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Title: Modelos de desarrollo, alianzas políticas e integración latinoamericana

Issue Date: 2015-04-23

Propositions

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1. The history of Latin America's integration processes is characterized by their advances and setbacks, in relation to supranational and national autonomy. This was the same contradiction faced by the Forefathers of Independence between the 'Patria Grande' concept and the construction of national states.
2. The United States and the European Union are perceived in Latin America as powers with less gravitation. China, India and other emerging global players occupy the vacuum left by traditional powers, influencing the processes of regional integration and international insertion.
3. Integration theories in Latin America are mainly theories on economic development. There is a growing need to include new theoretical approaches in the discussion incorporating elements of democratic governance.
4. The balance of forces has changed within an unstable and multipolar world. Actors have redefined contexts and forged new alliances according to their capacities. This is reflected in Latin America in the positioning of Brazil as a global player.
5. Current integration trends in Latin America show a consistent crisis and a lack of certainty expressed by fragmentation, difficulties of reaching common visions, weak institutional mechanisms and the existence of recurrent conflicts among regional leaders.
6. For long time Latin America studied world events and integration processes from a Dependency perspective and from ECLAC's developmental approach. Globalization brought a theoretical vacuity in regional integration which became subordinated to theories and practices coming from the industrialized world.
7. The political, commercial, institutional and ideological fractures in the region are multiple and expressed themselves within Northern and Southern Latin America, among the Atlantic and the Pacific countries, between large and small States. Nations with strategic commodities, and countries without them.
8. One of the main challenges for integration in Latin America is to resolve the contradiction existing between the official discourse and reality: while leaders make use of an integrationist rhetoric, there are more fragmenting actions eminently of a political nature, to deploy effective concerted actions.
9. Economic globalization questions the very concept of national economy. States are no longer sovereign to determine social and economic policies, and are unable to control the financial flows of information, the criminal economy and international terrorism.
10. The three most important challenges to overcome in the region are inequality, violence and organized crime. Integration is an essential instrument to overcome them in the current international system.