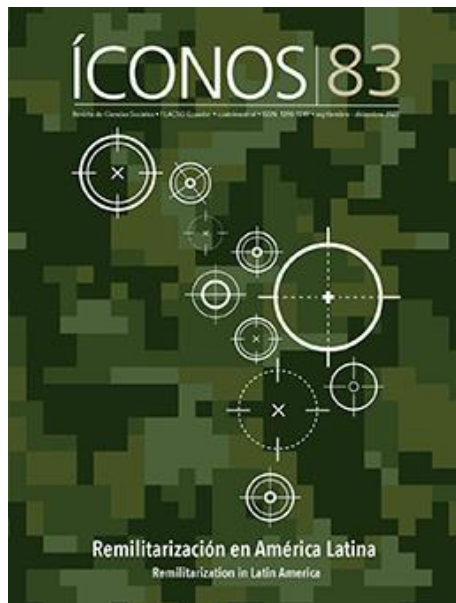


ÍCONOS
Revista de Ciencias Sociales

CALL FOR PAPERS

Remilitarization in Latin America



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Latin America, like other regions of the world, is experiencing a regressive cycle in the political arena as compared to the optimism of the 1990s. Following the fall of military governments in the subcontinent and the establishment of democratic governments – many within the conceptual framework of liberal democracy, the balance between civilian and military governments has shifted in favor of the latter in the 21st century. This has been accompanied by new expressions of authoritarianism and political polarization in almost all countries as well as evident failures in establishing democratic civilian control over the armed forces. New political organizations have emerged that question democratic advances and, upon reaching government, rely on the military and state security institutions to generate new forms of governability.

In this scenario, leaders have appeared who exercise forms of government that were thought to have been overcome – through “new populisms”, dismantling the democratic advances that were built in almost all countries since the 80s and 90s of the 20th century. In sub-regions such as Central America, where transitions were carried out through costly civil wars and peace agreements were signed that included profound democratic reforms, the shadows of endemic militarisms that emerged in previous periods are reappearing. On the other hand, in several South American countries, the shortcomings of development policies have been transferred to the political level, accelerating the dismantling of electoral-competitive democracy. Thus, the main characteristic of the new authoritarianisms of even opposing ideologies (right or left, without distinction) has been the strengthening of military institutions to support “charismatic leaders” in the exercise of power. Polarization has been present in both large and small countries of the region, leading to the discredit of political parties that had governed during the transition to democracy in the 1990s.

Likewise, in order to combat crime, non-compliance with the law has become a desperate option for sectors of the population affected by this phenomenon. At the same time, in the face of the inexorable advance of highly organized crime – mainly in countries like Mexico, Colombia, Ecuador, and Guatemala, among others – governments have not been able to find constitutional strategies to confront this problem. This has led to a new politicization of the military, the consequence of which is a weakening of “civilian” institutions in the face of “uniformed” ones. Thus, balances that were supposed to be consolidated in Latin American countries are being broken.

In this context, whereas the objective of this dossier is to analyze remilitarization processes in various countries of the region in the face of advancing highly organized crime, the core interest of this call for papers is to delve deeper into the return of the armed forces to a clear political role. It is expected to receive original articles from distinct theoretical and methodological perspectives of the social sciences that address one of the following topics in the region:

- Remilitarization, new authoritarianisms, and political and ideological polarizations.
- Military interventions in situations of public security breakdown.
- The military as an engine of development, qualified as “effective” in the construction of strategic infrastructure works.

Contributions will be received in Spanish, English, or Portuguese; however, the selected articles will be published in Spanish. The journal will clarify doubts or contribute to polishing the proposals until the beginning of the period for the reception of contributions.

Articles must comply with the editorial policy and publication guidelines of the journal (available at www.revistaiconos.ec). A peer review system is used for the selection of articles.

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