

Lorena Ruano, *Relations Between Mexico and Europe, 1945-2010*

In her analysis of relations between Mexico and Europe from the end of the World War II up to the present day, Lorena Ruano identifies four distinct periods: the Cold War (1945-1970), the Seventies, Eighties and Nineties, and the year 2000 onwards. Sporadic attempts at a rapprochement and the growing complexity of the issues and actors involved aside, in general terms, the relationship has been characterized by stand-offishness, since it is not a priority for either party: Mexico's ongoing economic, demographic and cultural integration with the United States shows no signs of reverting, while Europe has looked mainly to the East and within its own borders since the end of the Cold War.

Omar Hurtado and Rosa Ma. García Paz, *The Drug Trade in Mexico, A Transnational Problem*

In this article, Omar Hurtado and Rosa Ma. García discuss the drug trade in Mexico, one of the harder organized criminal activities to control and a major source of concern for the Mexican government, given its political, economic, social and military implications, which have the potential to undermine national security. The problem looks set to remain with us, at least in the short to medium term, in light of the failure of efforts to stamp out drug production and combat "money laundering",

compounded by high consumer demand in the United States and gunrunning between the latter and the Mexican cartels. Furthermore, it will be a long time before Mexico's legal and security institutions are equipped to address the problem, say the authors, who believe a unilateral approach and local policies are not sufficient to combat the drug trade and associated criminal activities, which, due to their transnational nature, require regional and multilateral cooperation.

Ana Teresa Gutiérrez del Cid, *Russia's Emergence as a BRICS Power and the Return of Vladimir Putin*

In 2000, Russia embarked on a process of economic growth that was symbolically consolidated by Vladimir Putin's victory in the 2012 presidential elections. Nonetheless, as a member of the so-called BRICS group, Russia still has some hard work to do to position itself as an emerging power. According to Ana Teresa Gutiérrez del Cid, since the disintegration of the Soviet Union the country has made a remarkable recovery under extremely difficult circumstances, to the extent that it is now deemed a successful emerging economy. That said, if Russia wants to become a power based on more than its energy exports, it needs to develop specific areas of its economy, like its industrial sector. On the subject of foreign policy, the author analyzes Russia's relations with China and the United States—its two main strategic partners—and the growing importance of its ties to Germany in the context of its geopolitical repositioning.

Miguel Ángel Guerrero Lechón, *The Mexican-Canadian Seasonal Agricultural Workers Program: Evolution and Outlook, 1974-2012*

Over and beyond its immediate benefits to both Mexico and Canada, the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Program is a policy promoted by the Mexican government to provide migrant workers with the tools and opportunities they need to be the masters of their own development and, in turn, contribute to the development of Mexico. Miguel Ángel Guerrero Lechón looks at some of the more relevant aspects of the Program, how it came about and how it functions, including details of the selection and migratory processes workers are subject to. Finally, he lists some of the major operating, political and migratory obstacles the Program must overcome in order to stay up and running.

Alejandro Ramos Cardoso, *Mexico and the Renewed Integrationist Spirit of Latin America and the Caribbean*

Confrontation with several of its South American partners had resulted in the severing of dialog with certain countries on the sub-continent, while Mexico found itself excluded from a growing number of South American integration processes. To address this state of affairs, a central goal of the foreign policy of Felipe Calderón's administration was Mexico's reincorporation into regional and sub-regional integration mechanisms in Latin America and the Caribbean, where diplomats perceived a renewed integrationist spirit. Mexico was able to turn this to its advantage and play a decisive role in the creation of two in-

novative cooperation and regional integration mechanisms: the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) and the Pacific Alliance. Alejandro Ramos examines Mexico's relations with Latin America over the last two decades as a prelude to his analysis of the factors leading up to the creation of CELAC and the Pacific Alliance. He then goes on to discuss the opportunities and challenges these mechanisms entail for Mexico and offers some ideas on how to best approach them.

Fabián Herrera León, *Lucas Alamán, Statesman and Architect of the "Family Pact" Missions*

The ambitious regional foreign policy devised and executed by Lucas Alamán in his capacity as foreign minister to defend Latin American independence and integration is an interesting episode in Mexico's foreign policy and one that merits this article by Fabián Herrera León. In his analysis of the political and diplomatic activities that comprised Alamán's so-called "Family Pact", the author draws on a wealth of information the historiography of Inter-American relations has shed light on over the last two decades.