

Latin America in the XXI century: political, economic and social patterns.

In the first decade of the 21st century, Latin America experienced various changes in several aspects of its reality. In the political dimension, parties and candidates identified with the left came to power in different countries within a very short period of time, in all cases by electoral means. This trend had no similar precedent in the region and was identified as the “pink tide”. On the economic side, the emergence of China as a global power and the so-called “commodity boom” that it brought as a result, had a direct impact on most Latin American economies. South American countries, in particular, experienced continuous economic growth in both exports and Gross Domestic Product since 2003. This economic boom led to improvements in the quality of life of the population while generating resources that were channelled from the State into extensive social programs. As a result, a significant portion of the population that had previously lived in poverty was able to move up the ladder and become part of a thriving middle class.

During this course we will study in detail these transformations, their reasons, consequences and effects. In addition, we will discuss how several of these trends have been reversed in recent years: in many countries the right returned to power and the region's economic growth has declined. At the same time, the population's distrust of the political class has been on the rise and in some countries has even led to social outbursts with profound consequences and/or a drop-in support for democracy.

Finally, to conclude, we will address some of the challenges posed to the region by the Coronavirus pandemic and the emergence of a new radical right represented by leaders such as Bolsonaro, Bukele and Milei.

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