Abstract
The authors examine social policies from the late eighties until the beginnings of this new millennium, specifically in the second governments of Carlos Andrés Pérez and Rafael Caldera and during the first years of the Chávez administration. With Pérez and Caldera, social policies responded to the necessities of a market economy and the re-quirements of economic restructuring and adjustment. In 1999, with Chávez rise to po-wer, there are a series of political changes although inherited problems persist. The objective of this article is to analyze those common features that marked Venezuelan social policies during the successive administations.

Keywords
ALCA, hegemonía, América Latina, recursos naturales, petróleo, bio-diversidad, población, seguridad nacional, geopolítica.