FOREWORD

This index to the first thirty years of the *Latin American Research Review* has been prepared to provide better access to research on Latin America by scholars from an array of disciplines. To make it as useful as possible, the index is organized not only by author and title but also by subject, country, and region. The complexity of indexing research that is both comparative and interdisciplinary can well be imagined. In assuming the daunting challenge of compiling this index, Linda Kjeldgaard undertook a project above and beyond the call of duty. While her colleagues on the *LARR* staff served as consultants, the considerable achievement represented by publication of this index is hers alone.

Publication of the index also offers an occasion to reflect on *LARR*'s history, the development of Latin American studies as an academic field, and the particular role that *LARR* has played as the first interdisciplinary journal of Latin American studies.

The History of LARR

The history of all foreign-area studies fields in the United States has been one of boom and bust. Episodes of national crisis, such as the two world wars, led to rediscovery of the importance of foreign languages and societies and to the promotion of programs for their study. When the lessons of war receded, interest in the rest of the world fell off and resulted in the withdrawal of support for foreign area studies. Latin American studies followed the same rise-and-fall pattern. For example, the first disciplinary journal devoted to Latin America, the *Hispanic American Historical Review*, was established in the last year of World War I, only to cease publication in 1921 for several years.

In the 1930s, interest in Latin America began to grow again. Under the auspices of the Social Science Research Council (SSRC), a group of fifteen scholars met in 1935 to form the Committee on Latin American

Studies. This committee planned and arranged for the publication in 1936 of the *Handbook of Latin American Studies*, the oldest continuous bibliography on Latin America. As the decade wore on, expanding German influence in South America led the Franklin Roosevelt administration to initiate countermeasures that carried U.S.–Latin American relations beyond diplomacy into cultural affairs.[1] In 1938 the U.S. Department of State established the Division of Cultural Relations. In 1939 the Library of Congress inaugurated its Hispanic Foundation to support the study of Spanish, Portuguese, and Latin American cultures. With the outbreak of World War II, President Roosevelt created the Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs and persuaded the energetic Nelson Rockefeller to head it. This appointment led the Rockefeller Foundation to support the work of the office in cases where official funds were insufficient. By 1942 there was so much activity that the SSRC Committee on Latin American Studies was overwhelmed. It was replaced by the larger Joint Committee on Latin American Studies, which was cosponsored by the SSRC, the American Council of Learned Societies, and the National Research Council.[2]

Unfortunately, as the war ended, U.S. interest in Latin America and other "exotic places" dwindled. Howard Cline observed that in the immediate postwar period,

> Latin America lost nearly all the priorities and special attention it had recently achieved. The learned councils withdrew their support. Private funds from foundations tapered to an almost negligible point. Harvard did not fill an endowed professorship for Latin American history and economics when the incumbent retired. The Joint Committee was formally disbanded in 1947. This was all reminiscent of the similar decline which ensued after World War I, when the *Hispanic American Historical Review* had to suspend publication for some years, and universities dropped their war-spawned courses and interest in the area.
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> The cataclysmic, catastrophic tumble from the 1942–1945 heights set the context for the following decade. As late as 1958 hardly a major university had undertaken a significant general Latin American area program. During the Cold War the disinterest in Latin America continued. Despite generally unfavorable conditions, several individual Latin Americanists persisted in their seemingly futile efforts to keep their chosen specialization from degenerating into a shabby genteel academic slum.[3]

During the 1950s, the Pan American Union sponsored an effort to establish regional councils on Latin American affairs.[4] The first of these

1. Bryce Wood, *The Making of the Good Neighbor Policy* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1961), 302–6.
2. Howard F. Cline, "The Latin American Studies Association: A Summary Survey with Appendix," *LARR* 2, no. 1 (1966):58–59.
3. Ibid., 60–61.
4. This effort was led by Theo B. Crevenna of the OAS Office of Cultural Affairs, who after retiring from the OAS became Deputy Director of the Latin American Institute at the University of New Mexico and remains active in the affairs of the Rocky Mountain Council for Latin American Studies.

councils, the Rocky Mountain Council for Latin American Studies, was set up in 1952. By 1958 such regional organizations could be found throughout the United States. Their success led to discussions of merging the organizations into a national association or federation of councils. In August 1959, the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) sponsored a conference in Sagamore, New York, organized by Syracuse University and financed by the Creole Foundation, to discuss the issue and recommend action.

The Sagamore conference debated but could not resolve the issue of whether to set up a federation of councils or a national association based on individual memberships. Nor could it agree on goals or a plan of action. Nevertheless, the participants voted unanimously to establish ALAS, with a governing council of fifteen persons, one representing each regional council and the rest elected at large. Despite the Spanish meaning of its acronym, the new organization did not take flight. Some of the reasons for its demise were summed up by Cline:

> Numerous difficulties impeded the development of ALAS as a cohesive national professional association. Its Newsletter, issued but twice, attracted unfavorable comment, as did the fact that its officers did not hold a meeting of its governing body, arrange regular elections, or even acknowledge dues payments. None of its committees met or functioned. It suffices to say that by 1962 ALAS as a national organization was clearly moribund.[5]

In the end, ALAS served only as an object lesson that was to inspire the great care with which first *LARR* and then the Latin American Studies Association were founded.

The developments that followed the Cuban Revolution, such as the Alliance for Progress and the Cuban missile crisis, created a climate in which Latin American studies seemed ever more important. The need for mechanisms to institutionalize the field appeared more evident than ever. By 1960 Latin American studies had been added to the list of fields eligible for funding under Title VI of the National Defense Education Act of 1958. The centers receiving this funding formed the Consortium of Latin American Studies Programs (CLASP) and began meeting regularly. In 1962 the Ford Foundation began to provide support to Latin American studies programs and for the training of Latin Americanists through the Foreign Area Fellowship Program (FAFP), cosponsored by the ACLS and the Social Science Research Council.

These various efforts came together in a historic meeting held in Cuernavaca, Mexico, in December 1964, the site of the semi-annual meeting of CLASP directors. The Management Committee of the FAFP, with the backing of the Ford Foundation, the ACLS, and the SSRC, asked to attend and meet with the CLASP directors. Discussions ranged widely

5. Cline, "Latin American Studies Association," 63.

over the controversial issue of whether a new professional association ought to be established and whether it could avoid the deficiencies of ALAS. The matter was not resolved. There was more consensus, although not unanimity, on the need for an interdisciplinary scholarly journal to publish research in the field. Those attending the Cuernavaca meeting agreed to explore the establishment of a journal as the first priority. The question of the feasibility of a new association was passed to the Joint Committee on Latin American Studies of the FAFP for continued study.

Concerted action over the next few months led to *LARR*'s becoming a reality. The Institute of Latin American Studies at the University of Texas, directed by John Harrison, offered to host the new journal.[6] Thirty-seven universities and the Hispanic Foundation of the Library of Congress pledged $2,000 each toward the cost of publication, matched by a $40,000 grant from the Ford Foundation. These institutions continue to be listed on the inside back cover of *LARR*. The first issue appeared in the fall of 1965.

The journal's first editor, Richard Schaedel, Professor of Anthropology at the University of Texas, opened the inaugural issue with the following statement in Spanish:

> Con este número se inicia la publicación de una nueva revista dedicada al intercambio continuo y sistemático de información referente a investigaciones que se están llevando a cabo en la actualidad en América Latina en los campos de las Ciencias Sociales y las Humanidades.[7]

The success of the new journal provided the impetus for the new professional organization, the Latin American Studies Association, which came to life in May 1966. The following year, the journal and the association joined forces, and *LARR* became LASA's official publication. In 1973 the journal moved to the Center for Latin American Studies at the University of North Carolina. Eight years later, the Latin American Institute at the University of New Mexico assumed responsibility as the host institution, an arrangement that has been extended several times by mutual agreement with the Executive Council of the Latin American Studies Association.

Schaedel's description of *LARR*'s mission remains valid. But during the subsequent editorships of Thomas McGann, John Martz, Joseph Tulchin, and the present editor, a few modifications have been made. The first few issues of *LARR* featured articles surveying current research on Latin America as well as announcements about research in progress, grants, prizes, and other news. In time a second category of article was added to the mandate, namely original research contributions of general and interdisciplinary interest, and the announcements were taken over

6. Harrison later became editor of the *Journal of Inter-American Studies*.
7. "A Nuestros Colegas Latinamericanos," *LARR* 1, no. 1 (1965):3.

by the *LASA Newsletter*, which later became the *LASA Forum*. When the journal moved to North Carolina, John Martz and Joseph Tulchin added a third important category: essays reviewing not one but several books on a common topic.[8] The University of New Mexico editors have continued the previous categories and added one innovation, the occasional publication of sections of "Commentary and Debate."

The Evolution of Latin American Studies

The fifty years between the Great Depression of the early 1930s and the Latin American debt crisis of the early 1980s represented a half-century of rapid economic growth in Latin America, initiated by the early successes of import-substitution industrialization and sustained toward the end by international borrowing. These decades were also a period of intensified social conflict in which new economic classes formed, developed an awareness of their social identities, and became political actors. Mobilization of the popular classes in Latin America, associated in varying degrees with the rhetoric and inspiration of revolutionary Marxism, led to "un gran susto" among the privileged classes. This reaction to popular movements was further exacerbated by the anti-Communist paranoia and national-security doctrines disseminated during the cold war.

The economic, ideological, and military preoccupations of the cold war interacted with and reinforced the unfolding drama of social and political development in Latin America, which served as one of the principal arenas of competition between the Soviet Union and the United States. This lamentable but inescapable predicament reinforced the general perception of Latin America as part of the "Third World," its fate determined by superpower struggles over control of the underdeveloped periphery.

Institutionalization of Latin American studies as a professional field took place amid this context of tension and controversy in inter-American relations. Fidel Castro marched into Havana on the first day of 1959. The U.S.-sponsored Bay of Pigs invasion in April 1961 was followed by the Cuban missile crisis of 1962. In 1964 the Brazilian military overthrew a civilian government with tacit U.S. support. In 1965 President Lyndon Johnson ordered the U.S. marines into the Dominican Republic. In 1966 the military regime led by General Juan Carlos Onganía seized power in Argentina. By the mid-1970s, most of Latin America was under military rule.

The resulting polarization of Latin American societies led to the bureaucratic-authoritarian regimes of the 1960s and 1970s and their re-

8. Martz is currently editor of *Studies in Comparative International Development*, and Tulchin is Director of the Latin American Program of the Woodrow Wilson Center at the Smithsonian Institution.

pression of popular movements, subjects amply discussed in the pages of this journal. Subsequently, the failure of authoritarian solutions, the collapse of military regimes, and the arduous course of redemocratization in Latin America have received much scholarly attention. In one country after another, "the great fear" was replaced by what might be called "the historic compromise," a sometimes tacit, sometimes explicit agreement among popular and privileged sectors that politics need not be a zero-sum game. The lessons learned by the Right and the Left from the previous half-century of conflict differed, but their conclusions were compatible. While the Right learned that military dictatorships were destructive and beyond control, the Left learned that the human cost of revolutionary adventurism exceeded anything it had foreseen. While the Left discovered in exile that the communist states were failing and that social democracy offers an alternative to revolution, the Right found that repression drives away both domestic and foreign investment and that conservative participation in a democratic political system encourages stability and investment.

With the end of the cold war, the concept of a Third World of underdeveloped countries occupying an indeterminate space between the capitalist and communist worlds lost significance. The disappearance of this tertiary category implied a more straightforward classification of nations along a "rich-poor" axis. Unlike many of the countries in the former Third World, the nations of Latin America (with the exception of a few Caribbean states) do not rank near the bottom of such a stratification system.

Compared with most of sub-Saharan Africa, all of inner Asia, most of Southeast Asia and the Pacific, and even much of Eastern Europe, the future of Latin America looks relatively bright. Latin America boasts high literacy rates, functioning universities, a rich intellectual heritage, vibrant traditions in literature and the arts, a free press of long standing, the infrastructure of a modern economy with such institutions as banks and capital markets, comparatively good public-health institutions, and more. At the same time, poverty, inequality, and unemployment remain endemic in Latin America, worsened not only by the debt crisis beginning in 1982 but also by the concentration of income and property associated with neoliberal policies. Yet the growth curve for Latin America has resumed its upward direction. Many of the region's problems persist, but in comparative terms, Latin America resembles the nations of southern Europe of the not-too-distant past far more than the underdeveloped countries of Africa and Asia.

The field of Latin American studies is only now coming to terms with the significance of this redefinition of the relative status of the region. Yet signs of Latin America's particular advantages have been around for a long time, especially within the field of Latin American studies. The great intellectual vitality of Latin American studies has al-

most certainly resulted from the vigorous interaction between U.S. academics and the outstanding cohort of colleagues in Latin America, which has no counterpart in the study of Africa or Asia.

As a result of this vitality, Latin American studies has helped set the intellectual agenda for other foreign-area fields for several decades. That agenda is evolving as new challenges face Latin America. The achievement of social compromise, the institutionalization of stable democratic regimes and civil rights, and the movement toward privatization, economic integration, and export-led development are more characteristic of contemporary Latin America than of the rest of the former Third World. Latin America's policy experiments are of intense interest not only to the underdeveloped countries of Africa and Asia but also to the former Communist Bloc nations and even to the developed countries. In the wake of the Great Depression, Latin America played a vanguard role in developing the strategy of import-substitution industrialization. Today the region is charting a new course for development in the post-cold-war environment.

These developments are also affecting Latin American studies, which is marked by a flowering of diversity as well as by disagreement about the direction the field should take in this "postmodern period." Some scholars choose to analyze the implications of the macro-economic policies and institutional experiments that are transforming the region. Others focus their attention on the international forces and agencies that are helping define the context in which Latin America must function. Still other researchers investigate issues significant to groups underrepresented in previous research, such as women, indigenous peoples, and other ethnic, cultural, and religious minorities. Newer subjects related to the costs of development, such as ecology and income distribution, are rising in importance. Finally, many of the themes of Latin America's extraordinary history and rich cultures are being reinvestigated and reinterpreted. All these diverse endeavors are reflected in the pages of *LARR*, constantly enriching its contents. The Latin American experience continues to hold empirical and theoretical significance, not just for the academic disciplines but for the world at large.

Gilbert W. Merkx

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