Political Science 322, The Political Economy of Latin America   Fall Term 2009

NEW DEVELOPMENT PATHWAYS IN LATIN AMERICA

Team Argentina Portfolio

Team Members: Libbie Weimer (*), Judy Bao, Kevin Draper, Nathan Yaffe, and Erika Ohashi

Countries: Argentina, Costa Rica, Peru, Venezuela.

Variables:

Macroeconomic variables: GDP (aggregate), GDP (per capita), growth in GDP (aggregate), growth in GDP (per capita), taxation as a percent of exports, taxation as a percent of imports, Fraser Institute scores on capital market liberalization.

Demographic variables: percent of population 15 and younger, percent of population 65 and older.

Social variables: unemployment, literacy, average years of schooling in the labor force.

Political variables: Freedom House political rights score, Freedom House civil rights score, Polity IV score, Transparency International Corruption Index score.

Team Brazil Portfolio

Team Members: Jeremy Girton (*), Sam Finn, Peter Ladner, Trent Wells, Jake Devereux

Countries: Brazil, Bolivia, and Uruguay.

Variables:

Macroeconomic variables: government expenditures as a percent of GDP, annual inflation rate, exchange rate with the dollar, volatility of exchange rate, total trade in goods and services as a percent of GDP, total exports as a percent of GDP, total imports as a percent of GDP.

Demographic variables: religiosity, percent of non-white population.

Social variables: primary and secondary education spending as a percent of GDP, tertiary education spending as a percent of GDP, doctors/hospitals per capita, schools per capita.

Political variables: unionization, PR or plurality systems, size of the governing majority in the lower house.

Team Chile Portfolio

Team Members: Jon Fraser (*), Geoff King, Courtney Morris, and Kelsey Sloan

Countries: Chile, Paraguay, El Salvador, and Colombia.

Variables:

Macroeconomic variables: manufacturing as a percent of GDP, agriculture as a percent of GDP, mining as a percent of GDP, fuel exports as a percent of GDP, foreign direct investment net inflows as a percent of GDP, portfolio capital inflows as a percent of GDP, IMF credit as a percent of GDP, World Bank loans as a percent of GDP.

Demographic variables: population (natural log), population growth rate.

Social variables: UNDP Human Development Index, Gini coefficient, social security and welfare spending as a percent of GDP, health spending as a percent of GDP.

Political variables: partisanship of government (president), partisanship of government (majority in governing legislative chamber), cumulative years of democracy from 1945 to the year of the observation, federalism dummy .

Team Mexico Portfolio

Team Members: Lianna Weissblum (*), Mack Kolarich, Amanda Torcivia, and Andy Rooks

Countries: Mexico, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, and Honduras.

Variables:

Macroeconomic variables: current account balance as a percent of GDP, capital account balance as a percent of GDP, total debt service as a percent of exports, nominal annual deficits as a percent of GDP.

Demographic variables: Percent urban population, percent rural population.

Social variables: percent of labor force made up of women, poverty rate, infant mortality.

Political variables: effective number of parties by seats in the lower house, effective number of parties by share of national votes.

(*) Denotes the team coordinator and convener. Responsibilities include: scheduling all meetings

of the group, communicating with all members of the group and keeping them on schedule, coordinating meetings with the professor, being responsible for posting and uploading to the Moodle page according to the schedule.