

development of civil society, and economic development. Liberalization in the present context refers to a limitation of the power of the state, a reduction of repression, and to the expansion of constitutionalism and civil liberties. Political liberalization then may be viewed as a way to reconfigure or to change Latin American societies to suppress authoritarianism, militarism, and violence by paramilitary forces or other groups. In this process, the old elites must accept new realities that other sectors are entitled to participation so that the views of government reflect the entire society and not one small segment. Democratization refers to institutional and structural changes, and cultural or attitudinal changes. The goal is to attain greater levels of participation in politics beyond the elites and to establish civilian control of the military. The development of civil society refers to the coming together of individuals into autonomous civil groups of all kinds to achieve greater control of their own destiny. Economic development which is often associated with economic growth must be examined to see if positive growth rates benefit the population in general or if disparities of wealth and poverty might provoke political discontent or even violence.

These four factors must be considered together as interdependent components in a process necessary to achieve stability, order, and the establishment of human rights. The goal is to create an environment conducive to establishing legitimacy or acceptance of the constitutional system, order, and stability. Randall and Dickerson argued that separation and emphasis upon only certain elements described within the four areas could lead to difficulties. Today for example, there is broad acceptance for the neo-liberal initiative to remove the state from many of its earlier functions and to dissolve traditional barriers to trade. Although certain population segments have benefited significantly from these changes, some studies suggest negative