



Latin America moving: Changes & Challenges in the 21st century.

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Landscape of Latin America

- 33 Countries
- 13% of the world territory
- 610 million people
- 9% of the world population
- GDP 4,845 trillion (2014)
- 80% population in urban areas
- Six of the most biodiverse countries: Brazil, Mexico, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela
- Multi-ethnic and multicultural societies with different political ideology governments



Political context: realities and challenges

General Framework

- Democracy in progress, strengthening in the entire region.
- Elected governments and legislative bodies composed from all the political spectrum.
- Left wing parties acceded power by peaceful democratic elections .
Uruguay, Brazil, Venezuela, Bolivia, Ecuador
- Democratic Institutions advancing its independence to real separation of powers.
- Participative societies with more middle class: informed, critical, demanding better economic and social conditions, good governance and political accountability.
- Human Rights advancing. Freedom of expression, political association and fair competition in electoral process.



Political context: realities and challenges

Regional Issues

- Normalization of the links between Cuba and the United States.
- Peace negotiations progress between the government and the guerrilla movement in Colombia.
- The United States approaches with the governments of Latin America.
- Presidential election process in the United States negative impact specially with Mexico.
- Effects in the region of the outcome of the Presidential election in the United States.



Economic backdrop of LA countries in the world economy

- China's economic growth originated unprecedented boom exports of commodities from Latin America 1999-2013. High Oil prices also contributed to Latin America economic bonanza.
- Governments in South America implemented generous welfare programs lifted millions from poverty. The middle classes expanded rapidly .
- The Latin American region engaged in two economic dynamics:
 - South America, commodities exports to China.
 - North America: diversified exports to the United States.
- Regional Economic integration projects divided the region:
 - Economies with a socialist oriented policies (ALBA MERCOSUR)
 - Export oriented economies with open market policies (Pacific Alliance TPPA)
- Impact of the end of the commodities boom

Immediate Challenges

- Continue consolidating Democracy and democratic institutions. Prevent the use of democratic means to undermine Democracy.
- Design and implement economic policies to sustain social and welfare programs reducing poverty and inequality.
- Fight against corruption, organized crime (drug trafficking, trafficking in persons, and arms).