

EDITORIAL

Completing its fourth year, “World Tensions” continues to maintain its focus on the construction of nationalities and important aspects of international relations.

Opening this edition, the article by Ramón Máiz, a well-known Spanish specialist in nationalities studies, considers little explored points in the analyses of the rise of the Bolivian indigenous movement to power. This is one of the most interesting, contemporary Latin American phenomenon. Máiz examines political mobilization speeches in order to understand the reasons why the followers of Evo Morales overcame their rivals organized in the Movimiento Indígena Pachakuti led by Felipe Quispe.

Spain, which stands out among European nations as one of the most disturbed by nationalist movements throughout the twentieth century, is witnessing the rebirth of nationalist imagination in the face of serious economic crises. The young researcher, Ana Caballero - Mengibar, examines the phenomenon in the light of the racist protests directed against Third World immigrants.

Two articles explore the contribution of popular music to the construction of Brazilian national identity. Analysing the words of Chico Buarque’s compositions, Manuel Domingos and Fabiane Batista Pinto expose his perception of Brazilians; Jasmine Mitchell looks at the music of Marcelo D2, one of the pioneers of Brazilian hip-hop, to observe how the notions of race, gender and sexuality are used to reinvent Brazilian nationality.

When regional integration is on the agenda, cultural exchanges and friendships become important elements in international relations. The Casa de las Américas merits special attention as a space for the diffusion of Latin American art and culture. Founded by the Cuban government a few months after the Revolution, this entity promoted the encounter of thousands of writers and artists in order to sensitize the public to the varieties of continental creativity. This experience is the object of Jorge Furnet’s contribution.

This edition hosts a work that associates three white hot themes of the present international conjuncture: environmental conservation, the search for alternative energy sources and the food crisis. Maria Luisa

Mendonça e Peter Rosset demonstrate the close connections of these problems in their analysis of bio-fuel production, which stirs the hopes of many. While biofuels arouse interest by being less prejudicial to the ecology, they can also aggravate the distressing problem of food security that touches impoverished national communities. The authors think that management of the crisis of food prices is through adoption of the idea of 'food sovereignty' and a moratorium on bio-fuel production.

The neo-liberal policies adopted in Latin American in the 1980s and 1990s brought about the crises in which debt became the crucial factor. In the search for new perspectives, what role could the multilateral organizations operating since the end of World War II play? Reviewing the dissemination of neoliberalism to Latin American governments, Alex Jobim Farias reflects on the pronouncements and procedures of the key institutions oriented by the dominant powers.

Also in the context of integralist tendencies, two international relations specialists offer important historical elements for reflection in relation to the current initiatives to construct a Lusophone world. Adriano de Freixo describes the repercussions of the "Revolution of Carnations", that brought an end to one of the oldest European dictatorships and called attention to Portugal and its ex-colonies against the background of the Cold War. Williams Gonçalves analyzes the intensity that characterized Brasil-Portugal relations in the 1950s. The height of the diplomatic rapport occurred when Juscelino Kubitschek initiated a personal connection with the dictator Oliveira Salazar. Among the reasons for this association, the author distinguishes the notable presence of Portuguese immigrants in Brasil and the efforts to preserve Portuguese overseas possessions.

Lastly, we would like to point out that, in this phase, "World Tensions" is improving its editorial policy and its review procedures. Editorial guidelines have been revised, the Consultative Council recomposed and the cadre of reviewers appreciably broadened in line with the journal's thematic priorities.

The Editors