

### **Latin-America between dictatorship and democracy**

by A.Th. Derksen

This article reviews several explanations for recent fluctuations in the democratic performance of Latin-American nations. At the same time it provides results of empirical tests. Modernization theory (industrialization fosters democracy) appeared to be untenable, but rather strong evidence was found in favour of the proposition that economic decline contributed to the authoritarian trend of the sixties and seventies. Further, the dependency-theory of politics in Latin-America met with several falsifications.

Special attention was given to the finding that economic decline preceded democratic reversals in the past years. It was indicated when economic decline would result in an deterioration, and when in an enhancement of the democratic performance. On the basis of this theory the article foretold the future of the newly democratic nations in Latin America. Surmounting the economic problems will stabilize these regimes, whereas a continuation of their economic slumps will bring back the installment of authoritarian governments.

### **Influence-research and survey intervieweffects; informationbias by interviewing keypersons**

by J.M. Bos

Many studies of influence processes are based on interviews with keypersons. I asked for the suitability of these informants in view of the complexity for the processes, the lot of time the processes usually take and the important role of the keypersons in the process.

To investigate the informationbias I partially re-analysed two influence studies. I concentrated the analyses on the respondent-bias and the interviewer-bias. In both studies keypersons were asked the problems their organizations had during the last three years. Hypotheses were formulated based on the well-known high-risk factors for survey intervieweffects.

I found keypersons mentioned less problems if:

- they are many years in office;
- the interviewer have a low status;
- there is only one interviewer;
- the problem isn't grave.

My conclusion is that keypersons are suitable informants in studies of influence processes. The interviews however required good prepared interviewers and a structured questionnaire that at the same time the keyperson gives opportunity for expatiations.