

Liliana Ferrer Silva, *Lobbying the United States: Challenges and Opportunities for Mexico*

Relations between Mexico and the United States is the theme of this article, in which Liliana Ferrer notes that, in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, Mexico was replaced by security issues and Iraq as the priority concerns of President Bush's foreign policy. Today, however, the two nations are entering a new phase in their bilateral relationship, but Mexico will have to design and implement an innovative public relations and lobbying campaign if it is to regain a place on the foreign policy agenda of the United States. Presidents Felipe Calderón and George Bush have met on several occasions over the last year to discuss cooperation, mainly in the area of drug trafficking and organized crime, one of the most pernicious problems of our times. It is up to Mexico to exploit the enormous potential of this bilateral relationship to the full, but re-establishing its importance on the foreign policy agenda of the United States in a post-09/11 world will be especially difficult given that there are other pressing issues on this agenda apart from security concerns, such as the energy crisis, the emergence of China and the global implications of the financial crisis the United States is currently facing. The upcoming presidential elections in the United States present an invaluable opportunity for Mexico to reinstate its privileged position and promote the intense and varied bilateral agenda it is aiming for. According to the author, the greatest challenge will be to combat misinformation and misunderstandings between the two countries, in light of the unprecedented role public perception and opinion have come to play in the formulation of foreign policy.

Horacio Cerutti Guldberg, *Toward a New Integration Discourse*

Horacio Cerutti's analysis of Latin American integration looks at the main theoretical aspects of the existing integration model and uncovers the weaknesses of its predominant arguments. In his essay, he employs the tools of political philosophy to discuss key topics inherent to the concept of integration, such as shared history, common culture, language, globalization, identity and borders. He then goes on to suggest hypotheses that shed fresh light on these topics, paving the way for a new discourse that will serve as a foundation for the academic world, political life and the communications media. Cerruti's new discourse does not aim to legitimize a regimented, imposed form of integration, but to open the door to a model of integration that springs from the very essence of our shared history and common culture.

Damián Cardona Onses, *The First Come in Last: Haiti, An Opportunity for the Region to Show Gratitude and Solidarity*

In his essay on the most recent United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), Damián Cardona begins by pointing out that, although Haiti was the first independent nation in the Caribbean and the first black-led nation in the world to achieve independence in 1804, it now trails at the bottom of regional human development indexes. The relative stability, economic and material progress enjoyed between 1811 and 1950 was interrupted by the dictatorships of Duvalier and his son Jean Claude (1957-1986), which brought the country to its knees. In 1987, the reign of the Duvalier family came to an end and

a new Constitution was drawn up, but its slow-moving, rigid mechanisms have made it difficult for Haiti to make any tangible progress. Despite a series of UN missions and the support of the Caribbean Community (Caricom) through the Group of Six, the political crisis inevitably escalated and security deteriorated to the point where a rebellion in 2004 culminated in the overthrowing of President Aristide's regime. It was the interim government of Boniface Alexandre that requested assistance from the United Nations and the MINUSTAH was first deployed as a peace-keeping force under the transition government of Gerald Latortue, with the objective of reforming the country's judicial system. Finally, President René Préval emerged victorious from the 2006 elections. According to Cardona, MINUSTAH has a pronounced regional nature and is a mission to which Brazil has always been a major contributor. For the first time, international cooperation has been effective and persistent, with Latin America as a region making a sincere and sustained effort to support Haiti, just as countries like the United States, Canada, Japan and the European Union have backed its transition process. However, the author believes that progress cannot be made in terms of stability, security, the rule of law and respect for human rights without economic development that gives the people of Haiti renewed hope for a better future.

Enrique Camacho Navarro, *Gilberto Crespo y Martínez, An Agent of Mexican Diplomacy in the Republic of Cuba (1902-1906)*

An understanding of Mexico's current foreign policy agenda necessarily requires an appreciation of the complex paths it has followed in the past. As such, an analysis of the foreign policy followed by various Mexican administrations over the years

is an invaluable tool to determining the path we should be taking both in the present and the future. It is based on this premise that Enrique Camacho Navarro has undertaken a study of Gilberto Crespo y Martínez, Mexico's first Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the Republic of Cuba. Although a secondary figure within the framework of President Porfirio Díaz's international policy, the author believes some of these less celebrated agents of Mexican diplomacy are also deserving of recognition. In this case, Camacho Navarro takes a more in-depth look at the personal and professional achievements of Crespo y Martínez and explains the diplomatic approaches he put in practice in Cuba during the years when the monumental figure of Porfirio Díaz brought his influence to bear on Mexico's political life.

Erika Pani, *Religion and Authority: The Church-State Crisis of the Mid-Nineteenth Century*

In this essay, Erika Pani makes a detailed analysis of the complex secularization process Mexico underwent in the mid-nineteenth century, putting the crisis and eventual rupture between Church and State into context. She begins by discussing the contribution of Mexico's religious authorities to the reforms and transformations within the Catholic Church under Pope Pius IX and his controversial *Syllabus of Errors* and the impact the revocation of the Pope's temporal powers had on the Catholic world. Finally, the author analyzes the dispute between liberals and religious authorities in Mexico, which she views more as a battle to define Catholicism than a simple struggle between those who were in favor of secularizing public life and those who clung to the union between the throne and the altar.