, which underlies incentives methods, is that if workers are careful and respect the norms established by management, they should receive the recompense and recognition that management considers appropriate. This article examines the strengths and weaknesses of this approach.

**Key words:** incentives programs, security administration, improvement of organizational performance, reduction of injury rates.

**Way of life, local knowledge, planning and management strategy for water in the community of 'El Chaparral', Maracaibo-Zulia**

*Ana María Castellano & Jorge Hinestroza*

On the assumption that communities dispose of a popular wisdom rooted in their day-to-day experience, this study aimed to observe and describe the practice and meaning of planning in the community of 'El Chaparral' in Zulia. It found that there is a process of self-managed planning which has contributed to the solution of various problems, especially that of the scarcity of water. It also became evident how the community took advantage of its knowledge of artisan methods for preparing water holes and, in general, of the natural and human resources at hand. The conclusion is that over time this community has invented and preserved a knowledge and a practice of planning which is deliberate, coherent, logical and systematic and which is based on the principle that neighborhood conditions need to be improved without provoking damage to the environment. This attitude was confirmed by observing the characteristics of their day-to-day way of life.

**Key Words:** planning, local knowledge, popular community, way of life, ethnography.

**Latin Americans in Barcelona: profiles and the demand for services**

*Graciela Sarrible*

In Barcelona, as in Cataluña in general, there has been an unequal growth of the different immigrant communities during the nineties. The investigation in course started by analyzing the demand for public and private services, distinguishing the different immigrant communities according to their continent of origin (Africa, Latin America or Asia). This second phase aims to identify the Latin Americans according to the country of origin, identifying their relative importance and the demand for services they stimulate (social services, information, health and Caritas). An initial conclusion is that more people do not necessarily mean a greater demand for services.

**Key Words:** Latin American Immigrants, Barcelona-Spain, Demands, Public Services, Caritas.