

Development and Democratization

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Vista Aérea del Centro de Guayaquil

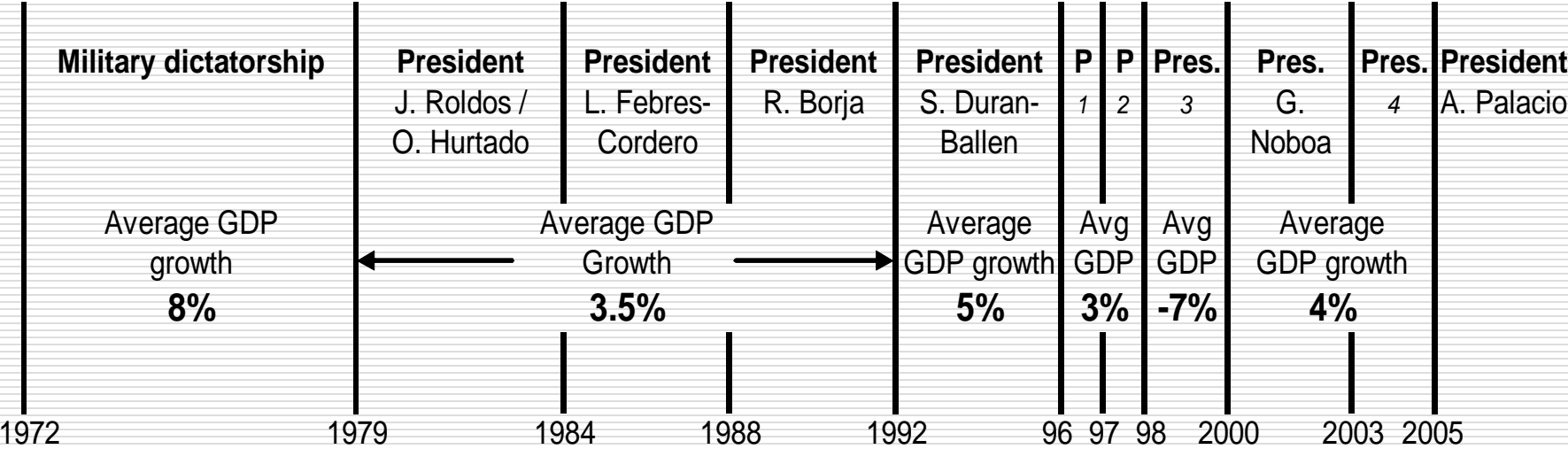
Development and Democratization

- Are these two concepts always related?
 - Does more democratization mean more development?
 - Are democratic governments more effective than dictatorial ones?
 - Why is it so difficult to achieve well working democracies?
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Latin America



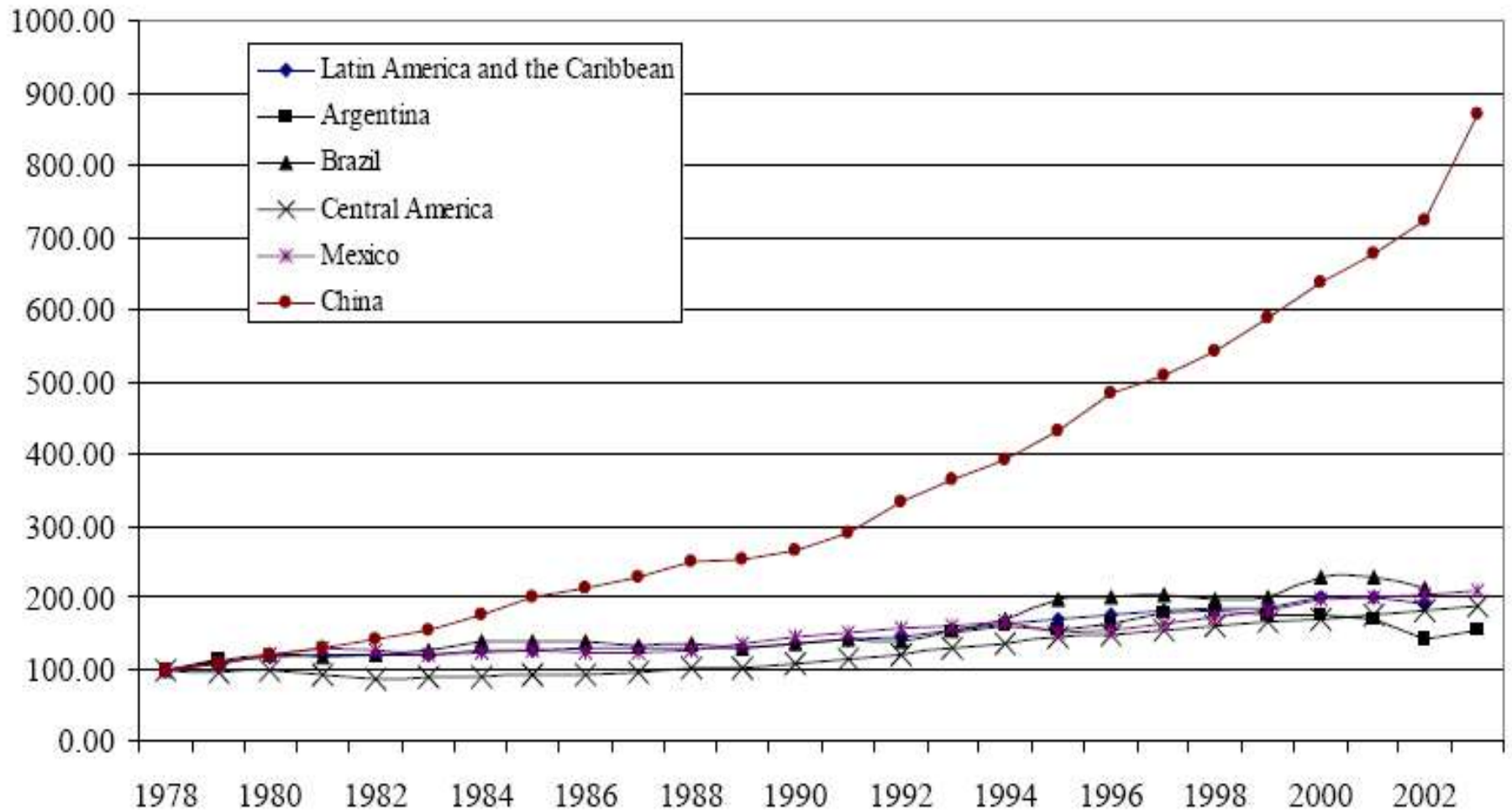
Ecuadorian democracy's timeline



- 1 A. Bucaram
- 2 F. Alarcon
- 3 J. Mahuad
- 4 L. Gutierrez

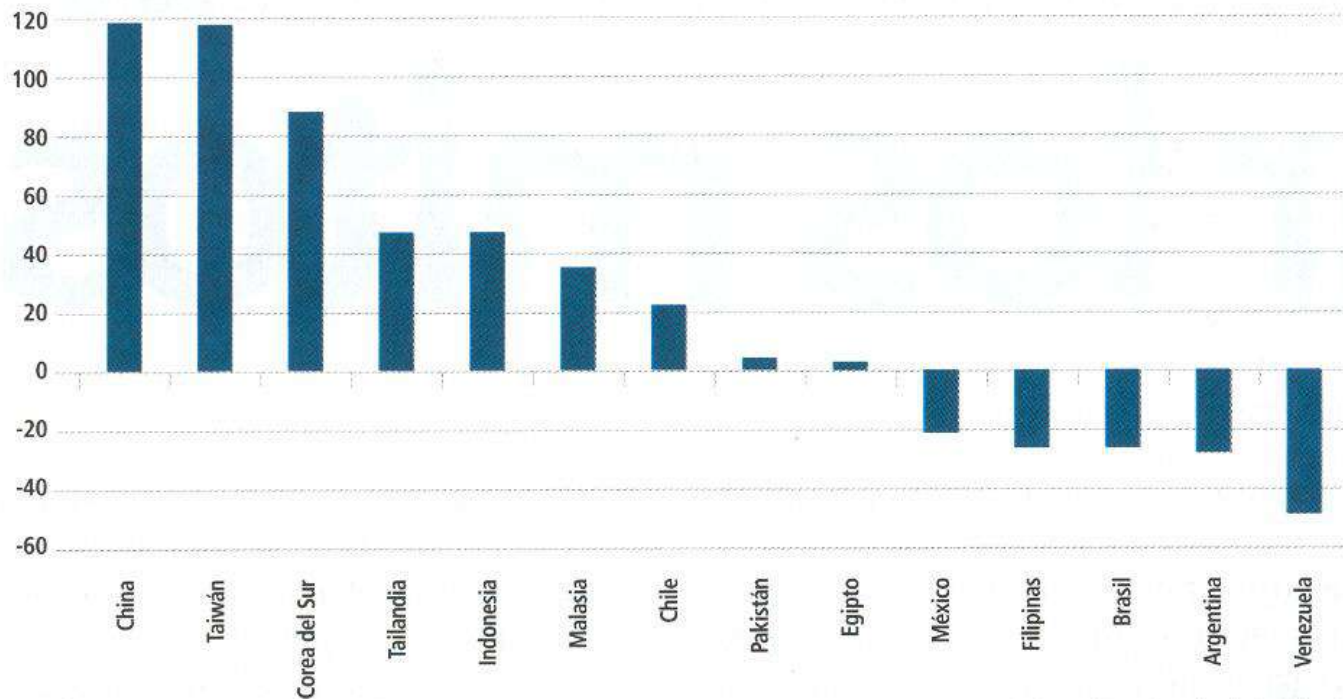
GDP per capita growth rates of selected countries (1960-2003)

(annual growth rates, constant dollars of 1995)



Percentage variation of the GDP per capita of developing countries vs. USA's, 1978-80 and 1998-2000

Grafico 2. **Variación porcentual del Producto Bruto per cápita de países en desarrollo comparado con el de los EE.UU., 1978-80 y 1998-2000**



Fuente: Rojas e Iserrn, obra citada. Página 38

Development success in current democracies

- Spain
- Ireland
- Czech Republic

In Latin America

- Chile
 - Costa Rica (?)
 - Brazil (?)
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Latin America

Haiti

Bolivia

Peru

Argentina

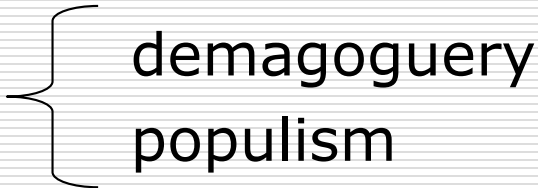
Paraguay

Ecuador

Guatemala

Nicaragua

Causes for democratic instability and failure

- Low education level
 - Compulsory voting → 
 - demagoguery
 - populism
 - Weak Judicial system
 - Unreliable, biased
 - Corruption – Impunity
 - US safe haven
 - Multiparty system gives way to weak governments
 - Presidential vs. Parliamentary democracies
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Causes for democratic instability and failure

- Mediocre journalism
 - Free press vs. Libertinism
 - Military Interference
 - Government centralization
 - Strengthening of local governments
 - Education
 - Health
 - Infrastructure
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Causes for lack of foreign (national) investment

- ❑ Legal instability and unreliable judicial system
 - ❑ Corruption
 - ❑ Expensive utilities (electric power)
 - Lack of investment in hydroelectricity
 - Bad public distribution companies
 - ❑ Socialized labor laws
 - 15% profit sharing
 - Guaranteed stability
 - ❑ Physical Insecurity
 - High delinquency levels
 - ❑ Poor infrastructure
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Possible paths for development in Latin America

- ❑ Improving democratic systems
 - ❑ Falling again in totalitarian regimes
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Venezuela

- ❑ Two party system with evident corruption
 - ❑ New messianic leader
 - ❑ Strong government with high monetary resources due to oil prices
 - ❑ Important social investment for the have-nots
 - Education & Health
 - ❑ If success is continued, it will influence greatly in other Latin American democracies
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“Participacion Ciudadana”

□ Goals

- To contribute to the strengthening of democratic institutionalism
 - To promote citizen participation in democratic life and transparency in public activities
 - To encourage debate and search for agreements on transcendental affairs for the country
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“Participacion Ciudadana”

- Strategic lines of action
 - Informed and deliberative citizenship
 - Clean election processes
 - Responsible representation
 - Agendas for democracy (debates)
 - Organizational strengthening
 - 10 projects through lines of action to acquire goals
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Other ways to strengthen Latin American democracies and promote development

- Encourage and promote South American Union
 - Mercosur – Andean Pact
 - Fair FTA's with US, European Union and others
 - Agricultural subsidies
 - Long and expensive pharmaceutical rights
 - Anti-corruption collaboration
 - Decrease military expenditure
 - Japan, Costa Rica
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Development and democratization

- They do not have a direct relationship
 - China vs. Argentina
 - More democratization does not always mean more development
 - Not always are democratic governments more effective than dictatorial ones
 - Democracies ought to be strengthened by:
 - Working democratic party system (culture)
 - Strong law enforcement
 - Education to avoid demagoguery and populism
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Thank you

Questions?