CONTENTS

Acronyms and other terms viii
Preface and acknowledgements xv

1. Utopia reborn? Introduction to the study of the new Latin American left 1
   César Rodríguez-Garavito, Patrick Barrett and Daniel Chavez
   Significance and origins of the ‘new’ left 5
   Characteristics of the new Latin American left 12
   Between neo-liberalism and democracy 17
   The actors on the new left: movements, parties and governments 31
   Structure of the book 37
   Notes 39

2. Brazil. Lula’s government: a critical appraisal 42
   Félix Sánchez, João Machado Borges Neto and Rosa Maria Marques
   The rise of the PT to government 43
   Lula’s economics 48
   Agrarian and social policies 53
   Brazil’s insertion into the globalised economy 58
   The results of the 2006 elections and beyond 62
   Lula’s government: a leftist government? 64
   Notes 68

3. Venezuela. Populism and the left: alternatives to neo-liberalism 69
   Edgardo Lander
   The pact of Punto Fijo and the left 69
   The prolonged crisis of puntofijismo 71
CONTENTS

Populism and the left in the *chavista* project 76
Representative democracy and participatory democracy 79
Alternatives to neo-liberalism: the economic model 83
The Venezuelan process in the regional and international context 90
Electoral processes and the future of the Bolivarian revolution 93
Notes 97

4. Uruguay. The left in government: between continuity and change 99

*Daniel Chavez*

The unification and rise of the left 100
The left in government: the experience of Montevideo 104
From the *electoral* project to the *political* project 110
Economic policy: the ongoing debate 120
Reviving utopia? 125
Notes 127

5. Colombia. The new left: origins, trajectory and prospects 129

*César Rodríguez-Garavito*

Antecedents and factors behind the emergence of the new left 131
Evolution and composition of the new left 140
The proposals of the left 148
Conclusion: the prospects of the new left 154
Notes 157

6. Argentina. The left, parties and movements: strategies and prospects 158

*Federico L. Schuster*

A brief history of the Argentine left 158
Society and politics during the crisis 162
The political legacy of the crisis 168
The political left, social movements and institutional reorganisation 171
Possible strategies and future prospects 178
Notes 184

[ vi ]
CONTENTS

7. Mexico. Yearnings and utopias: the left in the third millennium
   Armando Bartra
   Genealogy 186
   Cartographies 198
   Directions 210

8. Bolivia. The left and the social movements
   Luis Tapia
   A brief history of the Bolivian left in the twentieth century 215
   The contemporary left in Bolivia 219
   The proposals of the contemporary left 224
   The linkage of social movements and parties 226
   Conclusion: prospects and strategies of the new left 227
   Notes 231

9. Promises and challenges. The Latin American left
   at the start of the twenty-first century
   Atilio A. Boron
   Challenging la pensée unique 232
   The paradoxical crisis of neo-liberalism 233
   Why now? 236
   The curse of conservative ‘possibilism’ 242
   The difficult transition to post-neo-liberalism 246
   The left and democracy 248
   Historical challenges of the left at the beginning
   of the new century 251

10. Depolarised pluralities. A left with a future
    Boaventura de Sousa Santos
    The phantasmagorical relation between theory and practice 255
    The twenty-first century left 259
    Unproductive questions 263
    Productive questions 266
    Conclusion: a left with a future 271

    Bibliography 273
    Index 289