

FEBRUARY 2019

CURRENT HISTORY

A Journal of Contemporary World Affairs



LATIN AMERICA

Starting Over

A Postcolonial Puerto Rico?

Pedro Cabán

Return Migrants' Fortunes in Mexico

Jacqueline Maria Hagan and Joshua T. Wassink

The Venezuelan Exodus

Luisa Feline Freier and Nicolas Parent

Memory Struggles

Brazil's Dictatorship Nostalgia

Rebecca J. Atencio

Peru's Unnameable Era

Alberto Vergara

Opposition

Morris

Colombia's Oil Curse

Ulrich Oslender

\$8.95US



CURRENT HISTORY

February 2019

Vol. 118, No. 805

CONTENTS

- 43 **Hurricane Maria's Aftermath:
Redefining Puerto Rico's Colonial Status?** *Pedro Cabán*
The devastation wrought by a historic storm exposed the damage already inflicted by decades of economic policies that have treated the island like a second-class territory.
- 50 **Return Migration and
Social Mobility in Mexico** *Jacqueline Maria Hagan and Joshua T. Wassink*
Work skills and savings gained in the United States can boost the prospects of Mexicans who come home—under the right circumstances. *Sixth in a series on social mobility around the world.*
- 56 **The Regional Response to
the Venezuelan Exodus** *Luisa Feline Freier and Nicolas Parent*
Millions of refugees crossing their borders from a troubled neighbor are forcing South American nations—hospitable hosts so far—to rethink their liberal immigration laws.
- 62 **Ortega Faces a New Nicaraguan
Opposition Movement.** *Courtney Desiree Morris*
The former revolutionary has gradually become a *caudillo*, a transformation punctuated by his Sandinista regime's repression of a heterogeneous protest movement.
- 68 **From Truth Commission
to Post-Truth Politics in Brazil.** *Rebecca J. Atencio*
A past dictatorship whose crimes were never subjected to a full reckoning is relevant again, ominously hailed as a guiding light by newly elected president Jair Bolsonaro.
- PERSPECTIVE**
- 75 **Heat But Little Light: Peru's Memory Debates** *Alberto Vergara*
Peruvians are bitterly divided over how—or even whether—the terrible violence that engulfed the country in the 1980s and '90s should be remembered.
- BOOKS**
- 78 **Colombia's Other Dangerous Crop.** *Ulrich Oslander*
An idiosyncratic, literary-minded anthropologist returns to Colombia to observe the effects of the palm oil boom on a rural village under the shadow of paramilitary violence.
- THE MONTH IN REVIEW**
- 80 **December 2018**
An international chronology of events in December, country by country, day by day.