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## Technocracy and Democracy in Latin America

Praised by some as islands of efficiency in a sea of unprofessional, politicized, and corrupt states, and criticized by others for removing wide-ranging areas of policy making from the democratic arena, technocrats have become prominent and controversial actors in Latin American politics. Nonelected state officials with advanced educations from top universities, technocrats achieved considerable autonomy from political and economic actors and exerted great influence over their countries' fates. This finding poses an intriguing paradox. These experts lack an independent base of authority, such as that afforded via popular election. They also lack the tenure enjoyed by professional bureaucrats. What, then, explains the power of technocrats in democratic Latin America? And why do they enjoy and maintain greater influence in some policy areas than in others? Through an in-depth analysis of economic and health policy in Colombia from 1958 to 2013 and in Peru from 1980 to 2013, *Technocracy and Democracy in Latin America* answers these and other questions about technocrats in Latin America.

Eduardo Dargent is an associate professor of political science at Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú. His main teaching and research interests are comparative public policy and democratization, and the state in the developing world. He has published in *Comparative Politics*, the *Journal of Latin American Studies*, and the *Journal of Politics in Latin America*.

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*The Experts Running Government*

EDUARDO DARGENT

*Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú*



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[More information](#)

Contents

<i>List of Tables</i>	page vii
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	ix
1 Introduction: Technocracy under Democracy	1
<i>The Puzzle</i>	2
<i>The Argument in Brief</i>	5
<i>Research Design</i>	11
<i>Definitions: Technocrats and Democracy</i>	13
<i>Theoretical Relevance: Power, Expertise, and Democracy</i>	14
<i>Organization of the Book</i>	17
2 Technocrats in Latin American Democracies: Agents or Actors?	19
<i>Political Agents</i>	20
<i>Agents of International Financial Institutions</i>	25
<i>Agents of Business</i>	28
<i>Conclusion: The Power of Experts</i>	33
3 A Theory of Technocratic Autonomy	35
<i>The Source of Experts' Autonomy: Knowledge Is Power</i>	36
<i>Determinants of Technical Autonomy</i>	42
The Politics of Policy	42
Technical Aspects of Policy	53
<i>Technical Entrenchment and the Fall of Experts</i>	60
<i>Conclusion</i>	63
4 Economic Technocrats in Colombia (1958–2013)	65
<i>Technocratic Emergence and Continuity</i>	66
<i>Technical Autonomy in Colombia</i>	71

	<i>Explaining Technocratic Autonomy in Colombia</i>	77
	Crafting Technocratic Autonomy in Colombia	77
	Determinants of Technocratic Autonomy in Colombia	81
	<i>Conclusion</i>	88
5	Economic Technocrats in Peru (1980–1983; 1990–2013)	90
	<i>Economic Technocrats in the Eighties</i>	91
	<i>The Rise and Consolidation of Neoliberal Experts (1990–2013)</i>	97
	<i>Explaining Economic Technocratic Autonomy in Peru</i>	105
	MEF Experts’ Strategic Actions	105
	Determinants of Technical Entrenchment in the MEF	107
	<i>Conclusion</i>	112
6	Health Technocrats in Colombia (1966–1970; 1993–2013)	114
	<i>Health Experts during the National Front</i>	115
	<i>Ley 100 and “Team Change” (1993–2013)</i>	119
	<i>Explaining Technical Autonomy and Continuity in an</i>	
	Unlikely Policy Area	125
	Politics of Policy Factors	127
	Technical Aspects of Policy Factors	130
	<i>Conclusion</i>	132
7	Health Technocrats in Peru (1990–2002)	134
	<i>The Health Ministry before the Reform</i>	135
	<i>The Emergence and Stability of Health Experts (1990–2002)</i>	137
	<i>Explaining Health Experts’ Limited Autonomy and Eventual Demise</i>	143
	Positive Factors	145
	Negative Factors	147
	<i>Conclusion</i>	150
8	Conclusion: Technocratic Autonomy, Its Limits, and Democracy in Latin America	152
	<i>The Fall of Experts</i>	156
	<i>The Limits of Political Incentives and Structural Theories for the</i>	
	Analysis of Policy Making	161
	<i>Practical Lessons for Policy Makers</i>	163
	<i>Technocrats, Democracy, and Beyond</i>	165
	<i>Bibliography</i>	169
	<i>Interviews</i>	185
	<i>Index</i>	193

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978-1-107-05987-0 - Technocracy and Democracy in Latin America: The  
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Eduardo Dargent  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

Tables

1.1. Technocratic Autonomy	<i>page 6</i>
1.2. Episodes and Outcomes	10
3.1. Political Costs of Poor Policy Performance	44
3.2. Constellation of Stakeholders	51
3.3. Technical Complexity	54
3.4. Technical Consensus	57
4.1. Colombian Economic Officials (1958–2013)	70
4.2. Economic Advisers to the Monetary Board (1958–1991)	71
5.1. Economic Ministers in Peru (1980–2013)	101
7.1. MINSA Health Infrastructure (1980–2002)	141

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xi

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