



Same Difference: Obama's Militarized Status Quo

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Taking Note

- [Mexico's Fireworks of 2010](#)

Fred Rosen

Updates

- [Puerto Rico in Crisis: Government Workers Battle Neoliberal Reform](#)

Yarimar Bonilla and Rafael A. Boglio Martínez

On October 15 a one-day general strike paralyzed Puerto Rico's political and economic capital of San Juan. About 200,000 demonstrators, according to organizers, poured into the streets to protest the economic and labor policies implemented by the conservative administration of Governor Luis Fortuño. Launched in response to the administration's decision to lay off more than 17,000 government workers in September, the strike culminated a series of protests held since the spring against the governor's recovery plan for the struggling island economy.

- [Disappeared but Not Forgotten: A Guatemalan Community Achieves a Landmark Verdict](#)

Amanda Kistler

On August 31, a tribunal in Chimaltenango, Guatemala, sentenced former military commissioner Felipe Cusanero Coj to 150 years in prison. Cusanero's conviction for surreptitiously kidnapping and murdering six Guatemalan citizens in the early 1980s, keeping their whereabouts and fate concealed, marks the first time in Guatemalan history that a court has found a member of the military guilty of a crime against humanity.

Report

- ['A New Chapter of Engagement': Obama and the Honduran Coup](#)

Alexander Main

Although no evidence has yet emerged of direct U.S. involvement in the coup, the

Obama administration's reaction to it has greatly disappointed Latin American leaders, all of whom have explicitly and consistently condemned the coup since it took place. Many of them have also, unlike the United States, refused to recognize the November 29 presidential election, which occurred in a context of political repression and far-reaching media censorship.

📌 [Retreat to Colombia: The Pentagon Adapts Its Latin America Strategy](#)

John Lindsay-Poland

The Pentagon, responding to new political constraints—the harvest of decades of grassroots movements—is retreating in Latin America. The number of places where the U.S. military can freely operate is shrinking in the region. But the military's strategic vision has changed little. It has adapted to the new regional scenario by consolidating its assets in Colombia, still the Pentagon's primary strategic partner in Latin America.

📌 [Beyond Supply and Demand: Obama's Drug Wars in Latin America](#)

Suzanna Reiss

In its first year, the Obama administration has embraced and even extended its predecessors' militaristic counter-narcotics policies in the Americas. In doing so, it has also adopted the basic tenets and priorities that have shaped U.S. drug control policies for decades. Until the administration pays attention to the structural origins of the drug war, as well as the profound international dependencies upon which it has always rested, it will be fated to continue pursuing a destructive, and failed, policy.

📌 [Security First: The Obama Administration and Immigration 'Reform'](#)

Joseph Nevins

Since assuming the presidency, Obama has offered few specifics on how he views immigration reform. But more important than his words, his Senate voting record, and the policies and practices carried out by his administration, show that Obama falls within the broad center of a political spectrum that is remarkably narrow on matters of immigration and boundary enforcement. With few exceptions—Obama not being one of them—both sides of the proverbial aisle now embrace a “security first” position that prioritizes strengthening the enforcement apparatus above all else.

Reviews

📌 [Missing Fragments of Memory in Mexico's Dirty War](#)

Aurora Camacho de Schmidt

Tracing Aleida: The Story of a Search (2007), a documentary film by Christiane Burkhard, 88 mins., distributed by Icarus films

• [Tourism, U.S. Empire, and National Projects in Latin America](#)

Liza Keanueneokalani Williams

Negotiating Paradise: U.S. Tourism and Empire in Twentieth-Century Latin America by Dennis Merrill, University of North Carolina Press (2009), 352 pp., \$22.50 (paperback)

• [New & Noteworthy](#)

Power Lines: On the Subject of Feminist Alliances, by Aimee Carrillo Rowe; Speaking From the Body: Latinas on Health and Culture, edited by Angie Chabram-Dernersesian and Adela de la Torre; Feminist Agendas and Democracy in Latin America, edited by Jane S. Jaquette

Open Forum

• ['Economics' Gets a Second Term in Bolivia](#)

Jim Shultz

MALA

• [Dropping Dobbs: A Victory for Media Activism, and the Challenge Ahead](#)

Julie Hollar