

ABSTRACTS

INFLACION POR RECESION: UN MARCO DE CONFLICTO DISTRIBUTIVO

Leonardo Vera

This essay argues that the conventional assumption that economic recession necessarily favors the fight against inflation can no longer be sustained. Indeed, a situation of prolonged recession may well provoke inflationary pressures. It is demonstrated how, within an oligopolistic market, a recession increases the difficulties of penetrating the market and thus facilitates increases in prices which, in turn, are encouraged in response to the corporative pressures of the workers who attempt to protect their real wage levels.

COMPORTAMIENTO HIPERINFLACIONARIO: EL ESPEJO BOLIVIANO

Frank Gómez

This essay aims to explain hyperinflation as the eventual result of a monetary policy used to finance government expenditure. It is based on the empirical evidence provided by the recent Bolivian experience between May 1984 and March 1986. Our calculations are based on the Cagan Behaviour Equation, which is used to explore different scenarios to describe the relation between inflation and the monetary growth rate. The results indicate that in the case of a controlled monetary policy, the inflation could have been effectively moderated.

LA COINTEGRACION DEL CONSUMO Y EL PIB

EN VENEZUELA: 1982-1993

Olesia Cárdenas de Bernal

In this article, the most recent techniques are applied to create a model of consumer expenditure on non-durables and services in Venezuela, from 1982 to 1993. Among the techniques used, we have: stationary series analysis, the incorporation of error correction mechanisms and the application of notions related to cointegration, constancy of the parameters of the model, and goodness of fit. An empiric dynamic specification is done for an autoregressive distributed lag model, using as explicative variables the gross internal product, the consumer price index and the monetary aggregate M_2 . The estimated model demonstrates empirically constancy in its parameters, and congruency with all the theoretical assumptions for econometric estimation.

ELEMENTOS PARA LA APLICACION DE POLITICAS DE COMPETENCIA EN ECONOMIAS EN TRASICION. LA EXPERIENCIA EN VENEZUELA

Claudia Curiel Leidenz

One of the central objectives of a policy of deregulation is to promote competition, particularly when inefficient monopoly or oligopoly structures have been fostered by state protection and in circumstances in which neither the reduction of tariff barriers nor the elimination of price controls guarantees the competitiveness of national production. For this reason the author insists on the need for a policy consciously directed toward promoting competitiveness, beginning with the fixing of norms. On this basis, the article revises the activities of the Pro-Competition Superintendancy between 1993 y 1995, emphasizing its crucial legal aspects.

ALTERNATIVAS AL CAPITALISMO

John E. Roemer

In this essay it is argued that the failure of the centrally-planned economies ought to be attributed to the absence of political and economic competition, rather than to the fact that the basic means of production were public property. The author offers examples which demonstrate that publicly-owned firms are not intrinsically less efficient than privately-owned ones. The author presents the outlines of a system which could combine public ownership of the means of production with a permanent stimulus for increased efficiency and an equitable distribution of the surplus, emphasizing the importance of separating the functions of direction and supervision, and suggesting mechanisms which could minimize inequalities in the distribution of the surplus.

LOS COSTOS DE LA INTEGRACION ECONOMICA MEXICANA CON AMERICA DEL NORTE

Alejandro Alvarez Béjar

According to the multinational organizations, the Mexican economic crisis, with its so-called "Tequila effect", is the first real crisis of the globalized world. It was the product of a financial instability produced by the massive flow of capital to one of the most profitable emerging economies. Nevertheless, there is a systematic lack of reference to a more fundamental cause: the integration of Mexico into the NAFTA. Nor is there an adequate reference to the costs of the crisis in terms of economic recession, social crisis and the tendency toward political discomposition and authoritarianism. In view of the objective of promoting a free trade area in the continent as a whole, the Mexican experience needs to be evaluated with extreme care.

LA SEGURIDAD SOCIAL DEL TRABAJADOR EN EL SECTOR INFORMAL DE LA ECONOMÍA EN VENEZUELA: SITUACION ACTUAL Y POSIBILIDADES EN EL CORTO, MEDIANO Y LARGO PLAZO

Absalón Méndez Cegarra

In the majority of Latin American countries workers in the informal sector lack the possibility of a minimum social protection or access to the social security system. Given the magnitude and the notable recent expansion of this category of workers, there is an urgent need to explore conventional and non-conventional mechanisms designed to incorporate this sector into the social security system.

ESTADO Y POLITICA DE APOYO A LA MICROEMPRESA POPULAR EN VENEZUELA

César A. Barrantes

This article examines the functioning of the *Fondo de Cooperación y Financiamiento de Empresas Asociativas*, the most important organization designed to promote the so-called Popular Economy. Changes in its management have led to incoherence and discontinuity. Furthermore, although the credits were effectively directed towards the popular sectors of the population, this by no means meant that the poor were those who benefitted. The beneficiaries were often of middle class origin and articulated their actividades toward the 'modern' sector of the economy, with the result that the impact on the local community was often limited and transitory.

EL PLAN EDUCATIVO 1995-1999 DEL GOBIERNO NACIONAL, LA GERENCIA DEL SISTEMA EDUCATIVO VENEZOLANO Y LA FORMACION DOCENTE

Antonio Varela

This article examines the viability of the Plan de Acción Educativa which the Education Ministry presented in June 1995. The main conclusions are: 1) that the Plan is a serious attempt to compensate the absence of the promised National Project; 2) that it effectively offers "the broad outlines of a policy for education"; 3) that it contributes to an improvement in the quality and efficiency of management and dignifies the teaching function; 4) that, nevertheless, its radius of action is limited to primary education.

LA EDUCACION EN VENEZUELA: CALIDAD/CANTIDAD. ENTRE EL MITO "FACIL" Y LA "DURA" REALIDAD

Luis Bravo Jáuregui

This article suggests that the common argument which contrasts quality and quantity in the educational system is generally misconceived. In Venezuela, official educational policy since 1958 has been firmly committed to guaranteeing popular access to free public education and, in a relatively short period, managed to respond to the basic requirements of the population. Nevertheless, successive

Ministers of Education have reiterated the need to improve the quality of this education without really facing the fundamental problem of the particular requirements for improving mass education in circumstances in which, since 1979, the resources available are constantly diminishing.

LA POBREZA EN EL PENSAMIENTO SOCIOLOGICO

Augusto de Venanzi

The central argument of this essay is that the sociological study of poverty has lost much of its complexity since the eighties in Latin America. The new focus has basically ignored its structural nature, emphasized in previous studies, adopting an eminently quantitative and economic approach. It is argued that this displacement obscures the causes of poverty and its manifold forms of manifestation. The paper proposes that this crucial problem should be studied within the context of the general social structure.

BALANCE ECONOMICO Y SOCIAL DE 1995 Y PERSPECTIVAS PARA 1996

Franklin Ramón González

This essay examines the economic and social situation in Venezuela during 1995 and the prospects for the economy in 1996. In the case of the balance of social policy, the point of reference is the program offered by Dr. Caldera during the 1993 electoral campaign. Finally, the author outlines a program of monetary reforms designed to combat the inflation, limit speculative activity and stimulate production.