

The New Latin America



Abstract

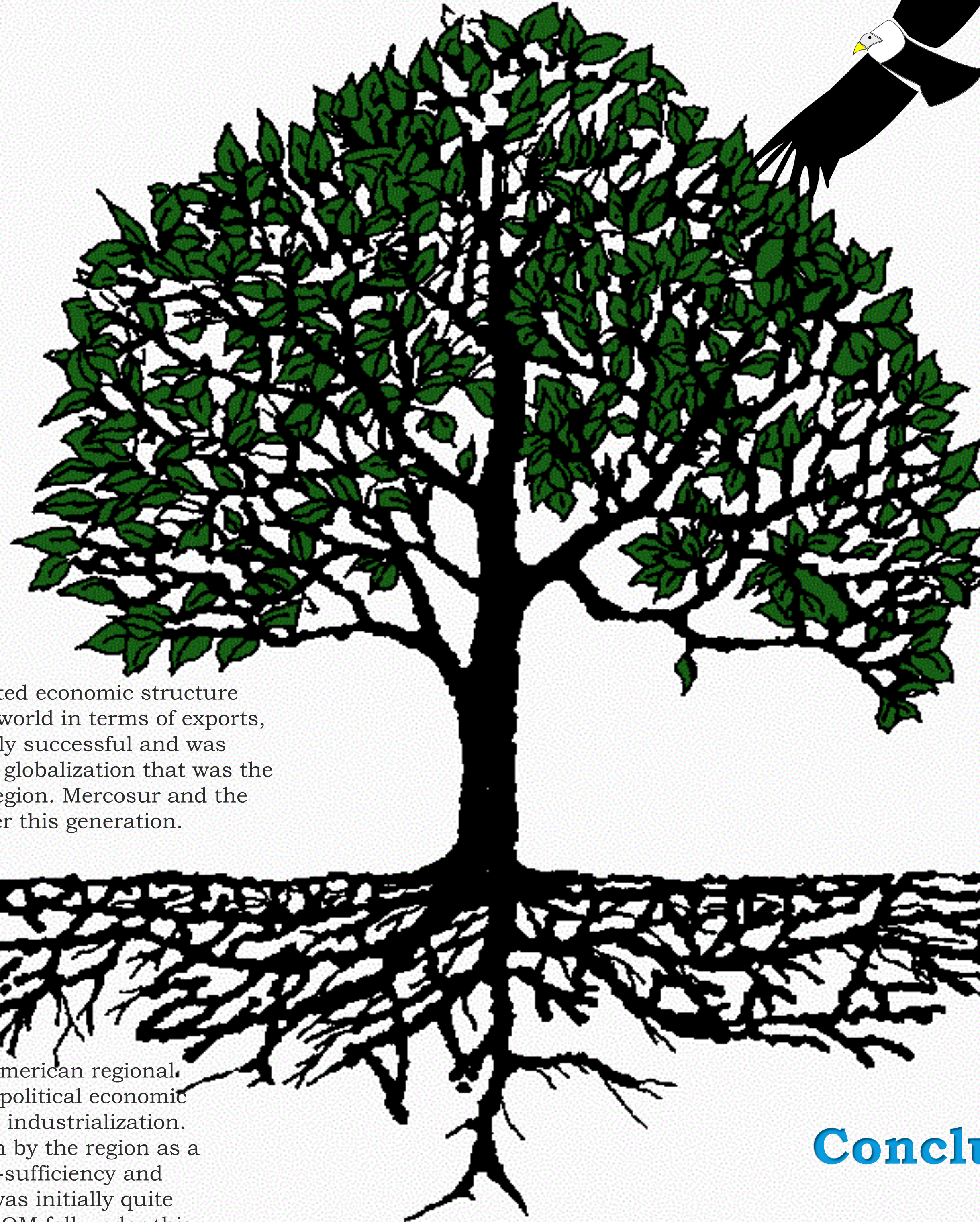
This project will argue that CELAC, UNASUR and ALBA aim to unite Latin America politically, economically and socially with social democratic policies that are incompatible with the current capitalist system, in order to put themselves on par with the first world. CELAC, UNASUR and ALBA have not only taken steps to reduce American dependency in the region but are going as far to create a separate identity from the West in what seems to be the first steps of legitimizing their new presence on the international stage. Their current progress is the culmination of three generations of organizational initiative.

2nd Generation

This new neoliberal, extroverted economic structure opened Latin America to the world in terms of exports, and even if it wasn't ultimately successful and was arguably imperialistic, it was globalization that was the important next step for the region. Mercosur and the Andean Community fall under this generation.

1st Generation

The first generation of Latin American regional organizations operated in the political economic context of import substitution industrialization. The ISI model was undertaken by the region as a way to increase economic self-sufficiency and industrial development, and was initially quite successful. LAFTA and CARICOM fall under this generation, which failed due to a lack of unity, corruption and the Latin American debt crisis.



3rd Generation



By shifting towards endogenous development, 3rd generation organizations are using the region's own potential and resources for progress.

CELAC

CELAC has been the antithesis of Monroeism. It endorses the political independence of Latin America from hegemonic powers. Its membership includes every state in the Western Hemisphere excluding Canada and the US. CELAC's support of the radical leftist governments and unifying presence in Latin America allows economic and social progress to begin.

UNASUR

UNASUR is Latin America's attempt at a form of economic integration similar to the structure of the EU. What makes UNASUR different from the EU is the cultural and linguistic unity that the region already shares, along with the socialist development that is emerging in the region. Its initiative in establishing the Banco del Sur will bring a financial reserve, economic integration and possibly a common currency to the region.

ALBA

ALBA is encouraging social justice in the region. Social division caused by economic inequality provides conditions which are optimal for hegemonic powers to enter into. To combat this ALBA has reached out to the people with an endogenous growth model in order to create a unifying social consciousness that will oppose American imperialism. The alleviation of poverty and socialist development ALBA has provided has greatly challenged the capitalist structure in the region.

Conclusion

The discussion of the rise of CELAC, UNASUR and ALBA, their goals and their progress in achieving these goals, has shown that these organizations are not only unifying the region but elevating the region to a higher standard of living. These organizations have successfully shown that Latin America is a region of progress where socialism and popular movements are undermining capitalism and creating more equitable and positive conditions for the people. A next possible step for the region could be to unite these three organizations into one.