

# 8 Hotspots of Progress



## Cuba

Cuba sends doctors to 69 countries and trains medical students from poor communities in 30 countries.

Building **democracy** in politics and workplaces. Collaborating **across borders**. Fighting poverty. **Social movements** and **elected leaders** are turning Latin America around.

## Venezuela

Venezuela's co-ops provide 6% of all jobs.

## Ecuador

Ecuador will not renew lease of U.S. military base at Manta. International movement for base closures launches in Quito in March.

## Brazil

Porto Alegre, Brazil: Site of four World Social Forums.

## Bolivia

La Paz: Site of hemispheric indigenous gathering in October 2006.

## Chile

## Uruguay

## Argentina

### MAP KEY

### SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

#### Via Campesina: International Peasant Movement



Coalition of over 100 organizations in the Americas, Asia, and Europe, Via Campesina combines the power of grassroots movements that oppose neoliberal control of agriculture. Invented the term "food sovereignty," the right of people to grow food sustainably on their own land in accordance with their development needs, and to regulate trade.

#### Landless Workers' Movement



Brazil's Landless Workers' Movement (MST) is one of the largest social movements in the Americas, with 1.5 million members. MST has won land titles for nearly 400,000 families through peaceful occupations in a country where 3% of the population owns 2/3 of all arable land. Members start co-op organic farms, build schools, and settle communities.

#### Recuperated Factories



Argentine workers began taking over abandoned factories during the economic crisis of 2001 and operating them as cooperatives. Today, recuperated factories provide jobs for more than 10,000. Similar movements exist in Brazil, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

#### Water Wars



In Cochabamba, Bolivia, thousands protested the privatization of water in 2000. They eventually ejected foreign corporate "owners" and reclaimed the water system. Water protection movements are also found in Uruguay, Argentina, and Ecuador.

#### Human Rights Movements



Human Rights movements are found all over Latin America. Especially prominent are groups seeking justice for those who committed (or continue to commit) political murders and torture. Meanwhile, Argentina, Venezuela, and Uruguay have withdrawn their respective military personnel from the U.S.-based School of the Americas (WHINSEC).

#### Indigenous Rights Movements



Indigenous peoples are reclaiming rights to self-determination, ancestral lands, and cultural and religious practices. Many are blocking mining and oil exploitation of their lands—some of richest in biodiversity on Earth. Gatherings at all levels are issuing calls for change.

### NEW REGIONAL COOPERATION

#### ALBA (The Bolivarian Alternative for the Americas)



Unlike "free-trade" agreements such as NAFTA and FTAAs, ALBA's purpose is to end poverty and social exclusion while protecting the environment. Venezuela, Cuba, Bolivia, and Nicaragua have signed on. ALBA agreements to date have covered exchanges of Cuban medical care and training of doctors, Venezuelan oil, and Bolivian indigenous knowledge, natural medicine, and food exports, among others.

#### No to IMF; Yes to "Bancosur"



The IMF presence in Latin America has dwindled to nearly nothing as countries restructure and pay off their debt, often with help from Venezuela. Presidents Chávez of Venezuela and Kirchner of Argentina signed an agreement to launch the Bank of the South (Bancosur). Chávez has pledged 10% of Venezuela's foreign reserves to the bank.



YES! MAGAZINE GRAPHIC, 2007



Read inspiring stories of change from the bottom up in Latin America in the Summer 2007 issue of YES! Magazine. Back copies at [www.YesMagazine.org/store](http://www.YesMagazine.org/store). Research by Catherine Bailey and Sarah Kuck. Interactive online map & related articles at [www.YesMagazine.org/latinamericamap](http://www.YesMagazine.org/latinamericamap).