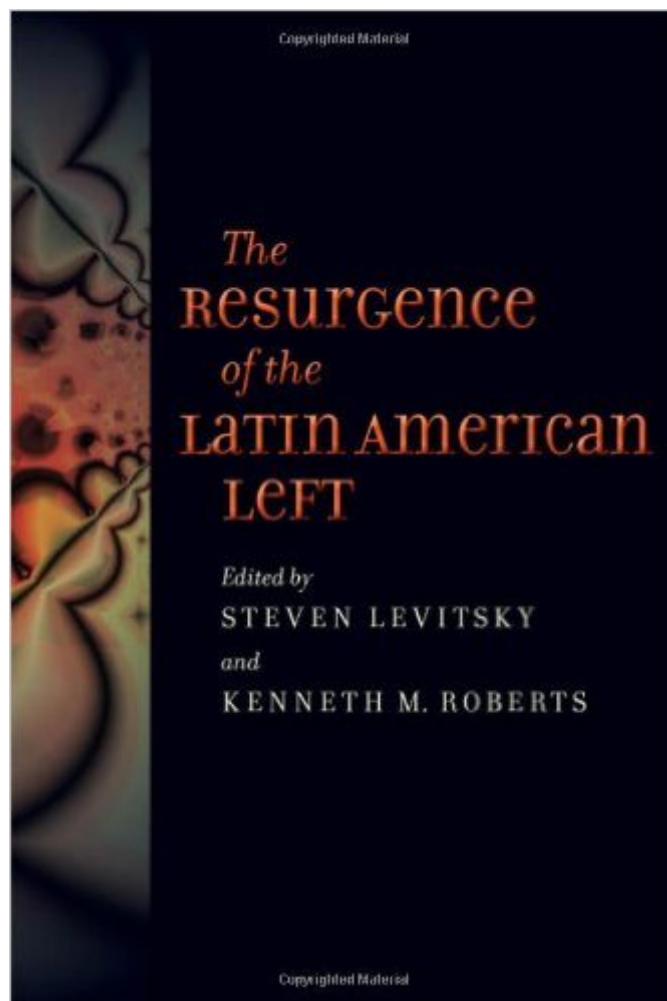


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The Resurgence Of The Latin American Left



Synopsis

Latin America experienced an unprecedented wave of left-leaning governments between 1998 and 2010. This volume examines the causes of this leftward turn and the consequences it carries for the region in the twenty-first century. The Resurgence of the Latin American Left asks three central questions: Why have left-wing parties and candidates flourished in Latin America? How have these leftist parties governed, particularly in terms of social and economic policy? What effects has the rise of the Left had on democracy and development in the region? The book addresses these questions through two sections. The first looks at several major themes regarding the contemporary Latin American Left, including whether Latin American public opinion actually shifted leftward in the 2000s, why the Left won in some countries but not in others, and how the left turn has affected market economies, social welfare, popular participation in politics, and citizenship rights. The second section examines social and economic policy and regime trajectories in eight cases: those of leftist governments in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Uruguay, and Venezuela, as well as that of a historically populist party that governed on the right in Peru. Featuring a new typology of Left parties in Latin America, an original framework for identifying and categorizing variation among these governments, and contributions from prominent and influential scholars of Latin American politics, this historical-institutional approach to understanding the region's left turn and variation within it is the most comprehensive explanation to date on the topic.

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Customer Reviews

This book contains 18 different articles that deal with leftist governments in Latin America. The introduction and conclusion provide interesting arguments with regards to the causes that led many countries in the region to elect left parties in the 2000s. The authors also provide a typology to classify left parties in the region: the PT in Brazil or Frente Amplio in Uruguay are very different from the PJ in Argentina or MAS in Bolivia. The authors argue that these differences are the product of different historical legacies (for example, the PT and FA were created in the 1970s-80s, during these countries' Bureaucratic Authoritarian regimes, while MAS emerged as a social movement at the end of the 1990s). The rest of the chapters deal with different important topics. For example, the chapter by David Samuels and Jason Ross Arnold explores public opinion and the left (are Latin American voters really leftist?) and other chapters are case studies of each of the different national experiences. If you want to understand the left in Latin America this book (plus the one edited by Weyland, Madrid and Hunter) is a good way to start.

The book is great, but whatever you do, do not buy the Kindle version. It was poorly made, the table of contents does not comprise of the chapters, making navigation inside the book a lot more complicated than it has to be. :(

Great

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