

end result of what participation brings to the country. Even worse, the democratic process can allow groups to take full political control and transition to the role of conducting state-sponsored terrorism.

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**Rural Protest and the Making of Modern Democracy in Mexico, 1968–2000** by Dolores Trevizo. *University Park, Pennsylvania State University Press, 2011. 240 pp. \$64.95.*

This book explores how rural activism in Mexico, fostered in part by the repression of the 1968 student movement, and of the Mexican Communist Party during the subsequent decade, promoted the eventual democratization of the polity. While many have analyzed the impacts of the 1968 student movement, identifying it as the beginning of the erosion of the regime's legitimacy, this book is the most-systematic treatment, to date, of one of its central consequences. The author argues that state repression radicalized student leaders and local communist cadres, leading them to engage with, and organize, non-violent peasant movements across the country. This peasant agitation, in turn, activated landed interests to create organizations in order to defend their interests. The interplay between these conflicting organizations nurtured the growth of both the left and the right. Moreover, the political activation of the landed business class and the peasantry undermined longstanding arrangements between the state, peasants, and the business elite. All of this debilitated Mexican corporatist structures and the ruling party (the PRI—Party of the Institutionalized Revolution) while revitalizing the PAN (National Action Party), on the right, and the PRD (Party of the Democratic Revolution), on the left.

The author includes a nuanced analysis of how peasant activism in southern Mexico promoted support for the PRD and shows how these developments encouraged the even-more-extensive activation of the PAN, primarily in the northern part of the country.

Most interestingly and originally, the book powerfully reveals how developments in rural Mexico fostered electoral democratization, manifested in the victory of the opposition (the PAN) in the 2000 and 2006 presidential elections. Most scholars primarily link democratization in Mexico to the growth of a civil society in urban areas and the impact of a conjunction of factors, including international pressures. Above all, years of economic decline and a number of serious missteps, including the repression of the 1968 student movement and the government's handling of the 1985 earthquake in Mexico City, undermined the regime's legitimacy. These factors, according to a number of analyses, forced the political elite to gradually change electoral rules, ultimately creating the space for the opposition's victory. While this book examines these explanations, it adds a very important dimension to our understanding of the emergence

of Mexico's still-young and -incomplete democracy by showing how events in the rural parts of the country invigorated both the left and the right. The author provides a wealth of data to support her conclusions, derived in part from extensive field work and the equally extensive use of primary documents. Moreover, she utilizes a combination of qualitative and quantitative approaches to analyze these data in sophisticated ways. Less positively, the first two chapters and the concluding chapter, in particular, read more like a dissertation than a book. The first two chapters are essentially a dissertation-like literature review. Throughout these two chapters, and in the last chapter, the author repeatedly asserts the importance and contributions of her research to the literature, giving the work a decidedly hortatory tone. This proclivity resurfaces frequently throughout the rest of the book, as well. This tendency to frequently reiterate the importance of the work and its originality undermines an otherwise strong piece of scholarship. It is best to let others judge the value of one's scholarship rather than repeatedly insisting on its significance. Nonetheless, this is a very interesting, comprehensive, and original addition to the literature on Mexican democratization.

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**The Transformation of the Workers' Party in Brazil, 1989–2009** by Wendy Hunter. *New York, Cambridge University Press, 2010. 252 pp. \$29.99.*

The victory of Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and the Workers' Party (PT) in Brazil's 2002 presidential election was both a watershed in Brazilian history and an important puzzle for political science. The prospect of electing Lula and his disciplined socialist party roiled financial markets and provoked a near crisis in the months leading up to the election. But instead of socialism, Lula delivered a moderate government that melded pragmatic market reform with progressive social policy. Indeed, the PT has become *the* model of successful leftist government in the region. But, in government, the PT has also transformed in important and distinctive ways, including installing one of the largest corruption schemes in the history of Brazil.

How and why did the PT transform and what accounts for the distinctive patterns of change? Wendy Hunter addresses this issue, drawing on three theoretical sources of explanation. A Downsian, rational-choice–informed analysis explains Lula and a core group of supporters as they engaged in classic vote-maximizing behavior. From 1989 on, this centrist group evaluated the Party's experiences governing at the local level and analyzed the reasons for repeatedly losing presidential elections. As a result, they shifted their message and their policies more and more toward the center, abandoning principled socialist positions and courting votes well beyond their core constituency, especially among the poor and uneducated who comprise Brazil's vast, informal sector