

governed by the Left and those governed by the Right, as genuine gains on social rights and welfare and marginal gains on participatory rights combined with an erosion of liberal democratic rights, particularly in countries ruled by so-called radical Left governments, such as Venezuela, which brings into attention Maxwell Cameron's claim (p. 46) that the core principles of liberalism retain considerable emancipatory potential on the condition that freedom is reinterpreted as political and social empowerment of excluded sector of the community rather than as non-interference.

Although the book findings should not surprise scholars of Latin American politics, it still provides a rich and nuanced analysis of the Left governments' legacies. Perhaps the policy areas could have included chapters on welfare regimes and post neoliberal development models. Also, the book's cross-national approach needs to be complemented by country case studies to provide a clearer picture of the Left governments' achievements and limitations. But as the region continues to be divided between left- and right-wing governments the book provides valuable lessons about the legacies of the Left turn and about the challenges for current and future Left governments.

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**Steve Ellner, Ronaldo Munck and Kyla Sankey (eds.),  
*Latin American Social Movements and Progressive  
Governments: Creative Tensions between Resistance and  
Convergence***

**Rowman & Littlefield, 2022, pp. 336**

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The success of left-leaning presidential candidates in Latin America during the 2000s triggered interest in relationships between progressive governments and the social movements that fuel their rise to power and that challenge them to govern in redistributive fashion. Contributors to this collection of essays on these and more recent iterations of the 'Left turns' exhibit a consensus that progressive governments in the region owe their rise to power to social movements, and that those social movements should be central to shaping the ensuing policy agendas. They also consider how emancipatory social movements resist conservative backlashes and right-leaning governments that sometimes follow periods of progressive governance.



Following an introductory chapter by co-editor Steve Ellner, who situates the volume in scholarship on social movements and trajectories of the Left in the region, the book is divided into four parts. The first is thematic, considering labour, rural and feminist movements as foundations of progressive governments. Chapter 2, by Federico Rossi, offers an especially helpful theoretical frame, drawing on his work conceptualising a second phase of incorporation in Latin American political systems to encompass mobilised informal sector workers and other historically excluded collective actors. The next three parts address clusters of countries, grouped according to the centrality of social movements in Left governance or their struggles in settings where counter-hegemonic forces were not part of ruling coalitions. There follows a synthetic conclusion by co-editor Ronaldo Munck that seeks to shed theoretical light on concepts of autonomy and the implications of socialist movements operating simultaneously within and against the capitalist state.

The book is derived from a special issue of *Latin American Perspectives* and is part of a 'Latin American perspectives in the classroom' series. The structure is well suited for use in advanced undergraduate and MA level courses in Latin American studies or social movements. The country chapters vary in method and theoretical foundations but are generally empirically solid and shaped by relevant English- and Spanish-language literature. A common thread is a hope – framed in most of the book as an expectation – that progressive governments privilege emancipatory movements, and disappointment over the frequent instances in which in practice this turns out not to be the case.

Tensions between movements that give rise to progressive governments and the ways in which the latter operate in practice are a recurrent theme throughout the book. Yet the contributors' normative priorities sometimes obscure more than they illuminate. Should maintaining alliances with social movements be among the foremost objectives of progressive governments, or might instead their focus more appropriately be on broadening their bases of support through efficient provision of public goods, clean governance, respect for civil liberties and the like? This collection decidedly takes the former view.

The universe of social movements portrayed as relevant to progressive governments is limited to those on the Left of the political spectrum. Yet some of the most impactful emergent forces in Latin American politics are the myriad right-wing social movements that have obstructed progressive governments and nourished coalitions that have derailed them. This is perhaps most evident around matters of sexuality, family and crime, where reactionary social movements have gained potency in recent years and severely constrained opportunities for progressive change. This component of the social movement landscape receives no attention in the collection.

Even confining analysis to cases categorised as on the Left, readers may wonder what boundaries demarcate the twenty-first century Left in the region. The book's normalising treatment of Daniel Ortega's Nicaragua fits awkwardly, to say the least, in a universe of cases that might be united by commitment to emancipation. Similarly, tensions within the realm of subaltern subjects, as opposed to between governments and movements, are not consistently addressed head-on. How do we balance competing claims of Indigenous communities championing protection

of sacred lands, on the one hand, and urban informal sector workers aspiring to pensions, urban transportation infrastructure and well-remunerated public sector employment funded by the rents from natural resource extraction, on the other? It is in vexing questions such as these that the complexities of interactions between progressive governments and social movements – with demands that are heterogeneous and sometimes incompatible with one another – come to the fore.

Beyond the volume's normative assumption that the degree of convergence between progressive governments and social movements defines success or failure, some readers of the book will chafe at occasional lapses into ideological drivel. Perhaps most egregious, for this reviewer, was the reference in Chapter 8 to Hugo Chávez succumbing to cancer, 'which some speculate may have been induced by Washington' – the sole citation being from a discredited conspiracy theorist. Such peevish notwithstanding, the collection offers comprehensive coverage of social mobilisations from the Left and useful insights regarding state–social movement interactions, both of which are sure to remain prominent features of the Latin American landscape for many years to come.

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## **Timothy W. Lorek, *Making the Green Revolution: Agriculture and Conflict in Colombia***

**University of North Carolina Press, 2023, pp. xxii + 317**

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The future of the Earth's food production is the subject of serious reflection in academia and among citizens who are concerned about sustainability and improving agroecological systems. But what processes have installed these concepts as common sense in societies with heterogeneous production systems that overall support monocultures of great impact such as maize, wheat or soybeans? Has the history of agricultural science irrevocably activated technical solutions to the food problems of modern societies? Based on a detailed and in-depth study of the Colombian path of agricultural innovation in the twentieth century, *Making the Green Revolution* addresses the centennial history of applied agricultural research in Valle del Cauca, a tropical region geopolitically defined during the Cold War as a 'paradise' for research. Through the contributions of specialised networks, this area promoted the advance of sugarcane monoculture coupled with the rise of the sugar industry. Timothy Lorek traces how sugarcane production led to the homogenisation and