

Class Alliance, Revolution and Post-Revolutionary Change: A Comparison of Cuba and Nicaragua

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Abstract

A class alliance model is compared to past work on revolutions and is used to explain economic changes after the revolutions in Cuba (1959) and Nicaragua (1979). A class alliance is defined as a coalition of different classes forged in order to realize individual special interests. The possibility of the state apparatus to implement particular policy package is influenced by the interests of the classes it chooses to associate with, and by its capacity to prevent other forces from blocking policy reforms. Class alliance is identified as the primary determinant of the form and extent of a society's transition to the socialist economic system, as is shown in Castro's implementation of orthodox socialist policy, and in the Sandinista's adoption of a heretical mixed economy.