Abstract
The autor analyses four factors which have influenced the consolidation or instability of emerging democracies in Central America. These factors are: 1) the institutionalization of electoral systems; 2) the situation of the political parties; 3) progress in the civilian control of military institutions; and 4) the new economic trends present in all the countries during the 1990s. For each case study, the author has drawn up a summary table in terms of progress and deficiencies.