

For 6 years the regime thrived, but after 1952 Perón began to run into serious economic troubles, largely due to the near prostration of agriculture which resulted from overhasty industrialization. Also, his authoritarian methods and demagogery provoked increasing opposition from traditionalist forces, the middle groups, segments of the armed forces, and the church. In September of 1955 these elements conducted a successful rebellion, whereupon a de facto military government was set up. With the general elections of February 1958, and the May 1958, inauguration of President Arturo Frondizi, constitutional government was restored. Since then, the Frondizi administration has maintained a precarious hold upon the Argentine Government. The President faces a political dilemma, for he must reward labor with political privileges and material gains in order to retain their support; while, if he favors this element too much, he will provoke a new rightist military coup. Argentina, of course, is currently suffering from the ill-advised economic policies and revolutionary social programs conducted by the Perón regime.

BOLIVIA

The struggle for control of Bolivia between the popular nationalist forces and traditional order broke out in 1943, when a group of young officer veterans of the Chaco war, led by Maj. Gualberto Villaroel, and the popular national revolutionary movement (MNR), led by Victor Paz Estenssoro, seized control of the Government. Three years later, however, counterrevolutionary elements rebelled, hanging Villaroel from a lamppost and forcing Paz Estenssoro into exile in Perón's Argentina. After 5 succeeding years of rule by the old oligarchy, the MNR, with Paz Estenssoro as its presidential candidate, won the 1951 elections. When a military junta was set up to prevent Paz Estenssoro from assuming power and to preserve the status quo, the MNR, in April of 1952, instigated a mass rebellion, defeated the army and assumed power, which it has held ever since.

The MNR is a broadly based government supported by the middle classes, by urban and mining labor, and by the peasantry. It has swept all elections since 1952, the most important being the national elections of 1956, which brought Hernán Siles Suazo to the presidency. The MNR has embarked upon a program of revolutionary political reforms (universal suffrage and representative government), economic reforms (nationalization of the tin industry and diversification), and social reform (redistribution of the large landed estates to the peasantry and social welfare legislation). Despite a steady flow of emergency financial assistance from the United States ever since 1954, this poverty-stricken country still faces very serious economic problems, particularly inflation and inadequate food production.

BRAZIL

The end of World War II also brought an end to a 15-year dictatorship. In 1945 Getulio Vargas, in the face of army prodding and popular pressures, was forced to step down and allow the election of Gen. Eurico Gaspar Dutra. The moderate Dutra administration (1946-50), however, either unaware of, or indifferent to, the nation's changing social realities, did virtually nothing to alleviate the economic hardships suffered by growing middle class and labor groups.