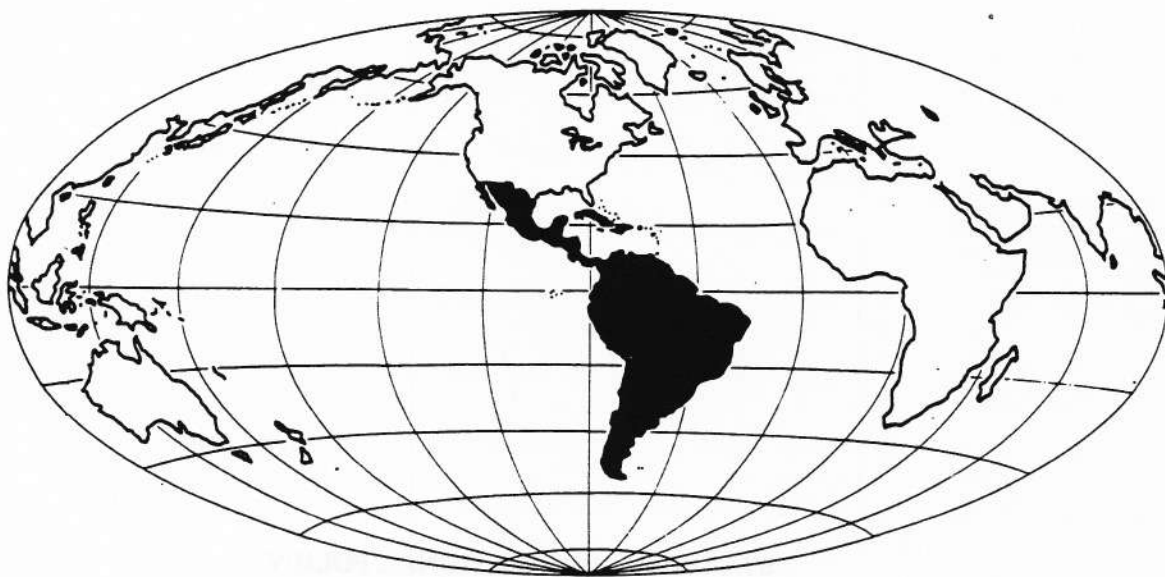


# **STATISTICS and NATIONAL POLICY**

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**UCLA**

**Statistical Abstract  
of Latin America**



by

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WORKS BY JAMES W. WILKIE

*Measuring Land Reform* (1974).

*Statistics and National Policy* (1974).

*The Mexican Revolution: Federal Expenditure and Social Change Since 1910* (1967, 1970).

*The Bolivian Revolution and U.S. Aid Since 1952* (1969).

*Elitelore* (1973).

*México Visto en el Siglo XX: Entrevistas de Historia Oral* (1969), Coauthored with Edna Monzón de Wilkie.

*Revolution in Mexico: Years of Upheaval, 1910-1940* (1969), Coedited with Albert L. Michaels.

*John Reed's Insurgent Mexico* (1969), Coedited with Albert L. Michaels.



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# PREFACE

by  
Kenneth Ruddle, Editor  
*Statistical Abstract of Latin America*  
and  
*Supplement Series*

This volume by Professor James W. Wilkie adds several new dimensions to the UCLA Latin American Center statistical research and publication program. In presenting an anthology of essays together with selected sets of historical statistics developed for the study of contemporary Latin America, the scope of the program has been expanded to offer data with longer time-series perspectives than hitherto published. It is hoped that this innovation will stimulate new approaches to the study of the Latin American world area.

Since 1956, when the first edition of the *Statistical Abstract of Latin America* appeared, the Latin American Center has attempted to gather and publish the statistical data necessary to understand the various developmental stages within the internally diverse and complex Latin American region. At that time Professors Robert N. Burr and Russell H. Fitzgibbon, the co-editors of the first *Statistical Abstract of Latin America*, foresaw that a single, readily accessible source of comparative data, would contribute to the improvement of our understanding of statistical data for Latin America.

Expansion and improvement of the *Statistical Abstract of Latin America* (the seventeenth edition of which is now in preparation) has reflected subsequent increase in both the production of statistical data for the region, as well as the interests of much of the staff of the University of California and other institutions. The growth of statistical activities led to the initiation in 1970 of the *Supplement Series*, of which this publication is Volume 3. The first volume in the series, *Cuba 1968*, edited by C. Paul Roberts and Mukhtar Hamour, contains data for the 1960s based principally on Cuban primary sources. Volume 2, *Latin American Political Statistics* (published in 1972 under the editorship of Kenneth Ruddle and Philip Gillette), presents electoral data since the 1940s. Volume 4, *Urbanization in 19th Century Latin America* (1973), gives data for Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, and Peru, as developed by authors Richard E. Boyer and Keith A. Davies. Volume 5, *Measuring Land Reform* (1974), offers a case study in applied historical statistics, generating longitudinal data for Latin America with special reference to Bolivia and Venezuela.

In contrast to *Measuring Land Reform*, which concerns the generation and testing of "time-series

data" (i.e., data listed on a year-by-year or period-by-period basis), this work is concerned with presenting and testing available statistics needed to reconceptualize and analyze the informational infrastructure in which twentieth-century decisions of national policy are made. Although the six essays of Part I (which stand as originally written for six different publications) illustrate statistical themes that give the past an immediate importance for those who seek to understand the present and/or plan for the future, Professor Wilkie's introductory and closing sections explore problems and possibilities for developing the extended use of historical statistics. Part I pursues the following topics: politico-social economy, urbanization, Church-state relations, dependency since the 1930s, the public sector, and comparative governmental budgets.

Part II includes yearly time-series data for each of the twenty Latin American countries with regard to population statistics since 1900, education enrollments since 1930, food and agricultural production since 1952, energy supplies since 1929, inflation since 1929, exchange rates since 1915, balance of payments since 1956, exports and imports since 1916, major trading partners since 1915, U.S. assistance to Latin America since 1946, and economic change since 1950. Because data in Part II are presented simply to exemplify the kinds of statistics we need to develop in order to understand the bottlenecks in state planning and state action, data within sections are not generally analyzed. But since the intent of this work is to place historical statistics into one important perspective, the range and problems of data presented in the volume is sampled in the Introduction and Afterword. Part III also is designed to further illustrate the complex meaning in one type of data (Gross National Product) presented in Part II.

Part III offers brief case studies in the use of historical statistics to understand outcomes of national policy in an international sphere. Figures on economic growth in Latin America are analyzed in relation to the importance of United States policy, particularly with regard to the historical role of the Alliance for Progress. Professor Wilkie's purpose is to show how available time-series data can help us to test such commonly accepted assumptions as the following: that the economic gap between the United States and Latin

America is widening; and that the Alliance for Progress failed, mainly because of U.S. policy.

In his Afterword, the author reflects on the meaning of Part I in the perspective of recent events as well as on data presented in Parts II and III. Special attention is devoted to Bolivia, Costa Rica, Mexico, and Venezuela where the author has conducted extensive field research.

Dr. Wilkie is Professor of History and Chairman of Latin American Studies at UCLA as well as

Associate Director of the Latin American Center. He is Chairman of the Committee on Historical Statistics of the American Historical Association's Conference on Latin American History.

K. R.  
Los Angeles  
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