

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910456547703321
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Titolo	Building new democracies : economic and social reform in Brazil, Chile, and Mexico // Michel Duquette
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Toronto, [Ontario] ; ; Buffalo, [New York] ; ; London, [England] : , : University of Toronto Press, , 1999 ©1999
ISBN	9786612028847 1-282-02884-7 1-4426-7163-7
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (298 p.)
Collana	Studies in Comparative Political Economy and Public Policy ; ; 7
Disciplina	338.98
Soggetti	Democracy - Brazil Democracy - Chile Democracy - Mexico New democracies Electronic books. Brazil Economic policy Brazil Social policy Chile Economic policy Chile Social policy Mexico Economic policy 1970-1994 Mexico Social policy
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Preface -- Introduction -- 1 Identifying the Variables Relevant to the Study of Adjustment -- 2 The Determination of the Political Executive to Undertake Market Adjustment -- 3. The Role of Competent and Honest Technicians -- 4. The Autonomy of the Reformist State -- 5 The Influence of Electoral Cycles -- 6 Privileged Linkages with Corporate Interest Groups -- 7 A New Relationship between State and Labour -- 8 Assessing the Economic Performance of Reforms -- 9 Gaining International Support for Domestic Reform -- 10

Adjustment through Regional Integration -- 11 Regional Integration in Support of Market-Oriented Policies -- 12 Obstacles to Integration in Partially Liberalized Markets -- 13 Theoretical Linkages between Regional Determinants and Endogenous Variables -- 14 Will MERCOSUR Support the Consolidation of Southern Cone Democracies? -- 15 Adjustment against Justice -- 16 Agrarian Reform and the Modernization of Agriculture -- 17 The Issue of Science and Education -- 18 Public Intervention against Marginality -- 19 In Search of Political Conditions to Pursue Social Policies -- Conclusions -- Appendix: Tables -- References -- Index

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Sommario/riassunto

In *Building New Democracies* Michel Duquette analyses the main public policies of Brazil, Chile, and Mexico to explore examples of how countries make the transition from an authoritarian regime to a democratic society. The main objective of the book is to follow the process of policy formation in very young democracies. Duquette isolates the specific problems that surround decision-making in a transitional government, showing how legislating structural change does not guarantee democratic success. He offers a general model of domestic and international policy-making as a response to the problems of achieving fundamental political reform. The effectiveness of public policies depends on factors including competing ideologies, inexperienced political leaders, rising political organizations, rule by coalition parties, and the influence of local politicians and technocrats. It is with the alliance of grassroots organizations and autonomous institutions, Duquette believes, that social and economic exclusion will be overcome on a national level. *Building New Democracies* is primarily theoretical in its analysis, but integrates many recent empirical findings from a wide body of international and Latin American research, including the author's own field work. The methodology Duquette employs is genuinely comparative and not merely a juxtaposition of case studies. His approach and conclusions can be applied to a number of disciplines, including political science, economics, sociology, and Latin American studies.

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