

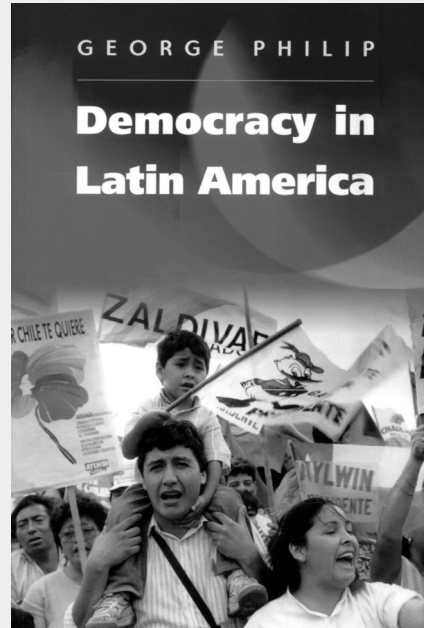


Reviews

DEMOCRACY IN LATIN AMERICA

George Philip
Blackwell, 216 pp. \$65.95

Since 1980 there has been an enormous extension of democratic governance in Latin America. Democracy has spread to some countries with little or no democratic history and Democracy has in fact survived in Latin America. However, George Philip writes that democracy has not solved many policy problems and has proved problematic in a number of ways: many Latin American countries have seen little, if any, per capita growth; poverty has increased; and political crises have often recurred. The idea of the 'Washington consensus' – that democracy, free markets and prosperity would go together in the region – has so far failed. In this book, Philip, a Professor of Comparative and Latin American Politics at the London School of Economics, explores the process of democratisation in Latin America. In the first part of this book, he identifies some of the reasons why this should be so. The chapters are organised around relevant historical and institutional factors, such as problems with law enforcement and the political tensions inherent in some Latin America variants of presidentialism, authoritarian legacies, patrimonial bureaucracies, civil-military relations, market reform,



and, international involvement. According to Philip, globalization has exacerbated these difficulties, since it has aggravated the already acute problems of governance facing emerging democracies. The second part of the book explores these issues in relation to a series of case studies involving Peru, Mexico and Venezuela.

George Phillips confronts the challenges in this book by highlighting the gap between the electoral processes, which appear to function well and the failure to consolidate democratic institutions. He also focuses on the root cause of non-consolidation in the region – the perverse ability of pre democratic patterns of political behaviour to survive and indeed flourish in many countries.

This book is easy to read, an ideal source for students taking courses in Latin American politics and Latin American studies and to anyone interested in the evolution of modern politics in Latin America.



Reviews

AN ANTI-CAPITALIST MANIFESTO

By Alex Callinicos

BLACKWELL Publishing Asia 179 pp. \$49.95

Callinicos writes about resistance and confrontation, particularly about the great demonstrations at Seattle and Genoa, which have shown that we are in a new era of protest. He writes that the neo-liberal economic policies that are pursued by the Group of Seven leading industrial countries and the international institutions they control, are in fact providing widespread resistance. Growing numbers of people in all five continents are rejecting the values of the market and the vision of a world made safe for the multinational corporations. But, what does the anti-globalization movement stand for? He questions. Is it, as its most common name suggests, against globalizations itself? Is it opposed merely to the neo-liberal Washington Consensus that became dominant in the 1980s and 1990s? or, is its real enemy the capitalist system itself? The World Social Forum at Porto Alegre has popularised the slogan 'Another World is Possible.' But what is that world?

Alex Callinicos, a Professor of Politics at the University of New York, seeks to answer these questions in *An Anti-Capitalist Manifesto*. He analyses the



development of the movement, distinguishes between the different political forces within it, and explores the strategic dilemmas – notably over violence and the nation-state – that it increasingly confronts. He argues that the movement is directed against capitalism itself. The logic of competitive accumulation that drives this system is not only increasing global inequality and economic instability, but threatens ecological catastrophe. To meet the challenges of global capitalism the new protest movement requires, according to Callinicos, a creative synthesis of its own inclusive and dynamic style and the best of the classical Marxist tradition.

This is a very relevant analysis of today's world: robust, articulate, engaging and above all provocative.



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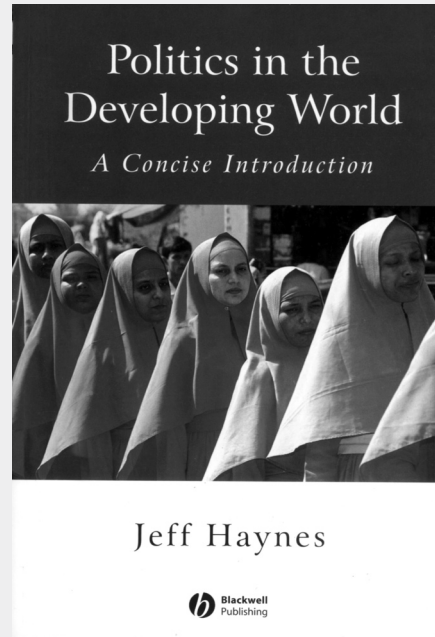
POLITICS IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD A Concise Introduction

By Jeff Haynes

BLACKWELL Publishing,
299 pp. \$61.55

Professor Jeff Haynes from the Department of Politics and Modern History, at London Guildhall University, has purposefully written this book for those coming to politics for the first time. Haynes has written a concise and lucid introduction to the developing world. He provides an exploration and analysis of the most important political issues affecting it. Offering a different perspective from standard texts in this field, *Politics in the Developing World* encourages an understanding of the breadth and nature of a range of pressing – and previously understated – issues: the striving for democracy; the political consequences of economic growth and development; the struggle of religious and ethnic minorities; human rights, particularly women's rights; the impact of globalizations; and the politics of the natural environment. In doing so, the interaction of domestic and global factors affecting many of the developing world countries is highlighted and a new, qualitatively different set of concerns is identified. Some of these factors have resulted from recent international changes following the demise of the Soviet bloc, including the shift to democracy in South Africa, and the ramifications of the late 1990s Southeast Asian financial crisis.

To illustrate the importance of these themes and issues, five developing world regions are examined in detail:



Latin America and the Caribbean, South Asia, East and Southeast Asia, the Middle East and North Africa, and sub-Saharan Africa.

While based on Haynes' previous publications. *Politics In The Developing World: A Concise Introduction* (1996) is a new book, completely rewritten, with updated regional analysis and data throughout. It concentrates on changes in the developing world in the last decade, with an increased focus on its international relations, complementing those chapters concerned with domestic issues.

An ideal introduction as well as an invitation to further study, this text is essential reading for introductory students studying a range of courses including development studies, global politics, world politics, developing world politics, comparative politics and international relations.

This book is rich in analysis and in examples drawn from a wide variety of developing countries and the political and economic developments occurring within them.

Politics in the Developing World is most welcome and an important document to the growing literature on political and economic development.

Editor's note: This piece was translated into English by International IDEA. Last year, Latin America celebrated the 35th anniversary of what came to be known as the third wave of democratization in the region. At the same time, and in a climate of significant stability, a second phase (2013-2016) of an unprecedented electoral marathon began, during which 34 presidential elections will take place in only eight years (2009-2016). So far, 26 elections have been held. Never before has the region experienced such an intense and important electoral agenda in such a short period of time. For decades, Latin America's troubled experience with democracy has served as a testing ground for theories on democratization and political regimes. Today, most countries in the region have established democratic institutions, and a return to full-fledged authoritarianism is unlikely. However, these regimes are often at odds with the electoral, constitutional, liberal, and representative attributes that are associated with democratic regimes. Democracies in Development: Politics and Reform in Latin American Countries. Rev. ed. Washington, DC: Inter-American Development Bank, 2007.

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