

## Democracy & Public Opinion in Latin America Data from the Latinobarómetro (1996-2011)

### I. Support for Democracy (various years from 1996 to 2011)

#### More waverers about democracy

Which of the following statements do you agree with most? %

	Democracy is preferable to any other type of government				In certain circumstances authoritarian government can be preferable to a democratic one			
	2001	2010	2011	Change since 2010	2001	2010	2011	Change since 2010
Paraguay	35	49	54	5	43	33	25	-8
Argentina	58	66	70	4	21	13	15	2
Dominican Rep.	na	63	65	2	na	23	22	-1
Uruguay	79	75	75	nil	10	15	11	-4
Panama	34	61	60	-1	23	17	19	2
Chile	45	63	61	-2	19	11	14	3
Peru	62	61	59	-2	12	15	16	1
Ecuador	40	64	61	-3	24	12	23	11
Bolivia	54	68	64	-4	17	9	11	2
Colombia	36	60	55	-5	16	10	11	1
El Salvador	25	59	54	-5	10	19	16	-3
Venezuela	57	84	77	-7	20	9	14	5
Costa Rica	71	72	65	-7	8	12	14	2
Nicaragua	43	58	50	-8	22	9	15	6
Brazil	30	54	45	-9	18	19	19	nil
Mexico	46	49	40	-9	35	10	14	4
Honduras	57	53	43	-10	8	16	27	11
Guatemala	33	46	36	-10	21	17	22	5

Source: Latinobarómetro

## Democracia churchilliana

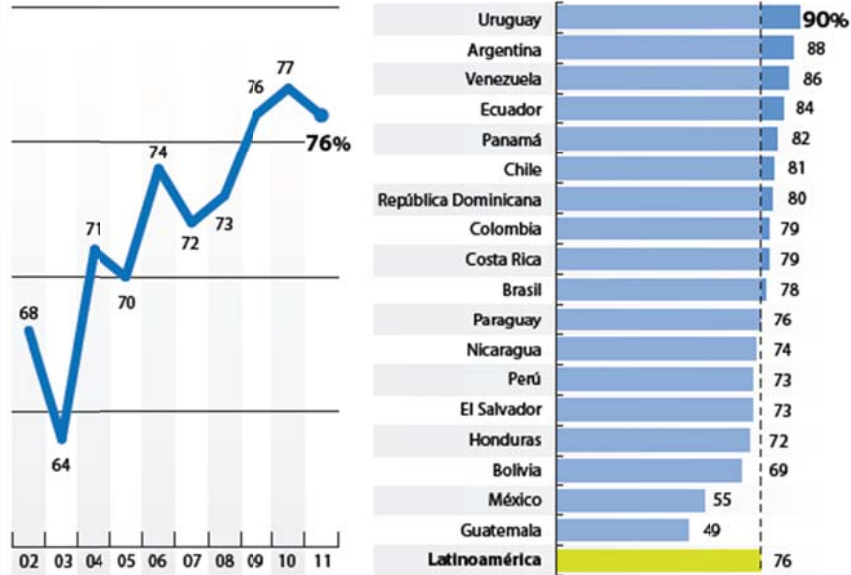


Total América Latina 2002 - 2011 - Totales por país 2011

P. ¿Está ud. Muy de acuerdo, De acuerdo, En desacuerdo o Muy en desacuerdo con las siguientes afirmaciones?

La democracia puede tener problemas, pero es el mejor sistema de gobierno.

\*Aquí sólo 'Muy de acuerdo' más 'De acuerdo'.



Fuente: Latinobarómetro 2002-2011

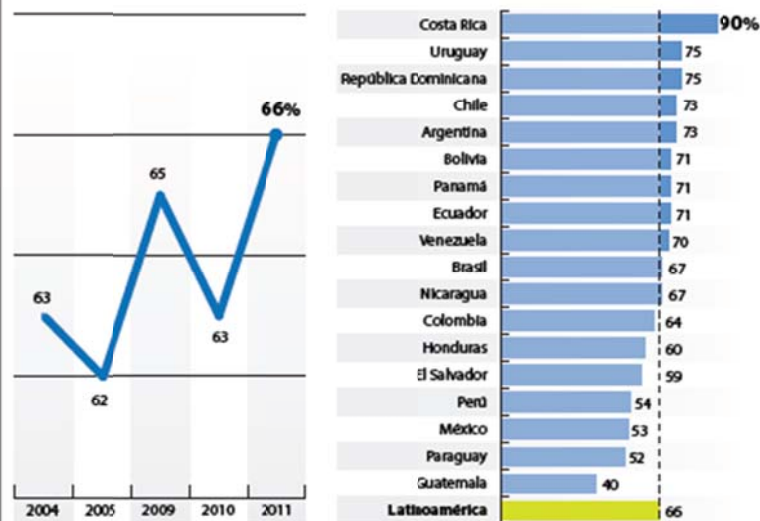
## Bajo ninguna circunstancia apoyaría a un gobierno militar



Totales América Latina 2004 - 2011 - Totales por país 2011

P. ¿Apoyaría Ud. un gobierno militar en reemplazo del gobierno democrático, si las cosas se ponen muy difíciles, o no apoyaría Ud. en ninguna circunstancia a un gobierno militar?

\*Aquí 'En ninguna circunstancia apoyaría a un gobierno militar'.

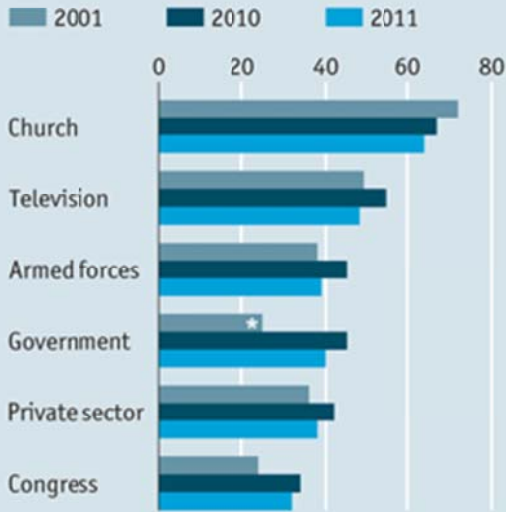


Fuente: Latinobarómetro 2004-2011

## Switching off

4

For the groups or institutions in this list, how much confidence do you have in each?  
% responding "a lot" or "some"



Source: Latinobarómetro

\*2002

## A bare democratic majority

1

Democracy is preferable to any other kind of government  
% agreeing, Latin American average



Source: Latinobarómetro

\*By population †No data

## Satisfied in Montevideo

2

How satisfied are you with the way democracy works in your country?

% responding "very satisfied" or "somewhat satisfied"



Source: Latinobarómetro

## Disgruntled in Santiago

2

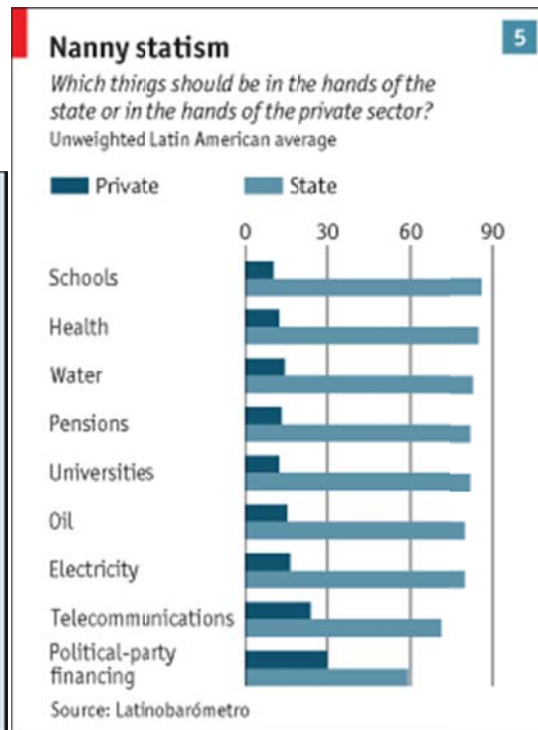
How satisfied are you with the way democracy works in your country?

% responding "very satisfied" or "somewhat satisfied"



Source: Latinobarómetro

## II. Statist v. Market-Oriented Policies



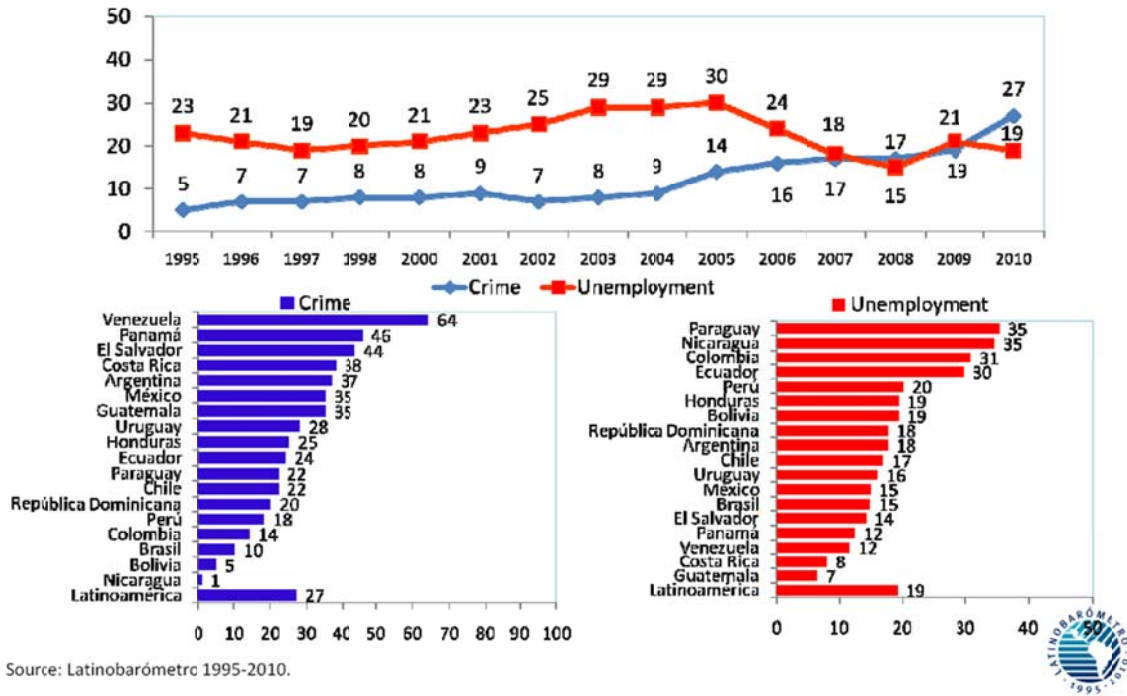
### III. Opinions regarding the Most Important Problem Facing the Country

*Delinquency (crime) and unemployment are the most frequently cited problems.*

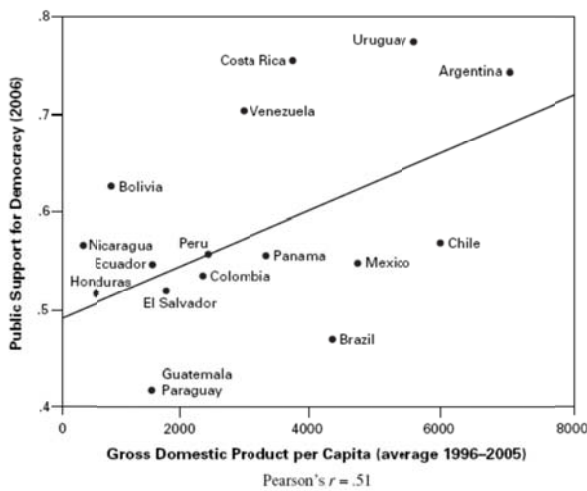
#### MAJOR PROBLEMS: CRIME AND UNEMPLOYMENT.

TOTAL LATIN AMERICA 1995-2010 – TOTALS BY COUNTRY 2010 FOR CRIME AND UNEMPLOYMENT

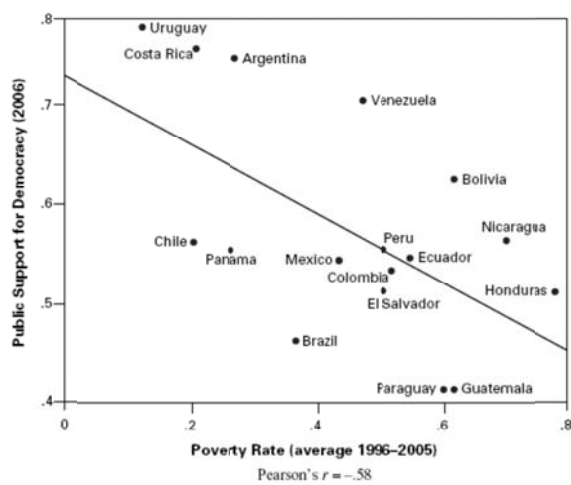
Q. In your opinion, which is the most important problem in the country? \* Here only 'Unemployment' and 'Crime'.



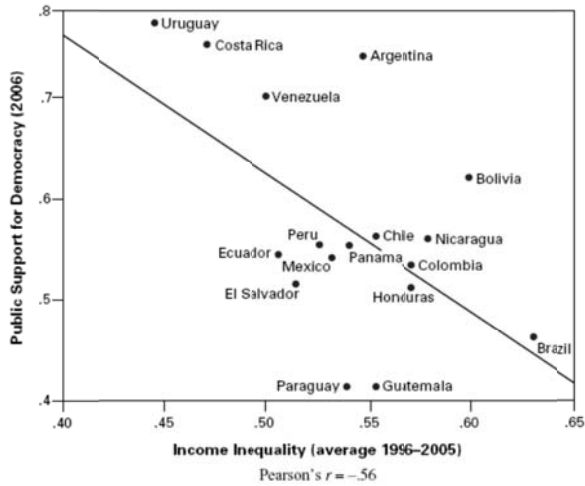
### IV. Influences on Support for Democracy



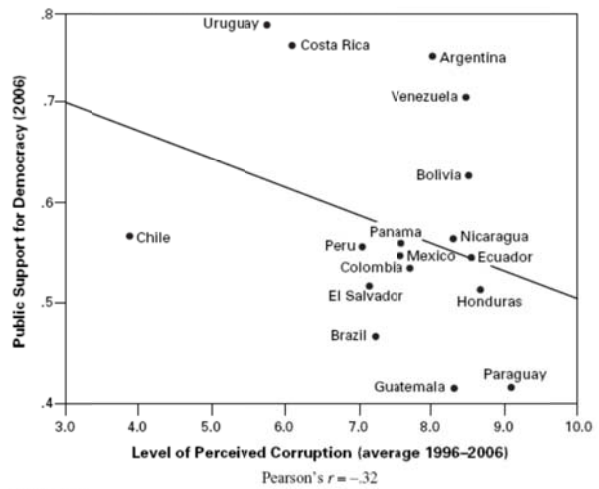
**FIGURE 12.1** National Wealth and Public Support for Democracy (2006)  
SOURCE: Data on support for democracy are from the 2006 *Latinobarómetro* survey. Data on GDP per capita are from the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.



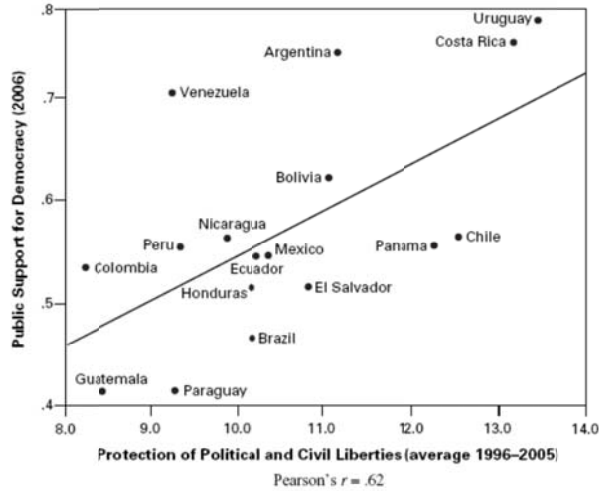
**FIGURE 12.2** Poverty and Public Support for Democracy (2006)  
SOURCE: Data on support for democracy are from the 2006 *Latinobarómetro* survey. Data on poverty are from the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.



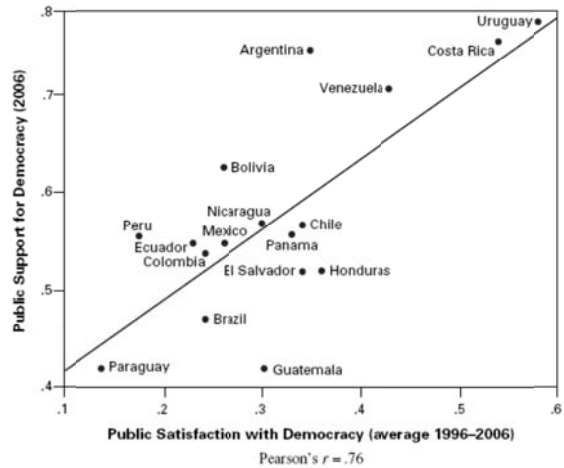
**FIGURE 12.3** Income Inequality and Public Support for Democracy (2006)  
 SOURCE: Data on support for democracy are from the 2006 *Latinobarómetro* survey. Data on income inequality are from the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.



**FIGURE 12.5** Political Corruption and Public Support for Democracy (2006)  
 SOURCE: Data on support for democracy are from the 2006 *Latinobarómetro* survey. Data on perceived corruption are from Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index.



**FIGURE 12.4** Liberty and Public Support for Democracy (2006)  
 SOURCE: Data on support for democracy are from the 2006 *Latinobarómetro* survey. Data on liberty are from Freedom House.



**FIGURE 12.6** Satisfaction with Democracy and Public Support for Democracy (2006)  
 SOURCE: Data on support for democracy and satisfaction with democracy are from the 2006 *Latinobarómetro* survey.

**Table 12.8 – Development, Liberty, Governance, and Support for Democracy (2006)**  
*(each number ranks the country in its success relative to the other countries)<sup>1</sup>*

**TABLE 12.8 -- Development, Liberty, Governance, and Support for Democracy (2006)\***

Country	Support for democracy (2006)	GDP per capita (average for 1996–2005)	Poverty rate (average for 1996–2005)	Income inequality (average for 1996–2005)	Protection of political and civil liberties (average for 1996–2005)	Level of perceived corruption (average for 1998–2006)	Satisfaction with how democracy functions (average for 1996–2006)
Argentina	3	1	5	10	5	10	5
Brazil	15	5	6	17	10	6	13
Chile	6	2	2	11	3	1	6
Guatemala	16	13	14	11	16	12	9
Mexico	10	4	7	7	8	8	11
Venezuela	4	8	8	3	14	13	3
Bolivia	5	15	15	16	6	14	11
Colombia	12	10	11	13	17	9	13
Costa Rica	2	6	3	2	2	3	2
Ecuador	10	14	12	4	9	15	15
El Salvador	13	11	9	5	7	5	6
Honduras	13	16	17	13	10	16	4
Nicaragua	6	17	16	15	12	11	9
Panama	8	7	4	8	4	7	8
Paraguay	16	12	13	8	14	17	17
Peru	8	9	9	6	13	4	16
Uruguay	1	3	1	1	1	2	1

<sup>1</sup> Country rankings are inverted for poverty, income inequality, and corruption because success is indicated by low poverty, low inequality, and lower corruption. Numbers in oversized, **bold** print indicate that the country ranks in the top half of these 17 countries (literally, at or above the median point in the distribution).

SOURCE: Same as for Figures 12.1-12.6.