Abstract
The author analyses regulative, historical and financial factors which could explain the Costa Rican electorate’s two-party alignment in recent decades. He then analyses in greater detail the central actors in this process. He points out the features common to all Costa Rican political parties, the contrasts between the major and minor parties, and the differences between the two largest political parties which have alternated in power. In conclusion, he considers some significant changes which these parties have tried to implement in response to the electorate’s evident malaise.