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## ABSTRACTS

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Claude Heller, *Mexico in the OAS; traditional positions and thesis*

This essay describes and analyses the transformations experienced by the OAS which have occurred at the same time as the political changes in the world, as well as the positions Mexico has assumed within this regional organization. In addition of describing some of the crises lived by the inter-American organization, such as those due to the conflicts in Central America or the excessive influence of the United States, that resulted in a growing lack of credibility in the OAS, the author states that, beginning in the eighties, the organization began to play a more constructive role. In terms of Mexico's position in the OAS, the essay underlines the Mexican viewpoint in the treatment of topics such as hemispheric security, democracy and democratization, human rights, and the fight against drug trafficking. In the author's opinion, the idea is to encourage constructive dialogue to strengthen political understandings and allow deeper inter-American cooperation through the OAS.

Olga Pellicer, *Fifty years of the OAS; toward a stronger organization?*

The purpose of this article is to trace the trends that have been present in the life of the OAS in the last ten years, as well as to describe the transformations it has experienced since the end of the last decade. It is divided into four sections. The first states the main factors that revitalized the OAS, after the legitimacy crises it underwent at the end of the eighties. The second highlights the OAS' commitment to democratization in the hemisphere, the position adopted since 1991. The third analyzes the different ways that implementation of its new commitments has promoted democracy, as well as the difficulties faced in achieving its objectives. The fourth and last section examines the actions of the OAS connected with the building of a "new inter-American consensus" in topics such as trade liberation, integral development, the fight against drug trafficking and full respect for human rights. The conclusions stress the importance of using the OAS as a technical and cooperative body more than as an organization that veers toward political questions, in order to strengthen it in the coming century.

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José Luis Siqueiros, *The OAS and International Law*

This essay describes and analyzes the important contribution by the American States to public and private international law, both before formalization of the inter-American system in 1948, and within the framework of the OAS. The essay is divided into four sections. In the first, the author describes the background of the inter-American system; in particular, he highlights the desire of the 19th century American republics that have recently gained independence, to achieve regional and subregional agreements related to political union, collective security, peaceful settling of controversies, extradition, diplomatic asylum and private international law. The second section analyzes the American States contribution to public and private international law, reflected in the production of many, diversified laws that are consolidated based on the definitive structuring of the inter-American system. The third examines the work of the Inter-American Juridical Committee; the fourth and last section studies how the OAS can today reinforce its function of development and codification of American International law, especially through greater international cooperation in this area.

Sergio González Gálvez, *Toward a New Concept of Hemispheric Security*

The author states that the political, economic and technological changes that international society is experiencing require nations to restate or readjust their respective foreign policies particularly in relation to security. Because of this, this essay proposes a new definition of security in the American hemisphere that encompasses economic, political and social aspects based on opening, dialogue and negotiation more than on military power. The author also stresses that the basic principles for countries to live together, such as non intervention and self-determination, are fundamental in achieving a new concept of hemispheric security. With respect to this point, the author makes a detailed analysis of the Cuban case; he points out the need to bring Cuba back into the inter-American system so as to advance toward a new concept of security that respects political pluralism and democratic institutions, and that makes it possible to search for peaceful solutions. The author also points out that the complementing of the political and the economic on the one hand, and the universal and regional on the other, are the main points that most direct Mexico's foreign policy.

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José Alfredo Galván Corona, *Promotion of Democracy in the Hemisphere; consensus and limits of the OAS' action*

By taking on the task as the body destined to drive the strengthening of democracy in the hemisphere, the OAS has revived the debate on the scope and limits of international organizations in democratizing processes. This essay maintains the need to build a space bounded by the OAS that, at the same time as it drives democratization in the hemisphere, avoids attributing to itself, supranational, interventionist mandates. The article is divided into three sections. The first describes how, since 1948, the consensus in the OAS has been becoming consolidated around the topic of democracy. The second specifies the four limiting factors the OAS faces in its democratization efforts: scarcity of material resources, the fact that democracy is a matter of national sovereignty, the organism's real ability to implement coercive measures and the objective impossibility of imposing or "building" democracy from abroad, considering that it is more a social construction than a mere matter of institutional system. In the third and last, the author gives final thoughts in which he stresses the need foster discourse about respect for the plurality of the political and economic organization of the member States. He also emphasizes the idea that it is only through cooperation that democracy can be supported from abroad.

Miguel Ruiz-Cabañas, *The OAS and the Hemispheric War on Drugs*

Until the mid-eighties, the countries of the hemisphere had thought of the struggle against drug trafficking and drug-abuse as an essentially domestic activity; multilateral cooperation took place within the setting of the UN and some of its specialized bodies, but there was no specifically regional component in this struggle. With the establishment of the Inter-American Commission for Control of Drug Abuse (CICAD in Spanish) in 1986, the OAS formally began systematic consideration of the drug problem in the hemisphere. This essay analyzes the originality and the contributions of the OAS in this matter, in particular, the fact of advocating an approach that would give global treatment to the problem, that is that would give the same importance to control of the illegal demand for drugs, as to their supply, and that of achieving standardization of the internal legislation of the American States in terms of fundamental aspects of the drug trafficking problem and related crimes. The author underlines the importance of the CICAD promoting inter-state cooperation in this area, to the detriment of punitive and/or unilateral approaches, with the purpose

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of establishing a balanced, politically viable hemispheric mechanism that evaluates and directs antidrug efforts in the hemisphere.

Sergio García Ramírez, *Inter-American Jurisdiction on Human Rights. The present and the outlook*

This essay emphasizes the importance of recognizing human rights in domestic and international legislation, particularly in the American hemisphere, where the work done by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights has been of singular importance. The author analyzes the evolution of this hemispheric mechanism for procuring justice based on its growing competencies which, from being simply advisory in the beginning, tend increasingly through participation in litigious matters, to become a real tribunal. According to García Ramírez, even though the debate about the legal force of the Court's advisory opinions has not been solved, the inclination by the States to grant them this force has been based on the Court's good-faith action, its care in applying the law, and the fact that it has maintained its independence from the States and from other international bodies. Among other topics, the author analyzes the different ways to strengthen the work of this court, such as the need to speed up its decision processes and to restructure its session periods.

Emilio O. Rabasa, *Toward Effective Protection of Human Rights in America*

This essay examines the actions undertaken by the American States in achieving recognition and effective application of human rights in the hemisphere. It analyzes the work of the Inter-American Juridical Committee, an OAS body specializing in legal matters whose origin goes back to 1906, and in particular, the actions undertaken by the American regional organization since the adoption of the American Declaration on Human Rights (1948). Among other aspects, the author emphasizes first, the importance of the adoption of the San José Agreement (1969) and later, with the purpose of fully reaching the objectives of that instrument, the adoption of an additional protocol: the Protocol of San Salvador (1988), which will become effective as soon as 11 States have deposited their instruments of ratification.

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Dulce María Sauri Riancho, *The CIM, the OAS, and the Advancement of the American Woman Status*

The number of countries and multilateral organizations whose development programs include the objective of gender equality has grown because of the need for full integration of women into the new political, economic and social schemes. In the OAS, the Inter-American Women's Commission (CIM in Spanish) works to have all the governments of the hemisphere give its female citizens the same political, economic and social rights that males enjoy. This essay describes and analyzes the work and achievements of the CIM, and highlights Mexico's role in the inter-American effort to recover the rights of women. The essay is divided into three sections. The first two analyze the expanded work and achievements of the CIM from the time this specialized body of the OAS was established in 1928. The third one examines Mexico's participation in this commission; the work there of Mexico's four delegates is emphasized.

Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado, *Conclusions and Recommendations of the Independent Group regarding Reform of the OAS*

The international changes resulting from the end of the Cold War at the end of the eighties obligated States and international organizations to implement reforms in order to adapt to the new international context. In its session held in Paraguay in 1990, the General Assembly of the OAS resolved to establish a high-level, independent group that would analyze and define the direction that should be given to the inter-American system. In this essay, and as a member of that group, the author describes and analyzes the conclusions reached with respect to a variety of topics, such as the end of the Cold War, development, the changes of political system in the continent, the economic crises in Latin America, the effects of interdependence and the need for member countries of the OAS to renew their decision to reinforce the organization so that it constitutes a common political forum where they can expand their cooperation. The author also gives the recommendations drawn up by the independent group to provide the OAS with a new, reinforcing drive.

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