

Brief Visualization of Democracy and Human Rights in Ecuador from 1972-2020

Lcdo Roberto Andrés Rojas Bajaña^{1*}, Mgtr Daniel Augusto Moreira Cáceres², MSc July Elizabeth Fabre Cavanna², Lcda Yesenia Mariela Moran Chacon³, MSc Roberto Arturo Rojas Vera⁴

¹Unidad Educativa Liceo Naval de Guayaquil, Ecuador

²Universidad de Guayaquil, Ecuador

³Tecnológico Universitario Argos, Ecuador

⁴Unidad Educativa Fedeguayas, Ecuador

***Corresponding Author:** Lcdo Roberto Andrés Rojas Bajaña, Unidad Educativa Liceo Naval de Guayaquil, Ecuador.

DOI: 10.31080/ASOR.2022.05.0456

Received: February 02, 2022

Published: April 11, 2022

© All rights are reserved by **Lcdo Roberto Andrés Rojas Bajaña, et al.**

Abstract

The following study aims to develop a brief analysis through a documentary, theoretical and descriptive study that manages to gather accurate content on democracy and human rights in Ecuador. The methodology used is mixed, quantitatively Google Drive digital surveys were used and in this way statistical data was obtained, qualitatively documentary research content is presented, the same one that compiles different texts from books, articles, scientific magazines, articles of newspapers, information from educational texts, among others, to process the information obtained, organize it and provide an analysis. Therefore, one of the main results is that political parties through the media influence society, they are also observed in question No. 14, if there is democracy today? where 58% said yes, while 42% said no. Finally, in conclusion, the presidential commands due to the economic crisis have taken measures that directly affect the Ecuadorian people such as: fraud, deception, administrative failures, economic crises, which have a greater impact on the most vulnerable sectors, due to this the population feels that equal rights do not exist as part of an equitable democracy.

Keywords: Democracy; Human Rights; Dictatorships; Militarism; Government

Introduction

In South America, Anderson P. (1987) affirms that between the years 1973 to 1982 countries such as Chile, Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil were governed by bloodier military dictatorships socially and economically throughout the continent, on the other hand they presented an unstable democracy in countries with less advances such as Venezuela and Colombia, in the same way in Ecuador and Peru that were governed by military dictatorships, but gradually the return of democracy was originating at the end of the 70s [1].

For its part, according to Aguirre C. (2019) in Ecuador originated in the government of José María Velasco Ibarra since 1968, also proclaimed dictator in 1970 and canceled the elections in 1972, in

this way the military dictatorship came to power through General Guillermo Rodríguez Lara, later in 1976 the military triumvirate is formed by Generals Luis Leoro, Guillermo Durán and Admiral Alfredo Poveda where the democratic transition took place giving rise to the electoral process in 1978, the same one that won in the second round the lawyer Jaime Roldós Aguilera who began his mandate on August 10, 1979 giving rise to democracy (El Universo, 2019) [2,3].

Therefore, from Roldós and Hurtado to the government of Sixto Durán Ballén in 1996 there were many differences and violations of human rights, in 1997 until 2006 there were overthrows and the greatest economic crisis, from 2008 to the present the political, economic and health problems are observed, where citizens reflect their discontent and convenience through the media.

Democracy in Ecuador today

In Ecuadorian society, the phrase “there is no democracy in Ecuador” is debated in each change or period of government, since each person in the community has an affinity with one of many political parties that currently exist in our context. They state that in our midst there is no true democracy and propose to strengthen it, since they mention that the “people must govern” and consider that the executive does not listen to the voice of the people, whose consequences are visible in the management of the country mainly in the economic aspect.

In this way, the Ecuadorian population has manifested itself as time has passed in the governments of the day, expressing their rights as citizens to live in a dignified way with access to a job with fair remuneration and contributing to Social Security, free education up to university, health, among others. Therefore, Ecuadorians, by not having one of these accesses, show that they are not heard and that in some way they only benefit a minority group.

In fact, the political decisions of the government regarding the democracy of some generate an impact on society, this population mostly feel vulnerability about their rights and that there is no democracy in the country, for this reason the following research question arises: To what extent is democracy and human rights in Ecuador 1970-2020?

General objective

Develop a brief analysis through a documentary, theoretical and descriptive study that manages to gather accurate content on democracy and human rights in Ecuador from 1970-2020.

Specific objectives

- Select documentary content on democracy in Ecuador and human rights.
- Determine a brief analysis of democracy in Ecuador 1970-2020.

Development

The Nationalist and Revolutionary military government in 1972 to 1979

The government of Velazco Ibarra in 1970 proclaimed itself dictator and made it clear that in 1972 it will hand over the power

of the State to the management of the Armed Forces, according to Aguirre C. (2019, pág. 31) to prevent the populist Assad Bucaram from governing by democratic means, this administration was preceded by General Guillermo Rodríguez Lara that lasted 4 years from 1972 to 1976 and its first years were of great oil bonanza. In addition, it contributed significantly to all social conditions and made investments in health, energy, road infrastructure, construction of Paute hydroelectric plant and increase in jobs [2].

But this government has also had many mistakes, the interests of other groups of powers that tried to impose their agenda, as well as the same members of the Armed Forces known as “Revolution of the Funeral Home” headed by General Raúl Alvear who had affinity with Augusto Pinochet, tried to carry out a coup d’état but failed, under this event Rodríguez Lara would later hand over power in 1976.

Military Triumvirate 1976-1979

The Supreme Council of Government that were formed by Admiral Alfredo Poveda and Generals Guillermo Durán and Luis Leoro, this administration proposed the agrarian reform to benefit the landowners, also repressed its opponents and decreed many limitations on the right of labor personnel. One of the most terrible events of this administration was the massacre of AZTRA workers and that there is currently no exact data on the number of people killed.

On the other hand, the process of this government was to focus on returning to democracy, under this perspective political experts were motivated to present projects and then be submitted to a referendum. In this sense and with the arduous efforts of the different political actors, it begins for citizens to participate in the electoral process, with Ecuador being an example at the regional level in taking this democratic measure (Aguirre, 2019, págs. 32-33) [2].

Government of Jaime Roldós Aguilera 1979-1981

With the victory of Jaime Roldós in 1979 and the return to democracy in Ecuador, the political and economic landscape remained stable, since the idea of the executive was to support vulnerable sectors as part of the defense of human rights, this is reflected in the salary increase of workers, optimization of the educational quality, health and reason the work of hydroelectric

plants, in this way sought to improve the quality of life (Salazar, 2018) [4].

Government of Oswaldo Hurtado 1981-1984

For the newspaper El telégrafo (2016) due to the death of Roldós, Hurtado takes power in 1981 immediately to continue with the period, this government was affected by the phenomenon of the child, but the political and economic measures it took were favorable to businessmen and that generated protests in the population, this is attributed the sucretization since with this model the Central Bank assumes the debt and transforms the debt from sucres to dollars that would increase the external debt [5].

Government of León Febres Cordero 1984-1988

He proposed a policy of neoliberal and developmental reconstruction, he also presented a greater rapprochement with the United States, and also developed a plan to build housing in popular sectors. On the other hand, as a result of its political and economic decisions that made teachers, workers and peasants of the FUT uncomfortable who showed their discontent through strikes and strikes, also their authoritarian and statist practices led society to a process of deliberalization (Montufar, 2020) [6].

Government of Rodrigo Borja 1988-1992

According to Ortiz R. (2003) Borja constituted his economic contingency plan to include standards and stabilization measures before applying development and growth policies, he made a reform of the code to access the partial contract. In addition, he had conflicts with CONAIDE that were raised for a better distribution of land but Borja agreed to solve and negotiate this request [7].

Government of Sixto Durán Ballén 1992-1996

For González M. (2021) indicates that one of his greatest successes was traditional imports without taking into account oil, in addition his exports increased to 4300 million dollars in shrimp, bananas, cocoa and coffee in 1995, he also defended the sovereignty of the country in the Cenepa War with Peru. On the other hand, it applied the privatization plan of public institutions, handed over the financial management to Vice President Alberto Dahik who was denounced for the inadequate management of reserved funds, approved the General Law of the Financial System where the State does not supervise, control and regulate the actions of bankers in relation to credits and self-loans in companies that appeared on papers. (Gestión, 2015) [8,9].

Governments of Abdalá Bucaram 1996-1997, Rosalía Arteaga 1997 and Fabián Alarcón 1997-1998

This government presented liberal measures to compress the weight of the State, also expressed the privatization of public companies such as telecommunications institutions (Emetel), and the Social Security Institute (IESS). On the other hand, he was involved in financial administrative scandals for the benefit of certain groups of collaborators and even relatives, as well as in presentations of dances and songs with artists and waste of time and money. He was declared by the national congress of "mental incapacity" to govern and was overthrown from power by popular mobilizations on February 7, 1997 (EcuRed, 2012) [10].

In this way, Rosalía Arteaga assumed power for 2 days and later the congress appoints as interim president Fabián Alarcón who was economically affected by the phenomenon of the child, in addition to reforming the constitution the Constituent Assembly was installed.

Governments of Jamil Mahuad 1998-2000 and Gustavo Noboa 2000-2003

In this government a great step was taken for the signing of peace with Peru, but the country presented a fall in the price of oil and the sucre was devalued, added to this the consequences of the phenomenon of the child, bank holiday where the money of the depositors was frozen and in 2000 the dollarization whose value for 1 dollar reached up to 25 thousand sucres. In this sense, he was overthrown by demonstrations of civil and indigenous society, for his part The Executive Power was assumed by Vice President Gustavo Noboa who maintained the dollar and renegotiates the external debt (Noboa, 2000) [11].

Governments of Lucio Gutiérrez 2003-2005 and Alfredo Palacios 2005-2007

Before his government, Gutiérrez started together with the indigenous movement and military (assets-liabilities) to denounce that in the government of Mahuad there were constitutional violations through the "bank rescue", in his government through the Agency of Guarantees and Deposits (AGD) he charged coercive to the banks. With regard to economic policy, he constituted Mauricio Pozo as Minister of Economy where Gutiérrez was criticized for the relationship that the Minister has with the bankers, and also with the signing of the letter of intent of the International Monetary

Fund (IMF) by the indigenous movement, he also cut relations with CONAIE and had military personnel in favor, this morphed into a battle that ended with his departure in 2005. In this way, Vice President Alfredo Palacios takes power, which expires the OXY oil contract, develops a consultation with the people to establish state laws in favor of health and education (De-la-Torre, 2006) [12].

Government of Rafael Correa 2007-2017

His government proposes through popular consultation the establishment of the National Constituent Assembly where he obtained 81.7% votes in favor; in this way the new Constitution of Ecuador 2008 is elaborated, the majority of the National Congress opposed this new initiative of Correa and there were even approximately 50 deputies dismissed, his policy was to support the popular and low-income sectors, created new jobs with full-time contracts. In addition, it eliminated the underemployment or outsourcing modality and instructed all employers to make contracts, improved teacher salaries, strengthened and developed new Ministries. His campaign was against the private sectors of stratification of high society generating high taxes and that the payment is met since many of them did not agree, he developed through social investment roads, construction of hospitals, schools, hydroelectric plants, among others (Orozco, 2018) [13].

On the other hand, he distanced himself from the United States and strengthened alliances in South America with countries such as Bolivia, Cuba and Venezuela, criticized the measures of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on access to resources and state enterprises or "privatization", in this way he made oil contracts with China where he had criticism from the opposition, added to this he had an economic decline due to the earthquake of 2016. On the other hand, he maintains a struggle with the media since he began his presidential term, the same media publicly denounced that there is no free expression, also that it is an authoritarian and non-democratic government, but Correa responded to journalists who use the information at the convenience of their "bosses" who are allied with their opponents. Likewise, they accuse him of being linked to organized crime in the ODEBRECHT case and he has been sentenced for "psychic influence (El Mercurio, 2020)" [14].

Government of Lenin Moreno 2017-2021

He broke ties with Correa, despite the fact that many political parties indicate that he follows the same line or correista

management, but Moreno applied many measures of the government plan of Guillermo Lasso that he offered according to the Telegraph (2017), the same one that was a former presidential candidate and main opponent of Correa. In addition, Moreno manifested and socialized Decree No. 883 where they presented a series of controversial economic measures "paquetazo", one of them was to eliminate the fuel subsidy to receive as exchange 4200 million dollars as a loan, this decree unleashed disagreement in the indigenous population and there were demonstrations for 10 days (Rincón, 2019) [15,16].

Currently, there are a series of complaints of corruption in the Moreno government, one of them is to the Former Minister María Paula Romo for "distribution of hospitals" as expressed by the newspaper Universo (2020) in times of Covid-19 pandemic that in the long run is creating worldwide impacts at all levels [17].

Conceptual framework

- Democracy - is a political system where the one that governs is the population or through representatives (Real Academia Española, 2021, A) [18].
- Athenian democracy is recognized as the first in the history of man, it is defined as the representation on management of the government that occurred in the state of Athens - Greece in the year 508 of the sixth century BC and ended in the hegemony of Macedonia in the year 322 BC (Mossé, 1987) [19].
- Democracy etymological origin - for Morán A. (2012) democracy comes from the Greek <demos> which means people and <kratein> which symbolizes the way of governing or governing, that is, it is a system or political doctrine where the people of the nation are the ones who intervene in the governance [20].
- Constitutional democracy - according to Dworkin (2010) expresses that the difference is that in democracy the people are the ones who make decisions individually and socially, while Ferrajoli (2011) the constitutional dimension is the relationship of constitutional rights with political democracy, whose functions are terms that are reflected in contents and reside in the will of the majority of the people, all of them quoted by (Caiza, 2017, pág. 48) [21].
- Dictatorship - It is where all the political power of a nation is exercised by a single person without limits (Diccionario panhispánico del español jurídico, 2021) [22].

- Government that authoritarily and unopposed proclaims itself to exercise state power by force (Enciclopedia jurídica, 2021) [23].
- Concentration of power - is characterized in centralizing, bureaucratizing and concentrating all the powers and management of the state to a single person or place (Google sites, 2021) [24].
- Centralism - form of government where the administration and political powers are concentrated in the different organisms and levels of the state (Real Academia Española, 2021, B) [25].

Methodology

Focus and type of research

The present study has a mixed approach but with greater qualitative emphasis and a documentary type, as explained by Hernández, Fernández, and Batista (2014) [26].

Qualitative approach

Regarding the qualitative approach, they present contents of documentary research, the same one that compiles different texts from books, articles, scientific magazines, newspaper articles, information from educational texts, among others, to process the information obtained, organize it and provide an analysis of results. logical about democracy in Ecuador since 1970 (Tancara, 1993) [27].

Quantitative approach

On the other hand, in the quantitative aspect, digital surveys of Google Drive will be used and in this way to obtain statistical data, the non-probabilistic sample is presented below for convenience since the relatives of the 3rd Baccalaureate students are taken as a unit of study of the Naval Lyceum of Guayaquil (Hernández, Fernández, and Batista, 2014) [26].

Sample

A digital survey “Form Drive” was applied to 69 families of the 215 students of the 3rd baccalaureate of the Naval Lyceum of Guayaquil that is, 32.1%, these surveys present a questionnaire with questions and mixed answers (closed and short open). Where it was obtained, that 71% of the respondents are aged over 31 years old, the remaining 29% are between 20 and 30 years old and all are Ecuadorian nationals.

Age range	Quantity	Percentage
Less than 20	2	2,9%
Less than 30	18	26,1%
Less than 40	29	42,0%
Greater than 41	20	29,0%
Total	69	100,0%

Table 1: Sample by age range. Prepared by authors of this study.

Results

According to the surveys applied, the following results are expressed in table 2.

Question	Description of results
Question No. 6 Are you aware that in Latin America between the years of 1970 and 1983 many countries were ruled by the military?	75.4% do know what happened in Latin America in those years, while 24.6% say that No
Question No. 7 Is it justifiable and necessary that in many countries of South America they were ruled by the military?	It is observed that the majority 78.3% expressed that it is NOT justifiable and 21.7% expressed that Yes
Question No. 8 In 1972 until 1979 Ecuador was governed by the military, do you think there was democracy in our country at that time??	87% said that there was no democracy in the era of Ecuador’s militarism and 13% said Yes
Question No. 9 Since the return of democracy in Ecuador from 1979 to the present, who was the best president of Ecuador so far??	The first place was obtained by the Lawyer Jaime Roldós Aguilera with 36.2%, followed by the Economist Rafael Correa Delgado with 15.9%, in third place is the Engineer León Febres Cordero with 13%, it is also striking that 11.6% of respondents expressed that so far no president has been the best.
Question No. 10 Do you think that the national television and radio media have affinities with certain political groups??	97.1% indicate that they DO have relations with political groups, while the remaining 2.9% expressed that they DO NOT
Question No. 14 Currently, does democracy exist in Ecuador?	58% said YES while 42% indicated NO

Table 2: Main results of digital surveys. Prepared by the authors of this study.

Analysis of the results

With the application of the surveys, it was possible to identify among the results of questions No. 6, 7, 8 and 9 that citizens remember widely what happened in the 70s, especially the sample of people over 31 years of age, either by experience or by information from family members and media of the time. It is remarkable that these results agree with what was described in the theoretical development of this study on the so-called "return of democracy" because the majority expressed that there was none at that time, they also made it clear that the best president so far has been Attorney Jaime Roldós Aguilera who even several current media affirm it that way.

On the other hand, it could be observed in questions Nos. 10, 11, 12 and 13 that the media keep in touch with society, where many have incidents with certain political groups, and even mention many national and international media that lean to the right and others to the left, therefore they can have a very significant impact on society. Finally, in question No. 14 the majority of respondents expressed that currently there is democracy, but it is striking that there is a difference of 16% who expressed that NO.

Discussion

At the end of the 70s, democracy returned in Ecuador to the present day where differences in political positions were identified regarding the country's economy, giving rise to decisions of the executive to counteract the crises that in one way or another directly and indirectly affect the population, in the same way many of them benefit a minority group giving way to discrimination as part of the violation of human rights. So far 14 presidents governed the country and 5 of them rose in absence or overthrows, that is, since the return of democracy the leaders and members of the political parties are not able to evaluate their leaders, many of them as shown in the polls have links with the media, through them they promote their proposals and political philosophy "right or left" mainly in the economic aspect where the greatest problems occur at the social level, such as fraud, deception, administrative failures, economic crises and deterioration as a country. Finally, this study provides readers with different positions of authors on the return to democracy and human rights in Ecuador, for this reason it provides timely information for further studies in the field of Social Studies.

Conclusions

According to the present study, it is concluded with the following:

The documentary contents cited in this study affirm that the return of democracy in Ecuador in 1978 was an example for the other South American countries, from this historic moment, the new democratically elected president Jaime Roldós gave a great start to his government with a policy of supporting vulnerable sectors "poor" as part of human rights, this consists of increasing wages, strengthening health and education, building hydroelectric plants, among others. But as time passes, the presidential commanders due to the economic crisis have taken other measures that directly affect the people and Ecuador, which has suffered fraud, deception, administrative failures, economic crises, other authors show that such measures do not impact in the same way the sectors of private property or high social stratification, because of this the population feels that there are no equal rights as part of an equitable democracy.

On the other hand, in the surveys of the digital surveys it was observed that the current population, especially those of the 31-year-old range, affirms that in Ecuador at the time of militarism there was no democracy and indicate that there was no justification for making that decision either. In the same way, the majority expressed that the best president so far has been Jaime Roldós for his democratic project and support for the most vulnerable sectors, they also affirm that currently there is democracy but that it affects the decisions of presidents, political parties and the media.

Bibliography

1. Aguirre C. "Análisis de la política exterior de Ecuador durante los gobiernos militares de 1972 a 1979" (2019).
2. Anderson P. "Democracia y dictadura en América Latina en la década del '70". *Democracia y dictadura en América Latina en la década del '70* (1987): 11.
3. Caiza C. "Democracia constitucional y concentración del poder". (2017): 48-51.
4. De-la-Torre C. "Protesta y democracia en Ecuador: La caída de Lucio Gutierrez" (2006).
5. Diccionario panhispánico del español jurídico. *Qué es dictadura* (2021).

6. EcuRed. "Abdalá Bucaram" (2012).
7. El Mercurio. "Tribunal ratifica sentencia de ocho años de prisión a Rafael Correa" (2020).
8. El Telégrafo. "Osvaldo Hurtado gobernó entre ajustes y protestas" (2016).
9. El Telégrafo. "Lasso ofrece su plan de Gobierno a Moreno" (2017).
10. El Universo. "En Ecuador, una democracia sujeta a tres constituciones y 14 presidentes". Destacados (2019).
11. El Universo. "Ministra de Gobierno, María Paula Romo, sería llevada a un nuevo juicio político por un supuesto reparto de hospitales" (2020).
12. Enciclopedia jurídica. "¿Qué es dictador?" (2021).
13. Gestión. "Los hechos económicos y políticos en 21 AÑOS". REVISTA Gestión (2015): 133-149.
14. González M. "ECUADOR: Durán Ballén exalta los logros de su gobierno" (2021).
15. Google sites. "Concentración del poder" (2021).
16. Hernández R., *et al.* "Metodología de la Investigación". México DF: MCGRAW-HILL/INTERAMERICANA EDITORES, S.A. DE C.V (2014).
17. Montufar C. "La reconstrucción Neoliberal Febres Cordero o la estatización del neoliberalismo en el Ecuador 1984-1988". Quito - Ecuador: Ediciones Abya-Yala (2020).
18. Morán A. "Constitución y democracia" (2012).
19. Mossé C. "Historia de una democracia en atenas". Madrid - España: Akai S.A (1987).
20. Noboa G. "Plan de gobierno 2000-2003 por un nuevo país" (2000).
21. Orozco C. "Análisis del gobierno de Rafael Correa desde la perspectiva teórica del populismo" (2018).
22. Ortiz R. "Rodrigo Borja Cevallos presidente de la república del Ecuador 1988 - 1992" (2003).
23. Real Academia Española. "La democracia" (2021a).
24. Real Academia Española. "Centralismo" (2021b).
25. Rincón A. "La histórica resistencia indígena que ha puesto en jaque al poder en Ecuador" (2019).
26. Salazar R. "Políticas económicas desde el enfoque cuantitativo aplicadas desde Jaime Roldós hasta Rafael Correa y su incidencia en la economía ecuatoriana" (2018).
27. Tancara C. "La investigación documental". Revista Cielo (1993): 91-106.

Assets from publication with us

- Prompt Acknowledgement after receiving the article
- Thorough Double blinded peer review
- Rapid Publication
- Issue of Publication Certificate
- High visibility of your Published work

Website: www.actascientific.com/

Submit Article: www.actascientific.com/submission.php

Email us: editor@actascientific.com

Contact us: +91 9182824667