

# DEVELOP INDIA

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## Srikrishna Committee submits report on Telangana

The Justice Srikrishna Committee giving a "way forward" on the separate Telangana statehood issue on Thursday gave its report to Home Minister P Chidambaram, who said govt will consult all political parties before taking an "appropriate" decision. The two-volume report, prepared by the Committee after extensive discussions with political parties and other organisations in the state over the past 11 months, was submitted a day before the Committee's term was to expire.

Soon after the submission of the report, Chidambaram told reporters that he proposed to convene a meeting of 8 recognised political parties of Andhra Pradesh on January 6. "Immediately after the meeting, the report will be made public," he said on the report which the Committee had said will contain "several suggestions with pros and cons" on the demand for Telangana to be carved out of Andhra Pradesh by bringing 10 districts under its purview.

The highest satisfaction of the largest number will be its aim, Justice Srikrishna had said on Tuesday about the report. "We have given the way forward. We have said what is to be done. There are many options," member secretary of the committee Vinod K Duggal, a former Union Home Secretary, said refusing to give details.

Chidambaram said the government will consider the report carefully and begin the process of consultations with all political parties before taking appropriate decisions on the report. "That is the only way in a democracy and those who respect democracy must also respect the processes of democracy," he said. "The report is in two volumes. The report will be carefully studied in the Ministry of Home Affairs and will be shared with the ministries or departments concerned of the government". The government has great faith in the wisdom, maturity and tolerance of the people of Andhra Pradesh, he said. The Home Minister said all political parties and groups have given an assurance that they will maintain peace, harmony and law and order. "We welcome and believe these assurances". He said that he has noted that there was some concern about the deployment of security forces. "Let me assure the people of Andhra Pradesh that the deployment of security forces is a purely precautionary measure. They will remain in the force headquarters or police stations as a reserve force."

## Kolkata Metro Railway gets the Status of 17th Zone of Indian Railways

Kolkata Metro Railway gets the Status of 17th Zone of Indian Railways Metro Railway, Kolkata got the status of 17th Zone of Indian Railways. The Minister of Railways Mamata Banerjee laid the foundation stone for conferring on Metro Railway the status 17th Zone at a function at Metro Rail Bhawan, Kolkata today. The Indian Railways is presently having 16 Zonal Railways namely; Central (Mumbai), Western (Mumbai), Eastern (Kolkata), South Eastern (Kolkata), Northern (New Delhi), North Eastern (Gorakhpur), Northeast Frontier (Guwahati), Southern (Chennai), South Central (Secunderabad), East Coast (Bhubneshwar), North Central (Allahabad), North Western (Jaipur), South East Central (Bilaspur), West Central (Jabalpur) and South Western Railways (Hubli).

At present, Metro Railway, Kolkata is operating over a length of about 25 Kilometres but it is on the threshold of a high growth phase. A number of new works have been sanctioned recently, as a result of which the network of Metro Railway, Kolkata would expand fast. The passenger traffic, which has been steadily growing, is likely to grow even faster with the completion of these new works.

Kolkata Metro, India's first became a reality on October 24, 1984 with the commissioning of partial commercial service from Esplanade to Bhowanipur (now Netaji Bhavan) over 3.40 km. route. Other stations were opened at different stages and services on the entire stretch of Metro were introduced from Dum Dum to Tollygunge on September 27, 1995. There are 16 stations in this section.

The status of Zonal Railway to this Metro would give greater autonomy to Metro Railway, Kolkata. This will also give confidence to staff and give them greater job satisfaction, resulting in improved work culture.

These would lead to early completion of the sanctioned works, thereby helping Metro Railway, Kolkata in its operation and further expansion. Mamata Banerjee also commenced also commenced the work of Joka- Majherhat section in the first phase of Joka-BBD Bag Metro Railway on the occasion. Also present on the occasion among others will be Chairman, Railway Board, Shri Vivek Sahai, Member (Engineering) Railway Board, Shri A.P.Mishra and Member (Staff) Railway Board, Shri V.N.Tripathi.

## CSAT- 2011

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## US -Venezuela diplomatic tension



his approval of Mr Palmer.

The US move in effect expels Venezuelan envoy Bernardo Alvarez Herrera. It is not thought Mr Herrera is currently in the US, but the revocation means he cannot return. State department spokesman Mark Toner said Caracas had only itself to blame. "We said there would be consequences when the Venezuelan government rescinded agreement regarding our nominee, Larry Palmer. We have taken appropriate, proportional and reciprocal action," he said in an emailed statement.

Venezuela's Deputy Foreign Minister Temir Porras wrote on his Twitter account: "I can confirm. USA revoked the visa of ambassador Bernardo Alvarez." Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, a fierce critic of the US, said: "We have denied permission to this aspiring ambassador and now the US government threatens us with reprisals. "They will do what they want, but that man is not coming here as ambassador. Anyone who comes here as an ambassador has to show respect. This is a country that must be respected." He dared the US to cut off diplomatic ties.

**Larry Palmer**

- US ambassador-designate to Venezuela
- 2005-date: President and CEO of the Inter-American Foundation
- 2002-2005: US ambassador to Honduras
- 1999-2002: Deputy chief of mission and charge d'affaires in Ecuador
- Mid-1980s: Served in the Dominican Republic, Uruguay and Paraguay



If the US government wants to expel our ambassador there, let them. If they cut off diplomatic relations, let them, Mr Chavez said on state television.

Earlier this year, Mr Palmer said morale was low in the Venezuelan armed forces, and expressed concern that Colombian Farc rebels had been sheltering on Venezuelan soil. "Despite extensive financing, professionalism in the Venezuelan army has decreased due to the retirement of large numbers of officers and a President Hugo Chavez move allowing non-commissioned officers to transition directly into the commissioned corps," he said in answer to questions from the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee in July. "New officer training has been cut from five to four years. Most significantly, there has been a noted preference for political loyalty over professional talent. Morale is reported to be considerably low, particularly due to politically-oriented appointments."

On the ties with Colombian Farc rebels, he said: "I am keenly aware of the clear ties between members of the Venezuelan government and Colombian guerrillas. "The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (Farc) maintain camps in Venezuela, and members of the Farc high command have occasionally appeared in public in Caracas. The Venezuelan government has been unwilling to prevent Colombian guerrillas from entering and establishing camps in Venezuelan territory."

**Tempestuous ties between US & Ven**

Mr Chavez has long been at loggerheads with the US, denouncing "American imperialism". It is unclear how the latest escalation will affect the two countries' tempestuous relationship, says the BBC's Iain Mackenzie in Washington. The situation had shown signs of improving with the election of Barack Obama, he says; however, President Chavez later declared him to be "a great disappointment" and claimed he had "the same stench as George W Bush".

Venezuela is a major oil producer and, despite its political differences with Washington, remains the fifth biggest crude supplier to the US. Mr Palmer's appointment, which was made in June, has yet to be confirmed by the US Senate.

## England retain Ashes on Australian soil for first time in 24 years

England have retained the Ashes on Australian soil for the first time in 24 years. In Melbourne they registered an emphatic innings and 157-run win over Australia on the fourth day of the fourth test. England now travel to the final test in Sydney starting Sunday with a 2-1 series lead, but as the Ashes-holder, England need only to draw the series to keep the urn. The Aussies who began the day at their overnight second innings score of 169 for six, were all out for 258 runs. Last batsman Ryan Harris could not bat due to a foot injury. Brad Haddin remained unbeaten on 55. The final scores: Australia 98 and 258 and England - 513.

DEVELOP INDIA english weekly



## Pak's Punjab Governor Salmaan Taseer assassinated

The Governor of Pakistan's Punjab province, Salmaan Taseer was on Tuesday assassinated by one of his security guards in a gun attack at a market in the heart of Islamabad.

46-year-old Taseer was getting into his car at Kohsar Market in Islamabad when the guard from the Elite Force of Punjab Police, shot him with an automatic weapon at a close range. The Governor was rushed to the Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.

Officials said, Taseer was hit by at least nine bullets and sustained severe injuries on the neck and chest. Police arrested the guard, who shot Taseer and took him to an undisclosed location. Six others were also detained by police at the market.

## All technical institutes to have five per cent seats reserved for students from economically weaker sections

Government says, all technical institutes are mandated to reserve up to five per cent of their seats for students from economically weaker sections under the tuition fee waiver scheme. Addressing a Press Conference in New Delhi on Thursday, Human Resource Development Minister Kapil Sibal said that a new policy has been formulated to promote technical education in the country. He said this includes setting up of technical institutions in the areas where these do not exist. He added that the institutions can be set up through Public-Private Partnership in 241 districts identified across the country. He said that companies registered as non profit entities will also be allowed to set up technical institutions to ensure planned and coordinated development of technical education. Mr Sibal announced setting up of overseas campuses to promote technical education in the country. He however said that these institutes will need government's clearance and will be subject to local laws.

Mr Sibal also announced that All India Institute of Technical Education is coming up with a system of e-governance to ensure transparency and swift decision making. AICTE will process all approvals for Polytechnics. Henceforth it will also regulate all autonomous PGDM courses not affiliated to any university. Also students pursuing Vocational and Technical Courses in various State Boards will get lateral entry directly into the second year of degree programs.

## Carlos Andres Perez dies

Former Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez, whose popularity soared with his country's oil-based economy but who later faced riots, a severe economic downturn and impeachment in his homeland, has died in Miami

**Carlos Andrés Pérez Rodríguez** (born October 27, 1922), best known as **CAP**, was President of Venezuela from 1974 to 1979 and again from 1989 to 1993. His first presidency was well-known as the Saudi Venezuela due to its economic and social prosperity thanks to enormous income from petroleum exportation. However, his second period was disastrous - it saw a series of social crises, a popular revolt (denominated Caracazo) and two coup attempts (February 4, 1992 and November 27, 1992). Also, he was the first Venezuelan president to be forced out of the office on May 20, 1993 by the Supreme Court, for the misappropriation of 250 million bolivars belonging to a presidential discretionary fund.

# CSAT - 2011

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## Gandhian Era in Indian History

- Non-violent Non-cooperation Movement 1920-22
- The Khilafat Movement 1920
- Chauri Chaura Incident 1922
- The Swarajist Party 1923
- Anti-Imperialist League 1927
- Simon Commission 1928
- Nehru Report 1928
- Meerut Conspiracy Case 1929
- Lahore Conspiracy Case 1929
- Poorna Swaraj Day 1930
- Civil disobedience Day 1930
- First Round Table Conference 1930
- Gandhi-Irwin Pact 1931
- Second Round Table Conference 1931
- Arrest of Mahatma Gandhi 1932

## Wealth Management Lessons From Citibank's Gurgaon Case

Recent news about allegedly fraudulent practices by an employee of Citigroup Inc.'s Indian banking unit suggests just how easily wealthy investors, who are often called "sophisticated investors," can be fooled.

Indian police filed a fraud case against a Citigroup employee and others, who allegedly lured wealthy clients with fake get-rich-quick schemes and got them to deposit funds in a joint account in the name of some of the employee's relatives and associates, according to a police officer investigating the case.

Citibank manager Shivraj Puri, accused of cheating investors of around Rs 200 crore, surrendered to police in Gurgaon on Thursday, almost 48 hours after one of India's biggest banking frauds came to light.

The executive, working in the bank's Gurgaon branch, used a fake Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) letter to dupe customers into putting money into accounts he created in his relatives' names. Some estimates say the swindle could be as high as R400 crore, though Citibank didn't confirm this.

Police said Shivraj Puri used the fake SEBI letter to convince customers to part with their money with the promise of good returns. The investigation team has checked with SEBI, which denied issuing any such letter.

Puri is on the run and police have written to bank authorities to seize his account. Citibank said its customers won't be affected. Usually, in such cases, the bank takes responsibility.

A Citibank spokesperson said the bank called the authorities after spotting suspicious transactions based on forged documents. "Identified suspicious transactions have been isolated and we are providing full assistance to the authorities in their investigation. This issue does not impact other accounts, transactions or customers of the bank," the spokesperson said.

At least 30 investors had deposited money in the three fraud-linked accounts. The bank is still figuring out how much money has been lost.

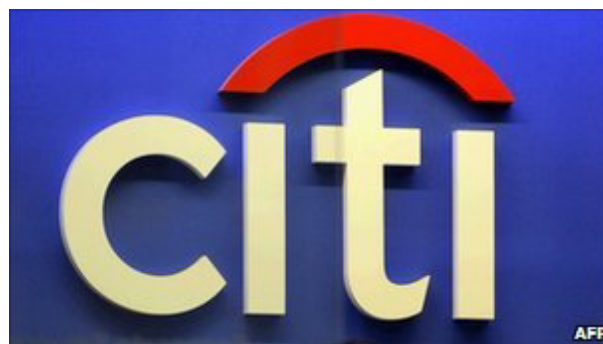
"A relationship manager, Puri's job was to open accounts for customers. He opened three in the name of Premnath, Sheila Premnath and Diskha Puri, all his relatives," said Dalbir Singh, assistant commissioner of police, Gurgaon.

"The circular on a forged letterhead of SEBI stated that by depositing money in those three accounts, the Citibank account holders could get benefits, apart from a higher rate of interest," Singh added.

Within months, crores of rupees poured in and Puri kept transferring them to another account, police said.

"There's no count of how much was deposited in the accounts of Premnath, Seila and Diskha but it could be well over R100 crore," Singh said.

The Gurgaon police have also booked Puri's relatives  
**India Citibank employee 'steals millions of dollars'**



A Citibank employee in India has been accused of de-

frauding wealthy individual and corporate clients of millions of dollars.

The alleged fraud was discovered earlier this month in a branch of the global bank in Gurgaon, a wealthy suburb of the Indian capital, Delhi.

The employee solicited investment in a fictitious scheme, promising high returns in a short time, the bank said.

Police say the wanted staff member has now gone missing. Earlier he was suspended after a complaint was lodged by the bank with the police.

### 'Fake investment scheme'

Citibank has refused to publicly put a figure on the alleged fraud but senior police officers told Indian newspapers that at least \$20m (£12,951,188) was stolen.

According to the official police complaint filed by Citibank, which has been seen by the BBC, the suspicious transfer of funds at its branch in the wealthy Delhi suburb of Gurgaon, began in October 2009.

The US bank, which has a large presence in India, accused the missing employee of forging documents and persuading a number of clients to put money into a fake investment scheme. But instead of making his clients a fortune as promised, the bank claims he channelled the money into accounts allegedly controlled by three of his relatives.

The police are now looking for the man, who they say has absconded.

Meanwhile Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee dismissed fears that the alleged fraud was caused by any systemic weakness in Indian banking, describing it simply as an "individual misdemeanour". "We recently initiated an investigation into a certain set of suspicious transactions based on documents forged by an employee involving a few accounts in our Gurgaon branch," Citibank said in a statement. "We immediately reported the matter to all the relevant law enforcement authorities. "We are providing full assistance to the authorities in their investigations. This issue does not impact other accounts, transactions or customers of the bank," the statement added.

A senior police officer investigating the case said that 18 accounts had been frozen in relation to the fraud.

### Taiwan c-bank checks commercial banks

Taipei, Dec. 29, 2010 (CENS)—In yet another move in fighting forex speculators, the Central Bank of China (CBC) raided Citibank Taipei and other foreign custodian banks for foreign funds yesterday (Dec. 28), to assure their compliance with the new regulation curbing trading in NDF (non-delivery forward), publicized by the CBC one day before.

Taiwan's central bank has inspected non-deliverable forwards and foreign exchange operations at banks including Citibank as it steps up its efforts to ease currency volatility. The move comes two days after the central bank tightened limits on trading in NDFs as it grapples with a Taiwan dollar that has risen to 13-year highs.

## Countries/Cities old and new names

### New names

- Zambia
- Zimbabwe
- Iran
- Iraq
- Istanbul
- Kinshasa
- Lesotho
- Malawi
- Malaysia
- Myanmar
- Yangon
- Namibia
- Holland
- Sri Lanka
- St.Petersburg
- Taiwan
- Thailand
- Arab Republic of Egypt
- Bangladesh
- Beijing
- Belize
- Benin
- Botswana
- Ethiopia
- Ghana
- Harare
- Indonesia
- Democratic Republic of Congo

### Old names

- Northern Rhodesia
- Southern Rhodesia
- Persia
- Mesopotamia
- Constantinople
- Leopoldville
- Basutoland
- Nyasaland
- Malaya
- Burma
- Rangoon
- South West Africa
- The Netherlands
- Ceylon
- Leningrad
- Formosa
- Siam
- United Arab Republic
- East Pakistan
- Peking
- British Honduras
- Dahomey
- Bechuanaland
- Abyssinia
- Gold Coast
- Salisbury
- Dutch East Indies
- Zaire

## UNESCO's Science Report 2010

Europe, Japan and the USA (the Triad) may still dominate research and development (R&D) but they are increasingly being challenged by the emerging economies and above all by China. This is just one of the findings of the UNESCO Sci-



ence Report 2010.

India has emerged as an international hub of scientific research during the decade largely due to the growth in number of foreign Research and Development (R & D) centers, increase in outsourced R & D, increase into R & D investment from both public and private sector, availability of scientists and engineers, rise in the scientific research publications etc. However, the interrelationship of knowledge or R & D with the other factors such as innovation, macroeconomic environment, infrastructure, health and primary education etc. needs strengthening for conversion of knowledge into inclusive growth.

According to the UNESCO's Science Report 2010, India's share in World publications is 3.7% (2008). In terms of patents, there is relatively low share of patents filed in India in comparison to those of China. According to the World Intellectual Property Indicators-2009 Report, India filed 28,940 patents in 2006-07 as compared to 2,45,161 patents filed by China.

The Government have taken various steps for the promotion and growth of scientific research in the country. These measures include, setting up of new institutions for science education and research, creation of centres of excellence and facilities in emerging and frontline areas in academic and national institutes, induction of new and attractive fellowships such as Innovation of Science Pursuit for Inspire Research (INSPIRE), strengthening infrastructure for R & D in universities, encouraging public-private R & D partnerships, fiscal incentives for R & D, national awards for outstanding R & D etc. Accordingly, the Government have enhanced XI Plan allocation for Scientific Departments to Rs. 75,304.00 crores from Rs. 25,301.35 crores during X Plan.

## Sir Elton John becomes father via surrogate

Sir Elton John and his partner David Furnish have become parents to a son born to a surrogate mother in California. Zachary Jackson Levon Furnish-John was born on Christmas Day, the UK musician and Canadian filmmaker told the Usmagazine.com website.

### Surrogacy and gay parents

- The UK has strict regulations in place for anyone considering surrogacy, so sometimes couples consider going overseas to countries where it is easier to complete the process
- Barrie and Tony Drewitt-Barlow, became Britain's first gay surrogate parents in 1999
- In April 2010, changes to the law meant that for the first time in British history, two men could be named as parents on a child's birth certificate
- In the UK, the child's birth mother is always considered the legal parent unless this is changed by a parental order made by a court
- The US state of California is recognised as somewhere where surrogacy agreements - including those made by gay and lesbian couples - are generally accepted under law
- Other gay celebrities who have used a surrogate to have children this year include actor Neil Patrick Harris and his partner David Burtka

**Surrogacy** is an arrangement where a woman agrees to become pregnant and deliver a child for another couple or person. She may be the child's genetic mother (the more traditional form of surrogacy), or she may carry the pregnancy to delivery after having been implanted with an embryo with another female's genetics.

### Historical background

Having another woman bear a child for a couple to raise, usually with the male half of the couple as the genetic father, is referred to in antiquity. Babylonian law and custom allowed this practice and infertile woman could use the practice to avoid the divorce which would likely otherwise be inevitable.

Attorney Noel Keane and Warren Ringold of Dearborn, Michigan advocated for the passage of laws that protected the idea of surrogate motherhood. Bill Handel, who is a partner in a Los Angeles Surrogacy firm, also attempted to have such laws passed in California, but his attempts were struck down in the State Congress. Presently, the idea of surrogate motherhood has gained some societal acceptance and laws protecting the contractual arrangements exist in eight states.

In the United States, the issue of surrogacy was widely publicized in the case of Baby M, in which the surrogate and biological mother of Melissa Stern ("Baby M"), born in 1986, refused to cede custody of Melissa to the couple with whom she had made the surrogacy agreement. The courts of New Jersey found that Mary Beth Whitehead was the child's legal mother and declared contracts for surrogate motherhood illegal and invalid. However, the court found it in the best interests of the infant to award custody of Melissa to her biological father William Stern and his wife Elizabeth Stern, rather than to the surrogate mother Mary Beth Whitehead.

### Commercial surrogacy status in India

Commercial surrogacy is legal in India, as recognized by

the Supreme Court of India in 2002. India is emerging as a leader in international surrogacy and a destination in surrogacy-related fertility tourism. Indian surrogates have been increasingly popular with fertile couples in industrialized nations because of the relatively low cost. Indian clinics are at the same time becoming more competitive, not just in the pricing, but in the hiring and retention of Indian females as surrogates. Clinics charge patients between \$10,000 and \$28,000 for the complete package, including fertilization, the surrogate's fee, and delivery of the baby at a hospital. Including the costs of flight tickets, medical procedures and hotels, it comes to roughly a third of the price compared with going through the procedure in the UK.

While clinics quote costs of a single successful cycle without complications of \$14,000 to \$25,000, less than 50% of tries are successful. An unsuccessful cycle will be roughly 1/3 to 1/2 the cost of a successful cycle, incurring IVF, surrogate recruitment and travel costs, without incurring the full surrogate compensation or delivery costs. A successful cycle may require additional costs, especially if the baby is born premature (intensive care costs) or if additional medical testing is required for either the baby or surrogate mother during the pregnancy.

### Others countries status

#### Australia

In most states in Australia, surrogacy is now legal. However, in all states and the Australian Capital Territory arranging commercial surrogacy is a criminal offence, although the Northern Territory has no legislation governing surrogacy at all and there are no plans to introduce laws on surrogacy into the NT Legislative Assembly anytime soon.

In 2006 Australian senator Stephen Conroy and his wife Paula Benson announced that they had arranged for a child to be born through egg donation and gestational surrogacy. Unusually, Conroy was put on the birth certificate as the father of the child. Previously, couples who make surrogacy arrangements in Australia had to adopt the child rather than being recognised as birth parents, however most states have changed such arrangements to give the intended parents proper rights. After the announcement, Victoria changed their legislation since 1 January 2010, under the Assisted Reproductive Treatment Act 2008 to make altruistic surrogacy within the state legal, however commercial surrogacy is still illegal.

Since 1 June 2010 in Queensland, altruistic surrogacy became legal under the Surrogacy Act 2010. Commercial surrogacy is still illegal under the legislation. Similarly, altruistic surrogacy in New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory is now legal.

#### Canada

Commercial surrogacy arrangements were prohibited in 2004 by the Assisted Human Reproduction Act. Altruistic surrogacy remains legal. In the province of Quebec, contracts that involve surrogacy are unenforceable.

#### France

In France, since 1994 any surrogacy arrangement that is commercial or altruistic is illegal or unlawful and sanctioned by the law (art 16-7 of the Code Civil). The French Cour the Cassation already took this point of view in 1991. It held that a couple who arranges with another person that she is to bear the husbands child and surrender it on birth is not allowed to adopt the child. In it's judgement the court held that such an agreement is illegal on the basis of articles 6 & 1128 of the Code Civil, together with article 353 of the same code.

#### Georgia (Country)

Since 1997 ovum and sperm donation and surrogacy is legal in Georgia. According to the law, a donor or surrogate mother has no parental rights over the child born. In Georgia the compensation of the surrogate mother does not exceed EUR 9 000 during the pregnancy period and after the birth of a child (post-natal rehabilitation period). The major part of the surrogate mother's compensation shall be paid after the seventeenth week of pregnancy and in the post-natal rehabilitation period. Surrogate Motherhood Center of Georgia. Surrogate Motherhood Center of Georgia

#### Hong Kong

Commercial surrogacy is criminal under the Human Reproductive Technology Ordinance 2000. The law is phrased in a manner that no one can pay a surrogate, no surrogate can receive money, and no one can arrange a commercial surrogacy (the same applies to the supply of gametes), no matter within or outside Hong Kong. Normally only the gametes of the intended parents can be used.

In October 2010, Peter Lee, the eldest son and one of the presumed heirs of billionaire Lee Shau Kee obtained three sons through a surrogate mother, reportedly from California. Since the junior Lee is single, the news attracted criticism on both moral and legal grounds. A vicar general of the territory's Roman Catholic diocese was critical. In December the case was reportedly referred to police after questions were asked in Legco.

#### Hungary

Commercial surrogacy is illegal in Hungary.

#### Israel

In March 1996, the Israeli government legalized gestational surrogacy under the "Embryo Carrying Agreements Law."

This law made Israel the first country in the world to implement a form of state-controlled surrogacy in which each and every contract must be approved directly by the state. A state-appointed committee permits surrogacy arrangements to be filed only by Israeli citizens who share the same religion. Surrogates must be single, widowed or divorced and only infertile heterosexual couples are allowed to hire surrogates. The numerous restrictions on surrogacy under Israeli law have prompted some intended parents to turn to surrogates outside of the country. Some turn to India because of its low costs. Others use US surrogates where an added bonus is an automatic US citizenship for the newborn.

#### Italy

Commercial surrogacy is illegal.

#### Japan

In March 2008, the Science Council of Japan proposed a ban on surrogacy and said that doctors, agents and their clients should be punished for commercial surrogacy arrangements.

#### Netherlands and Belgium

Surrogacy with idealistic reasons is legal in Belgium and the Netherlands. Only commercial surrogacy is illegal in Belgium and the Netherlands.

Although surrogacy is legal, there is only one hospital taking in couples. There are extremely strict rules to get in. This makes that a lot of couples seek their treatment outside the Netherlands. Belgium is often chosen.

#### Saudi Arabia

Religious authorities in Saudi Arabia do not allow the use of surrogate mothers. They have instead suggested medical procedures to restore female fertility and ability to deliver. To this end, Saudi authorities sanctioned the world's first uterus transplant in an infertile woman.

#### Sweden

Surrogacy is not clearly regulated in Swedish law. The legal procedure most equivalent to it is making an adoption of the child from the surrogate mother. However, the surrogate mother thereby has the right to keep the child if she changes her mind until the adoption. Yet, the biological father may claim right to the child.

It is illegal for Swedish fertility clinics to make surrogate arrangements.

#### Ukraine

Since 2002, surrogacy and surrogacy in combination with egg/sperm donation has been absolutely legal in Ukraine. According to the law a donor or a surrogate mother has no parental rights over the child born and the child born is legally the child of the prospective parents.

In Ukraine the start of introduction of methods of supporting reproductive medicine was given in eighties of the preceding century. It was Kharkov where the extracorporeal fertilization method was for the first time successfully applied in Ukraine, and thanks to use of extracorporeal fertilization there was born in 1991 a girl named Katy. Kharkiv was also the first in CIS countries to realize the Surrogacy Program. Many clinics dealing with surrogacy have been opened in Kiev.

Ukrainian surrogacy laws are very favorable and fully support the individual's reproductive rights. Surrogacy is officially regulated by Clause 123 of the Family Code of Ukraine and Order 771 of the Health Ministry of Ukraine. You can choose between Gestational Surrogacy, Egg/sperm Donation, special Embryo adoption programs and their combinations. No specific permission from any regulatory body is required for that. A written informed consent of all parties (intended parents and surrogate) participating in the surrogacy program is mandatory.

Ukrainian legislation allows intended parents to carry on a surrogacy program and their names will be on Birth certificate of the child born as a result of the surrogacy program from the very beginning. The child is considered to be legally "belonging" to the prospective parents from the very moment of conception. The surrogate can't keep the child after the birth. Even if a donation program took place and there is no biological relation between the child and intended parents, their names will be on Birth certificate (Clause 3 of article 123 of the Family Code of Ukraine).

Embryo research is also allowed, gamete and embryo donation permitted on a commercial level. Single women can be treated by known or anonymous donor insemination. Gestational surrogacy is an option for officially married couples and single women. There is no such concept as gay/lesbian marriage in Ukraine, meanwhile such patients can be treated as single women/men.

#### United Kingdom

Commercial surrogacy arrangements have been legal in the United Kingdom since 2009. Whilst it is illegal in the UK to pay more than expenses for a surrogacy, the relationship is recognized under S30 of the Human fertilization and Embryology Act 1990. Regardless of contractual or financial consideration for expenses, surrogacy arrangements are not legally enforceable within the United Kingdom. A surrogate mother still maintains the legal right of determination for the child, even if they are genetically unrelated. Unless a parental order or adoption order is made the surrogate mother remains the legal mother of the child.



Derek Forrest was a family solicitor in a Preston law firm who was approached by a couple facing proceedings by their local authority. The wife had no womb but did have ova which could be fertilized by her husband’s sperm. This they did and a surrogate gave birth to their child. When they took the child home to their Cumbrian address the local authority insisted that they should go through the procedure for registering as foster parents for their child even though genetically it was their own child. It was quickly realized that there was no defense to these proceedings and the only possibility was to adopt their own child. Derek Forrest wrote to The Times setting out the predicament his clients found themselves in and elicited a lot of favorable response. The barrister acting for the parents knew the Member of Parliament who represented the parents. The Human Fertilization and Embryology Bill was going through Parliament at the time and the Barrister spoke to the MP to see what could be done. The MP then got things moving and got s 30 drafted and passed as an amendment through parliament. The result was that the couple was the first to obtain parental orders under the new Act.

United States

Many states have their own state laws written regarding the legality of surrogate parenting. It is most common for surrogates to reside in Florida and California due to the surrogacy-accommodating laws in these states. Surrogacy is well developed around Camp Pendleton in California. With the accommodating laws of the State of California and the long overseas deployments of husbands, wives have found surrogacy to be a means to supplement military incomes and to provide a needed service. It is illegal to hire a surrogate in New York, and even embryonic transfers may not be done in New York. At this point, the laws surrounding surrogacy are well defined in the State of Pennsylvania, and surrogacy is beginning to become common in the state of Delaware.

Number of players in some Games/Sports

<i>Sports</i>	<i>No. of Players</i>
Croquest	13 or 15
Football(Soccer)	11
Hockey	11
Lacrosse	12
Badminton	1 or 2
Baseball	9
Basketball	5
Billiards(Snooker)	1
Boxing	1
Chess	2
Cricket	11
Netball	7
Polo	4
Rugby Football	15
Table Tennis	1 or 2
Lawn Tennis	1 or 2
Volleyball	6
Water Polo	7

Name of playing Arena/Courts

<i>Name of the Arena/Compound</i>	<i>Related Sports</i>
● Course	Golf
● Board	Table Tennis
● Pool	Swimming
● Alley	Bowling
● Mat	Judo, Karate
● Arena	Horse Riding
● Vellodrum	Cycling
● Field	Polo, Football and Hockey
● Track	Athletics
● Pitch	Cricket and Rugby
● Rink	Ice Hockey
● Court	Lawn Tennis, Badminton, Netball,

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Rajasthan Govt.  
decides to keep four  
per cent vacancies  
reserved for SBC in  
government jobs

In Rajasthan, the state government has taken an important decision to keep four per cent vacancies reserved for Specially Backward Classes, SBCs, including Gujjars, in government jobs. In a Cabinet meeting in Jaipur on Tuesday, it was decided that the word "Notionally Reserved" will be replaced by "Reserved". Briefing media persons, state Home Minister Shanti Dhariwal clarified that the recruitment process will continue but the interests of the Gujjar community will be fully safeguarded.

Gujjar leader Col. Kirori Singh Bainsla has demanded the State Governor to intervene to find a solution to the deadlock on the reservation issue. In a statement Col. Bainsla said that the government has failed to satisfactorily resolve the issue and now the governor should exercise his authorities.

Train and bus services in the state continued to remain affected as the agitation entered the 10th day today. Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot reviewed the law and order situation with the members of sub-committee and senior officials on Tuesday night.

India deploys 4 war-  
ships in Arabian Sea to  
check pirates

In wake of rise in incidents of piracy off the coast of Lakshadweep, the Indian Navy and Coast Guard have deployed at least four warships in the Arabian Sea and pressed into service aircraft for surveillance as part of efforts to check such incidents.

To deter the pirates from attempting any action in the region near Lakshadweep and Minicoy Islands, the two sea guarding agencies have decided to maintain sustained presence of four to five of their vessels in the Central Arabian Sea, Navy officials said in New Delhi on Tuesday.

The step comes soon after pirates captured Bangladeshi merchant ship MV Jahan Moni on 5th December off the coast of India's Lakshadweep Islands on its way to Europe with 25 crew members and 41,000 tonnes of nickel ore on board.

Officials said the measures have been taken after it was observed that a piracy "hot spot" was emerging there with rise in such incidents.

The arrangement of stationing of ships including Naval frigates and Coast Guard Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs) in the region would continue for a month and will come up for review after that period, they added.

The efforts to thwart piracy attempts in the Arabian Sea are in addition to the Indian warship deployments close to the Gulf of Aden to secure merchant vessels from the attacks of Somali pirates there.

The ships present in the Arabian Sea would also help in securing the sealanes of communication connecting countries such as Seychelles, Maldives and other islands in the vicinity.

To enhance aerial surveillance in the region, the two forces would also press their Dornier reconnaissance aircraft into service. The Indian Navy is one of the major international players in attempts to curb piracy off the coast of Somalia and has been deploying frigates and destroyers in turns to prevent such incidents.

England retains Ashes

England retained the Ashes on Australian soil for the first time in 24 years by completing an emphatic innings in fifth and last match win.

55th Filmfare Awards  
2010

Best Film	3 Idiots	
Best Director	Rajkumar Hirani	3 Idiots
Best Actor(Male)	Amitabh Bachchan	Paa
Best Actor(Female)	Vidya Balan	Paa
Best Supporting Actor(Male)	Boman Irani	3 Idiots
Best Supporting Actor(Female)	Kalki Koechlin	Dev D
Best Music	A.R.Rahman	Delhi 6
Best Lyrics	Irshad Kamil	Aaj din chadya, Love Aaj Kal
Best Playback(Male)	Mohit Chauhan	Masakali, Delhi 6
Best Playback(Female)	Kavitha Seth	Iktara, Wake Up Sid
	Rekha Bhardwaj	Genda phool, Delhi 6
Critics award for Best Director	Nandita Das	Firaaq
Critics award for Best Actor(Male)	Ranbir Kapoor	
Wake Up Sid, Ajab Prem, Rocket Singh		
Critics award for Best Actor(Female)	Mahiee Gill	
Dev D		
Best Story	Abhijat Joshi, Raj Kumar Hirani	3 Idiots
Best Screenplay	Abhijat Joshi, Raj Mukar Hirani, Vidhu Vinod Chopra	3 Idiots
Best Dialogue	Raj Kumar Hirani and Abhijat Joshi	3 Idiots
Best Production&Art Direction	Helen Jones, Sukanta Panigrahi	Dev D
Best Editing	Sreekar Prasad	Firaaq
Best Cinematography	Rajeev Ravi	Dev D
Best Visual Effects	Govardhan Vigharan, Vinay Singh Chupal	Kaminey
Best Action	Vijayan Master	Wanted
Best Choreographer	Bosco-Caesar	Chorbazaari, Love Aaj Kal
Best Background Score	Amit Trivedi	Dev D
Best Sound Design	Manas Chaudhary	Firaaq
Best Costumes	Vaishali Menon	Firaaq
R.D.Burman Award for new Musical Talent		A m i t
Trivedi	Wake Up Sid, Dev D	
Best Debut	Ayaan Mukherji	Wake Up Sid
	Zoya Akhtar	Luck by Chance
Lifetime Achievement Award	Shashi Kapoor, Khayyam	

Dieases and the parts  
of the body they affect

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Part of the body affected</i>
AIDS	Immune system of body
Asthma	Lungs
Cataract	Eyes
Conjunctivitis	Eyes
Diabetes	Pancreas
Diphtheria	Throat
Glaucoma	Eyes
Eczema	Skin
Goitre	Front of the neck(due to enlargement of thyroid gland)
	Joints of bone
Gout	Brain or spinal cord
Meningitis	Molor neurons
Polio	Lungs
Pneumonia	Intestine
Typhoid	Spleen
Malaria	Blood
Leukaemia	Bones
Rickets	

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# Krishna Water Dispute Tribunal awards

Chitra Singh Rajput

The Krishna Water Dispute Tribunal has awarded largest share of water from Almati Dam to Andhra Pradesh, allocating 1001 TMC followed by Karnataka and Maharashtra. The verdict running into 2000 pages has been given today on the water sharing dispute. Karnataka's share will be 911 TMC feet and Maharashtra will have to do with 666 TMC feet.

Out of surplus river water, Karnataka gets 177 TMC feet followed by Maharashtra 81 TMC feet and Andhra Pradesh 190 TMC feet. Karnataka has also been allowed to raise the height f Almati Dam.

Andhra Pradesh had been objecting to Karnataka's efforts to increase the height of the dam before the tribunal.

The tribunal also asked all the three states not to divert water for any other purpose other than the purpose decided by the tribunal.

Krishna River passes through Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra and the three states had been fighting over sharing of the water for 43 years.

The Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal was constituted on

April 2, 2004 for adjudication of the dispute relating to sharing of waters of Krishna River and river valleys thereof. The three-member tribunal was headed by retired Supreme Court judge Justice Brijesh Kumar. The other members of the tribunal were retired Allahabad High Court judge Justice SP Srivastava and retired Kolkata High Court judge Justice D K Seth.

Karnataka has described Tribunal order on water sharing as a "New Year gift" to the people of the state. Law Minister S Suresh Kumar told reporters in Bangalore that the award has fulfilled a major demand of the state to increase the height of the Alamatti Dam built across the river in Bijapur district to 524 metres from 519 metres. He said, Karnataka will react to the issue on surplus water allocation after studying the report. Suresh Kumar said the state will have no difficulty in honouring the tribunal order to release 8-10 tmc fi to Andhra Pradesh during June-July every year.

The Almati Dam is a dam project on the Krishna River in North Karnataka, India. The annual energy design is

713 million units. It was completed in July 2005. Almati dam is the main reservoir of the Upper Krishna project, an irrigation project. The 290 MW power project is located on the right toe of Almati Dam. The Power House has 5 units of 55 MW each and 1 unit of 15 MW. The turbines are vertical kaplan. The annual design energy is 713 Million Units. The project, when allotted for private initiative was estimated to cost Rs.1470 crores. Subsequently, KPCL took up the project at an estimated cost of Rs.674 crores and completed the project at a cost of Rs.520 crores in a period of 40 months by July 2005.

## Krishna River Water Dispute Tribunal

The Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal (KWDT) was constituted on 2nd April, 2004 for adjudication of the dispute relating to sharing of waters of Inter-State River Krishna and river valleys thereof. Shri Justice Brijesh Kumar, Judge of Supreme Court of India (now retired) is the Chairman of the Tribunal and Shri Justice S. P.

Srivastava, Judge of the Allahabad High Court (now retired) and Shri Justice D.K. Seth, Judge of the Kolkata High Court (now retired) are Members of the Tribunal. The KWDT passed orders on June 9, 2006 on the Interim Relief Application filed by the party States of Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh declining to give interim relief as sought in the application and at the same time indicating certain norm with a view to facilitate adjudication of the dispute before the Tribunal. Subsequently, State of Andhra Pradesh filed Interlocutory Application under Section 5(3) of the ISRWD Act, 1956 seeking further explanation/guidance on the Order of the Tribunal of June 9, 2006. The Tribunal in its hearing held in September and October, 2006 has framed 29 of issues for adjudication of the dispute before it. Further hearing of the Tribunals is continuing. The terms of tribunal has been extended up to April 1st, 2009 as per the provisions of ISRWD Act, 1956 and the tribunal is to give its decision & report by that time.



# United Nations Security Council Reforms

D.S. Rajput

One proposed change is to admit more members: the candidates usually mentioned are Japan, Germany, India and Brazil (the G4 nations). Britain, France and Russia support G4 membership in the UN Security Council. Italy has always opposed this kind of reform, and has submitted since 1992 another proposal, together with other countries, based on the introduction of semi-permanent membership; In addition South Korea opposed Japan; Pakistan opposes India; and Mexico and Argentina oppose Brazil, a Portuguese-speaking country in a largely Spanish-speaking Latin America. All these countries have traditionally grouped themselves in the so-called Coffee Club; officially Uniting for Consensus.

India is a charter member of the United Nations and participates in all of its specialized agencies. It has contributed troops to UN peacekeeping efforts in the Korea, Egypt and Congo in earlier years and in Somalia, Angola and Rwanda in recent years, and more recently Haiti. India has been a member of the UN Security Council six terms, most recently from 1991 to 1992.

India has been elected six times to the UN Security Council, and is one of the countries that has served for the most number of years as an elected member. India has been seeking a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council as a member of the G4, an organization composed of Brazil, Germany, Japan, and India, all who are currently seeking permanent representation. According to their proposal the UN Security Council should be expanded beyond the current fifteen members to include twenty-five members. If this actually happens, it would be the first time permanent Security Council status is extended to a South Asian nation and supporters of the G4 plan suggest that this will lead to greater representation of developing nations rather than the current major powers.

India makes a number of claims to justify its demand. India

has the world's second largest population and is the world's largest liberal democracy. It is also the world's twelfth largest economy and fourth largest in terms of purchasing power parity. Currently, India maintains the world's third largest armed force. India is the third largest contributor of troops to United Nations Peacekeeping missions after Bangladesh and Pakistan. Although in absolute numbers the troops supplied by India is only 3000 more than that from Nepal, a small country in comparison with India. India was offered a permanent seat on the council 55 years ago, in 1955. But that offer, made by the United States and the Soviet Union was declined by India's first prime minister, Jawaharlal Nehru. Nehru said the seat should be given to China instead. The council seat then was held by Taiwan (ROC). This decision by Nehru is seen as a blunder and the loss of an opportunity to attain a stronger diplomatic stature by India.

If India were to accept this offer it would have required the United Nations charter to be amended to include India in place of Republic of China (Taiwan) in the Security Council or to expand the Council. It is not known whether the Taiwanese government representing China's current seat in the Security Council would have vetoed the amendment or accepted the amendment under US pressure as Taiwan was solely dependent on the US for its protection from mainland China.

Although the U.S. and other permanent Council members were not very supportive of expanding the Security Council, in his visit to India President Obama has offered his support for India to become a permanent member of the Council. However the reaction from other Council members are not very clear, particularly from China. Thus it is uncertain whether the demands by G4 nations will be implemented anytime soon.



## Khodorkovsky trial in Russia

Russia has accused Western nations of exerting "unacceptable" pressure over the trial of jailed oil tycoon Mikhail Khodorkovsky. Russia's foreign ministry was reacting to criticism by the US and Germany on Monday after a second guilty verdict was delivered against Khodorkovsky. US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said the trial had raised "serious questions" about the rule of law in Russia and the verdict would have a "negative impact on Russia's reputation". German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle said he was "very worried" by the conviction. Germany said the trial was "a step back".

Russia's richest man, Mikhail Khodorkovsky, was arrested in October 2003 when masked and armed members of the security police force FSB stormed his private jet at an airport in Siberia.

The former head of oil giant Yukos has been detained ever since, awaiting conclusion of the trial on fraud, embezzlement and tax evasion charges that began in June.

Mr Khodorkovsky, who has clocked up wealth estimated at more than \$15bn according to Forbes magazine, made his money from the controversial post-Soviet privatisation of state assets. But before his arrest, Mr Khodorkovsky, 41, was not just rich. He was also very influential. He is - or at least was - seen as the leading oligarch in the country, operating in a society where wealth brings power. But his arrest proved that even he was not untouchable.

His arrest came hot on the heels of his activities in the political arena, including the acquisition of the rights to publish the prestigious Moskovskiy Novosti newspaper, and his hiring of a leading investigative journalist highly critical of President Vladimir Putin.

Mr Khodorkovsky had also extended his political involvement by giving money to nearly all political parties - including the communists.

It seems his political activism attracted the Kremlin's ire, with Mr Putin apparently feeling threatened. Or at least that is what Mr Khodorkovsky's supporters claim. They insist his arrest is the Kremlin's way of punishing Mr Khodorkovsky for his political activities and for his failure to toe the Kremlin line - a claim Mr Putin has angrily rejected. Mr Khodorkovsky stands trial in Moscow shoulder to shoulder with fellow Yukos shareholder and business partner Platon Lebedev who was arrested in July 2003 and accused of theft of state property during the 1994 privatisation of a fertiliser plant. At the time, that arrest was seen as a clear warning to Mr Khodorkovsky not to meddle in the upcoming elections.

The tycoon has consistently said he is not tied to any particular party. "Large companies cannot finance political parties as their shareholders and employees have different political views," he said while still in charge of Yukos.

However he has made no secret that he supports the liberal opposition to President Putin. "Ideologically I am close to the Union of Rightist Forces (SPS) and Yabloko, and I continue to finance these parties," he said before his arrest.

Mr Khodorkovsky began his career as a loyal Soviet-era Communist Party member. In 1987 - four years before the fall of the USSR - he founded what would become Menatep bank, in which he still has a large stake. It is through Menatep's stake in Yukos that he and his associates control the oil company. The Moscow native made his first millions in the early 1990s, when the bank acquired massive amounts of shares in companies that were privatised for bargain prices.

Mr Khodorkovsky bought Yukos at a state auction in 1995 at the knockdown price of \$350m.

He is thought to control 44% of the company's shares, although Russian authorities have frozen the shares, preventing him or his associates from selling.

He was one of the first Russian tycoons openly to declare his wealth. But with Yukos tottering under the threat of bankruptcy, that personal wealth could become significantly depleted. The company faces a 99bn roubles (£1.9bn; \$3.4bn) tax claim relating to unpaid taxes during 2000. Yukos says it is unable to pay and may be forced into bankruptcy because a Russian court has frozen its assets.



# Left Turn in Latin America

In sharp contrast to the 1990's, this first decade of the twenty-first century has seen a dramatic turn to the left throughout Latin-America; a turn brought about at the ballot box, within the framework of the very "democracy" that Washington worked so hard to establish on its Southern flank, and not from the springboard of guerrilla foco or golpe d'estado, as had been the case in the past.

2003 saw the election of the left-Peronist Néstor Kirchner as president of Argentina, followed in 2004 by the victory of Tabaré Vázquez Rosas, candidate of the leftist Frente Amplio in the Uruguayan presidential election. The past year has seen the consolidation of Hugo Chavez's "Bolivarian Revolution" in Venezuela, and the virtual certainty that he will win the next presidential election. Chavez's close ally, Evo Morales, standard-bearer of the MAS (Movement for Socialism), has won an overwhelming victory in the Bolivian presidential elections. Brazil, the dominant power in South America has a left government, led by Lula da Silva, and the expectation is that Lula and his Worker's Party will win re-election this year, while on the Pacific coast of South America, Chile, the site of a US orchestrated golpe three decades ago to overthrow a left government, has now elected another Socialist, Michelle Bachelet, to continue the tradition of center-left rule that has shaped the Chilean polity over the past two decades. As a result, three quarters of the population of South America now live under left governments. In the Caribbean, the victory of Rene Preval in Haiti's presidential election is another victory for the left, while in Nicaragua it seems possible that the Sandinista leader, Daniel Ortega, will win this year's presidential election. Finally, Mexico's presidential election this year may well see a victory of the PRD (Party of the Democratic Revolution), under the leadership of Andrés Manuel Lopez Obrador.

In the wake of this left turn in Latin America, there are four questions that Marxist revolutionaries need to confront. First, what impact will the coming of the left to power have on the working class and on the mass of the population in a region where living standards have sharply declined over the past several decades? Second, do left governments represent a rejection of the neo-liberalism that the American hegemon has sought to impose on Latin America, over the past two decades, a repudiation of globalization? Third, do left governments represent a threat to the domination of the United States over the Western hemisphere, a danger to American imperialism? Fourth, do left governments, however "radical," pose a challenge to capitalism, and its rule; a challenge to the mode of production based on the operation of the law of value, and its growing barbarism; in short, is this left turn in any way, shape or form anti-capitalist?

The decade of the 1990's in Latin America saw the widespread acceptance by its ruling classes and elites of what has come to be known as the "Washington Consensus," enshrined in the de-nationalization of key sectors of the economy previously state owned, and the sale of the leading enterprises in raw materials, public utilities, banking, insurance, and the media, to multinational firms, most often North American, the opening up of markets, hitherto "protected," to foreign commodities and capital, the imposition of draconian fiscal and monetary policies, linked to IMF diktat, and of WTO style "free trade" policies. The failure of decades of protectionism, economic nationalism, populist dictatorships of the left and right, to raise living standards or to reduce poverty, led to the election of center-right governments in much of Latin America. A decade later, the failure of the "Washington Consensus" to raise the standard of living or to reduce the numbers of people who live in abject poverty, led to mass movements, strikes, and social struggles directed at the depredations of globalization, and the center-right governments that promoted it. Into the void created by the collapse of the "Washington Consensus" and the regimes that supported it, stepped a series of left politicians, untainted by any connection to the discredited policies, who promised social justice, equality, and policies to raise the standard of living of the working class and the poor. The law of value, however, is implacable. And Latin America's left governments cannot challenge the basic rules and norms of capitalist globalization, leaving them with little room to maneuver between the constraints of value production and the need to prevent a social explosion. In opposition, the left could promise to challenge the Yankee hegemon and the IMF; in power, and lacking the economic and fiscal resources to back up its incendiary rhetoric, what remains is recourse to theatre. Thus Evo Morales will, indeed, make good on his promise to end the Yankee imposed war on coca growers: "Causachun coca!" he dramatically shouted, Quechua for long live coca, thereby striking two chords that resonate with the Bolivian masses — the use of the indigenous language and the in your face rhetoric to the Yankees. Uruguay's new

president, Rosas chose his inauguration day to re-establish diplomatic relations with Cuba. Argentina's president Kirchner suspended the laws granting immunity to former military leaders for crimes committed under the dictatorship, and declared the country debt-free after it paid-off its IMF loans. There is nothing in any of that to rouse real concern in Washington — save for the feeling that it may not be too long before the Latin American working class comes to realize that chewing coca leaves is only a palliative for hunger. Indeed, only Venezuela, and that because oil prices are now at record highs, has the economic wherewithal to fund programs for the poor — and that is dependent on the health of the global capitalist economy. However, Hugo Chavez is spending the bulk of his profits elsewhere: a lavish and rapidly growing military budget, the formation of para-state agencies to spread his Bolivarian ideology, and the use of the country's oil and gas revenues to prop up friendly regimes that share his vision. Meanwhile, the grinding poverty in which most Venezuelans live has not been alleviated, and any fall in oil prices will only exacerbate the effects of Chavez's option for guns not butter.

"Neo-liberalism" in Latin America today does not mean what it meant in the 1980's and '90s, when it was closely linked to the specific economic policies imposed on Chile, after the overthrow of Allende, by the Friedmanite "Chicago boys," when its hallmark was the privatization of virtually all state owned industries, and draconian fiscal and monetary policies, necessary to initially promote American investment. What is essential for the American hegemon in Latin America today is fiscal "responsibility" on the part of the state, the standards of which are set by the IMF, and a basic commitment to free markets for capital and commodities. So long as the parameters of a quarter of a century of globalization are respected; so long as there is no return to the policies of import substitution, protectionism, nationalization, and obstacles to foreign investment, which characterized the left (and populist right) in Latin America, from the end of World War II through the 1970's, left governments present neither a threat nor even a major inconvenience for the American hegemon. So, both "economic discipline" and a respect for free markets have characterized Chile's center-left governments over the past two decades, with little or no change when the president was a Socialist — policies to which Michelle Bachelet is firmly committed. In Brazil, Lula has pursued economic policies in line with the protocols set down by the IMF, and his re-election will not cause a ripple in Washington. And to judge by his behavior as mayor of Mexico City, where the need to placate Washington was far less than it would be as president of Mexico, Lopez Obrador, and his PRD are unlikely to rouse the ire of either Washington or Wall Street: his most notable achievements as mayor included a determined policy to combat inflation, government support for private sector investment in housing, the forcible removal of squatters from undeveloped land, and the appointment of the ex-mayor of New York, and Republican presidential hopeful, Rudy Giuliani, as a consultant to craft a zero tolerance policy towards crime and corruption.

While Evo Morales, the new president of Bolivia rhetorically presents himself, and his MAS, as Washington's worst nightmare, leading the neo-Stalinists of the Monthly Review to celebrate his victory as "a world historical event of the first order," (1) the new president, as an effective condition for his taking office, first had to make his peace with the Santa Cruz oligarchia, the business interests who continue to dominate Bolivia's richest region. The cruceño's control over the country's vast oil and gas reserves, located in Bolivia's Eastern province, made their acceptance of Morales, and a virtual veto over his economic policies, a condition for the peaceful transfer of power. While the MAS's control of the largely indigenous population of the Altiplano made it indispensable if Bolivia was to have any kind of "social peace," a lesson that the past decade has driven home to both the local elites and to Washington, the cruceños threat to secede, and their control over the actual oil and gas reserves, has compelled the MAS to accept certain "rules of the game;" and the need for the profitable exploitation of the country's natural resources rules out a real challenge to the bases of globalization that is for now the norm of capitalism. In Nicaragua, Daniel Ortega's campaign rhetoric has taken a sharp left turn, as he seeks to become the next president, in contrast to his run in 2001, when he presented himself as pro-capitalist. Ortega now sounds like Morales, or Hugo Chavez, and Washington reacts to him in the same way. However, it is unlikely that even in the event of a Sandinista victory at the polls, there will be a real challenge to the bases of globalization and the policies of fiscal discipline that are linked to it. Moreover, Ortega has a challenger for the presidency who also claims the mantle of Sandino: Herty Lewites, the Sandinista mayor of Managua, recently expelled from the Sandinista party (because of his challenge to the authority of

Daniel Ortega), who is the candidate of the Sandinista "business bloc," and who has openly championed good relations with the US: "We need one another," which masterfully sums up the actual position of the left in Latin America. Finally, there is Hugo Chavez, the latest incarnation of Latin American caudillismo, friend and ally of Fidel, and lider of the Bolivarian Revolution. However, beyond the rhetoric, socialist and anti-Yankee, Chavez insists that his model is one of "market socialism" (sic!), and his championship of the South American free trade zone (Mercosur), of which Venezuela is now a member, (2) and the formation of a consortium of state-owned oil companies, Petrosur, constitutes an implicit acceptance of some of the core elements of capitalist globalization, albeit with an anti-Yankee cover. Moreover, despite repeated claims that he will demand payment for Venezuela's oil in a currency other than the dollar, Chavez has made no move to actually challenge that currency's supremacy in the oil market, one of the single most important bases of US global hegemony. In short, from the moderate left to the purportedly reddest "red," the left turn in Latin America does not seem to presage even a challenge to the economic hegemony of American capital.

What about a purported challenge of left governments to the military and political aims of American imperialism? While it is virtually impossible to separate the economic bases of US hegemony in Latin America from the overall strategic aims of American imperialism, even if one could, here too the "threat" to Washington from the left in Latin America is more rhetorical than substantive, aimed more at the control of the Latin American masses that at mounting any real challenge to the US's global rule. In discussing this particular issue, it is important to be clear about one point: opposition to American imperialism and its strategic aims, even when it is substantive and not primarily rhetorical, is not tantamount to opposition to capitalism. Were that not the case, revolutionaries should have supported Hitler and Stalin, who indeed, were serious in their opposition to American global domination. Clearly, one cannot mistake inter-imperialist conflict for anti-capitalist revolution. Yet, it seems clear that the left turn in Latin America is not the harbinger of a budding inter-imperialist conflict, an indication of a challenge to American domination of the capitalist world order. It is not that there are not those on the left (and the right) in Latin America who dream of mounting such a challenge, or that were such a challenge possible, as a result of US weakness, that a large part of the left would not seek to take advantage of it, and further it. At such a juncture, the rhetoric of the Chavez's, Morales', Ortega's, and even Lula's might well be transformed into real anti-American economic and foreign policy initiatives. But, we are not at that point yet, and, under present conditions, that kind of policy shift — which has nothing anti-capitalist or revolutionary about it — is not on the agenda of the left in power. Despite the search by left governments in Latin America, for example Lula's Brazil, for markets in Asia for its growing agricultural exports (Brazilian agribusiness is now the world's number one producer of soy beans, and desperately seeks new export markets), and sources of investment capital; despite the hoopla of Chinese president Hu's Latin American trip, rich in promises of Chinese investment and trade, there is a paucity of both. The US remains Latin America's biggest trading partner, and by far its largest source of investment capital. And the current left turn in Latin America does not mark the beginning of a challenge to the role of the US as the arbiter of capitalist order. Indeed, in Latin America especially, the extremely rapid growth of evangelical Protestantism, under the impetus of American missionaries, constitutes an additional, and little noticed, buttress to US cultural hegemony, the significant political implications of which are only beginning to become apparent.

Does the left turn about which we speak, then, represent any kind of threat to capitalist order in Latin America? And, if not, then what role does the left in power play in that region of the world? Anti-capitalism is too often simply equated with opposition to American imperialism, with nationalism (e.g. Bolivarianism), or with a rejection of "free markets," and a policy of economic autarky. Or, anti-capitalism is equated with a radical change in the mode of distribution of the wealth of society. At a time when such a variety of political projects claim to be anti-capitalist, everything but the abolition of the mode of production based on the operation of the law of value, and of wage labor as a commodity, which is the actual source of the barbarism through which humankind now lives, it is important to distinguish between changes (3) — even radical changes — in the structure of capitalism, and its revolutionary overthrow.

As a mode of production, capitalism has undergone, and doubtless will continue to undergo until its possible revolutionary overthrow, a series of mutations or transformations,



aimed at consolidating its basic structures in the face of the contradictions with which it is rent. Among them are the transition from the formal to the real domination of capital, the growing intervention of the capitalist state in the operation of the law of value – this latter being in no way contradicted by the forms of neo-liberalism – as well as the transformation of a Fordist mode of production based on the assembly line into a mode of production based on a collective laborer, both manual and intellectual, and the formation of a single global market under the hegemony of the dominant capitalist power, in this instance the US. Those basic structures of capitalism, which persist through all the possible transformations internal to the operation of the law of value, are the exploitation of, and extraction of surplus-value from, a class of wage-workers, the fetishistic economic “laws” behind which stand this exploitation of the many by the few (the basic class structure of capitalism, of which individual private property is only one possible form), the imperative to the accumulation of capital (“private” or state), and the growing disjunction between value and wealth (exchange-value and use-value), a contradiction that no form of capitalism can escape. Nothing proposed by the left in Latin America (or anywhere else in the world) threatens those structures, not even the projects that Hugo Chavez still hesitates to reveal to the technocrats and bureaucrats who steer the ship of his Bolivarian Revolution. Everything proposed by the left aims at perpetuating those core structures of capitalism, while tinkering only with their forms.

What then does the left in power mean? It means that capitalism may be able to maintain its control over the working class and the mass of the population, even as the contradictions of capitalism rise to the surface and intensify to the breaking point. Here too chavismo is a case in point. Mass mobilizations against the Yankee devil, calls to emulate Simón Bolívar, slaveholder and leader of the bourgeois revolution in South America, who dreamed of a Latin empire, neighborhood committees to ferret out opponents of the regime (shades of Mao’s “cultural revolution”), and a vast program, Vuelta al campo (Return to the countryside) to send the poor and unemployed, whose ranks continue to swell, to work the land, which the left sees as a vast welfare and public works program, but whose other side is the gruesome face of forced labor: two sides of the same capitalist coin in this epoch. That is the real thrust of the left turn in Latin America. Against it are the stirrings of working class struggle and resistance, often against left governments, in countries like Argentina, for example. But that is a story of class struggle, very different from the left turn in Latin America whose broad outlines we have here sought to describe.

### Latin America’s new ‘left’ governments

The new governments of Latin America share a critique of neo-liberalism, rampant privatisation, an excessive openness of economies to global capital and of social inequality. They propose to erect more productive and autonomous capitalist forms under greater regulation by the state. But will they form a common bloc and will they offer the people access to power?

### The failures of neo-liberalism

Lula came to power in Brazil and Kirchner in Argentina because neo-liberal policies could not reverse the decline in Latin America’s role in the world market, a decline shown by the stagnation of investment and per capita GDP, and which contrasted notably with what was happening in China and South East Asia.

Cycles of growth continued to depend on the flows of foreign capital and the price of exports - that is why capitalist profits lacked stability in the 1990s. A falling wage bill did not compensate for the shrinking internal market, and a decline in purchasing power affected capital accumulation. The opening of their economies emphasised the disadvantages of Latin American businesses vis à vis their competitors. Many capitalists profited from the growing public debt, but the failure to control it hampered the ability of governments to intervene with tax policies to protect them from the periods of recession.

Neo-liberalism did not reduce social struggle, and the ruling classes were not able to achieve the kinds of victories they had won in previous decades; on the contrary, they have had to face risings which have brought down several presidents in the Andean region and the southern cone. Direct action on the land (Peru), an indigenous rising (Ecuador), pressure from the street (Argentina), an insurrectionary climate (Bolivia), land occupations (Brazil), anti-imperialist protests (Chile), a new political movement (Uruguay) and the resistance to military coups (Venezuela) have inspired a new cycle of resistance throughout the region.

The ruling classes have lost the confidence they displayed in the 1990s and many of their principal representatives have withdrawn from the scene (Menem in Argentina, Fujimori in Peru, Salinas in Mexico, Pérez in Venezuela, Lozada in Bolivia). A decade of embezzlement of public funds confirmed the corruption of all regimes that mediate with big capital.

### Characteristic behaviour

With Lula and Kirchner the political framework that the ruling classes have controlled for decades has begun to change. The businessmen and bankers who profited from deregulation have now jumped on the interventionist bandwagon. The sectors worst affected by the disasters of the 1990s are especially keen to enjoy the benefits of state subsidies and to put limits on the interventions of foreign competition.

The dominant alliance of financiers, industrialists and agro-export companies which controls the system of power is not the same as the classical national bourgeoisie of the 1960s. They have strengthened their integration into the international financial circuits (as receivers of credit and debtors to the state), they have consolidated their role in exports at the expense of the internal markets, and they have major investments abroad. Yet this increasing transnationalisation has not destroyed their local roots. By maintaining their principal activities within the region, the ruling classes of Latin America remain a distinct sector in competition with the corporations based outside the region. They are the principal support of the new governments and are behind their increasingly conservative direction.

Lula and Kirchner avoid populist rhetoric and avoid any conflict with the US State Department because they share interests with the region’s major capitalists. This caution explains why they are prepared to negotiate with the World Trade Organisation and the various ‘light’ versions of the Free Trade Area of the Americas, and why they have avoided building any real customs union. They implement fiscal reforms, accept funds from the IMF and refuse to consider any joint organisation of debtor nations.

The new presidents have refused to participate in the imperialist occupation of Iraq - but then very few world leaders have supported Bush in his crusade. But they have sent troops to Haiti, allowing the Pentagon to free some of its troops based in the Caribbean for the war in the Arab world. Lula, Kirchner and Tabaré have colluded with the formation of a puppet government which has legitimised the coup against Aristide, regulated drug trafficking and restricted the high levels of emigration to Miami. The fact that Latin American military personnel are wearing UN insignia does not change the fact that they are serving US interests.

The role of the centre left governments has been to soften the resistance movements in the region. That was the role of Lula and Kirchner’s envoys during the Bolivian debacle of 2003, for example, when they intervened in the middle of a popular rising to support the establishment of a government that would continue the policies of its predecessor and guarantee the privatisation of oil. Other presidents with progressive credentials have played the same role without need of outside intervention. Gutierrez in Ecuador, for example, promised national independence and instead governed through repression and continued to privatise.

### Brazil and Argentina

The new presidents emerged in different conditions. Lula assumed the presidency in the final phase of an economic crisis which accentuated Brazil’s urban inequality and rural poverty. Kirchner came to power at the end of the deepest depression in Argentina’s history, which had brought the collapse of the banking system, the confiscation of bank deposits and unprecedented levels of poverty, hunger and unemployment.

Lula has won plaudits from Wall Street for maintaining his predecessor Fernando Henrique Cardoso’s neo-liberal model. His arguments are the same (‘we must win the confidence of the market in order to attract investment’) and serve only to strengthen the role of the financiers who run the Central Bank. He has also protected the profits of the banks with a budget surplus of 4.5 percent of GDP and the highest interest rate of recent decades. These methods ensure that creditors will continue to receive repayments that amount to double the level of public spending.

Kirchner avoided this kind of continuity because he was obliged to rebuild the ill-fated circuit of accumulation and so adopted more heterodox policies to restore capitalist profits. He took advantage of an upturn in the economic cycle to combine tax changes with a range of subsidies and re-established the balance between the groups who gained during the period when the Argentinian peso was convertible into one US dollar (bankers and privatisers) and those who lost out (exporters and industrialists).

Both governments defend profits against the interests of workers. The Brazilian president has already imposed a regressive pension reform, frozen agrarian reform and reinforced the fall in the value of wages. His party holds back trade union struggles and has succeeded in holding down the level of popular resistance. Kirchner, on the other hand, is facing a more complex social situation because he came to power amid a popular rising. He has tried to defuse protest through co-optation (giving government jobs to activists), by wearing down the most combative sectors through constant media attacks, and by criminalising many of them - there are dozens of prisoners and thousands facing trial. And he has succeeded in diluting the impact of the

picket lines and the cacerolazos,^a^ although mass mobilisations continue to be the backdrop of Argentinian political life. His administration is conservative, but he is much more careful than his Brazilian colleague to hide his links with the neo-liberal past.

While Lula’s rise to power occurred without major institutional fractures, Kirchner reached the presidency unexpectedly after a turbulent sequence of temporary governments. What in Brazil was a calm transfer of power, in Argentina was a delicate operation to restore the credibility of the state in the face of mass rejection of the political system (expressed in the slogan ‘que se vayan todos’ - get rid of the lot of them).

Lula marks the final phase of the transformation of the PT^b^ into a classic bourgeois party, breaking with its left wing past and becoming integrated into a bipartisan system. Its patronage finances an army of bureaucrats who upheld the expulsion of those members of parliament opposed to the pension reforms.

This transformation of a popular movement into an appendage of capitalist domination was what happened with Peronism^c^ a long time ago. Kirchner was able to renew yet again the party that has guaranteed governability for the ruling class. But he has shown an uncharacteristic duplicity, veiling clientilism with gestures in defence of human rights, the independence of the judiciary and an attack on corruption.

### Uruguay and Bolivia

The case of Uruguay is similar to Argentina’s in terms of the degree of economic breakdown, but closer to Brazil with respect to a lower level of social struggle and the greater stability of the political system.

Although the GDP and investment levels fell dramatically, the crisis never took on Argentinian dimensions in Uruguay. The Frente Amplio (Broad Front)^d^ managed to maintain institutional continuity and to avoid political breakdown or a vacuum. Now its ministers are rushing to implement Lula’s orthodox economic orientation. They have promised to pay the debt, introduced a regressive tax system, and they continue to offer a bankers’ paradise and sustain the enormous budget surplus that is required to avoid defaulting on debt.

This development can be explained in part by a weakening of resistance through unemployment, emigration and the ageing of the population. But the historical traditions of a country which has never experienced popular uprisings or significant breaks in institutional structures also have an influence.

The Frente Amplio’s official line is that ‘a small country cannot act alone’, as if progressive policies were the exclusive province of big countries. But this discourse justifies inaction and will conflict with the expectations awoken by the coalition’s electoral victory. The social base, the cultural hegemony and the mass organisations of the Frente sit uneasily with the spurious political realism of its leadership.

In Bolivia the centre left (Evo Morales^e^) is not in government but has supported the unstable presidency of Mesa^f^ and is working to replace him in 2007. But this timeline does not square with the breakdown in the regions or the uneasy administration of a ruling class that has neither resources, political tools nor mediating institutions to help it deal with the crisis.

The displacement of the nation’s productive axis from the mines of the east to the oil fields of the west has only served to deepen the economic crisis. If the closure of the mines raised the level of unemployment, the attempt to stop coca cultivation sowed devastation among the peasantry. This impoverishment accentuated the tendency to disintegration of the country, which the business sector of Santa Cruz was happy to intensify in order to appropriate petroleum income. Its ambitions clashed with the popular demand that brought down the Lozada government in 2003 - the nationalisation of natural gas so that it could be used for industrialisation.

In Bolivia there is a vibrant tradition of popular uprisings. That is why Mesa used a fraudulent plebiscite to mask the continuing privatisation of the energy industry behind promises of nationalisation. The support of Evo Morales allowed him to suggest he was moving towards state ownership when in fact he was planning to continue with private contracts for many decades yet.

If they are to govern like Lula the centre left will have to deactivate popular resistance and win the confidence of the ruling class at the same time. The moderate policies and acceptable candidates coming from the MAS suggest that this is their objective. But the territorial integrity of Bolivia is also threatened by a tendency to balkanisation which coexists with the always latent possibility of a new popular insurrection. In these circumstances, it is unlikely that the demobilising formula applied elsewhere in the southern cone can function in Bolivia.

### Venezuela: the Bolivarian process

Does Chávez belong to this centre left current? The international press regularly distinguishes his ‘populism’ from the other ‘modernising governments’; and there are indeed



# Miss Universe & Mis World

## Miss Universe Miss World

### Miss Universe - A brief

A competition was established in 1952 under the guidance of and by 'Miss Universe Corporation'.

#### Selection Procedure

Most beautiful girl is selected in this competition on the basis of her **beauty and multiple talent**.

#### Winner's Reward

The winner gets **2,51,000 pounds** as prize.

Year	Name	Country
1952	Armi Kuusela	Finland
1953	Christiane Martel	France
1954	Miriam Stevenson	USA
1955	Hillevi Rombin	Sweden
1956	Carol Morris	USA
1957	Gladys Zender	Peru
1958	Luz Marina Zuluaga	Colombia
1959	Akiko Kojima	Japan
1960	Linda Bement	USA
1961	Marlene Schmidt	Germany
1962	Norma Nolan	Argentina
1963	Ieda Maria Vargas	Brazil
1964	Corinna Tsopei	Greece
1965	Apasra Hongsakula	Thailand
1966	Margareta Arvidsson	Sweden
1967	Sylvia Hitchcock	USA
1968	Martha Vasconcellos	Brazil
1969	Gloria Maria Diaz	Philippines
1970	Marisol Malaret	Puerto Rico
1971	Georgina Rizk	Lebanon
1972	Kerry Anne Wells	Australia
1973	Maria Margarita Moran	Philippines
1974	Amparo Munoz	Spain
1975	Anne Marie Pohtamo	Finland
1976	Rina Messinger	Israel
1977	Janelle Commissiong	Trinidad & Tobago
1978	Margaret Gardiner	South Africa
1979	Maritza Gardiner	Venezuela
1980	Shawn Weatherly	USA
1981	Irene Saez	Venezuela
1982	Karen Dianne Baldwin	Canada
1983	Lorraine Downes	New Zealand
1984	Wonne Ryding	Sweden
1985	Deborah Carthy Deu	Puerto Rico
1986	Barbara Palacios Teyde	Venezuela
1987	Cecilla Bolocco	Chile
1988	Porntip Nakhirunkanok	Thailand
1989	Angela Visser	Netherlands
1990	Mona Grudt	Norway
1991	Lupita Jones	Mexico
1992	Michelle McLean	Namibia
1993	Dayanara Torres	Puerto Rico
1994	Sushmita Sen	<b>India</b>
1995	Chelsi Smith	USA
1996	Alicia Machado	Venezuela
1997	Brook Mahealani Lee	USA
1998	Wendy Fitzwilliam	Trinidad & Tobago
1999	Mpule Kwelagobe	Botswana
2000	Lara Dutta	<b>India</b>
2001	Cenise Quinones	Puerto Rico
2002	Oxana Fedorova ( <b>Dethroned</b> )	Russia
2002	Justine Pasek	Panama
2003	Amelia Vega	Dominican Rep.
2004	Jennifer Hawkins	Australia
2005	Natalie Glebova	Canada
2006	Zuleyka Rivera	Puerto Rico
2007	Riyo Mori	Japan
2008	Dayana Mendoza	Venezuela
2009	Stefania Fernandez	Venezuela

### Miss World - A brief

The competition was established in 1951 under the guidance of and by 'Miss World Corporation'.

#### Selection Procedure

Miss World title is given based on physical and intellectual genius

#### Winner's

The winner of this competition gets 50,000 pounds as prize

Year	Name	Country
1951	Kicki Hakansson	Sweden
1952	May Louise Flodin	Sweden
1953	Denise Perrier	France
1954	Antigone Costanda	Egypt
1955	Susana Duijm	Venezuela
1956	Petra Schurmann	West Germany
1957	Marita Lindahl	Finland
1958	Penelope Coelen	South Africa
1959	Corine Rottschaffer	Holland
1960	Norma Cappagli	Argentina
1961	Rosemaire Frankland	United Kingdom
1962	Catharina Lodders	Holland
1963	Carole Crawford	Jamaica
1964	Ann Sidney	United Kingdom
1965	Lesley Langley	United Kingdom
1966	Reita Faria	India
1967	Madeline	Peru
1968	Penelope Plummer	Australia
1969	Eva Rueber-Staier	Austria
1970	Jennifer Hosten	Grenada
1971	Lucia Petterle	Brazil
1972	Belinda Green	Australia
1973	Marjorie Wallace	United States
1974	Helen Morgan( <b>resigned</b> )	United Kingdom
1974	Anneline Kriel	South Africa
1975	Wilnelia Merced	Puerto Rico
1976	Cindy Breakspeare	Jamaica
1977	Mary Stavin	Sweden
1978	Silvana Suarez	Argentina
1979	Gina Swainson	Bermuda
1980	Gabriella Brum( <b>resigned</b> )	West Germany
1980	Kimberley Santos	Guam
1981	Pilin Leon	Venezuela
1982	Mariasela Alvarez	Dominican Rep.
1983	Sarah-Jane Hutt	United Kingdom
1984	Astrid Carolina Herrera	Venezuela
1985	Holmfriour Karlsdottir	Iceland
1986	Giselle Laronde	Trinidad & Tobago
1987	Ulla Weigerstorfer	Austria
1988	Linda Petursdottir	Iceland
1989	Aneta Kreglicka	Poland
1990	Gina Tolleson	United States
1991	Ninibeth Leal	Venezuela
1992	Julia Kourotchkina	Russia
1993	Lisa Hanna	Jamaica
1994	Aishwarya Rai	<b>India</b>
1995	Jacqueline Aguilera	Venezuela
1996	Irene Skliva	Greece
1997	Diana Hayden	<b>India</b>
1998	Linor Abargil	Israel
1999	Yukta Mookhey	<b>India</b>
2000	Priyanka Chopra	<b>India</b>
2001	Agbani Darego	Nigeria
2002	Azra Akin	Turkey
2003	Rosanna Davison	Ireland
2004	Maria Juila Mantilla	Peru
2005	Unnur Bima	Iceland
2006	Tatana Kucharova	Czech Republic
2007	Zhang Zilin	China
2008	Ksenia Sukhinova	Russia
2009	Kaiane Aldorino	Gibraltar
2010	TBA	Vietnam

significant differences between Lula and Kirchner and Chávez.

Chávez did not maintain the institutional structures as Lula did, nor did he oversee the rebuilding of the traditional parties like Kirchner. He emerged from a popular rising (the 'Caracazo' of 1989) and a military rebellion (in 1992) which led to a major electoral victory in 1998. He began by making social concessions and introducing a very progressive constitution. His government has radicalised alongside the mass movement and in response to the conspiracies of the right. This dynamic distinguishes him from the other centre left governments because he acted against the bosses (in December 2001), the attempted coup (April 2002), the oil establishment (December 2002) and the challenge of the referendum of August 2004. And there are many other features that distinguish the Venezuelan process.

Chávez displaced the traditional parties of the ruling class which lost their control of the state. His base is the mass movement and there is no sector of the capitalist class who see him as a potential ally. He does not just promise reforms but has initiated genuine land redistribution programmes, extended credit to co-operatives and provided health and education for the whole population. Chávez stands, therefore, in the nationalist tradition of Cárdenas in Mexico, Peron, Torrijos of Panama and Velasco Alvarado in Peru. And this makes him an exception among the centre left responses to imperialism.

The explanation probably lies in the peculiarities of a Venezuelan army which had little contact with the Pentagon but was influenced by the guerrilla tradition, and in the weight of the oil-producing sector with its powerful bureaucracy, its conflicts with its customers in the US and the limited role of private enterprise. But Chávez's anti-imperialism places him at the opposite end of the spectrum from any dictatorship - Chávez has much in common with Peron, but nothing at all with Videla.^g^ He shares with the Peron of the 1950s, for example, his social programmes and the redirection of national income towards welfare services. He enjoys the same kind of social support, though if Peron's base was the organised working class. Chávez's support comes from the local organisations of casual workers.

Chávez is different from his South American colleagues, too, in his confrontation with the right. He has scored some victories, but as long as their privileges are under threat, they will not cease to conspire to remove Chávez or to force him into a conservative turn (of the kind taken by the PRI^h^ in Mexico).

The US pulls the strings of any coup attempt or terrorist provocation from Colombia, but Washington has no Pinochet to turn to and has to rely on its 'friends in the Organisation of American States' to undermine Chávez. Bush cannot act in too barefaced a way while he is stuck in the Middle East quagmire. He does not dare to compare Chávez to Saddam - and Chávez cannot be tamed like Gaddafi. The US needs Venezuelan oil and it needs to combat Venezuela's active involvement in OPEC and its attempts to redirect crude oil to new clients in China and Latin America.

Chávez supplies oil to Cuba and maintains diplomatic relations with Havana, defying the embargo, which further aggravates the tensions with imperialism. Venezuela sent no troops to Haiti nor will it bend to Washington's demands on trade; and the presence of Cuban doctors and teachers has made Venezuelans very sensitive to the issue. Chávez's understanding of Bolivarianism is sympathetic to socialism.

The country is divided into two camps by income, culture and skin colour. The oligarchy's reaction to the presence of the marginalised in the political process is to manipulate the middle classes, and there are almost daily confrontations. Chávez, on the other hand, has shown great skill in mobilising his supporters against the manipulations of the right wing media. There is much in common between the Venezuelan situation and Nicaragua in the 1980s or Portugal after the revolution of 1974.

Its oil income has allowed Venezuela to raise its public spending from 24 percent of GDP in 1999 to 34 percent in 2004 and to address the external debt without major difficulties. These special circumstances explain the vitality of the Bolivarian revolution compared with other regional centre left governments, but they also raise questions as to how far its experience can be generalised. ....**con-tinue in next issue (Issue no 127)**

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