

**Human Rights and  
Democratization in Latin America**

**Dr. Edy Kaufman**

**Session 1**

**Introduction to Latin America, Methodology**

Latin America in retrospect: The last 50 years. The impact of human rights protection on democratization: frameworks of analysis. Course outline, bibliography and requirements. Discussion: Latin America as a single unit of analysis.

**Session 2**

**Human Rights in World Politics**

Historical background of the development of the international protection of human rights. Getting familiarized with human rights principles: student analysis of the Universal Declaration. Human rights as an issue-area international regime.

- Donally, Jack, "International Human Rights," *International Organizations*, (Vol. 40, No 3, Summer 1986), pp 599-642
- Kaufman, Edy, "Human Rights in Latin America- a Watershed?" *The World Today*, (Vol. 37, No 2, February 1981) pp 63-69.

**Session 3**

**Continuity and Change in Latin America**

The prevalence of the status-quo after World War II and the influence of the Cold War in the repression of the traditional left. The impact of the Cuban Revolution. The repression of the left and the emergence of guerrilla movements throughout the subcontinent. The strategies of rural and urban guerrilla.

- Sinclair, Andrew, *Guevara*, (Fontana Books, New York, 1970) pp 31- 44

**Session 4**

**Military Rule in Latin America**

Intra-military, societal and conjunctural explanations of military intervention. The emergence of the bureaucratic-authoritarian model in the Southern Cone. The subcontinent's picture in 1976 and the United States' human rights foreign policy.

- Linz, Juan J., and Stepan A., *The Breakdown of Democracy*, (Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, 1978), pp 16-49

## Session 5

### Human Rights Impact on Democratization

From World War II to the end of the Cold War the role of the 'international citizens lobby' in the implementation of human rights principles. The formation of human rights organizations in Latin America and their importance in the process of democratization.

- Kaufman, Edy, "The Relevance of the International Protection of Human Rights to Democratization and Peace," (The J.B. Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, University of Notre Dame, Occasional Paper Series 6:OP:1, 1994)

## Session 6

### Transitions to Democracy in Latin America

The rise and fall of military rule. Patterns of disengagement: back to the barracks?. Political polarization in Central America. The issue of 'truth' and impunity in the Southern Cone.

- Schmitter, Philippe C., "Transitology: the Science or the Art of Democratization," in Tulchin, Joseph S., and Romero Bernice (eds.) *The Consolidation of Democracy in Latin America*, (Lynne Rienner, Boulder, 1995) pp 11-46

## Session 7

### Regional Cooperation and Human Rights Institutions in the Inter-American System

The Organization of American States: structures and functions of the human rights regime. Moving towards the effective protection of democratic systems.

- Munoz, Heraldo, "The Right to Democracy in Latin America," *Journal of Interamerican Studies and World Affairs*, (Vol. 40, No 1, Spring 1998), pp 1-18

## Session 8

### The Position of the United States in Latin America

Latin America as a Sphere of Influence of the United States in a bi-polar world. The place of human rights in the US foreign policy. The breakdown of communism and the support to democracy.

- Tulchin, Joseph S., "The United States and Latin America in the World Today," in Tulchin & Romero, op.cit., pp 139- 170.
- Forsythe, D., "United States Foreign Policy and Human Rights," in *Human Rights & World Politics* (University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln, 1989) pp 102- 126

## Session 9

### Consolidation of Democracy in Latin America

The limits of formal democracy. Looking at the institutions through citizen's participation. The formation of a civil society. The new role of the military . The decline of populist violence.

- Jelin, Elizabeth, "Building Citizenship: A Balance Between Solidarity and Responsibility," in Tulchin & Romero, op.cit., pp 83- 100.
- Perelli, Carina and Rial, Juan, "Changing Military World Views: The Armed Forces of South America in the 1990s," in R. Millet & Gold-Biss, M., (eds.), *Beyond Praetorianism*,(North/South Center, Miami, 1995), pp 61- 82

## **Session 10**

### **Social and Economic Parameters of Democracy in Latin America**

The indivisibility of human rights and the relevance of social, political and cultural rights for democratization in the subcontinent. The effect of structural adjustment and privatization on the distribution of wealth. The extent and meaning of poverty in the region. Social pacts and other forms of incremental reform.

- Sunkel, Osvaldo, "Economic Reform and democratic Viability," in Tulchin & Romero, op.cit., pp 111- 126.
- Vilas, Carlos M., "Inequality and the Dismantling of Citizenship in Latin America," *NACLA Report on the Americas*,(Vol. XXXI, No I, July/August 1997), pp 57- 63

## **Session 11**

### **Prospects of Democracy in Latin America**

Is democracy in Latin America an irreversible process?- Discussion. Comparison with South Europe and other regions. The role of the military revisited. The prospects for a culture of democracy and human rights in the subcontinent. Concluding remarks.

- Torres Rivas, Edelberto, "Democracy and the Metaphor of good Government," in Tulchin & Romero, op.cit., pp 45- 58.