

solini were flowering in Europe and when the great depression was building up pressure for reform everywhere. Significant Fascist movements appeared in Brazil, Mexico, Chile, and Uruguay, and on the eve of World War II many Latin American strongmen, such as Vargas of Brazil, Ubico of Guatemala, and Benavides of Peru, displayed a sympathetic affinity for the Axis; during the war, the Peronist movement in Argentina and the Villaroel regime in Bolivia showed similar tendencies.

The Communist pre-World War II challenge came earlier than the Fascist, but was never as serious. No Latin American nation was in real danger of a Communist coup. Communist parties began their activities in Latin America a few years after the Russian revolution of 1917. During the 1920's they gained footholds in several countries, usually inside the embryonic labor movements. Their strength became significant in Chile, Brazil, Cuba, and Uruguay during the late 1930's but declined nearly everywhere in Latin America during World War II.

Now the broad interwar economic and social changes taking place in Latin America, further complicated by the appearance of Fascist, Communist, and other foreign ideologies, provoked intense political pressures upon the traditional political system. The industrialization-urbanization process and the accompanying growth of new classes precipitated new political movements, nearly all of them more broadly based than in the past. Political processes became more complex. The personalistic, intraclass power struggle among the oligarchy was no longer typical. Popular parties arose which demanded sweeping economic and social reforms. Politics was no longer an exclusive game; now nearly everyone demanded an opportunity to play.

The traditional order, ruled by the landlords, the church, and the army, each day became more anachronistic. No more meaningful were personal feuds, federalist-centralist bickering and church-state battles. The creation of new sources of wealth, the spread of new ideas, and the awakening of the urban masses produced far-reaching dislocations. The church began to lose its grip over the minds of the populace, the hacendado became powerless to prevent his peons from trying to find escape from their miseries in the city's factories, and the caudillo could no longer win and hold power by the sheer force of personal courage and character. The new economic and social conditions demanded a new balance of political forces. The old feudal loyalties to the general, the landlord, and the bishop were progressively replaced by impersonal ties with the business firm or the labor organization. Personal rivalries gave way to party rivalries. The politician became less arbitrary and more the representative of well-organized and institutionalized pressure groups.

The basic new political development was the demand by the people for a voice in government. They demanded economic independence, social justice, and political sovereignty. Government, they insisted, had to serve the humble as well as the great. The old order quite naturally resisted these demands and yielded only to overwhelming popular pressures.

•The chief political vehicle for Latin America's awakening masses in the period from World War I to 1930 were middle-class parties,