



## Political Environments: Development, Dissent, and the New Extraction

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### Intro

- Political Environments: Development, Dissent, and the New Extraction  
NACLA

### Taking Note

- U.S. Troops in Colombia: A Threat to Peace

Gregory Wilpert

In August, a deal was announced in which the U.S. military will be granted the use of five military bases in Colombia, in addition to the two it already uses, to fight drug trafficking and guerrillas. The increased U.S. military presence will likely exacerbate tensions between Colombia and its neighbors.

### Updates

- No Mercy: Haitian Criminal Deportees

Amy Bracken

In April, the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency recommenced the forcible deportation of Haitians, which was suspended on humanitarian grounds after Haiti was devastated by storms in August 2008. As of July, more than 450 Haitians had been deported, 363 of them with criminal convictions, and at least 29,000 more were slated for removal. For those once locked up in the United States, freedom can be an exciting prospect. But liberation in Haiti also means “freedom” from guarantees like food, shelter, clean water, and health care.

### Report

- The New Extraction: Rewriting the Political Ecology of the Andes?

Anthony Bebbington

In June, Peruvian president Alan García's decrees easing private investment in the countryside triggered a violent confrontation with indigenous people. The decrees were only the most brazen expression of a new continent-wide push to open up

frontiers to various extractive industries. As different Andean governments promote extraction, they show little sympathy for those who question such policies. Dissent, however, is not going away.

- [Confronting Goldcorp: An Interview With a Guatemalan Activist](#)

James Rodríguez

In May, independent photojournalist James Rodríguez interviewed Guatemalan grassroots leader Gregoria Crisanta Pérez during a march on the Canadian Embassy. Pérez has been accused by the Canadian mining company Goldcorp of sabotaging its electric lines.

- [Correa vs. Social Movements: Showdown in Ecuador](#)

Paul Dosh and Nicole Kligerman

Although the passing of Ecuador's new constitution represented a moment of unity between popular movements and the electoral left, they have clashed recently over the question of environment protection—showing that they are hardly synonymous and sometimes not even allies.

- [Under Fire: Ecuador's Acción Ecológica](#)

Paul Dosh and Nicole Kligerman

- [Bolivia's Dilemma: Development Confronts the Legacy of Extraction](#)

Linda Farthing

The social pressure to satisfy Bolivia's immediate economic needs through extractive industries remains as strong as ever. If the Evo Morales government can move beyond rhetoric to significant action in favor of the environment, it will be an impressive accomplishment.

- [Battle in Bahia: A New Port Faces Growing Resistance](#)

Colleen Scanlan Lyons

In the last year, diverse communities and organizations in the southern region of Bahia, Brazil, have joined together in an unprecedented show of cross-movement solidarity against a government-supported infrastructure project known as Porto Sul. The project poses a threat to sensitive forestland and water resources, as well as locally defined plans for development through ecotourism.

- [Fish, Wildlife, and Bombs: The Struggle to Clean Up Vieques](#)

Katherine T. McCaffrey

Cleaning up Vieques Island, Puerto Rico, contaminated by decades of the U.S. Navy's training exercises, has become the focal point of residents' efforts to reclaim their home. But it has been stymied by the former base land's designation as a wildlife refuge under the control of the U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife.

## Reviews

- [Cuba: Health Care as Social Justice](#)

Elise Andaya

¡Salud! (DVD, 2006), a documentary film by Connie Field, 93 mins., distributed by MEDICC (saludthefilm.net)

- [Dismantling the Self-Constructed Barrier: A Conversation on Anarchism and Marxism](#)

Max Ajl

Wobblies and Zapatistas: Conversations on Anarchism, Marxism and Radical History by Andrej Grubacic and Staughton Lynd, PM Press, 2008, 300 pp., \$20

- [New & Noteworthy](#)

Lydia's Open Door: Inside Mexico's Most Modern Brothel by Patty Kelly; Sex Work and the City: The Social Geography of Health and Safety in Tijuana, Mexico by Yasmina Katsulis; Economies of Desire: Sex and Tourism in Cuba and the Dominican Republic by Amalia L. Cabezas

## Open Forum

- The Honduran Coup: The Specter of Democracy, and of the Past

Medea Benjamin

Soon after Honduran president Manuel Zelaya was deposed, the country's elite declared Honduras safe for democracy. Yet the nonbinding poll he had called represented a push, coming from the grassroots, to transform Honduras from merely an electoral to a participatory democracy.

## Letters

- Contemporary Sandinista Politics; Venezuelan Community Councils; Cuba and Uncomfortable Art

## MALA

- Playing the 'Anti-Semitism' Card Against Venezuela

Eric Wingerter and Justin Delacour

The U.S. press tends to portray left-leaning Latin American governments as hotbeds of anti-Semitism. In the case of Venezuela, this storyline has been promoted in three key ways: (1) attributing anti-Semitic acts or statements by private citizens to the government, (2) conflating legitimate criticism of Israeli policy with anti-Semitism, and (3) relying on press statements by U.S.-based Jewish organizations at the expense of Venezuelan Jewish organizations.