

Emilio de Antuñano, Postdoctoral Fellow, University of California, San Diego

Urban Corporatism in Mexico and Latin America in the 1940s

In the early 1940s, the government of Mexico City devised a project of urban land reform entitled *colonias proletarias*. *Colonias proletarias* were envisioned as an urbanistic and political building block for a working-class city. Broadly inspired in the progressive ideology of the Mexican Revolution and in transnational corporatist ideas, *colonias proletarias* were a tool for organizing working-class urbanites and integrating them into vertical political structures. In pursuit of this vision, the government expropriated land, distributed it among urban dwellers, and passed laws that regulated the internal organization of proletarian neighborhoods, their position in the political system, and their symbolic place in a modern, urban nation. This paper interrogates the ideological and legal foundations of this political and urbanistic project, understanding it as part of a longer history of corporatism—that goes back to the colonial period—and as one example of urban corporatism in the Latin American interwar period.