

RECENT REFERENCE WORKS ON LATIN AMERICAN POLITICS

Rafael E. Tarragó
University of Minnesota

- PARTIDOS Y ELECCIONES EN AMERICA LATINA: GUIA BIBLIOGRAFICA.* Edited by Manuel Alcántara, Ismael Crespo, and Antonia Martínez. (Madrid: Asociación para la Investigación y Especialización en Temas Iberoamericanos and Síntesis, 1991. Pp. 212.)
- HANDBOOK OF POLITICAL SCIENCE RESEARCH ON LATIN AMERICA: TRENDS FROM THE 1960s TO THE 1990s.* Edited by David Dent. (New York: Greenwood, 1990. Pp. 448. \$67.50 cloth.)
- WHO'S WHO IN LATIN AMERICA: GOVERNMENT, POLITICS, BANKING, AND INDUSTRY.* Edited by Bettina Corke. (New York: Norman Ross, 1993. Pp. 405. \$99.00 cloth.)
- MEXICAN POLITICAL BIOGRAPHIES, 1884–1935.* By Roderic A. Camp. (Austin: University of Texas Press, 1991. Pp. 490. \$75.00 cloth.)
- MEXICAN POLITICAL BIOGRAPHIES, 1935–1993.* By Roderic A. Camp. (Austin: University of Texas Press, 1995. Pp. 652. \$55.00 cloth, \$24.95 paper.)
- ENCICLOPEDIA ELECTORAL LATINOAMERICANA Y DEL CARIBE.* Edited by Dieter Nohlen. (San José, C.R.: Instituto Interamericano de Derechos Humanos, 1993. Pp. 684.)
- DIRECTORIO DE ORGANIZACIONES DE DERECHOS HUMANOS: AMERICA LATINA Y EL CARIBE / HUMAN RIGHTS DIRECTORY: LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN.* Edited by Laurie S. Wiseberg, Guadalupe López, and Sara Meselson. (Cambridge, Mass.: Human Rights Internet, 1990. Pp. 528.)

Reference works are tedious to prepare, and their authors can never expect them to become best-sellers, despite the fact that they are essential tools for professors and students alike. Although reference works seldom enter private libraries, they are top-priority purchases for academic and research libraries.

The standard bibliographic guides for research on Latin American topics have been the *Handbook of Latin American Studies*, an annual bibliography of books and articles published since 1935, and the *Hispanic American Periodical Index (HAPI)*, an annual index to the periodical literature published since 1970. More recently, the North-South Center at the

University of Miami created Info-South, a database of citations and abstracts of articles on the business, legal, political, and economic affairs of Latin America from leading journals, news magazines, newspapers, and newsletters. This database is growing by some ten thousand citations each year. The annual *Bibliography of Latin American and Caribbean Bibliographies* is a comprehensive guide to bibliographies in serials.¹

Most standard book-length reference works on Latin America are general or cover literary or historical subjects. This concentration makes welcome the publication in the last five years of several reference works related to politics in Latin America. As specialized reference works, both *Partidos y elecciones en América Latina: Guía bibliográfica* and *Handbook of Political Science Research on Latin America: Trends from the 1960s to the 1990s* will save their users much research time.

Edited by Manuel Alcántara, Ismael Crespo, and Antonia Martínez, *Partidos y elecciones en América Latina* is a book-length bibliography containing some fifteen hundred citations of books and journal articles. Organized by country or region, it includes a directory of research institutes and documentation centers in Spain and Latin America that study Latin American political parties and elections. The compilers of the guide belong to a new generation of social scientists at the Facultad de Ciencias Políticas of the Colegio de Gobierno y Ciencias Políticas of the Universidad Complutense in Madrid and that university's Programa de Estudios Latinoamericanos at the Instituto Ortega y Gasset. Some of these researchers also are involved in publishing the quarterly *América Latina Hoy*. The bibliography was published by the Asociación para la Investigación y Especialización en Temas Iberoamericanos (AIETI), which seeks to encourage research in the social sciences on contemporary Latin American issues and relations between Spain and Latin America.

This bibliography will be particularly helpful to U.S. scholars in providing a sample of contemporary Spanish literature on Latin American politics and a list of Spanish research institutes where this material is being produced. *Partidos y elecciones en América Latina* is representative of the scholarship on the subject outside the English-speaking world. Although restrictions on size forced the compilers to produce a select bibliography, its many citations make the volume a notable contribution to scholarship on Latin American political parties and elections.

Alcántara's introduction points out that in the last decade, political parties and electoral politics have played active roles in recent developments in Latin America. Moreover, because the literature covered in this bibliography was produced in the last twenty-five years of political debate and growth, it includes works that have been influential in actual

1. This periodical has been published since 1986 by the SALALM Secretariat, which just moved from the University of New Mexico to the University of Texas at Austin.

political projects or seminal for contemporary Latin American political theory. Although selective, this bibliography encompasses all countries and areas in the region, avoiding imbalances that could arise from the fact that some Latin American countries publish more than others. Balanced coverage makes *Partidos y elecciones en América Latina* an invaluable guide for researchers embarking on comparative studies. One could only wish that the bibliography had been annotated and indexed according to author.

David Dent's *Handbook of Political Science Research on Latin America from the 1960s to the 1990s* is more than a bibliography and in a manner that makes it complementary to *Partidos y elecciones en América Latina*. Dent's volume attempts to encompass the literature on Latin American politics produced in the last decades in Latin America and the United States but ignores European scholarship. Each country or regional section on comparative politics or international relations is covered in a bibliographical essay, followed by an extensive bibliography on the country or region under discussion. The appendices include a select annotated bibliography of reference works on Latin American politics by Peter Johnson, Dent's essay entitled "Macro-Trends in Political Science Research, 1960–1985: Data from the *Handbook of Latin American Studies*," and a list of major research centers and institutes in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Handbook of Political Science Research on Latin America displays a distinguished list of contributors in accordance with Dent's goal of "producing a reference work that would synthesize the research trends in the field of Latin American politics since 1960, relying on sixteen scholars who have been key contributors to the study of Latin American politics in the United States and Latin America." All the contributors have lived and done fieldwork in Latin America or the Caribbean.

A bibliography like this one has the advantage over an unannotated bibliography (such as *Partidos y elecciones en América Latina*) of placing works in context and evaluating them. Although this approach can lend itself to biased opinion on particular items, the description allows users to surmise the contents. Use of the *Handbook* is facilitated by a name index (including individuals referred to in the works cited as well as authors), and a subject index.

Although the *Hispanic American Periodical Index* and the *Handbook of Latin American Studies* have provided access to monographs and the periodical literature on Latin America, few biographical reference works have been published on the educational and work experience of public figures. From 1935 to 1946, Stanford University published *Who's Who in Latin America*, a biographical dictionary of outstanding living men and women of Spanish America and Brazil, but since 1946 nothing has been published in English on all of Latin America. Some who's whos were published in Latin America after 1946 but covered only single countries.

In the 1980s, biographical dictionaries on political leaders were published in Argentina and Mexico. The *Diccionario biográfico de políticos argentinos* was published in Buenos Aires by Planeta in 1989, and the *Diccionario biográfico del gobierno mexicano* in Mexico City by La Presidencia in 1984. In the United States, Roderic Ai Camp had already published the first edition of his *Mexican Political Biographies, 1935–1975* in 1976.

The first attempt to compile a regional who's who for Latin America since the demise of the Stanford University project was Robert Alexander's *Biographical Dictionary of Latin American and Caribbean Political Leaders*, published by Greenwood Press in 1988. A more inclusive and up-to-date example is Bettina Corke's *Who's Who in Latin America: Government, Politics, Banking and Industry*. Organized by country, entries include the individual's complete academic and occupational background as well as current mailing address and (usually) telephone numbers. Like the other works reviewed here, Latin America refers to all the countries in the Western Hemisphere other than the United States and Canada. The name index includes a country reference for every individual cited.

Biographical dictionaries for individual countries are available, but in most cases they have not been updated. That has not been the case with Roderic Camp's *Mexican Political Biographies, 1935–1975*, which was updated in 1982 as *Mexican Political Biographies, 1935–1981* and is now appearing in a third edition, *Mexican Political Biographies, 1935–1993*. In between the second and third editions of this work, Camp published an excellent historical-biographical dictionary covering an earlier period, *Mexican Political Biographies, 1884–1935*.

Both *Mexican Political Biographies, 1884–1935* and *Mexican Political Biographies, 1935–1993* have individual entries indicating each subject's educational and occupational background, titles of major publications, and sources of information on the individual. *Mexican Political Biographies, 1935–1993* also offers information on the subject's family ties. Both volumes include lists of supreme court judges, senators and federal deputies (including alternates and the states that they represented), directors of federal departments and agencies, governors (by state), presidents, and ambassadors to some countries.²

Mexican Political Biographies, 1884–1935 includes lists of members of the national executive committees of the Partido Nacional Revolucionario (PNR), and *Mexican Political Biographies, 1935–1993* adds those of the Partido Revolucionario Mexicano (PRM) and the Partido Revolucionario Institucional (PRI). The latter volume lists rectors and directors of the national universities, presidents and secretaries general of the Partido de

2. Ambassadors are listed only for Cuba, France, Great Britain, the Soviet Union, and the United States in the volume covering 1884–1935. That for 1935–1993 also lists ambassadors to the Organization of American States and the United Nations.

Acción Nacional (PAN), the Partido Auténtico de la Revolución Mexicana, the Partido Democrático de la Revolución, the Partido Democrático Mexicano, the Partido Socialista Popular, and the Frente Cardenista para la Reconstrucción Nacional, as well as the secretaries general of the Confederación de Trabajadores de México, the Confederación Nacional Campesina, the Federación de Sindicatos de Trabajadores al Servicio del Estado, the Sindicato Unico de Trabajadores Electricistas de la República Mexicana, and the Sindicato de Trabajadores Petroleros de la República Mexicana. These appendices are extremely valuable because they allow researchers to locate information about persons who have held specific positions in Mexican government without knowing individual names.

These comprehensive biographical dictionaries also include brief but informative bibliographical essays, and the section entitled "How Persons Were Selected for Inclusion" provides useful insights on the realities of political life in Mexico. The several volumes of Camp's *Mexican Political Biographies* represent decades of work, the kind of project that is never complete. Ideally, they will inspire other Latin Americanists to compile similar biographic reference works for other countries.

Political statistics for Latin America are not extremely difficult to find. They appear in statistical yearbooks and can also be obtained from political parties and agencies that monitor public opinion. Dieter Nohlen's *Enciclopedia electoral latinoamericana y del Caribe* makes the task still easier by bringing together in one volume statistical information that was previously time-consuming to find. This volume resulted from a team effort, with the compilers of each country section introducing their area in informative essays. These introductions give readers background on the political history and government organization of each country, providing context for graphs and tables. A bibliography at the end of each country section cites the sources of the statistical information included.

Enciclopedia electoral latinoamericana may be the most complete source of voting statistics for Latin America. For some countries, lists of presidents and heads of state are provided. This reference work is essential for any collection on Latin American studies, particularly those where research on current political issues is being conducted.

After the subject of political parties and electoral politics, human rights issues are currently the most studied aspect of Latin American politics. *Directorio de Organizaciones de Derechos Humanos: América Latina y el Caribe / Human Rights Directory: Latin America and the Caribbean*, edited by Laurie Wiseberg, Guadalupe López, and Sara Meselson, is a bilingual comprehensive directory of organizations concerned about human rights. Published by the Human Rights Internet, it contains a general section on inter-American organizations, country sections, and one on international organizations. Each entry summarizes the history and the activities of the organization and lists a contact person and major publications.

The *Directorio de Organizaciones de Derechos Humanos* offers an excellent index by organization consisting of an alphabetical listing of all names and the acronyms (in all relevant languages) of every organization included in the directory. This index also lists organizations that have no entry under their own name but are mentioned in the description of another organization, either as an affiliated or member group.

The books reviewed here are just a few of the useful reference works on Latin American politics produced in the last five years. In the long run, databases like the LADB at the University of New Mexico, UT-LANIC at the University of Texas–Austin, and Info-South at the North-South Center at the University of Miami will become the sources for bibliographies like those in *Partidos y elecciones en América Latina*. In the not-so-distant future, information in printed directories like the *Directorio de Organizaciones de Derechos Humanos* will be obtainable via specialized electronic newsletters. But publications like the *Handbook of Political Science Research on Latin America* and annotated bibliographies will remain easier to use in printed form. Given the growth in literature on this subject, they are the kind of reference work needed most at this stage.



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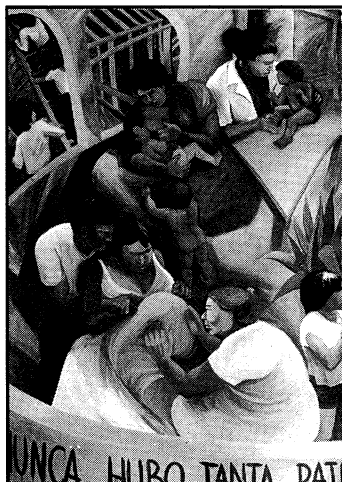
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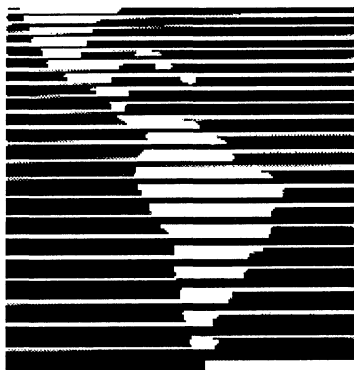
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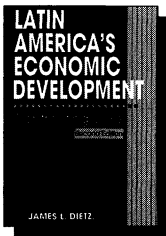


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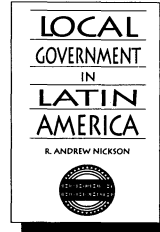
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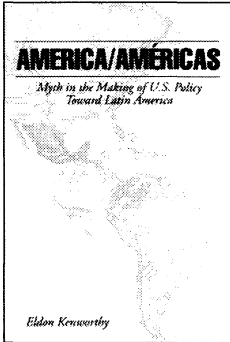
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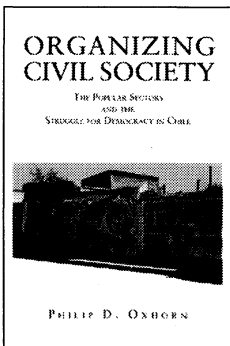


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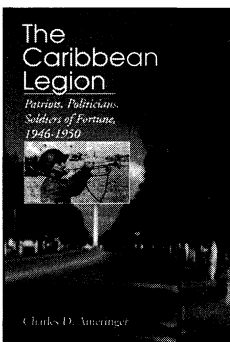


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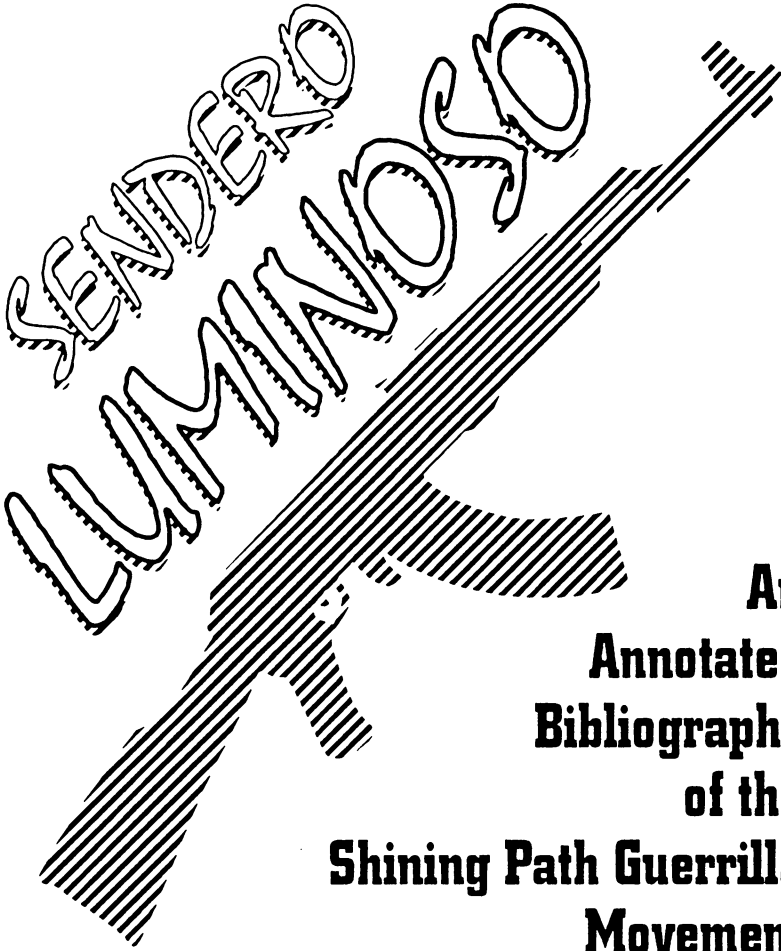
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J. Mencher~J.F. Montbach~J. Nash~E. Padilla~H.I. Safa~N.N. Sorensen~R.M. Toruellas
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