

GLOSSARY

Abertura Period of political opening in Brazil from 1979 to 1985.

Alfonsín, Raúl President of Argentina (1983–1989).

Allende, Salvador President of Chile (1970–1973); overthrown by a coup.

American Revolutionary Popular Alliance (APRA) Peruvian reformist political party created in 1924 that became a target for political elites.

Batista, Fulgencio Dictator of Cuba from 1952 to 1959; overthrown by revolution led by Fidel Castro.

Binomial electoral system Chilean electoral system that requires over two-third vote to get both seats in a district.

Brazilian Landless Workers' Movement Influential grassroots movement in Brazil founded in 1980.

CAFTA-DR Free trade agreement between the United States, Central American countries, and the Dominican Republic.

Capitalism An economic system characterized by market supply and demand with minimal state intervention.

Caracazo 1989 riots in Caracas that left at least 300 dead.

Cardoso, Fernando Henrique President of Brazil (1995–2003).

Castro, Fidel Led the revolution that overthrew Fulgencio Batista; leader of Cuba from 1959 until 2006.

Castro, Raúl Brother of Fidel Castro; head of the Cuban armed forces and president of Cuba beginning in 2006.

Caudillo A military figure who develops a large following and establishes some variant of authoritarian rule at the regional level.

Centralist A political system with a strong central authority.

Chávez, Hugo Venezuelan president (1999–2013).

Chicago Boys Group of Chilean economists educated at the University of Chicago who advised the military government.

Civil society Groups organizing at the local level to push for change of some sort.

Commodity A primary product that is mined or cultivated.

Communism An ideology characterized by total government control over politics and the economy.

Concertación Chilean center-left coalition founded in 1988.

confederal A political system where regional governments are more powerful than the central government.

Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of Ecuador (CONAIE) Politically influential ethnic movement in Ecuador.

Conservative Those committed to maintaining many of the political and social characteristics of the Spanish (or Portuguese) regimes.

Corporatism A set of formal institutions that facilitate clientelist rel.

Correa, Rafael Populist president of Ecuador (2006–present).

Coup d'état The sudden overthrow of a government.

Creoles Native-born and lighter skinned colonial elites.

Democratic socialism A political system in which citizens have the opportunity to vote and there is considerable debate in legislatures about what types of socialist policies to pursue.

Dependency theory A theory focused on how less-developed countries are dominated economically by the developed world, exporting primary products and importing finished goods.

Devalue To make one's own national currency worth less than others. This spurs exports.

Dollarization The conversion of a currency to the U.S. dollar.

Dutch disease The dilemma whereby a country rich in natural resources will see its currency appreciate to the detriment of other domestic industries.

Ejido A traditional system of communal land in Mexico.

Embargo Laws intended to block trade between one country and another.

Estado Novo Corporatist era in Brazil led by President Getulio Vargas from 1937 to 1945.

Exchange rate The value of one country's currency versus another.

Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) Guerrilla organization in El Salvador that later became a political party.

Federal A political system where a central government and regional governments share authority.

Fernández de Kirchner, Cristina President of Argentina (2007–present).

Fuero Special privileges and immunity, especially for the military and clergy.

Fujimori, Alberto Populist president of Peru (1990–2000) who resigned in disgrace and was later convicted of human rights abuses.

Gini coefficient A statistical measure of income inequality.

Gross domestic product (GNP) The value of all goods and services produced within a country in one year.

Guerrilla A combatant who uses hit-and-run tactics and knowledge of local terrain to confront a conventional army.

Guevara, Che Argentine revolutionary who became a leader of the Cuban revolution.

Hacienda A large plantation.

Horizontal accountability The ability of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches to hold each other politically accountable.

Human development index (HDI) A measure derived from life expectancy at birth, average years of schooling, and average income.

Hyperinflation Inflation that is at least 50 percent a month.

Ideology A set of ideas that are aimed at a specific political goal.

Informal economy Refers to people who perform work and earn money that is not sanctioned or recorded by the government.

Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) The postrevolutionary Mexican political party that dominated Mexican politics until the 2000 presidential election.

International Monetary Fund (IMF) An international institution that makes loans and became a clearinghouse for loans.

Justicialist (Peronist) Party Argentine political party founded in 1946 and originally centered on Juan Perón (see also Juan Perón).

Kirchner, Néstor President of Argentina (2003–2007).

La Violencia A decade (1948–1958) of severe political violence in Colombia, resulting in over 100,000 dead.

Liberal democracy A broad definition of democracy that goes beyond holding elections and includes a wider array of rights.

Liberals Those committed to an emphasis on the separation of church and state, on international trade, and in general a challenge to the traditional order.

Lula President of Brazil (2003–2011).

Mapuche Largest indigenous group in Chile.

Menem, Carlos President of Argentina (1989–1999).

Mestizos People of mixed race between Iberian conquerors and natives.

Modernization theory A theory claiming that underdeveloped countries can advance by copying the model of already developed countries.

Morales, Evo Former coca grower union leader who in 2005 became the first Bolivian president of indigenous descent.

Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo Influential Argentine protest organization founded in 1977.

Nation Deeply shared common characteristics that create a sense of identification for a large group of people.

Nongovernmental organization (NGO) An organization with political goals that is independent of any government.

Noriega, Manuel Dictator of Panama from 1981 to 1989. Overthrown by a U.S. invasion.

North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) An agreement between Canada, Mexico, and the United States to reduce trade barriers, which went into effect in 1994.

Organization of American States (OAS) A regional organization based on the principles of the United Nations.

Ortega, Daniel Former Sandinista guerrilla leader and later president of Nicaragua.

Pact of Punto Fijo 1958 power-sharing pact in Venezuela between the major political parties.

Paramilitaries Armed organizations that operate apart from the military.

Peasant People in rural areas engaged in agriculture.

Peninsulares Spanish- and Portuguese-born colonial elites.

Perón, Juan Domingo Populist leader and periodic president in Argentina. His movement still bears his name (see also Justicialist Party).

PDVSA The state oil company of Venezuela (Petroleum of Venezuela), which is central to generating government revenue.

Pinochet, Augusto President and dictator of Chile (1973–1990).

Plan Colombia Antidrug initiative launched by the United States and Colombia in 2000.

Platt Amendment Passed in 1901; inserted into the Cuban constitution to guarantee the right of the United States to intervene.

Polyarchy Concept developed by Robert Dahl that focuses on competitive elections as a core aspect of democracy (see also procedural democracy).

Populism A style of governing characterized by personalism and a high level of connection between the executive and the population.

Procedural democracy A narrow definition characterized by competitive elections and universal suffrage (see also polyarchy).

Proceso Period of Argentine military dictatorship from 1976 to 1983.

Radical Civic Union Party (UCR) Moderate political party in Argentina that is the oldest in the country.

Remittances Money sent from migrant workers back to their country of origin.

Revolution Radical armed overthrows of the entire political system.

Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) Guerrilla organization founded in 1964 and still active.

Revolutionary Nationalist Movement (MNR) Bolivian reformist and corporatist political party created in 1941.

Rousseff, Dilma President of Brazil (2001–present).

Sánchez de Lozada, Gonzalo Twice president of Bolivia (1993–1997; 2002–2003), forced to resign in 2003 and went into exile.

Sánchez, Yoani Cuban opposition blogger.

Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) Guerrilla organization in Nicaragua that overthrew Anastasio Somoza Debayle in 1979 and later became a political party.

Santos, Juan Manuel Former defense minister who was elected president of Colombia in 2010.

Self-coup An illegal dissolution of other state institutions by the president, leaving power entirely in his or her hands.

Shining Path Very violent guerrilla force created in Peru in 1980.

Socialism An ideology that focuses on government ownership over means of production to achieve economic equality.

Somoza Debayle, Anastasio Dictator of Nicaragua from 1967 to 1979; overthrown by the Sandinistas.

Special Period in Peacetime Era of economic deprivation in Cuba from 1991 to the mid-1990s.

State The concrete institutions that allow a government to function domestically and as part of an international system.

Technocrats Individuals in bureaucracies who have technical expertise on specific issues. In theory they are apolitical.

Undocumented immigrants Latin American migrants living in the United States without legal status.

United Socialist Party of Venezuela (PSUV) The broad political coalition party created by President Hugo Chávez.

Uribe, Alvaro President of Colombia (2002–2010).

Vertical accountability The degree to which national authorities are held accountable to voters.

War of the Pacific War between Bolivia, Chile, and Peru from 1879 to 1884.

Workers' Party or PT Influential Brazilian political party founded in 1980.

World Bank An international institution whose purpose is to fund and coordinate development projects.

Zelaya, José Manuel Honduran president who was overthrown in 2009.