

## 6. Latin America's political pendulum

### Acronyms and abbreviations

**ALBA**—Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of our America  
**CELAC**—Community of Latin American and Caribbean States  
**COPEI**—Social Christian Party (Venezuela)  
**ECLAC**—Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean  
**FARC**—Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia  
**G20**—Group of Twenty  
**GDP**—Gross Domestic Product  
**IMF**—International Monetary Fund  
**NAFTA**—North American Free Trade Agreement  
**OAS**—Organization of American States  
**PAN**—National Action Party (Mexico)  
**PMDB**—Brazilian Democratic Movement Party  
**PRI**—Institutional Revolutionary Party (Mexico)  
**UNASUR**—Union of South American Nations  
**YPF**—Yacimientos Petrolíferos Fiscales (Argentine energy company)

### Glossary

**Augusto Pinochet (1915–2006):** Leader of the Chilean military government from 1974, when he led the overthrow of leftist President Salvador Allende, until 1990. He remained commander of the armed forces until 1998. Pinochet was ultimately accused of human rights violations, but died before he could stand trial.

**Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of our Americas (ALBA) (Bolivarian Alliance for the Americas):** A regional bloc spearheaded in 2004 by Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez and Cuban President Raúl

Castro in response to the U.S.-led Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA). ALBA seeks political, economic and social integration.

**Bolsa Família:** Former Bolivian President Lula's signature social welfare program, launched in 2003. The poverty-reduction initiative is one of the largest cash-transfer programs in the world.

**BRIC (Brazil, Russia, India and China):** An acronym referring to the major emerging economies of Brazil, Russia, India and China. The BRIC nations have met in annual summits since 2009. With the addition of South Africa in 2010, the group is known as BRICS.

**Caracazo (sacudón):** A series of protests in Venezuela in February 1989, centered in capital Caracas, which were met with a violent government crackdown. The protests were a response to increased gasoline and transportation prices.

**Cold War:** The political and military tensions between the U.S., the Soviet Union and their respective allies that occurred between 1947 and 1991. Although no direct fighting ensued, the U.S. and Soviet Union armed themselves in case of a possible nuclear war.

**Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC):** A regional bloc launched in 2011. It consists of 33 Latin American and Caribbean member states.

**Economic Commission for Latin America and Caribbean (ECLAC):** A UN regional commission established in 1948. It is headquartered in Santiago, Chile and today includes 45 member states.

**Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA):** A free trade agreement that came under negotiation in 1994. It sought to eliminate trade barriers between all countries in the Americas, except Cuba. Participating states failed to reach agreement on the FTAA before the 2005 deadline.

**Group of Twenty (G20):** An informal international forum of 20 major economies (19 countries and the EU).

**International Monetary Fund (IMF):** An institution in the United Nations system. The IMF was established in 1945 in the wake of the Great Depression and the Second World War, and tasked with ensuring the stability of the international monetary system. Today, this includes regulating the system of exchange rates and international payments, as well as relevant macroeconomic and financial sector issues.

**Mercosur:** A sub-regional economic and political bloc established in 1991 that seeks to promote free trade between member states Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay and Venezuela.

**Neoliberalism:** A political ideology associated with laissez-faire economics and free market competition.

**North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA):** A free trade agreement between the U.S., Canada and Mexico. NAFTA was developed under President George H.W. Bush, signed into law by the Clinton administration, and came into effect in 1994.

**Organization of American States (OAS):** A regional organization consisting of the 35 independent states of the Americas. It was established 1948, with the purpose of promoting peace and stability. Its central pillars are democracy, human rights, security and development.

**Pan-Americanism:** Broadly, a movement that advocates cooperation and relationships between the Americas.

**Peronism:** A political movement based on the nationalist and populist ideology of former president of Argentina Juan Domingo Perón (1946–52; 1952–55; 1973–74) and his Justicialist Party.

**Petrobras (Petróleo Brasileiro):** A public petroleum company located in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and founded in 1953.

**Pink tide:** A term used to describe the ascension to power of left-leaning governments in Latin America beginning in the late 1990s and continuing through the 2000s. The tide was a response to neoliberal “Washington Consensus” economic policies implemented in the 1990s. The movement has receded in recent years, with center-right parties elected across the region.

**Sendero Luminoso (“Shining Path”):** A communist militant group that launched a revolutionary campaign in 1980 in Peru. Sendero Luminoso is classified as a terrorist group by Peru and the U.S., among other actors, and remains active today.

**Socialism of the 21st century:** A socialist political movement that argues that neither capitalism nor previous applications of socialism have rectified society’s inequalities. The term was adopted by pink tide leaders in Latin America, including Hugo Chávez.

**Union of South American Nations (UNASUR):** A sub-regional group of South American countries created in 2008 and led by Brazil. UNASUR promotes integration of its twelve member countries.

**Washington Consensus:** A set of free market economic policies intended to help developing countries recover from crisis. The Washington Consensus was first stated by economist John Williamson in 1989. Its principles were endorsed by economists and institutions like the IMF, the World Bank and the U.S. Treasury Department.

## List of leaders mentioned, in alphabetical order

**Alberto Fujimori:** President of Peru (1990–2000);

**Álvaro Uribe:** President of Colombia (2002–10)

**Carlos Andrés Pérez:** President of Venezuela (1974–79; 1989–93)

**Carlos Menem:** President of Argentina (1989–99)

**Cristina Fernández de Kirchner:** President of Argentina (2007–15)

**Daniel Ortega:** President of Nicaragua (1979–90)

**Dilma Rousseff:** President of Brazil (2011–16)

**Evo Morales:** President of Bolivia (2006–present)

**Fernando de la Rúa:** President of Argentina (1999–2001)

**Fernando Henrique Cardoso:** President of Brazil (1995–2003)

**Fidel Castro:** President of Cuba (1959–76; 1976–2008)

**Gonzalo Sánchez de Lozada:** President of Bolivia (1993–97; 2002–03)

**Hugo Chávez:** President of Venezuela (1999–2013)

**Juan Manuel Santos:** President of Colombia (2010–present)

**Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva:** President of Brazil (2003–11)

**Mauricio Macri:** President of Argentina (2015–present)

**Michel Temer:** President of Brazil (2016–present)

**Michelle Bachelet:** President of Chile (2014–present)

**Nicolás Maduro:** President of Venezuela (2013–present)

**Néstor Kirchner:** President of Argentina (2003–2007)

**Pedro Pablo Kuczyski:** President of Peru (2016–present)

**Rafael Correa:** President of Ecuador (2007–present)

**Ricardo Lagos:** President of Chile (2000–06)