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immobility; 0.8 Average years of schooling (ages 25-65), selected Latin American countries, by income class, circa 2009  
The middle class and the social contract Notes; References; 1 Introduction; Latin American "climbers" and "stayers"; The broad context; Pursuing the questions; 1.1 Average annual per capita GDP growth in Latin America and the Caribbean, 2000-10; 1.2 Change in the Gini index, selected Latin American countries, 2000-10; 1.3 Moderate and extreme poverty in Latin America, 1995-2010; Notes; References; 2 Economic Mobility and the Middle Class: Concepts and Measurement; Spaces, domains, and concepts of economic mobility; 2.1 How different mobility concepts rank the same vector transformation  
Defining the middle class 2.2 Key mobility concepts and domains under consideration: The main diagonal; 2.3 Income-based definitions of the middle class; 2.1 Income-based vulnerability to poverty in Chile, Mexico, and Peru in the 2000's; 2.2 Distribution of self-reported class status in Mexico, 2007; 2.4 Middle-class thresholds from self-reported class status, selected Latin American countries, 2007; Linking mobility and middle-class dynamics: A matrix decomposition; 2.3 Four economic classes, by income distribution, in selected Latin American countries  
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Educational attainment: How important is parental background?

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#### Sommario/riassunto

After decades of stagnation, the size of Latin America's middle class recently expanded to the point where, for the first time ever, the number of people in poverty is equal to the size of the middle class. This volume investigates the nature, determinants and possible consequences of this remarkable process of social transformation. We propose an original definition of the middle class, tailor-made for Latin America, centered on the concept of economic security and thus a low probability of falling into poverty. Given our definition of the middle class, there are four, not three, classes...

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