

José Luis Bernal Rodríguez, *Foreign Policy and International Economic Promotion: Toward a New Economic Diplomacy*

The author discusses Mexico's new foreign policy strategies. He acknowledges that without being unaware of the basic principles that have given our country prestige on the international stage, today the State Department is pursuing a more active foreign policy that includes protecting human rights and democracy, and promoting Mexicans' rights abroad and the country's participation in international organizations. He also highlights the work of the *new economic diplomacy*, that is endeavoring to take advantage of the infrastructure and experience of the Mexican Foreign Service around the world, coordinated by the new Office of the Undersecretary of Economic Affairs and International Cooperation which aspires to become an instrument that will allow the country to maximize the opportunities and address the challenges offered by the economic liberalization and trade agreements Mexico has signed.

Ricardo Méndez Silva, *The United Nations' Peace-keeping Operations*

The author describes the background and the main objectives pursued by the peace-keeping operations of the United Nations Organization. He explains the achievements and limitations, and mentions the areas of the UN in charge of controlling them. He also briefly recounts the different missions that have taken place since 1948, and analyzes the implications for Mexico in eventual participation in these operations. He argues convincingly that, before being con-

sidered instruments of intervention, peace missions are a reflection of a new global awareness of threats against international security.

Juan José Gómez Camacho, *International Protection of Human Rights: Mexico's Codification, Mechanisms and Ties*

The author of this text says that the topic of human rights has acquired fundamental importance since the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights within the United Nations Organization, in terms of each country's internal experience and of understanding between nations. He explains that Mexican foreign policy in this area is directed to creating the mechanisms needed for domestic legislation to gradually incorporate the international rules and standards that protect these rights, considering that substantial instances of laxity in this respect still exist in the country. He further mentions that Mexico will continue to participate multilaterally by signing or ratifying international human rights agreements or adhering to them, as the case may be. Mexico is currently a party in 58 instruments of this type.

Ana Covarrubias Velasco, *The Democratic Clause*

In this essay, the author ponders the so-called democratic clause, which despite its lack of novelty in international relations, strictly speaking, is becoming more important because of its connection with human rights protection. The article analyzes the changes that have occurred in Mexico's foreign policy toward accepting and promoting this clause.

Aldo Flores Quiroga, *The Northern Triangle-Mexican Free Trade Agreement*

In this article, the author sets out the reasons, features and implications of negotiation of the agreement between Mexico and the triumvirate of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, who form the Central American area known as the Northern Triangle. He explains that the Northern Triangle-Mexican Free Trade Agreement (TLCTNM in Spanish) provides the bases for intensifying exchange of goods and services, reinforces historical and cultural ties, expands trade volumes and supports job creation, as well as the economic and social development process, not just in the countries involved, but in the region generally. He adds that the main objectives of the Agreement include doing away with trade barriers and creating a stable setting for investment. He considers the TLCTNM one more link in construction of the Free Trade Area of The Americas.

Miguel Ángel Orozco Deza, *Parliamentary Diplomacy*

The author offers a general overview of the practice known in current international relations circles as parliamentary diplomacy. He establishes the differences between this and classic diplomacy, and presents some examples, results and benefits of interparliamentary relations. He stresses that the main purpose of parliamentary diplomacy, which he designates a new phenomenon in the world, is to create connections between all the congresses and parliaments for the purpose of exchanging legislative information about fundamental topics of interest, including security and economic relations between States. He also states that parliamentary diplomacy is a product of globalization and the separation of powers observed in political systems. Lastly, he mentions the principal international bodies the Mexican Congress participates in, and defines their objectives.

Jorge G. Castañeda, *Defense of and Respect for Human Rights*

The author spotlights the priority that the present government of Mexico has conferred on the promotion and protection of human rights. He states that although our country is dealing with serious instances of neglect in this respect, it has implemented mechanisms to overcome this situation. He mentions that Mexico is committed to the universal application of international human rights instruments and is convinced that observance of these instruments is not only legitimate, but cannot be delayed. As universal values, these rights are a legitimate concern of the international community as a whole.

Klaus Törnudd, *A Foreign Policy for Big and Little Countries in Europe*

The author explores the different challenges involved in the effort to coordinate a common foreign policy for all the members of the European Union (EU), who have to begin to overcome the traditional view of interest defined in strictly domestic terms. He admits that there has been important progress, which manifests in the already developed structures that make it possible to handle an integrated economy and collective defense mechanisms, although he does not fail to mention the risks implicit in a policy of integration that assumes the loss of identity by the less strong or the exclusion of basic players for the future of Europe: most particularly, Russia. The growing multitude of new and renewed challenges demands a flexible but imaginative attitude on the part of those responsible for designing a foreign policy that will have to be capable of recognizing diversity without weakening the Union.

Jacob Zuma, *South Africa's Contribution to the African Renaissance in the New Millennium*

The author lays out a panoramic view of the historical and cultural importance of Africa. He also describes and denounces the causes of the poverty, the precarious economic progress, and the social conflicts that weigh it down. He explains that South Africa and its neighbors are looking for active participation in the new world order. He points out that Africans have united through the Organization of African Unity in order to solve the internal problems of their countries. As a result, the presidents of Algeria, Nigeria and South Africa developed the Millennium Plan for the Development of Africa, that is aimed at finding a solution to the poverty and developmental lag that afflict the continent. African leaders and governing bodies have made progress in negotiations to associate with industrialized countries on the one hand, and on the other, in consolidation of South-South ties to achieve a decent standard of living for all peoples.