



Political Parties of the Americas, 1980s to 1990s: Canada, Latin America, and the West Indies (Greenwood Historical Encyclopedia of the World's Political Parties)

By Charles Ameringer

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This major new reference surveys political parties of importance in the Americas since 1980, with the exclusion of the United States. This one-volume work is part of *The Greenwood Historical Encyclopedia of the World's Political Parties* and has been fashioned both to update Robert J. Alexander's prize-winning two-volume set published in 1982, *Political Parties of the Americas*, and to serve as an analysis of political development and political parties in the Western Hemisphere during the last decade, an encyclopedia that can stand on its own. Like other works in this series, this volume edited by Charles D. Ameringer is intended for college, university, institutional, and public libraries.

Following a brief introduction giving some general historical background, chapters on 49 countries in North and South America and in the Caribbean are arranged alphabetically. These chapters provide some historical information, short bibliographies, and then describe political parties and current developments of note. Parties are arranged alphabetically by their English names or translations. Internal cross-references and a full index make the volume easily accessible to researchers in different fields. A chronology points to dates of importance.

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In general, editor Ameringer has done scholars and researchers a fine service by bringing out this massive one-volume reference work, which is a sequel to Robert J. Alexander's two-volume Political Parties of the Americas (Greenwood, 1982), and which is part of "The Greenwood Historical Encyclopedia of the World's Political Parties." Concentrating on political party developments in the Americas since 1980, this reference is especially timely given current political liberalization trends throughout the region. Chapters treat the 49 countries of the region individually (the United States is excluded). Each is written by a recognized expert, and each contains a general essay analyzing the individual country's political party history, including changes in the last decade. This analysis is followed by a complete list of parties, active and historical, with detailed summaries of active parties and brief commentaries on those that are inactive. Especially useful for researchers, these commentaries add to the political information in the preceding historical narratives, and readers can refer back to the original Alexander volumes to obtain more detailed information on the historical parties. The consistent format of the country chapters enhances the utility of this authoritative reference work. Highly recommended for all reference collections.

- *Roderic A. Camp, Latin American Ctr., Tulane Univ., New Orleans, La.*

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Review

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"The book employs extensive cross-references in both the index and text, leading readers from party name acronym or foreign language name to full English name. A useful addition to most academic libraries whether or not the base set is owned."-Choice

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About the Author

CHARLES D. AMERINGER is Professor of Latin American History at Pennsylvania State University and served as head of the department from 1985 to 1990. He is the author of *Democracy in Costa Rica* (Greenwood, 1982), *The Democratic Left in Exile: The Antidictatorial Struggle in the Caribbean, 1945-1959* (1974), *Don Pepe: A Political Biography of Jose Figueres of Costa Rica* (1979), and *U.S. Foreign Intelligence: The Secret Side of American History* (1990).

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