

CURRENT HISTORY

February 2021

Vol. 120, No. 823

CONTENTS

- 43 Chile's Constitutional Moment.** *Jennifer M. Piscopo and Peter M. Siavelis*
Chileans have embarked on the monumental task of convening a gender-balanced convention to write a new constitution. Will they leave the Pinochet era in the past?
- 50 Bolivia's Double Pandemic: A Coup and COVID-19.** *Bret Gustafson*
After a year of turmoil, voters surged to the polls despite a rampaging pandemic and an interim government more concerned with securing its grip on power than with protecting public health.
- 57 How Brazil and Mexico Diverged on Social Protection in the Pandemic.** *Nora Lustig and Mart Trasberg*
As the coronavirus threatened to reverse progress on poverty and inequality, Brazil mitigated the impact with expanded cash transfers. Mexico left its people to fend for themselves.
- 64 A Populist President Tests El Salvador's Democracy** *Sonja Wolf*
Nayib Bukele rode to power as a youthful reformer with an anticorruption agenda. Now he is displaying an authoritarian streak and undermining transparency.
- 71 Oil Fuels Guyana's Internecine Conflict.** *Arif Bulkan and Alissa Trotz*
Racial tensions and predatory extractive policies, ingrained since the colonial era, have intensified as a major new oil discovery raises the stakes of political combat.
- PERSPECTIVE**
- 78 AMLO's Mexican Time (Business Is Good!)** *Claudio Lomnitz*
President Andrés Manuel López Obrador is obsessed with history, putting his own populist spin on Mexico's national mythology. So far, though, actual accomplishments have been scarce.
- BOOKS**
- 81 Does the China Trade Pay for Latin America?** *Matt Ferchen*
Two authors reach different answers to the big question of whether China's rapidly growing economic presence is creating new opportunities or renewing old patterns of dependency.