

economies, generate employment, and promote economic growth. The argument for a new set of industrial policies in Latin America is convincing and well articulated, although perhaps it is more a restatement of neo-structuralist ideas than a ‘change in weltanschauung’ as Hira claims in his preface (Preface, p. x), especially to a reader who is familiar with the work of CEPAL and of writers such as Lall and Wade.

The author praises Latin Americans’ capacity to absorb, adapt and implement different economic paradigms and policies. Yet perhaps he underestimates the extent to which this actually occurred during the import substitution industrialisation period. Some of the book’s proposed policies have been repeatedly experimented with in Latin America, often with unsatisfying results. Several Latin American states promoted large firms, both state-owned and multinationals, in strategic sectors: aerospace, automotive, information technology, and so forth. The common denominator of these policies – which Hira fails to mention – is that they were expensive: consumers paid a high price for low quality manufactures, and the state dedicated a large share of its resources to support these industries. In a few cases, such as the Brazilian aircraft exporter Embraer, these policies produced globally competitive firms. However, in most cases, they failed to build the comparative advantage of local industry or to create a sufficiently high number of jobs to justify their resource drain on national economies.

Hira’s desire to see more companies like Embraer in Latin America is understandable. However, the book fails to take into account the literature on industrial clusters: regions of the world such as the Third Italy have experienced sustained economic growth thanks to a myriad of small and medium enterprises producing ‘non strategic’ manufactures, often with little support from the state. By focusing on strategic sectors, the book downplays the importance of less visible and less trendy sectors: shoe manufacturing, tourism, specialised agricultural exports (wine, organic products); which have lower barriers to entry for local entrepreneurs (they are less capital and technology intensive), can potentially generate more employment than strategic sectors, and tend to be more embedded in local society.

The author’s broad message is that the state is the only actor that can bring the region into an era of better economic performance and higher prosperity. However, as Hira himself notes, Latin American elites have successfully adapted to different economic paradigms, continuing to capture the rents of economic policy: they invested in industry during import substitution, whilst they purchased private monopolies during neoliberalism. The author highlights that it is necessary to isolate the state from rent-seeking groups and corruption. But he does not provide innovative suggestions about how to do so. If he did, perhaps the book would not just be an interesting read on industrial policy, but a new guide on how to reform the state in Latin America.

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Gordon Mace, Jean-Philippe Thérien and Paul Haslam (eds.), *Governing the Americas; Assessing Multilateral Institutions* (Boulder, CO, and London: Lynne Rienner, 2007), pp. vii + 317, £40.95, hb.

This work is edited by three Canadian academics and discusses the Inter-American system from a series of mainly historical and institutional perspectives. Chapters

cover subjects such as the nature of the Organisation of American States (OAS) itself, hemispheric security arrangements, efforts to protect regional democracy and to enforce the criminalisation of human rights abuses, and the status of trade agreements within the Americas. The work is competently edited and the general quality of the contributions is good, but it is narrower in focus than its title suggests. The sub-title of the volume is a more accurate indicator of its contents than the main title. It would be more accurate still to describe the work as being a set of studies on some selected aspects of hemispheric governance and their change over time. Global institutions that are not hemispheric in nature, such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, are barely discussed. Broader issues to do with development are touched upon, but not discussed as fully as they might have been.

Several of the chapters are descriptive and in some cases technical to the point that they will be of interest mainly to specialists. They include studies of the relationship between the OAS and the Interamerican Development Bank, a detailed piece on the internal governance of the OAS itself, and a chapter on the NAFTA that deals largely with the so-called rules of origin. Other chapters are broader and raise interesting intellectual issues. These include Legler's discussion of the Inter-American Democratic Charter which was signed on 11 September 2001. Although the world had other things on its mind that day, this charter was seen as a historic document intended to guarantee the stability of democracy in the region. However, a few months later there was a coup attempt in Venezuela, which the US government seemed to welcome. While there may be no conclusive evidence of US government involvement in the coup attempt as such, there is no serious doubt that the overthrow of Chávez was an outcome that the Bush administration wanted. Apart from raising the obvious question as to whether the USA should be seen as part of the solution to the issue of democracy or as part of the problem, there is also the familiar question of whether diplomatic pressures can have much impact on compelling domestic realities. It is true that a number of Latin American governments indicated their opposition to the Venezuelan coup attempt when it took place, but the reason for its failure had less to do with any internationally-approved democratic Charter than with Chávez' domestic popularity. If the overthrow of Chávez had proved popular there would have been little that the Inter-American Democratic Charter could have done because an unpopular and overthrown head of government is likely to be beyond rescue by democratic means. Legler's chapter, as well as pointing out that the Charter has not lived up to its promise, raises interesting points about the difficulties of exporting democratic institutionalisation and the skepticism of his concluding section is well judged.

The Inter-American human rights system, however, seems to have been more effective than the democratic Charter. Duhaime's chapter on this subject was evidently completed before the arrest of Fujimori and his imprisonment in Peru, although he does discuss the end of the Fujimori government at the end of 2000. He is probably right to make the claim that strong criticism of Peru from the Inter American Court of Human Rights played some role in the events leading up to Fujimori's resignation. Duhaime's chapter, however, is another one that adopts rather a narrow focus. For example, the arrest of General Pinochet in Britain in 1998 and the legal processes that resulted must surely have had an impact on the intellectual context within which the Inter-American Court made its judgments about human rights, but Duhaime's chapter contains little if any discussion of this. He may well be right to suggest that human rights law has developed autonomously of the

rest of the inter-American system, but there is an international zeitgeist to do with human rights issues in the broadest sense, which is surely relevant to the workings of purely hemispheric systems.

Chapters dealing with trade and economic institutions are also rather descriptive, which is both a strength and a weakness. Robert's chapter lists the most important trade agreements and covers what now seem like abortive negotiations for a Free Trade of the Americas project. However, this lacks any discussion of the actual magnitude of the trade flows that currently exist or might develop in the future. Belanger's chapter on the NAFTA does not fill the gap either, being based instead on a discussion of some shortcomings in NAFTAonian institutional arrangements. Neither chapter has any discussion about the relative magnitudes of trade or investment flows (investment flows are important in the case of NAFTA), or any sense of the broad economic impact of the trade agreements that are in place. While some might claim that this is not specifically a 'governance' issue, the motivations of the participating parties toward trade agreements are evidently economic in nature and relevant to the institutionalisation of the agreements themselves.

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Linn Hammergren, *Envisioning Reform: Improving Judicial Performance in Latin America* (University Park, PA: Pennsylvania State University Press, 2007), pp. 360, \$65.00, hb.

Over the last thirty years virtually all Latin American countries have reformed their legal systems. The range of reform is as large as the region, including changes in tenure and appointment procedures for judges at all levels; creation of judicial councils, constitutional courts, and autonomous prosecutorial bodies; adoption of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms; updates of criminal codes and the criminal justice system; changes in information management and transparency in trials and courthouses; and changes in legal education, law schools, and bar associations. Linn Hammergren has accompanied this process both as a scholar and as a promoter of reform from institutions such as the United States Agency of International Development (USAID) and the World Bank (WB). *Envisioning Reform* is the product of this double experience thinking about and actively working on judicial reform in Latin America for two decades. The book's structure as well as its contributions and shortcomings reflect this rather interesting combination.

The book is divided into two parts. The first is more attuned to the scholar interested in theoretical puzzles and empirical regularities, while in the second part the experienced consultant and practitioner discusses the best strategies for achieving practical goals in the reform enterprise. In the five chapters comprising the first part, the author addresses the origins and evolution of different parts of the judicial reforms in chronological order, starting with the criminal justice reforms that began in the mid 1980s and continuing with reforms aimed at increasing the efficiency and efficacy of courts, judicial independence, access to justice, and the more recent reforms that intend to strengthen the judiciary's role as a check on other branches of government.

In each chapter, Linn Hammergren critically evaluates the progress made in the respective area and, more interestingly, analyses from the vantage point of her two