Venezuela and Bolivia: Challenging Liberal Democracy?

Mathilde Henry
-
Thesis supervisor
Ziga Vodovnik
-
EIUC
2010-2011
-
University of Social Sciences of Ljubljana.
Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Ziga Vodovnik, who strongly supported me throughout this project with his advices. He has all my recognition.

I would also like to thank

The EIUC, for feeding my passion for democracy questions,

Bojko Bucar, for his support and attention,

And Director Fabrizzio Marrella, who gave a stimulating and positive spirit to the studying year 2010-2011.

To my family, for supporting me in this great last adventure.
Contents

Introduction- p6


I. Why is Democracy questioned? -p11
   A. The modern definition of democracy
   B. Completed democratization?
      a. The consolidation of democracy
      b. The formation of the citizens to politics
   C. Objective reasons
      a. Character incomplete of the rule of law: a comparison of the most important components
      b. Some specific examples of violations of the rule of law and principles of democracy particular to each country
   D. Subjective reasons: Why is the decrease of the quality of democracy exaggerated?
      a. Social background identification as a factor in exaggerating the decrease of the quality of democracy
      b. Exaggerations due to international relations concerns

II. The quality of democracy – liberal democracy disregarded as the first priority? –p30
   A. Liberalism delegitimized
      a. The deception toward democracy
      b. The exploitation of the tools of democratization
      c. Economically and thus also politically
B. Are the two democracies really more ‘illiberal’ than before?
   a. What is an illiberal democracy?
   b. Designed illiberal democracies?

Conclusion Part 1 –p41

Part II: Left-wing Reforms or Democratic Revolution? The Ideologies and Societies at the Center of the Re-Interpretation of Democracy in Venezuela and Bolivia –p42

I. Can Liberal Democracy be questioned theoretically? –p42
   A. The actual existence of different visions of democracy: “Constitutional government” to “Liberal democracy”
   B. Broken liberal democracy: The reason for the revolutions?
      a. Revolutions explained from a theoretical point of view
      b. An application to our cases
      c. Including the new interpretation of liberalism within the revolutions’ explanation
   C. The risks of the democratic revolution

II. Revolutions? –p54
   A. Two socialisms engaging deep reforms
      a. Revolutions of socialist ideologies?
         1. Bolivia, “Estaremos millones”
         2. Venezuela, “socialismo o muerte”?
      b. Revolution as liberation?
         1. Bolivia
         2. Venezuela
      c. Reforms rather than revolutions
         1. Bolivia
         2. Venezuela
      d. Anti-systemic changes?
   B. Redefining democracy toward the inclusion of the people: same path?
      a. Bolivia, bottom-up system.
b. Venezuela, a top-down democratization?

C. Causes and consequences of the functioning of the participatory democracy
   a. A movement inspired by the communitarianism in Bolivia?
   b. The community factor as a precondition for participatory democracy?

D. Qualifying the respective conclusions
   a. The possibility of reversing effect of the movementist trend in Bolivia
   b. The chance of bottom-up change in Venezuela still exists

CONCLUSION - p83
Venezuela and Bolivia: challenging liberal democracy?

Henry, Mathilde

https://doi.org/20.500.11825/912

Downloaded from Open Knowledge Repository, Global Campus’ institutional repository