
Review

Reviewed Work(s): Soldiers, Politicians, and Civilians: Reforming Civil-Military Relations in Democratic Latin America by David Pion-Berlin and Rafael Martínez

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better. But contexts and power equilibriums matter, and what explains a given institutional change could also explain its success.

The book considers the potential for the superiority of runoff to travel beyond Latin America; a subsection discusses the potentialities of the system for the United States. Further discussion of the pros and cons of runoff should take into account a more volatile electoral scenario, influenced by digital media and extreme right ideologies. If, during the Third Wave, a key challenge was the incorporation of leftist political leaders into the democratic political arena, it seems that nowadays the key challenge is to deal with an emerging extreme right, already in power in Brazil. If runoff proved to be relatively satisfactory to include new parties moderating the left, it is not so clear what will happen from now on.

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David Pion-Berlin and Rafael Martínez, *Soldiers, Politicians, and Civilians: Reforming Civil-Military Relations in Democratic Latin America*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2017. Figures, tables, bibliography, index, 414 pp.; hardcover \$105, paperback \$33.99, ebook \$27.

This book is unrivaled in its comprehensiveness in conceptualizing and operationalizing democratic civil-military relations and its meticulousness in demonstrating the theory at work, for the cases of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and Uruguay. Having experienced democratic transitions in the 1980s and 1990s following repressive military rule, these countries stand prominently in the literatures on Latin American militaries and Third Wave transitions to democracy. Yet *Soldiers, Politicians, and Civilians* is the first thorough, systematic comparative analysis of their civil-military relations. Its treatment of each country is exceptional in breadth and depth, drawing on sources ranging from surveys to laws and regulations to interviews to the vast secondary case literatures. Though the authors' empirical analysis focuses on Latin America, they ground their theory in universalistic expectations of democratic civil-military relations, often rooted in standards set by "old" democracies. The book is a valuable resource for assessing civil-military relations in any national context and an exceptional model of rigorous comparative research.

Pion-Berlin and Martínez develop six dimensions to characterize relations among the military, society at large, and the executive, legislature, and judiciary. They therefore move beyond the dominant tendency in the field of civil-military relations to study executive-military dynamics. A "military power" dimension captures civilian control of policymaking, external defense, internal security, past military human rights abuses, the state defense industry, and political and military leadership selection. "Defense institutions" includes civilian presence and control in the defense ministry, congressional defense committees, the joint military staff, and the national security council. "Legal framework" encompasses civilian state control of the armed forces based on the constitution and defense- and military-

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related laws, and the relative power of the civilian judicial system compared to that of the armed forces.

A fourth dimension, “effectiveness,” gauges the grounding of defense spending and force-size decisions in defense strategy, transparency in defense decisionmaking and spending, the move away from conscription to a volunteer force, and the military’s concentration on external defense without the distraction of internal missions. Two final dimensions mainly consider relations between soldiers and civilians in the national population. “Convergence” evaluates the extent to which the armed forces and society reflect and understand each other, as measured by surveys and military organizational shifts. “Generating knowledge” is about civilian influence in military training institutions, the educating of civilians in defense matters, and the channeling of civilians into the defense ministry.

Each dimension serves as a window into the civil-military complex, differing from but often encompassing elements viewed using one or more of the other dimensions. For instance, as noted, both “generating knowledge” and “defense institutions” concern the presence of civilians in the defense ministry. “Military power,” “defense institutions,” and “legal framework” each encompass elements of high-level civilian control of security and defense policies. And “military power” and “legal framework” address civilian state structures and actions for holding the armed forces accountable for past human rights abuses.

The study’s presentation and application of the six dimensions reveal important cross-national and longitudinal variation. Argentina and Chile exhibit great progress toward democratic civil-military relations relative to Brazil and Uruguay. In all cases, reforms that moved countries forward in this regard mainly occurred well after democratization. In a final chapter, the authors explain the variation by pointing to incentives and opportunities for reform during the democratic transition and to actions taken by leftist governments in later years, when the very stability of democracy was no longer seriously in question. For the first period, they draw on insights from previous research to argue that incentives of civilian governments to rein in the military were greater where the military regime had been more abusive, and that the government’s opportunity to follow through with reforms depended on the military’s influence during the transition. That influence was determined, in turn, by the armed forces’ coherence, exit strategy, and performance while in power, especially in the economic realm.

Yet as Pion-Berlin and Martínez observe, incentives and opportunities during the transition are insufficient to explain reform outcomes. The authors therefore explore actions at a later moment by leftist leaders who assertively pursued justice for past human rights abuses. These leaders also sought to guarantee the armed forces a respected, professional place in external defense: “Using the ‘stick’ of judicial retribution alone is often short-sighted. It can tilt the scales of power toward civilians for a while but cannot ensure the scales remain that way” (365). Simply raising defense budgets would be insufficient in the longer term:

The alternative, “higher-cost” version of civilian control is an institutional endeavor that builds capacity by embedding civilian control mechanisms within refurbished defense organizations, especially the defense ministry. Institutions have a tendency to persist,

and if they can be arranged to maximize civilian leadership, authority, input, and oversight, then control can be achieved for the longer term (366).

The authors' emphasis on promising the military a professional defense role in democracy echoes an insight that O'Donnell and Schmitter made in the 1980s, amid the uncertainties of political liberalizing and democratization in South America: "What seems crucial is not so much a crude buying off of the military as the devising of a shift in the strategic doctrines and operational capabilities of the armed forces which can provide them with a credible role in society" (1986, 36).

Just as striking as the book's impressive development and application of a novel, general framework for understanding civil-military relations is the emergence, over the course of the study, of a slightly different set of factors that cut across the authors' six dimensions. Two alternative categories are the central components of the causal argument—the treatment of past human rights abuses and the assurance of the military's external defense role, with institutionalized civilian oversight. In *Soldiers, Politicians, and Civilians*, holding the military accountable for human rights abuses is discussed using the military power and legal framework dimensions. For its part, control and effectiveness in external defense encompasses Pion-Berlin and Martínez's effectiveness dimension and is also considered in the chapters on military power, legal framework, defense institutions, and generating knowledge.

Another mission-centered dimension, internal missions, also comes through—in effectiveness (as a distraction to otherwise defense-focused armed forces) and within legal framework, legal states of exception, military constitutional entitlements, military and civilian court jurisdictions, and security and defense laws. Internal missions could logically merit a separate dimension: in contrast to the authors' approach to external defense, in the internal arena the emphasis is not on expertise, effectiveness, and control but on the removal of the military from the work. This perspective is consistent with other research on Latin American militaries, and most famously Alfred Stepan's finding that military engagement in internal missions contributed to military coups and regimes starting in the 1960s (Stepan 1973).

Finally, Pion-Berlin and Martínez's human rights, internal security, and external defense dimensions might be accompanied by the convergence dimension and a political power dimension summarizing civilian training for and authority in matters of high-level defense policy and organizations—that is, combining portions of the current military power and organizations dimensions. Such an alternative framework would align with previous conceptualizations of civil-military relations in Latin America that have measured military influence and autonomy according to categories that include leadership selection, policymaking, the judicial arena, internal security, and external defense (e.g., Stepan 1988, Trinkunas 2005).

In sum, *Soldiers, Politicians, and Civilians* shows, dramatically, that we should continue to appreciate the civil-military relations patterns in Latin America, in all their richness, while we also turn to this book to guide our analysis of civil-military relations in any national or regional context.

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Santiago Anria, *When Movements Become Parties: The Bolivian MAS in Comparative Perspective*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2018. Maps, figures, tables, bibliography, index, 275 pp.; hardcover \$105, ebook \$84.

Since the beginning of the twenty-first century, Bolivia has attracted the attention of an increasing number of social scientists. The century commenced with massive social protests against the privatization and commodification of water in the central city of Cochabamba. Three years later, social mobilization and unrest in the city of El Alto (next to La Paz) and throughout the country against hydrocarbon policies led to the ousting of President Gonzalo Sánchez de Losada and the crystallization of the so-called October plan or agenda.

The October 2003 agenda included “1) nationalization of hydrocarbons and natural resources, 2) a new Constituent Assembly to re-found the country, and 3) trials against the deposed authorities, for damages to the country and to Bolivian society” (Vega Camacho 2012). This was the political agenda of the social and indigenous movements that fueled both the water and gas wars. It was also, and to a large extent, the borrowed agenda of the Movement Toward Socialism (MAS) party (Vega Camacho 2012), which grew out of a *cocalero* social base (growers who were former miners) and rose electorally at the local level initially, until reaching the national presidency in 2006.

After the social protests, it was the MAS experience in government that enchanted scholars—including this reviewer—and leftist activists alike. Since 2006, the MAS government has presided over a wide array of social and political changes, such as the election of the first indigenous president, the refounding of Bolivia as a Plurinational State, and the inclusion of indigenous demands and rights in the 2009 Constitution, such as indigenous territorial autonomies and prior consultation. Fast-forward to 2019 and the October elections, and as Evo Morales campaigns for a fourth consecutive presidential term, despite a constitutional two-term limit and a national referendum that should have prevented him from running, a number of alarm bells go off about the future of Bolivia’s democracy and the MAS trajectory in power.

In this context, Santiago Anria’s book is an excellent and very welcome in-depth analysis of how the MAS has (at least initially) escaped the Michelsian iron