

Is Latin American Left Regenerating Again?
——Beyond Realpolitik between “Great Powers”——

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In the early 21st century, a series of left-wing governments swept into power across Latin America. This is the so-called Pink Tide of left-wing governments. Those governments lifted millions out of poverty while forging alternative forms of regional integration to counter Washington’s disastrous neoliberal economic policies. But those governments could not endure a backlash and the Right resurged.

After years of tilting rightward, Latin America is hurtling to the left, a watershed moment that began in 2018 with the election of Andrés Manuel López Obrador in Mexico and could culminate with a victory later this year by a leftist candidate in Brazil. It means regeneration of Latin America Left again and what many are calling a new Pink Tide. The new resurgent left-wing governments also faces steep challenges.

The focal point of this paper are as follows; What lessons can these leaders learn from the first Pink Tide and the prospect for transformative change?

In consideration off the above mentioned, this paper lays out some of the errors and flaws of the Pink Tide including the tendency toward deindustrialization; the ecological damage that accompanied the extractive model; the failure to consult rural communities including the Mapuche; and the failure to respect social movement autonomy. Moreover, new left governments will get into many troubles with sabotage of the right wings, militarization of society, and conservation of mass communications, and so on.

Finally, considering the possibility of taking geopolitical opportunity by the dispute between China and the United of America, the strategies of Latin America like “equidistant foreign policy” and “active nonalignment” are worth notice.

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Development Model of Lula's New Government in Brazil

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In Brazil, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva became president in January 2023. Former President Bolsonaro has consistently denied defeat, saying there was fraud in the election by electronic voting. A week later, Bolsonaro supporters broke into the Congress, the Presidential Office, and the Supreme Court. In response, the new government quickly restored order, and Brazil and the international community expressed their support for Lula's government. The incident showed that Brazilian society is divided and democracy still faces difficulties. At the same time, it was an opportunity to show that Brazil is seeking social integration and the deepening of democracy. Expectations are high for the Lula administration. Above all, it is necessary to restore the sovereignty of the people who have been despised by the Bolsonaro politics and to consolidate democracy. It is also expected that policies will re-include people who have been excluded from society due to neoliberal policies. The purpose of this paper is to clarify the development model of the new Lula administration. The development model here refers to the combination and relationship of various institutions for the development of society in a broad sense, that is, market, state, and society (community or civil society). The state in new Lula administration will play a greater role than in the Bolsonaro administration. It is not to uncontrollably expand the sphere of activity of the state. This is to supplement the market in areas where it does not function adequately and to regulate the self-indulgence of the market. On the other hand, to prevent excessive expansion of the state and to operate the administration efficiently, it is necessary to make effective use of market functions. This is because the market disperses power. In the new administration, the role of society or community will be more important than the market or the state. Society controls the market and the state to function effectively in line with its goals, also becomes a safety net against the failure of the market and the state. But democratic state and plural society are far away in Brazil. The political base of the Lula regime is fragile. There are differences between coalition parties in terms of views of the nation and policies. Under these circumstances, if the Lula administration were to fall, it would not be by adopting radical policies, but rather by pandering to the ruling coalition, opposition parties, and public opinion, and its policies would become inconsistent. In order to prevent this, it is necessary to show the public a more holistic view of society, the ideal state of society in Brazil, and the process to achieve it. The development and institutional issues faced by the Lula administration are universal, not limited to Brazil, and are our challenges.

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