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## Sinópsis en ingles

### **POLITICAL REFORM: IN THEORY AND IN PRACTICE** **ALFONSO GÓMEZ GÓMEZ**

This article exposes the necessity to reform institutions that in these times are the source or focal point of corruption. For many years now, theoretical statements and the expression of distressed sentiments in the face of this scourge have not been formulated into any concrete solutions. In fact, some of the drawn up methods have had inane results in view of the magnitude of the problem that Colombian people face, giving the State a concerning and disturbing classification in the international arena. It is urgent to establish a supposition law, according to which the State owns the patrimonial increases from public officials and allies which aren't based on legal means consented to by the Law.

### **POLITICAL REFORM AND AUTHORITARIANISM IN PERU** **ALDO OLANO ALOR**

In the last decade, Peru suffered a political transformation towards an authoritarian regime, whose antecedents can be summarized through the incapacity of the State to put a curb on this deeply socio-politic crisis. For example, the constant violations of Human Rights on the part of the Armed Forces to obtain a major autonomy in the struggle against revolution and a secure position of National Politics; the training of paramilitary groups with the consent of the Government; the increment of the activities of Narcotic-Trafficking organizations, together with the corruption of the previous governments have all resulted in a loss of credibility of the political parties that played an important part in the collapse of the Political Regime. These, together with other factors, have enabled the rise of Fujimori into power who, fortuitously so, is the representative of important social sectors and who, in a very short space of time, has achieved the formation of a Government with militants of distinctive political tendencies, without pertinence to any so called 'traditional' formats. Yet, from the start, he has, for his mandate, looked towards the support of the Military Institutions that gave free rein to a series of public administrative reforms and the branches of power that led towards an 'Government for Emergency National Reconstruction', which, in itself, suspended the valid Constitution. The Executive concentrated his power on legalizing the functions of the Legislative and intervening within the Judicial, all of which consolidated an authoritarian regime that, bit by bit, has acquired legitimacy between the population that considers that these measures will allow him to drive the Government and the possibility of the collapse of terrorism. This Authoritarian project was legalized with the effective elections for a Constitutional Congress in November 1992 together with the approval of the New Constitution in a Referendum in 1992, with which the permanency of Fujimori in power was guaranteed come the general elections in 1995. He, making full use of power without any type of check, proposed himself as the newly elected President in April of this year, having molded a legal framework that serves his dictatorial interests and impedes all oppositional action.

### **PRESIDENTIALISM AND OPPOSITION IN LATIN AMERICA: A DIFFICULT CO-EXISTENCE ORLANDO PARDO**

The present essay covers the problems confronted by the political opposition within the presidential government system. Initially, their conceptualisation was determined in contrast to the parliamentary norm, revealing then the dysfunction that promotes the disabling of the democratic government. This occurs at the same time that that very presidential system both impedes and hinders it. Finally, in the way or solution, a variation in their configuration is presented.

### **PEACEFUL COMMUNITIES: THE ACTIONS OF PEACE PROCESSES BETWEEN WAR AND HOPE ESPERANZA HERNÁNDEZ DELGADO**

Colombia is recognized in an international context as the most violent country in the world and the national environment provides one with the proof of the generalization of violence throughout the length and breadth of its territory. For more than forty years, the prolongation of the internal armed conflict and its gradual worsening and deterioration is in itself reflected in the increasing use of the civilian population as war tactics on the part of the armed actors.

Nevertheless, Colombia has also represented a setting of peace evident in local initiatives that originate from the regions most affected by the violence.

From the era of the eighties of the last decade, various scenes of peace have become evident; representatives in governmental policies were looking to negotiate a way out of this internal armed conflict, engaging in negotiation processes with insurgent movements and especially with the emergence of peace initiatives of diverse modes of expression from the civil society, and communities most affected by the impact of the armed confrontation.

Within these peace initiatives the following groups can be identified: The Association of Rural Workers of Carare (ATCC) in the province of Velez, Department of Santander in 1987, The Active Neutrality of the Indigenous Association of Antioquia, (OIA), in 1984; The Peace Community of San Jose of Apartado in 1997; The Community of Peace of Saint Francisco of Assisi in 1997 and The Council Constituency Assembly of Mogotes in Santander, 1998.

Also, one should take into account, within the peace scenery for peace in this country, the projects for the prevention of violence and the construction of peace impelled by the Catholic Church. Moreover, there are also the symbolic initiatives of the country's territories and the different actions of the civil society that, amongst others, act as a warrant for peace together with the marches against the practice of kidnapping and forced disappearances, among others.

### **HUMAN RIGHTS OR LIBERAL RIGHTS?**

ESTHER PARRA RAMÍREZ  
CHRISTINA DÍAZ DÍAZ

Sharing the challenge raised by the other non-governmental organizations to begin the century and the Millennium with the conviction that, through the means of the cultural and the educational, we can contribute to the transformation of violence and conflict in this country. Through this article, one is looking towards an opening that enables reflection on the problematic situation of Human Rights. Raising the necessity to deepen, in turn, civil rights, the political, economic and the cultural as the condition sine qua non of Integral Peace, for this we intend to take up once again this fundamental paradigm intended to strengthen human values within the collective

conscience of the citizens, so that we can all resort to the language of Rights, each one appearing then to understand their own feelings, together with the sense and outreach of these themselves.

### **WAR AND PEACE STRATEGIES**

NECTALY ARIZA ARIZA

The text presents us with the war tactics of the FARC (Armed Revolutionary Forces of Colombia) as well as the Colombian State at this current moment, in that peace negotiations may be going ahead. Beginning with the classic premises for military tactics, which are demonstrated by their actions, the two contenders, rather than pursue peace, want to strengthen their military capacity for future battles.

Winning the war has resulted in becoming the main concern of the Colombian State and of the insurgency; this could only be done at the same time as the triumph is gained in the fundamental battle - politics. To win over public opinion and establish a strong representative of international interest would clearly define the Colombian conflict. However, the State and FARC, are heading for an occupation with military enlistment and have neglected politics. Yet in understanding this final concept and the results of this assertion, the result would lie in gaining the affection and support of the population.

The essay concludes with the presentation of the tactical tendencies of the two forces; the link with the U.S. in strategic matters of the Colombian War, together with some appraisals concerning the possible scenarios which would lead to peace negotiations. Yet, to conclude, in continuation of the current tendencies of conflict, peace is actually, pitifully so, a utopic ideal.

### **THE RELATIONSHIPS AMONG LANGUAGE, ARMED CONFLICT AND POLITICS IN THE SPECIFIC CONTEXT OF COLOMBIA**

FERNANDO ESTRADA GALLEGO

The present paper has the purpose of presenting in perspective the relationships among language, armed conflict and politics in the specific context of Colombia.

Starting from the contributions of Lakoff - Perelman is emphasized the primordial paper of the metaphor and the argument in the representation that they make the main characters of the armed conflict about the war.

The dynamics and strategies are justified in a speech or in argumentation stratagems with the purpose of getting advantages on the competitor. The dynamics of the armed conflict also presupposes a knowledge to be expressed, the justification before the public opinion of the warlike actions, the opinion blow with the one which, regularly they hide the reaches of the damage caused on the victims.

The paper is the first of a series of works dedicated to show how the war keeps relationship with the language that represents it and, of course, with the realities imagined by those who participate of her.

### **CONFLICT AND VIOLENCE WITHIN THE COLOMBIAN UNIVERSITY**

ALVARO ACEVEDO TARAZONA

FRANCISCO JAVIER GÓMEZ

This article intends to construct a methodological framework for the interpretation of the updated project and the University Students Movement in Santander, initiating from their own regional and historical context and of the epoch between the fifties and the seventies. The aim is to establish the individual elements of this process as much as the possibility of common aspects with other regions. This process was put into practice with all the gravity that Santander can be relied upon for, together with the likelihood of reaching a national dimension in its

significance as an industrial university project. Moreover the student riots have not been sufficiently researched with the aim of approximating the conflict and violence in the Colombian University framework. This is an aim that is however by no means easy if one bears in mind that the intent is to explain a phase of contemporary Colombian history in which the majority of protagonists are living people, people with their own opinions on times that are still extremely violent and recent.

**THE IMPORTANCE OF ELECTORAL ORGANISATION FOR  
DEMOCRACY IN COLOMBIA**  
FERNANDO GIRALDO

In the course of the formation of the current electoral organisations in Colombia, we could emphasise particular moments and elements that are significant in the history of systems responsible for electoral issues. These moments are characterised by either a complete or partial organic or hierarchical independence. Nevertheless, embryonic forms of organisation are slowly being created in the order of departments; those which have the capacity to appoint and control those responsible for the municipalities. This required a structure endowed with a more extensive and hierarchical, but less atomized, formation.

It is important to indicate that before 1991, one was clamouring for a re-organised electorate. Within this political dynamic, one can emphasise the document completed by the Commission of studies into the violence in line with Barco's Government. The said Commission proposed 'the establishment of an independent sector of the government electorate, responsible for organising electoral debates and for consultation of a manner both impartial and technical, by means of the functions of a disciplined power, where the whole of the State Civil Servants are concerned.' (Capel, 30:32)

The objective of this article is to illustrate the importance of the Electoral Organisation of Colombia in constructing and consolidating a democracy. To correspond to this objective, this article is divided into four parts. The first is concerned with what the Electoral Organisation of Colombia is, in which it is related to in terms of structure, form and integration, duties, capabilities and their significance, together with its responsibility and range. The second part analyses its condition and nationality, in which autonomy, independence, permanence and principles are worked with. The third part deals with the document of the Electoral Organisation and of democratic consolidation. On this matter, political education, the security of the Electoral Register and identification is covered. The concluding part presents some final considerations.