

Juan Manuel Gómez-Robledo V., *Regulatory Principles of Mexican Foreign Policy and the Response of the Mexican Government to the Terrorist Attacks of September 11*

Based on a detailed and precise analysis of the international commitments assumed by Mexico upon signing the respective charters to join international organizations such as the United Nations or the Organization of American States, the author convincingly demonstrates that the official position adopted by the Mexican government in response to the terrorist attacks against the United States on September 11 is solidly grounded on constitutional mandates regarding foreign policy.

Jorge G. Castañeda, *Mexico's New International Activism*

The author explains in this article the substance of the Mexican government's current foreign policy. He mentions it is based on the democratic legitimacy that came out of the July 2, 2000 elections and the transformation of the international system in the post-Cold War era. According to the author, two main tendencies have directed this change: the appearance of a fragmented, automated system produced by disintegration of the bipolar system, and globalization. He describes the course of international relations since the Second World War, and Mexico's position during all these years. The author tells how it participates in shaping a new international system of principles and rules, and reports the main topics and objectives of the country's renewed international activism.

Lourdes Aranda and Elía Sosa, *Ratification of the Facultative Protocol of the Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women*

The authors state the background of the Facultative Protocol of the Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women, as well as of the Convention itself, succinctly reviewing how they operate and the rights they protect: civil, social, economic, cultural, and political. They address in particular, the new procedures of the Facultative Protocol, called communications and research. They also analyze the human rights benefits for Mexican women represented by ratification of this instrument, at the same time as they stress that Mexico's legislation needs to be revised in as much as the new procedures of the Protocol introduce an alternate system for cases that are not settled by the domestic resources.

Alfredo Pérez Bravo and Iván Roberto Sierra, *The Puebla-Panama Plan: A Development Platform*

The authors address the importance of the Puebla-Panama Plan in terms of a regional development project within the dynamics of today's economy, characterized by market globalization and the creation of industrial and commercial poles that encompass entire geographic zones or countries. In the first part of the article they describe Mexico's economic and social-demographic traits that give it considerable specific weight as a country on the international scene; they refer to the free trade agreements Mexico signed in the eighties, and explain why these have been instrumental in the country's economic development. They also highlight the key role the financial sector has played in reinforcing the ability of domestic production to compete. In the second part, they provide an overall view of Central

America's economic situation, reconstruct the path taken by the Puebla-Panama Plan, and outline it in general.

María Cristina Rosas, *The South Cone Common Market and the Integration of Latin America*

The author introduces a finished study of the background, formation, objectives, operation and components of the South Cone Common Market (commonly known as the Mercosur). Among other goals, this body aspires to the creation of a South American Free Trade Area (ALCSA, by its initials in Spanish). She explains why the Mercosur is a unique experience in the history of regionalizing processes in Latin America. Stating that from the beginning, it was conceived of as a political project to end the crisis and improve participation by the Rio de la Plata Basin countries in international affairs. She also mentions and explains core articles and chapters of the Asunción Agreement, the document that lays the basis for and directs the Mercosur, points out the benefits the member countries have enjoyed from this strategic alliance, and sets out some important differences between the Mercosur and the Free Trade Area of the Americas (ALCA) project.

María Soledad Alvear, *Chile's Values and Interests in the Globalization Era*

This text gives a general view of Chile's foreign policy today within the context of globalization. It states that the main objectives of this policy include consolidation of a regional Latin American bloc, increased trade exchange worldwide, and Chile's timely participation in the principal topics of the international agenda, whether these are the usual or emerging ones. Four matters of great interest for

Chilean foreign policy are highlighted in this respect: democracy; human rights, humanitarian intervention, and economic, commercial and financial liberalization and integration. It also acknowledges the importance of quality diplomacy in promoting individual countries' values and interests.

Pierre Charasse, *The New Problems of Globalization: Organized Transnational Crime, Financial Delinquency, and Corruption*

The author explains the factors that originate organized transnational crime on today's international stage, as well as its current situation. He further proposes new approaches to studying and finding a solution to this problem. In addition, he refers to the different ways this phenomenon materializes: drug trafficking and related crimes; trafficking of immigrants, human beings and firearms, as well as corruption. With a view to meeting this situation head on, he underscores two main players: civil society, which has assumed an important role in public affairs, and the State, which needs to strengthen itself in order to confront this problem.