Latin American countries experienced and suffered from the atmosphere of rivalry between America and the Soviet Union during the Cold War. Faced with the potential threat of Moscow-backed communist subversion, Washington’s geostrategic security plans impacted on institutions and processes in the region, leading to instability, guerilla struggles, coups d’état and military dictatorships. Furthermore, this atmosphere enabled the authoritarian regime in power in Mexico to develop and entrench itself, establishing itself as the frame of reference for political struggle and contributing to the re-definition of nationalism as a third way between communism and capitalism.

Keywords
Cold War, Latin America, containment, geopolitics, Mexican political regime.