

micromanagement' (p. 5) leave the country under a stiffening Damocles sword for much-needed policy flexibility. Unsurprisingly, the authors recommend reining in the power of the Constitutional Court, especially in economic matters.

One has to wonder whether the full-scale attack on the 1991 Constitution is wholly justified. Many observers celebrate the practical and symbolic achievements of the Constitution, marking a new era of national conciliation and guaranteeing the political rights of the nascent democratic left in the country. It is undoubtedly a compromise document negotiated between antagonistic political groups, each afraid of giving up too much of their interests for the price of ending internal conflict.

Unfortunately, the book does not take into account the implications of the recent re-election of President Álvaro Uribe after having changed the Constitution to allow him to run for a second time. It would have been useful to lay out the consequences of this change, especially in light of the fact that the executive is now able to dominate virtually all important state institutions.

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Market Reform in Society: Post-Crisis Politics and Economic Change in Authoritarian Peru by **Moises Arce**. University Park PA: Pennsylvania State University, 2005. 169pp., \$45.00, ISBN 0 271 02452 5

The book focuses on how Peruvian market reforms under the Fujimori regime affected various societal groups, and how their responses, in turn, influenced the reform process. How do neoliberal reforms affect societal groups? What are their feedback effects on reform processes? These are the key questions that guide Arce's investigation into reforms in the areas of taxation, pension privatization and social-sector reforms in poverty alleviation and health centralization. The author's central argument is that neoliberal reforms provoke diverse societal responses, reflecting differences in the concentration or dispersion of costs and benefits, which represent incentives for

groups to form and engage in collective action for supporting or opposing the reforms. The research design for scrutinizing this thesis is largely qualitative, consisting of a comparative case study analysis and the use of counterfactuals. Due to its theoretical focus on the costs and benefits of the policies implemented, the study may attract Latin Americanists and policy analysts alike.

Arce's central argument is plausible and subject to a consistent analysis. The author surely succeeds in demonstrating how societal actors in Peru have managed to affect and reshape reform policies. The innovative component of the book is not its theoretical argument, as the conception of a two-way relationship between state reformers and collective actors in civil society is rather straightforward. What turns this book, however, into a noteworthy piece of work is its adoption of an x-centred research perspective. In this regard, the author focuses on the effects of a particular cause rather than explaining the entire variation of the dependent variable as it is practised with y-centred research. As a result, Arce's investigation offers a high analytical accuracy and thus valuable insights into the causal mechanisms underlying the process of reform. At the same time, the model is parsimonious and allows for generalizations. Due to this worthwhile methodological proceeding and the precise tracing of the analyzed reform processes, this investigation makes a significant contribution to existing research literature. Further, the book is well structured and clearly written. In sum, the study offers a compelling introduction to the analysis of market reform in Peru and surprises the reader by highlighting how collective actors in society can shape these processes, even during the incumbency of an authoritarian government such as the Fujimori regime.

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The Trouble With Africa: Why Foreign Aid Isn't Working by **Robert Calderisi**. New Haven CT: Yale University Press, 2006. 249pp., £18.99, ISBN 0 300 12017 6

Africa has long held a certain allure for Westerners. This book has been written by one