



Año 1 No. 2
Bucaramanga
Diciembre de 1999

SINOPSIS EN INGLÉS

The Role of The UN in Countries Where There is Internal Conflict in a Post Cold War Context

By Ana María Montoya Durana

International participation in internal conflicts in the context of the post cold war era have taken place under humanitarian pretexts and by a series of international actors, for example agencies and forces like the United Nations, multilateral regional organisations, international NGOs and in some cases states as individual actors. This phenomenon has been described by some authors as New Interventionism.

This essay tries to highlight 3 levels of participation in those which the international community has been involved in countries where there has been internal conflict in a post cold war context, humanitarian aid, humanitarian intervention (by its classic definition) and programmes of socio-economic development. It also makes some reflections about the transformations and initiatives if the UN as regards these three areas, looking to approximate its actions, tendencies and difficulties.

Grounds for The Blockade of Cuba

By Orlando Pardo Martínez and Eurípedes Valdés Lobán

In the essay, we analyse the origins of and the grounds for the blockade of Cuba by the United States of America. We highlight the progressive intensity of the blockade, achieved through the expedition of suffocating laws intensified by the failure of successive US administrations to formulate a coherent policy with regards to the island of Cuba, which led to much infighting within the United States congress. What made it difficult for the policies to change and develop was the nature of the internal dynamic of the political collective.

Challenges and Difficulties in The Construction of a Democratic Culture in East and Central Europe

By Alvaro Acevedo Tarazona

This article is a brief reflection on the political changes which have occurred in East and Central Europe after the period of Soviet intervention, and the difficult route to the construction of a new culture of political democracy. This process is understood to be an invaluable opportunity to contrast the different experiences of each country, to learn about the challenges they face and the difficulties they are having. It is interesting to compare this situation with the situation in Latin America where creating a culture of political democracy is also a priority. If the contexts are different it is because of their respective histories and cultures, rather than because they have stopped considering democracy and the problems of subsequent development altogether.

Economic Law Compared

By Alfonso Gómez Gómez

The Latin American Community of Nations has been a recurring ideal.

Today the constitution of the Latin American States has dedicated themselves to this objective. Since the 'Letter of Jamaica' Simón Bolívar outlined this as a political aim necessary to integrate the states that emerged after independence from Spain, as in fact happened.

There have been concrete efforts to encourage so attractive a target, such as the 'Grupo Andino', Mercosur, G.3, Central America and the Caribbean, the Free Trade Agreement of North America. It is required for that purpose to enhance the comparative study of the norms that regulate such organizations, in order to conform in the immediate future a steady flow as regards the 'exchange' phase, until we arrive at kind of economic and normative identity, as demonstrated by the European Union.

The Convention of Childrens Rights

By Aída Elia Fernández de los Campos

On the 20th of November of this year the convention of childrens rights celebrates its 10th anniversary. It has been ratified by almost the entire international community, this is the result of a process which started at the beginning of this century, preceded by various important declarations which must be kept in mind when analysing the development of the recognition of childrens rights. In agreement with the convention children have the right to the respect of their families, societies and all the worlds states. Although, in accordance with the report by UNICEF, there is still much to be done, in countries considered developed as well as those still developing. It is important to put into practice the legal recommendations in force.

International Humanitarian Law: Its Rules, Its Interpretation and the International Penal Court

By Ricardo Angarita Piña

This article is divided into two parts, the first is a resúmen of international humanitarian law in six fundamental rules, to speed up ones understanding of the subject. It also tries to show that the interpretation of these humanitarian norms can't be separated from its true sense, essence and purpose which is to help and protect the general public, to help those who can't fight and those who can't fight any more.

The rules of international humanitarian law (IHL) that places involved in any kind of armed conflict must respect are as follows; the humanitarian treatment of those who are not actively involved in the conflict, the requirement that militia and civilians are differentiated between, the obligation to differentiate between military objectives and protected sites, the limitations of methods and means of war.

The second part of the article sums up the origen and creation of the International Penal Court, its definition, its entrance into use and its characteristics which show it to be a permanent international judicial organisation, specialized and complimentary to the national tribunals of each country. What it seeks to do is sanction individuals rather than states.

Sociological Approximations of Colombian Political Culture

By Eduardo Guevara Cobos

Starting with conceptual references which allow us to define political culture, we try to tackle it in this article from a historical perspective, along with some of its other components, in order to analyse the attitudes, norms and values which have characterised political culture in Colombian society.

The University and Armed Conflict

By Ernesto Rueda Suárez

This paper was read at the first National University Peace Congress, which took place at the Universidad Nacional de Colombia which took place between the 12th and 14th of May 1999. Its intention was to show that the university as an institution is not entirely removed from the conflict which is taking place in this country, but it is important that it maintains its neutral status in a way in which it can also actively take part without turning itself into a battlefield of bullets for the actors in conflict.

In a metaphorical sense and according to the ideas of Perry Anderson, universities are battlefields but the weapons that are employed are not bullets but ideas. Maintaining a neutral position doesn't mean being completely isolated from the problems, rather it is a way in which to gain space to consider the problem and consider solutions. Colombian universities have an obligation to rise to the importance of the conflict and participate in it from a standpoint that is neutral but also active and positive.

Social Representations of Maternity and Paternity in Five Colombian Cities

By Doris Lamus C.

"Social Representations of Maternity and Paternity" is the title of the investigation which drove five universities and their respective cities with the purpose of charting the changes in parental function which have taken place in recent decades. These changes were studied by means of an investigation into position in society, taking into account factors such as class, sex and age in their relative urban contexts.

The team leading the investigation is made up of social sciences professionals from the following universities; the Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Universidad de Antioquía, Universidad Del Valle, Universidad de Cartagena and the Universidad Autónoma de Bucaramanga.