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For a decolonized integration

Letter to the readers

The ***Brazilian Journal of Latin American Studies*** is pleased to present its 42nd edition with new content and new editorial proposal. In addition to the articles and biannual reviews that offer analyzes and interpretations of Latin America and the Caribbean in the various fields of the social sciences and humanities, this new edition of the ***BJLAS*** includes a thematic block of articles on ***International Relations and Culture***, in addition to interviews and, including a magisterial Conference on the subject.

In this way, the ***BJLAS*** opens space for new formats of analysis and transversal dialogues of knowledge, harmonizing us with the challenges of epistemic decolonization.

In the 42nd edition of the ***BJLAS***, Culture is brought to the political debate between the States of the region and is transformed into a strategy for dialogue between countries that seek a particular form of solidarity and greater regional autonomy. To this end, the scenario of the articles

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presented is of progressive Latin American governments - the 'pink wave' - of the first decades of the 21st century.

In this challenge, **BJLAS** had the collaboration of three researchers in the field of international relations and of culture, the doctor in History, Lia Calabre, from the *Fluminense Federal University* (Brazil), the doctoral student in international relations Valéria Teixeira Graziano, from the *University of Salamanca* (Spain), and the law graduate, Mónica Guariglio, from the *University of Buenos Aires*. The researchers will propose a central challenge for international relations, which is to discuss “**Culture and Regional Integration: Paths to think about the Decolonization of Power in Latin America**”. In the words of the researchers,

[a]lthough culture and cultural diversity have been incorporated as guiding principles of regional projects in the most different areas, the non-break with the development model historically adopted in regional integration projects, based on the idea of economic progress and the infinite exploration of nature and of life, as well as the uncritical incorporation of hegemonic discourses and conceptions that permeate international cooperation, resulted in continued violence against indigenous peoples, peasants and traditional communities and, consequently, in the exclusion of different peoples, knowledge and cosmovision from integration projects.

In this edition, **BJLAS** takes on the challenge of thinking about regional Integration based on culture, in which culture acts as a consistent weapon against colonial heritage and neoliberalism.

After the texts of the thematic block, and in harmony with the purpose of making politics and culture dialogue, **BJLAS** brings a second set of articles that complete this edition with local experiences, but with regional relevance. These are experiences that come from Mexico, Colombia, Argentina and Bolivia, attesting to how much the material and spiritual force of cultures is at the basis of silent resistance and great social upheavals.

In “***The soundtrack of the conflict in Colombia: reconstructing history from the music of their youth***”, Andrea del Pilar Lozano Bohórquez, graduated in International Relations and Master in Cultural Studies from the *University of Rosario* (Argentina), reconstructs the political

- and conflictive – history of Colombia from the music of their youth. The author's auditory memory dates back to the 1940s, with peasant music that heralds the beginning of *Violencia bipartidaria* (*Bipartisan Violence*), and ends in 2021, when an explosion of rhythms and musical styles, heard in the streets during the demonstrations of Paro Nacional, creates the triumphal scenario of the Historic Pact.

The political mobilization born in *Mexico Profundo* (Deep Mexico) is the scenario for the article "***The struggle is not for power, but a call to the organization of the peoples. María de Jesús Patricia Martínez, first indigenous woman for the presidential candidacy in Mexico***". This analysis portrays the historical organization of Mexican indigenous peoples and their attempts to overcome obstacles to initially consolidate their autonomy and, now, an indigenous candidacy, under the command of Marichuy, a Zapatista woman. The article is by the anthropologist Waldo Lao Fuentes Sánchez, PhD from the *Graduate Program in Latin America Integration at USP* (Brazil). In the text, the author interweaves the accounts and descriptions of failed attempts to overcome the legal formality of liberal democracy, on the one hand, and on the other hand, he offers living testimonies of the creativity, dignity and ethical posture of indigenous organizations, and their autonomous disposition against the barriers of our models of democracy.

From the area of migrations comes the original record of the next article, in "***Dark Memories: mining paths of a Schindler in Bolivia***" by the doctoral student in Linguistics, Ana Carla Barros Sobreira, from the *State University of Campinas* (Brazil). The author portrays the hidden stories and figures not visible, but present, in the written narrative and in the photographic images of Mauricio Hochschild, one of the mining magnates in pre-revolutionary Bolivia. In the intersections of languages exposed in a railway museum in the Andes, the author analyzes the subtle way in which the businessman would have protected exiled Jews and fugitives from the horrors of German Nazism, between 1938 and 1939. The researcher enriches

the article with photographic illustrations of her own particular and unique journey in the memory of this darkness.

Also from the field of linguistics and migration studies comes the work on Syrian immigration to Argentina, a phenomenon recorded between the years 2011-2020. The challenge of this article is mainly epistemic: “**Aspects of Syrian migration in Argentina: analysis according to Eva Gugenberger theoretical-analytical model for the linguistics of migration**” is an intellectual bet to interpret the cultural and linguistic dilemmas that involve the arrival of immigrants of civilizations other than that of the region. The case studied, of Syrians in Argentina in the last decade, not only exposes a current political and humanitarian drama in international relations, but also offers solid bases for new studies on migration in dialogue with sociolinguistics and culture. The study was conducted by Carolina Y. Andrada-Zurita, a researcher at the *University of Rosario* (Argentina)

The last article in this issue on culture and regional integration is by the Master's student in International Relations, Matheus Marculino dos Santos, from the *University of Rio de Janeiro*. In the study on “**The foreign policy of the CBERS Program in the governments of Dilma and Bolsonaro**”, the researcher skillfully analyzes and compares two moments of Brazilian foreign policy, based on the policies for space technology of the Dilma Rousseff and Jair Bolsonaro governments, to build the second generation of CBERS (*China-Brazil Earth-Resources Satellite*) satellites. The analysis points out the main political and economic implications of the project in each term, and the realistic strategies adopted by governments to fulfill the agreements signed with China.

With the certainty that the provocations of our authors will bring contributions to the ways of thinking in Latin America and the Caribbean, we want to give the opportunity now for the readers of **BJLAS** to follow the words of the organizers of this thematic space on **Culture and Regional Integration: Paths to think about the Decolonization of Power in Latin America**.

Before finishing, however, we propose a trip to the chimera and illusion of the Buen Gobierno (Good Government) by reading the review of the book **“The utopian memory of Inca Garcilaso”**. The book reviewed is by the Franco-Colombian philosopher Alfredo Gómez-Muller, and is presented by political scientist Edwin Cruz Rodríguez of the *Universidad Nacional de Colombia*. With the memoirs of Inca Garcilaso de la Vega, we end an edition that places Culture as a central component of Politics, with its expectations, its vanguardism, its frustrations, daring and the constant reinvention of its utopias.

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