U.S. Cold War policy toward Latin America, 1945-1969

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Deutz Room in the Copley International Conference Center,
Institute of the Americas Complex, UCSD

During the Cold War Era, the United States and Soviet Union took comprehensive measures to strive for world hegemony. Both attempted to export their ideology, social system and values to the world, especially to developing countries and areas for the sake of maximizing their own national interest. As an important part of the traditional sphere of influence of the Third World and United States, Latin America inevitably became the target which the U.S. and Soviet Union struggled to obtain. The nationalist developmental requirements of Latin American countries were trapped in the paradox of North-South tensions and East-West antagonism. This not only made it more difficult for them to reach independent development, but also complemented multi-level Cold War features.

This paper shows the origins and adjustment of the U.S. Cold War policy toward Latin America from 1945 to 1969, and the relation game between defense security and economic development as the common thread. The principal purpose is to reveal the essence of U.S.-Latin American policy, the regular patterns of their relations, and how the Cold War changed the Third World situation.

Juan Du received her BA in History from Northeast Normal University in Jilin Province. She received an MA and PhD in World History from Nankai University in Tianjin City. She is a Chinese historian whose research focuses on the relation between the United States' interest and regional development of Latin America, and the history of international relations during the Cold War period at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in Beijing. Furthermore, she has published some articles in different Chinese academic journals. She is currently a Visiting Scholar in CILAS, UCSD. ●For more information on upcoming CILAS events please visit http://cilas.ucsd.edu/events/index.html