

Modern Interpretations for a History of Latin America and the Caribbean (1945-2018). *From the Beginnings of the Cold War to the Globalization of Disenchantment*

Book Proposal for

PALGRAVE MCMILLAN
Pablo Baisotti (editor)

Introduction

This book has two large blocks of analysis: Latin America and the Caribbean (complete, from independent countries to those that are still part of the United Kingdom, France, the United States or the Netherlands). This possibility is totally new, since in the last great history of Latin America and the Caribbean many small independent states or islands, or not, were simply left aside. The director general of Unesco (1987-1999), Federico Mayor, pointed out that the Caribbean was not only the islands but also part of the South American coastline, from Colombia to the Guianas and the coastal areas of Central America, inasmuch as those continental lands were home to peoples whose activities led them to cross paths from time to time with the inhabitants of the islands.

From the beginning of the XXth century, the influx of American capital and the progressive reduction of European interests in the Caribbean led to the expansion of U.S. influence in the region, especially in Cuba, Haiti and Santo Domingo. In the years following World War II, the islands and their closest continental neighbors tried various solutions to the problems of societies in which the claim to political autonomy coexisted with economies dependent on overseas markets, where their products were protected from competition. Puerto Rico became a "Free State" associated with the United States; the French-speaking islands became departments of France; the Dutch-speaking islands, before Suriname's independence, were assimilated into the Kingdom of the Netherlands; and the British islands became independent separately (some). Today, both on the islands and on the mainland, policies are increasingly marked by regionalism, the trend towards partnership and cooperation and the formation of trading blocs, initially determined by geographical proximity.

The axes of analysis that go through history, economy, politics, society have the common denominator of being comparative studies, especially between countries that have regular contacts, share the same region and other characteristics that provoke a close interaction (Uruguay with Argentina; Bolivia, Chile and Peru; Grenada, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, to name a few examples). This interaction is not only bilateral but also contemplates the relations between groups of countries (such as those of Mercosur, Andean Pact, Caricom). Latin America is seen together with the whole Caribbean, with its diversities and similarities, with its growing political and cultural contacts, with its heritage and races. It is a book that starts from the end of the Second World War, where most of the states (especially Latin America) were already consolidated. Moreover, starting in the mid-1940s is interesting since the work begins practically at the same time as the Cold War. The work concludes in our days...

It is an excellent opportunity to understand recent history in order to think about the present and project a future for the whole continent (could it be common?). We will see the permanent struggles between integration and Balkanization, between the still subdued small homelands and the desire for a Great, unified and sovereign Homeland.

Some of the proposed topics are:

- 1) The economies in Latin America and the Caribbean (1945- 2018) in a national, regional and global key, which includes arguments such as economic crises, growth models and their relationship with society and politics. The productive sectors in the different Latin American and Caribbean economies. Economy and protests, trade union movements and their evolution. New forms of poverty, the informal economy.
- 2) At the political/social level all the evolution up to the present day of integration by regional blocs; the political systems in Latin America and the Caribbean, crisis, and perspectives. The Independent States and Dependent Territories in the Caribbean. Populism, militarism, technocracy and their influence on democracy in a historical perspective; as well as the evolution of the political parties of the right, center and left in Latin America and the Caribbean, what is new and of continuity? Guerrillas and dictatorships. Social movements, population growth in a comparative vision; the countryside and the city, migrations (intra-state; intraregional and extra-continental). Cities and intelligent cities. Social rights, Human Rights, and globalization. Green movements and the environmental issue.
- 3) The international influence on the Cold War. Globalization and neoliberalism in Latin America and the Caribbean IR. The United States in Latin America and the Caribbean. Influence of the Soviet Union, the European Union, and China.
- 4) Religion and religions. Relations of religions with politics, economy, and society. From the Second Vatican Council to the new religious movements.
- 5) Culture and artistic movements. Literature and its relationship with politics and society. Evolution of art since the Second World War in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Literature Review

Stories of Latin America and the Caribbean can be traced back to the late 1960s. Although they are not too many, they have been reprinted and extended. Although they have not reached the present times including new challenges that are presented in the continent. That is why this work can be considered within a great line of analysis, a novel proposal. It does not start, as most researchers did, from the era of independence, the colony or even the pre-Hispanic period. It is an in-depth history of the 73 years, since the end of the Second World War.

One of the reference works is the Contemporary History of Latin America by Tulio Halperin Donghi (Luigi Einaudi Editore, Torino, 1967). The author made an important emphasis on the common aspects of the Latin American historical process, characterized by the wars of independence and almost simultaneously the stage of formation of the autonomous republics. He analyzed the situation of neocolonialism until after World War II and a shift to the left in recent years. The work deals with the history of the region from the end of colonial domination to the 1960s without running away from the Latin American situation. He did not enter into comparative analysis and touched the non-Hispanic Caribbean. A few years later Latin America appeared: An interpretative History by Julie Charlip and Bradford Burns (Pearson, US, 1972) and as the previous one reprinted more than ten times. This work offers an interpretive history that intertwines the history of Latin America touching on diverse themes and regions. They present connections between time periods and events to understand the impact of the past on the present. Organized thematically, this text offers a clear narrative that interweaves the history of an entire region, with coverage of broad themes and regional differences. Nor does it analyze the Caribbean. In 1975, Jorge Abelardo Ramos published in two volumes the History of the Latin American Nation (Pena Lillo, Buenos Aires, 1975). This book is based on colonization, emancipation and national revolutions. It highlighted the fragmentation of Latin America "submitted to the great imperial power". He studies how republics such as Uruguay, Venezuela, Bolivia, Paraguay, Argentina, and Ecuador were born; Marxist thought, nationalism and liberalism and their influence on the different ideological/political currents. Already in the 1980s, the celebrated study by Thomas Skidmore and Peter Smith, Modern Latin America (Oxford University Press, New York and Oxford, 1984) appeared. This is an interpretive story that uses case studies to discuss the main countries and issues of the region over the past 200 years. In its eighth edition, two new chapters are added (15 and 16) that examine Latin America's changing place on the world stage. From chapter 3 to 11 the authors study the countries or regions (in the case of Central America, in chapter 4). The last 5 study more general and comparative questions: "Strategies for Economic Development"; "Dynamics of Political Transformation"; "Culture and Society"; "Latin America in the World Arena, 1800s-1980s" and "Latin America in the World Arena, 1990s - Present" (the last two aggregates in 2013). It is considered an exhaustive comparative historical analysis of modern Latin America, but again, the non-Hispanic Caribbean is left out. That same year and until the mid-1990s, Professor Leslie Bethell edited The Cambridge History of Latin America (Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 1984-1996) bringing together specialists from Europe and Latin America to study continental issues from pre-Hispanic times to the 1990s. The Caribbean is included, but it is a study that has now become outdated. In 1998 Arturo Fox presented Latin America, present and past (Prentice Hall PTR, US, 1998) written especially for U.S. university students. The work covers the history and culture of this region from pre- Columbian times to the present. The last edition added a chapter on Colombia and Venezuela, and more coverage has been given to the Andean Region, Central America, the Southern Cone, and the Caribbean, with emphasis on political and economic aspects. In 2000 the Comparative History of Latin America and the Caribbean appeared. Nations, peoples, and territories by Luis Javier Ortiz Mesa and Victor Manuel Uribe Uran (Editorial Universidad de Antioquia/Universidad

Nacional de Colombia, Medellin 2000). Comparative studies of the history of Latin America and the non-Spanish and non-French-speaking Caribbean are proposed. It is possible to appreciate the dynamics of local and national historical processes articulated in continental and global logic. The text was the result of the compilation of papers of the symposium of Comparative History of Latin America and the Caribbean of the X Congress of History of Colombia (Medellin, 1997). The four most important themes are slavery; integral economic development and underdevelopment; independence and the dynamics and results of political movements; and popular rebellions and civil protests. No mention is made of current issues (ecology, criminality, new religions, etc.). Two years later, Jose del Pozo published *Historia de America Latina y del Caribe de 1825 hasta nuestros dias* (Lom, Santiago, 2002), taking as the central axis of his work the question of democracy and its weakness, which was attributed to a social and cultural structure that had not overcome the differences between the elites and the masses. It investigates topics of social, economic, political history and international relations. Like the previous author, he does not work on issues of the Caribbean or the new challenges of the region. John Charles Chasteen and James A Wood published *Problems in Modern Latin American History* (Rowman & Littlefield, US, 2004). In this study, each chapter focuses on a single interpretative concept or problem such as nationalism, women's rights, or social revolution. This edition includes a completely new chapter, Historical Memory, which allows readers to revisit the Cold War era from a contemporary perspective, and the chapters on nationalism and globalization have been thoroughly revised. The authors seek to update themselves but leave aside the Caribbean as a nucleus of analysis. Finally, UNESCO's General History of Latin America is mentioned. Its volume VIII analyzes Latin America since 1930 (Trotta, 2008) and aims to approach history with an international approach. This volume, which dates from 1930 to the end of the twentieth century, studies the transformations and attempts at reform experienced in Latin America and their vast scope (agrarian movements, intense electoral life, dictatorial regimes, populism, Liberation Theology, indigenous). World events such as economic crises, the emergence of totalitarian movements or the transition from a multipolar to a bipolar system in the international power structure after the Second World War influenced the political, economic and social course and the emergence of numerous revolutionary and social movements and different types of interventionism. The new trends of globalization, the renewed attempts at regional integration and the emergence of independent political projects were shaping the current panorama of Latin American societies. Latin America and the Caribbean were not presented together. The latter is presented in Unesco's General History of the Caribbean. Volume V, *The Caribbean in the Twentieth Century* offers a complete history of the Caribbean from 1930 to the end of the twentieth century, centered on the history of its peoples and written as far as possible by Caribbean historians. All work was prevented from being dominated by the experiences common to the entire region: sugar, slavery and the military and political presence of the European and North American powers. Work was carried out on subjects such as peoples, societies, cultures and activities, immigration, autochthonous societies and the formation of new societies. The chapters on the 20th century study the continuity and change of daily life, as well as structural changes. Although they are some of the most complete works, they are 10 years old and do not discuss current issues or make comparative analyses between Latin America and the Caribbean.