

Abstracts

Mexico's futures: crossroad and pain in the neck

Antonio Alonso Concheiro

The essay argues that, up to now, Mexico still lacks to imagine its long term futures; it states that it is urgent to make a collective, systematic and rigorous effort to do so. Anticipating such an effort, the essay outlines in an overall view, a critical perspective of what has happened in the last twenty years-since the birth of POLIS and up to our days-in several spheres of the national life: demography, economics, politics and society. In each case it also sketches possible futures over the next two decades, or issues that would be important to consider in imagining such futures.

Key words: Mexico; past; futures; scenarios; demography; economics; politics; society.

Mexico: a democracy exposed to risks

Ricardo Espinoza Toledo

In Mexico, the accentuated inequalities and inequity limit the effective exercise of political, civil and social rights. The lack of equity can be seen in school exclusion, the lack of formal jobs, low income, the deficit of social welfare and poverty. This lack of development associated with the impairing in participation and representation, weaken, undermine and jeopardize the toddling Mexican democracy.

Key words: development, democracy, equality, inequality, political, social and civil rights.

Abstract subject to citizen: opening and closing of citizenship in modernity age

Enrique G. Gallegos

Construction of a full citizenship has been a centermost problem for Political Philosophy, Political Theory and the Political Science in the last forty years. However, a review of philosophic and political thought of modernity shows that thinkers as Hobbes, Rousseau, Kant, Nietzsche, Tocqueville, Ortega y Gasset, Mosca and Schumpeter have contributed in different ways to the foreclosure of the citizen category. This tension makes it relevant to track the argumentative modes acquired by that foreclosure and at the same time, to specify the condition in which citizenship has been rejected and distrusted. A suitable exposition of these displacements would allow understanding of the problems of disenchantment, apathy, incompetence and immaturity attributed to citizenship. At the end the essay presents three difficulties which citizenship faces in the twenty-first century.

Key words: subject, citizen, modernity, democracy

Internet and political communication. Understanding and public space

Mario Zaragoza Ramírez

This article describes how the political communication articulated through the Internet space and the selective participation of different actors is understood. It considers that political communication allows, if taken to account as a dialogue, self-management speeches seeking to spread a part of the reality that is relegated from conventional media spaces and that may be found on the network. In this way, in the midst of polarization, political communication allowing the interaction between different actors can be part of the problem and of the solution. The article proposes that the democratization of knowledge and dialogue can solve or demystify the political, social and economic problems faced by society in the beginning of the 21st century.

Key words: Political Communication, dialogue, communicative actions, understanding, internet, public space.

Torture in the context of Mexico's "Guerra Sucia": an exercise of collective memory

Jorge Mendoza García

During the last century's 60's and 70's, in Mexico, guerrilla groups emerged all over the country; equally in rural areas such as the state of Guerrero, as in cities like Monterrey, Guadalajara and Mexico City. In facing this wave of armed groups, the Mexican State resorted not to the law but to violent strategies, surpassing even the legal frameworks instituted in the country. This terrifying manner of confronting the guerrillas was known as *guerra sucia* (dirty war). It displayed multiple tactics such as illegal imprisonment, forced disappearance, detention of guerrillas' kin and torture. Torture was practiced equally on men and women accused of being guerrillas or of providing support to these groups. Branding, beatings, mutilations, and even the introduction of objects into the body, were some of the manners that torture adopted in this *guerra sucia*. By means of several testimonies presented as an exercise of collective memory, this essay aims to reconstruct some of the experiences of those decades and, at the same time, clarify the use of bodily violence by those who exert terror through power.

Key words: *guerra sucia*, violence, torture, body, collective memory.

Social construction of urban space: Ecatepec, and Nezahualcoyotl. Two oriental giants

Mario Bassols Ricárdez

Maribel Espinosa Castillo

The social production of space in a metropolis that currently exceeds 20 million people has been heavily towed about by urban dynamics experienced in the post-war period, in the east and north-east of Mexico City. Among the most significant and relevant cases, are the two most populous municipalities of the State of Mexico: Ecatepec de Morelos and Nezahualcoyotl. Given their socio-historical features, their unique process of integration to the metropolis and the political and cultural traits that identify them, this essay limits itself to the general aspects of their recent spatial conformation, as well as it briefly examines their common elements and those particular to each one.

It concludes with a reflection on the impact that the processes linked to the global economy have had in their local environments, with emphasis in the first decade of the 21st century.

Key words: urban space, territorial structure, globalization

Mexico's tobacco agro industry and the formation of Tabamex, 1920-1972

Horacio Mackinlay

The article presents a historical review of the tobacco agribusiness from last century's 20's up to 1972 when the public sector company, Tabacos Mexicanos, S.A. (Mexican Tobaccos, Tabamex) was founded. Its chief goal is to understand and illustrate by means of a case study, the way in which Mexico's State intervention developed in the tobacco-growing regions and its agribusiness. Based on a description of the underlying productive aspects, it analyzes state and federal-level government actions to promote tobacco-related activities and to influence and mediate between private firms and tobacco producers. Given its particular relevance, the article highlights the social construction of a negative image of the relation between producers and transnational corporations which, after becoming a black legend in the 60's, was instrumental to nationalizing the tobacco industry in 1972. Rather than deliberately unfair or arbitrary however, the reality of the underlying conflict was a struggle for the establishment of efficiency and productivity criteria.

Key words: tobacco leaf, contract farming, tobacco industry, transnational corporations, Partido Popular Socialista (Socialist Popular Party).