

# Latin American Keys

## ATREVIA

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### SUMMARY

#### A TENSE SOCIAL CLIMATE, ELECTORAL PROCESSES, AND NEW RESTRICTIONS DUE TO THE PANDEMIC: THE CURRENT SITUATION IN LATIN AMERICA

The national strike in **Colombia** and its turn in some areas of the country, especially Cali, have been at the center of the news in recent weeks. Initiated on April 28, the tax reform bill presented by President Duque's administration was the trigger amidst a social climate of enormous tension and unrest. Despite the bill's withdrawal, citizens have continued to take to the streets to make other demands. Although a dialogue process has been initiated, so far, no agreements have been reached. Current figures published place **Colombia** as the country with the greatest inequality in Latin America.

One month before the second round of the elections, Peru is enveloped by a marked division. The regions and the population with the lowest socioeconomic status designate Pedro Castillo as their preferred candidate, placing him at the head in the race for Presidency, but with Fujimori closing the gap. The next few weeks will be decisive for the country, taking into consideration the economic and social models proposed by both candidates.

In **Ecuador**, President-elect Guillermo Lasso is preparing his government, which, as of May 24, 2021, will have to face several immediate challenges. The most important factor will be achieving internal governance (he only obtained 12 out of 137 assembly members) that will allow him to govern a country immersed in a significant economic crisis, with Covid-19 as an aggravating factor. Likewise, he will have to face the health crisis, which has required vigorous efforts and strong containment measures, such as the decree of a new State of Emergency imposed by the current government to try to mitigate the pandemic's consequences.

**Argentina's** current affairs are marked by Alberto Fernández's Government negotiations with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) regarding debt. In addition, the scheduling and beginning of the Simultaneous and Mandatory Open Primary Elections (PASO) campaign and the general mid-term legislative elections have begun. This is all amidst of the economic crisis characterized by high inflation rates, increasing poverty, and a crisis due to the increase of Covid-19 cases.

The elections held in **Chile** the next weekend of May 15 and 16 will prove to be a decisive moment for the country. Many Chileans consider these to be the most important elections since the plebiscite that marked the end of Augusto Pinochet's dictatorship (1973-1990) and be the elections that will set the rules for the coming decades.

The **Mexican** government's foreign relations have been getting stronger in recent weeks. A sign of this has been the virtual meeting that President Andrés Manuel López Obrador held with the Vice President of the United States, Kamala Harris, with the aim of both nations working together to combat violence and corruption. The causes of migration from Mexico and the countries of the so-called Northern Triangle of Central America (**El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras**) were also discussed. It also includes the visit by Guatemalan president Alejandro Giammattei, during which the Central American country signed an agreement to replicate the "Sembrando Vida" reforestation program and the "Jóvenes Construyendo el Futuro" scholarship program to counteract migration to northern countries.



**Latin American Keys** presents a monthly report about the political, economic, and social situation of Latin America. Through this report, ATREVIA's Analysis and Research team provides companies with a first-hand perspective regarding the evolution of the political-institutional scene in the region.

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