

C.IAS Lectures Series: Inter-American History and Culture

U.S. LATIN AMERICA POLICY: From Bill Clinton to Joe Biden

Alexander Springer



Bill Clinton (1993-2001), George W. Bush (2001-2009), Barack Obama (2009-2017), Donald Trump (2017-2021) and Joe Biden (2021-)

Bill Clinton was the first President elected after the end of the Cold War. US power was at its zenith. The first Summit of the Americas in Miami (1994) with its commitment to democracy and development embodied optimism. Nevertheless, the less unequal partnership many had hoped for never quite materialized, as new topics ("War on Terror" under G. W. Bush; "Pivot to Asia" under B. Obama) replaced Latin America on Washington's agenda. A low point was probably reached with D. Trump, who not only used the fear of illegal migration and Latino gangs as an opportunity for negative campaigning. J. Biden has only been president for 100 days, but at least the tone seems to have become less confrontational. However, the migration issue still seems to drive most U.S. interest in its Southern neighborhood.

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