

# Pink Tide

Subjects: Economics

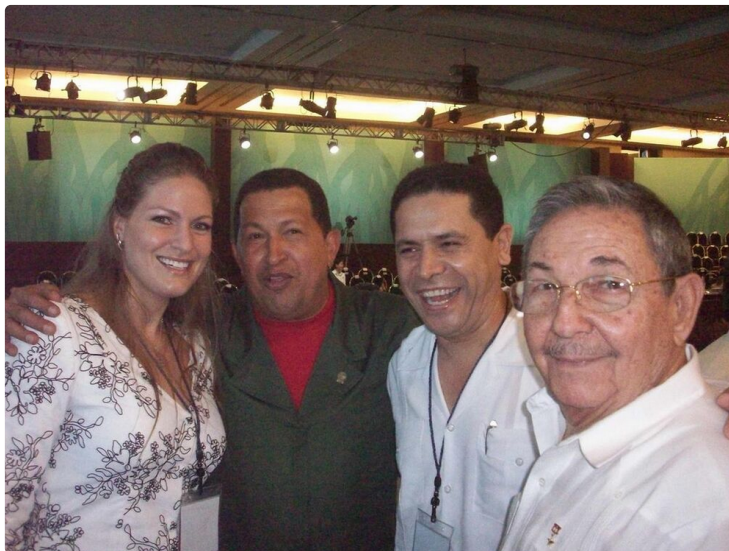
Contributor: HandWiki Xu

The pink tide (Spanish: marea rosa, Portuguese: onda rosa, French: marée rose), or the turn to the left (Spanish: giro a la izquierda, Portuguese: volta à esquerda, French: tournant à gauche), was a political wave and perception of a turn towards left-wing governments in Latin American democracies moving away from the neoliberal economic model at the start of the 21st century. As a term, both phrases are used in contemporary 21st-century political analysis in the news media and elsewhere to refer to a move toward more economic progressive or social progressive policies in Latin America. Such governments have been referred to as "left-of-centre", "left-leaning", and "radical social-democratic". The Latin American countries viewed as part of this ideological trend have been referred to as pink tide nations, with the term post-neoliberalism or socialism of the 21st century being used to describe the movement as well. Some pink tide governments, such as those of Argentina , Brazil , and Venezuela, have been varyingly characterized as being "anti-American", as well as populist, for their rejection of the Washington Consensus, and as authoritarian, particularly in the case of Nicaragua and Venezuela by the 2010s. The pink tide was followed by the conservative wave, a political phenomenon that emerged in the early 2010s as a direct reaction to the pink tide. Some authors have proposed that there are multiple distinct pink tides rather than a single one, with the first pink tide happening during the late 1990s and early 2000s, and a second pink tide encompassing the elections of the late 2010s to early 2020s. A resurgence of the pink tide was kicked off by Mexico in 2018 and Argentina in 2019, and further established by Bolivia in 2020, along with Peru, Honduras, and Chile in 2021, and Colombia in 2022, with the first left-wing president-elect in Colombia's history, according to analysts.

Keywords: political analysis ; post-neoliberalism ; populist

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## 1. Background



Raúl Castro of Cuba and Hugo Chávez of Venezuela. Chávez was the leading force of the pink tide.

<https://handwiki.org/wiki/index.php?curid=1147503>

During the Cold War, a series of left-leaning governments were elected in Latin America.<sup>[1]</sup> These governments faced coups sponsored by the United States government as part of its geostrategic interest in the region.<sup>[2][3][4]</sup> Among these were Guatemala in 1954, Brazil in 1964, Chile in 1973, and Argentina in 1976. All of these coups were followed by United States-backed and sponsored right-wing, military dictatorships as part of the United States government's Operation Condor.<sup>[1][3][4]</sup>

These authoritarian regimes committed several human rights violations including illegal detentions of political opponents, tortures, disappearances, and child trafficking.<sup>[5]</sup> As these regimes started to decline due to international pressure, internal outcry in the United States from the population due to the involvement in the atrocities forced Washington to relinquish its support for them. New democratic processes began during the late 1970s and up to the early 1990s.<sup>[6]</sup>

With the exception of Costa Rica, virtually all Latin American countries had at least one experience with a United States-supported dictator:<sup>[7]</sup> Fulgencio Batista in Cuba, Rafael Trujillo in the Dominican Republic, the Somoza family in Nicaragua, Tiburcio Carías Andino in Honduras, Carlos Castillo Armas and Efraín Ríos Montt in Guatemala, Jaime Abdul Gutiérrez in El Salvador, Manuel Noriega in Panama, Hugo Banzer in Bolivia, Juan María Bordaberry in Uruguay, Jorge Rafael Videla in *Argentina*, Augusto Pinochet in *Chile*, Alfredo Stroessner in Paraguay, François Duvalier in Haiti, Artur da Costa e Silva and his successor Emílio Garrastazu Médici in *Brazil*, Manuel Odria and Alberto Fujimori in Peru, the Institutional Revolutionary Party in Mexico,<sup>[8]</sup> Laureano Gomez and Rojas Pinilla in Colombia,<sup>[9]</sup> and Marcos Pérez Jiménez in Venezuela,<sup>[10]</sup> which caused a strong anti-American sentiment in wide sectors of the population.<sup>[11][12][13]</sup>

## 2. History

### 2.1. Rise of the Left: 1990s and 2000s

Following the third wave of democratization in the 1980s, the institutionalisation of electoral competition in Latin America opened up the possibility for the left to ascend to power. For much of the region's history, formal electoral contestation excluded leftist movements, first through limited suffrage and later through military intervention and repression during the second half of the 20th century.<sup>[14]</sup> The dissolution of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War changed the geopolitical environment, as many revolutionary movements vanished, and the left embraced the core tenets of capitalism. In turn, the United States no longer perceived leftist governments as a security threat, creating a political opening for the left.<sup>[15]</sup>

In the 1990s, as the Latin American elite no longer feared a communist takeover of their assets, the left exploited this opportunity to solidify their base, run for local offices, and gain experience governing on the local level. At the end of the 1990s and early 2000s, the region's initial unsuccessful attempts with the neoliberal policies of privatisation, cuts in social spending, and foreign investment left countries with high levels of unemployment, inflation, and rising social inequality.<sup>[16]</sup> This period saw increasing numbers of people working in the informal economy and suffering material insecurity, and ties between the working classes and the traditional political parties weakening, resulting in a growth of mass protest against the negative social effects of these policies, such as the *piqueteros* in Argentina, and in Bolivia indigenous and peasant movements rooted among small coca farmers, or *cocaleros*, whose activism culminated in the Bolivian gas conflict of the early-to-mid 2000s.<sup>[17]</sup> The left's social platforms, which were centered on economic change and redistributive policies, offered an attractive alternative that mobilized large sectors of the population across the region, who voted leftist leaders into office.<sup>[18]</sup>



ALBA was founded by left-wing populist leaders such as Nicaraguan revolutionary Daniel Ortega, Venezuelan president Hugo Chávez, and Bolivian president Evo Morales. <https://handwiki.org/wiki/index.php?curid=1117158>

The pink tide was led by Hugo Chávez of Venezuela, who was elected into the presidency in 1998.<sup>[19]</sup> According to Cristina Fernández de Kirchner, a pink tide president herself, Chávez of Venezuela (inaugurated 1999), Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva of Brazil (inaugurated 2003) and Evo Morales of Bolivia (inaugurated 2006) were "the three musketeers" of the



left in South America.<sup>[20]</sup> National policies among the left in Latin America are divided between the styles of Chávez and Lula as the latter not only focused on those affected by inequality, but also catered to private enterprises and global capital.<sup>[21]</sup>

### Commodities Boom and Growth

With the difficulties facing emerging markets across the world at the time, Latin Americans turned away from liberal economics and elected leftist leaders who had recently turned toward more democratic processes.<sup>[22]</sup> The popularity of such leftist governments relied upon by their ability to use the 2000s commodities boom to initiate populist policies,<sup>[23][24]</sup> such as those used by the Bolivarian government in Venezuela.<sup>[25]</sup> According to Daniel Lansberg, this resulted in "high public expectations in regard to continuing economic growth, subsidies, and social services".<sup>[24]</sup> With China becoming a more industrialized nation at the same time and requiring resources for its growing economy, it took advantage of the strained relations with the United States and partnered with the leftist governments in Latin America.<sup>[23][26]</sup> South America in particular initially saw a drop in inequality and a growth in its economy as a result of Chinese commodity trade.<sup>[26]</sup>

As the prices of commodities lowered into the 2010s, coupled with overspending with little savings by pink tide governments, policies became unsustainable and supporters became disenchanted, eventually leading to the rejection of leftist governments.<sup>[24][27]</sup> Analysts state that such unsustainable policies were more apparent in Argentina, Brazil, Ecuador, and Venezuela,<sup>[26][27]</sup> who received Chinese funds without any oversight.<sup>[26][28]</sup> As a result, some scholars have stated that the pink tide's rise and fall was "a byproduct of the commodity cycle's acceleration and decadence".<sup>[23]</sup>

Some pink tide governments, such as Bolivia, Ecuador, and Venezuela, allegedly ignored international sanctions against Iran, allowing the Iranian government access to funds bypassing sanctions as well as resources such as uranium for the Iranian nuclear program.<sup>[29]</sup>

### 2.2. End of Commodity Boom and Decline: 2010s



The impeachment of Dilma Rousseff gave rise to the conservative wave in late 2010s.

<https://handwiki.org/wiki/index.php?curid=1390298>

Chávez, who was seen as having "dreams of continental domination", was determined to be a threat to his own people according to Michael Reid in American magazine, *Foreign Affairs*, with his influence reaching a peak in 2007.<sup>[30]</sup> The interest in Chávez waned after his dependence on oil revenue led Venezuela into an economic crisis and as he grew increasingly authoritarian.<sup>[30]</sup> The death of Chávez in 2013 left the most radical wing without a clear leader as Nicolás Maduro did not have the international influence of his predecessor. By the mid-2010s, Chinese investment in Latin America had also begun to decline,<sup>[26]</sup> especially following the 2015–16 Chinese stock market turbulence.

In 2015, the shift away from the left became more pronounced in Latin America, with *The Economist* saying the pink tide had ebbed<sup>[31]</sup> and Vice News stating that 2015 was "The Year the 'Pink Tide' Turned".<sup>[20]</sup> In that year's Argentine general election, Cristina Fernández de Kirchner's favoured candidate for the presidency Daniel Scioli was defeated by his centre-right opponent Mauricio Macri, against a background of rising inflation, reductions in GDP, and declining prices for soybeans - a key export for the country, leading to falls in public revenues and social spending. Shortly afterwards the impeachment of Brazilian president Dilma Rousseff began, culminating in her removal from office. In Ecuador, retiring president Rafael Correa's successor was his vice-president, Lenín Moreno, who took a narrow victory in the 2017 Ecuadorian general election, a win that received a negative reaction from the business community at home and abroad: however, after his election, Moreno shifted his positions rightwards, resulting in Correa branding his former deputy as "a traitor" and "a wolf in sheep's clothing".<sup>[17][32]</sup>

By 2016, the decline of the pink tide saw an emergence of a "new right" in Latin America,<sup>[33]</sup> with *The New York Times* stating "Latin America's leftist ramparts appear to be crumbling because of widespread corruption, a slowdown in China's economy and poor economic choices", with the newspaper elaborating that leftist leaders did not diversify economies, had unsustainable welfare policies and disregarded democratic behaviors.<sup>[34]</sup> In mid-2016, the *Harvard International Review* stated that "South America, a historical bastion of populism, has always had a penchant for the left, but the continent's predilection for unsustainable welfarism might be approaching a dramatic end".<sup>[35]</sup>

### 2.3. Resurgence Since Late 2010s

Although the conservative wave weakened the pink tide and restored right-wing governments across Latin America throughout the 2010s, some countries have pushed back against the trend in recent years and elected more left-leaning leaders, such as Mexico with the electoral victory of Andrés Manuel López Obrador in the 2018 Mexican general election and *Argentina* where the incumbent right-wing president Mauricio Macri lost against centre-left challenger Alberto Fernández (Peronist) in the 2019 Argentine general election.<sup>[36][37][38]</sup> This development has been strengthened by the landslide victory of the left-wing Movement for Socialism and its presidential candidate Luis Arce in Bolivia in the 2020 Bolivian general election.<sup>[39][40]</sup>

This trend continued throughout 2021 and 2022, when multiple left wing leaders won elections in Latin America. In the 2021 Peruvian general election, Peru elected the indigenous, socialist union leader Pedro Castillo in contrast to the previous leaders who embraced neoliberal populism.<sup>[41]</sup> In the 2021 Honduran general election held in November, leftist Xiomara Castro was elected president of Honduras,<sup>[42]</sup> and weeks later leftist Gabriel Boric won the 2021 Chilean general election to become the new president of *Chile*.<sup>[43]</sup> The 2022 Colombian presidential election was won by leftist Gustavo Petro,<sup>[44]</sup> making him the first left-wing president of Colombia in the country's 212-year history since independence in 1810 when inaugurated on 7 August 2022.<sup>[45][46]</sup> A series of violent protests against austerity measures and income inequality scattered throughout Latin America have also recently occurred including the 2019–20 Chilean protests, 2019–2020 Colombian protests, 2018–19 Haitian protests, 2019 Ecuadorian protests, and the 2021 Colombian protests.<sup>[36][47]</sup>

### Economy and Social Development

The pink tide governments aimed to improve the welfare of the constituencies that brought them to power, which they attempted through measures intended to increase wages, such as raising minimum wages, and softening the effects of neoliberal economic policies through expanding welfare spending, such as subsidizing basic services and providing cash transfers to vulnerable groups like the unemployed, mothers outside of formal employment, and the precariat.<sup>[17]</sup> In Venezuela, the first pink tide government of Chávez increased spending on social welfare, housing, and local infrastructures, and established the Bolivarian missions, decentralised programmes that delivered free services in fields, such as healthcare and education, as well as subsidised food distribution.<sup>[17]</sup>

Before Lula's election, Brazil suffered from one of the highest rates of poverty in the Americas, with the infamous favelas known internationally for its levels of extreme poverty, malnutrition, and health problems. Extreme poverty was also a problem in rural areas. During Lula's presidency several social programs like Zero Hunger (*Fome Zero*) were praised internationally for reducing hunger in Brazil,<sup>[48]</sup> poverty, and inequality, while also improving the health and education of the population.<sup>[48][49]</sup> Around 29 million people became middle class during Lula's eight years tenure.<sup>[49]</sup> During Lula's government, Brazil became an economic power and member of BRICS.<sup>[48][49]</sup> Lula ended his tenure with 80% approval ratings.<sup>[50]</sup>

In Argentina, the administrations of Néstor Kirchner and Cristina Fernández de Kirchner restored sectoral collective bargaining, strengthening trade unions: unionisation increased from 20 percent of the workforce in the 1990s to 30 percent in the 2010s, and wages rose for an increasing proportion of the working class.<sup>[17]</sup> Universal allocation per child, a conditional cash transfer programme, was introduced in 2009 for families without formal employment and earning less

than the minimum wage who ensured their children attended school, received vaccines, and underwent health checks;<sup>[51]</sup> it covered over two million poor families by 2013,<sup>[17]</sup> and 29 percent of all Argentinian children by 2015. A 2015 analysis by staff at Argentina's National Scientific and Technical Research Council estimated that the programme had increased school attendance for children between the ages of 15 to 17 by 3.9 percent.<sup>[51]</sup> The Kirchners also increased social spending significantly: upon Fernández de Kirchner leaving office in 2015, Argentina had the second highest level of social spending as a percentage of GDP in Latin America, behind only Chile. Their administrations also achieved a drop of 20 percentage points in the proportion of the population living on three US dollars a day or less. As a result, Argentina also became one of the most equal countries in the region according to its Gini coefficient.<sup>[17]</sup>

In Bolivia, Morales's government was praised internationally for its reduction of poverty, increases in economic growth,<sup>[52]</sup> and the improvement of indigenous, women,<sup>[53]</sup> and LGBTI rights,<sup>[54]</sup> in the very traditionally-minded Bolivian society. During his first five years in office, Bolivia's Gini coefficient saw an unusually sharp reduction from 0.6 to 0.47, indicating a significant drop in income inequality.<sup>[17]</sup> Rafael Correa, economist from the University of Illinois,<sup>[55]</sup> was won the 2006 Ecuadorian general election following the harsh economic crisis and social turmoil that caused right-wing Lucio Gutiérrez resignation as president. Correa, a practicing Catholic influenced by liberation theology,<sup>[55]</sup> was pragmatic in his economical approach in a similar manner to Morales in Bolivia,<sup>[19]</sup> and Ecuador soon experienced a non-precedent economic growth that bolstered Correa's popularity to the point that he was the most popular president of the Americas' for several years in a row,<sup>[55]</sup> with an approval rate between 60 and 85%.<sup>[56]</sup> In Paraguay, Lugo's government was praised for its social reforms, including investments in low-income housing,<sup>[57]</sup> the introduction of free treatment in public hospitals,<sup>[58][59]</sup> the introduction of cash transfers for Paraguay's most impoverished citizens,<sup>[60]</sup> and indigenous rights.<sup>[61]</sup>

Some of the initial results after the first pink tide governments were elected in Latin America included a reduction in the income gap,<sup>[62]</sup> unemployment, extreme poverty,<sup>[62]</sup> malnutrition and hunger,<sup>[63][64]</sup> and rapid increase in literacy.<sup>[63]</sup> The decrease in these indicators during the same period of time happened faster than in non-pink tide governments.<sup>[65]</sup> Several of countries ruled by pink tide governments, such as Bolivia, Costa Rica,<sup>[66]</sup> Ecuador,<sup>[67][68]</sup> El Salvador, and Nicaragua,<sup>[69]</sup> among others, experienced notable economic growth during this period. Both Bolivia and El Salvador also saw a notable reduction in poverty according to the World Bank.<sup>[70][71]</sup> Economic hardships occurred in countries such as Argentina, Brazil, and Venezuela, as oil and commodity prices declined and because of their unsustainable policies according to analysts.<sup>[26][27][72]</sup> In regard to the economic situation, the president of Inter-American Dialogue, Michael Shifter, stated: "The United States–Cuban Thaw occurred with Cuba reapproaching the United States when Cuba's main international partner, Venezuela, began experiencing economic hardships."<sup>[73][74]</sup>

### **3. Political Outcome**

Following the initiation of the pink tide's policies, the relationship between both left-leaning and right-leaning governments and the public changed.<sup>[75]</sup> As leftist governments took power in the region, rising commodity prices funded their welfare policies, which lowered inequality and assisted indigenous rights.<sup>[75]</sup> These policies of leftist governments in the 2000s eventually declined in popularity, resulting in the election of more conservative governments in the 2010s.<sup>[75]</sup> Some political analysts consider that enduring legacies from the pink tide changed the location of Latin America's center of the political spectrum,<sup>[76]</sup> forcing right-wing candidates and succeeding governments to also adopt at least some welfare-oriented policies.<sup>[75]</sup>

Under the Obama administration, which held a less interventionist approach to the region after recognizing that interference would only boost the popularity of populist pink tide leaders like Chávez, Latin American approval of the United States began to improve as well.<sup>[77]</sup> By the mid-2010s, "negative views of China were widespread" due to the substandard conditions of Chinese goods, professional actions deemed unjust, cultural differences, damage to the Latin American environment and perceptions of Chinese interventionism.<sup>[78]</sup>

### **4. Term**

As a term, the pink tide had become prominent in contemporary discussion of Latin American politics in the early 21st century. Origins of the term may be linked to a statement by Larry Rohter, a *New York Times* reporter in Montevideo who characterized the 2004 Uruguayan general election of Tabaré Vázquez as the president of Uruguay as "not so much a red tide ... as a pink one".<sup>[79]</sup> The term seems to be a play on words based on red tide—a biological phenomenon of an algal bloom rather than a political one—with red, a color long associated with communism, especially as part of the Red Scare and red-baiting in the United States, being replaced with the lighter tone of pink to indicate the more moderate socialist ideas that gained strength.<sup>[80]</sup>



Despite the presence of a number of Latin American governments that professed to embracing left-wing politics, it is difficult to categorize Latin American states "according to dominant political tendencies" like red states and blue states in the United States.<sup>[80]</sup> While this political shift was difficult to quantify, its effects were widely noticed. According to the Institute for Policy Studies, a left-wing think-tank based in Washington, D.C., 2006 meetings of the South American Summit of Nations and the Social Forum for the Integration of Peoples demonstrated that certain discussions that used to take place on the margins of the dominant discourse of neoliberalism, which moved to the center of public sphere and debate.<sup>[80]</sup>

In the 2011 book *The Paradox of Democracy in Latin America: Ten Country Studies of Division and Resilience*, Isbester states: "Ultimately, the term 'the Pink Tide' is not a useful analytical tool as it encompasses too wide a range of governments and policies. It includes those actively overturning neoliberalism (Chávez and Morales), those reforming neoliberalism (Lula), those attempting a confusing mixture of both (the Kirchners and Correa), those having rhetoric but lacking the ability to accomplish much (Toledo), and those using anti-neoliberal rhetoric to consolidate power through non-democratic mechanisms (Ortega)."<sup>[76]</sup>

## 5. Reception



Andrés Manuel López Obrador with Pedro Sánchez in January 2019. <https://handwiki.org/wiki/index.php?curid=1553989>

In 2006, *The Arizona Republic* recognized the growing pink tide, stating: "A couple of decades ago, the region, long considered part of the United States' backyard, was basking in a resurgence of democracy, sending military despots back to their barracks", further recognizing the "disfavor" with the United States and the concerns of "a wave of nationalist, leftist leaders washing across Latin America in a 'pink tide'" among United States officials.<sup>[81]</sup>

A 2007 report from the Inter Press Service news agency said how "elections results in Latin America appear to have confirmed a left-wing populist and anti-U.S. trend – the so-called 'pink tide' – which ... poses serious threats to Washington's multibillion-dollar anti-drug effort in the Andes".<sup>[82]</sup>

In 2014, Albrecht Koschützke and Hajo Lanz, directors of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation for Central America, discussed the "hope for greater social justice and a more participatory democracy" following the election of leftist leaders, though the foundation recognized that such elections "still do not mean a shift to the left", but that they are "the result of an ostensible loss of prestige from the right-wing parties that have traditionally ruled".<sup>[83]</sup>

Writing in *Americas Quarterly* after the election of Pedro Castillo in 2021, Paul J. Angelo and Will Freeman warned of the risk of Latin American left-wing politicians embracing what they dubbed "regressive social values" and "leaning into traditionally conservative positions on gender equality, abortion access, LGBTQ rights, immigration, and the environment". They cited Castillo blaming Peru's femicides on male "idleness" and criticizing what he called "gender ideology" taught in Peruvian schools, as well as Ecuador, governed by left-wing leaders for almost twenty years, having one of the strictest anti-abortion laws worldwide. On immigration, they mentioned Mexico's southern border militarization to stop Central American migrant caravans and Castillo's proposal to give undocumented migrants 72 hours to leave the country after taking office, while on the environment they cited Ecuadorian progressive presidential candidate Andrés Arauz insisting on oil drilling in the Amazon, as well as the Bolivian president Luis Arce allowing agribusinesses unchecked with deforestation.<sup>[84]</sup>

## 6. Heads of the State and Government

### 6.1. Presidents

Below are left-wing and centre-left presidents elected in Latin America since 1999.<sup>[85][86][87][88][89][90][91][92][93][94][95][96][97][98][99][100][101]</sup>

Centre-left presidents are marked with \* while Venezuela is under a presidential crisis since 2019, indicated with †.



**Argentina**

Néstor Kirchner  
2003–2007

<https://handwiki.org/wiki/index.php?curid=1739905>



**Argentina**

Cristina Fernández de Kirchner  
2007–2015

By Unknown author - <https://www.senado.gob.ar/prensa/galeria/VerAlbum/7348>, Public Domain,  
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=102403540>



### **Argentina**

Alberto Fernández \*  
2019–present

<https://handwiki.org/wiki/index.php?curid=1102509>



### **Bolivia**

Evo Morales<sup>[89][102]</sup>  
2006–2019

By EneasMx - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=96168223>





### **Bolivia**

Luis Arce  
2020–present

By Government of Bolivia - Plurinational Legislative Assembly, CC BY 2.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=115248823>



### **Brazil**

Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva \*  
2003–2010

By Ricardo Stuckert / Presidência da República. - Agência Brasil (Secretaria de Imprensa e Divulgação)., CC BY 3.0 br, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=74123847>



**Brazil**

Dilma Rousseff \*  
2011–2016

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**Chile**

Ricardo Lagos \*  
2000–2006

<https://handwiki.org/wiki/index.php?curid=1375935>



**Chile**

Michelle Bachelet \*

2006–2010

2014–2018

By Gobierno de Chile, CC BY 3.0 cl, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=47646203>



**Chile**

Gabriel Boric

2022–present

<https://handwiki.org/wiki/index.php?curid=1455553>





**Colombia**

Gustavo Petro  
2022–present

By Departamento Nacional de Planeación - Foto Oficial Presidente Gustavo Petro, CC BY 2.0,  
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=122382638>



**Ecuador**

Rafael Correa  
2007–2017

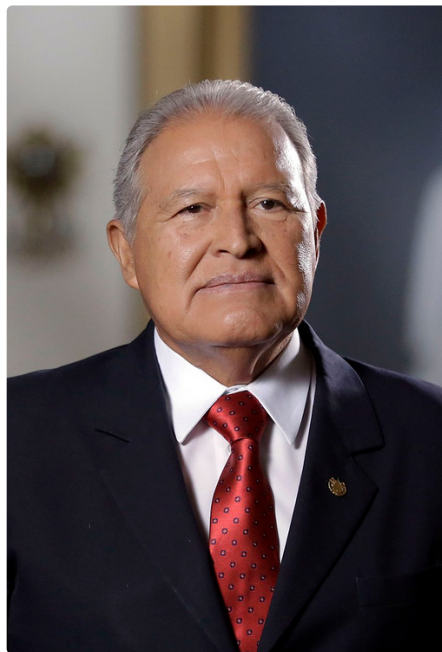
<https://handwiki.org/wiki/index.php?curid=1896865>



**El Salvador**

Mauricio Funes \*  
2009–2014

By Wilson Dias/Abr - <http://www.agenciabrasil.gov.br/media/imagens/2008/05/21/1952WD203.jpg/view> (cropped - lossless  
- by User:High on a tree), CC BY 3.0 br, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=4286187>



**El Salvador**

Salvador Sánchez Cerén  
2014–2019

By Presidencia El Salvador from San Salvador, El Salvador, América Central - Cadena 12, CC0,  
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=61606520>



**Guatemala**

Álvaro Colom \*  
2008–2012

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**Honduras**

Manuel Zelaya  
2006–2009

<http://www.agenciabrasil.gov.br/media/imagens/2009/08/12/1900jc330a.jpg/view>, CC BY 3.0 br,  
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=7548514>





**Honduras**

Xiomara Castro  
2022–present

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<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=114969595>



**Mexico**

Andrés Manuel López Obrador \*  
2018–present

<https://handwiki.org/wiki/index.php?curid=2110583>



**Nicaragua**

Daniel Ortega  
2007–present

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<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=112370900>



**Panama**

Martín Torrijos \*  
2004–2009

<https://handwiki.org/wiki/index.php?curid=1161987>



**Panama**

Laurentino Cortizo \*  
2019–present

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**Paraguay**

Fernando Lugo \*  
2008–2012

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**Peru**

Ollanta Humala \*  
2011–2016

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**Peru**

Pedro Castillo  
2021–present

By Presidencia de la República del Perú - Image thumbnail of "Reunión del mandatario Pedro Castillo con el presidente del directorio del BCR, Julio Velarde", CC BY 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=109106343>





**Uruguay**

Tabaré Vázquez \*

2005–2010

2015–2020

<https://handwiki.org/wiki/index.php?curid=1815690>



**Uruguay**

José Mujica \*

2010–2015

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**Venezuela**

Hugo Chávez  
1999–2013

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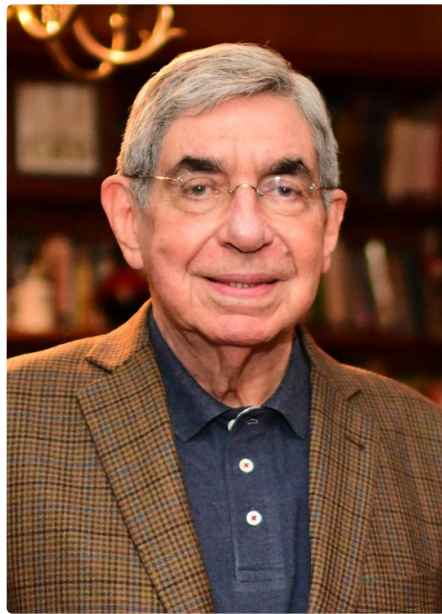
**Venezuela**

Nicolás Maduro†  
2013–present

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## 6.2. Disputed Pink Tide Leaders

The following left-wing and centre-left presidents, prime ministers, and other heads of governments, are sometimes included as part of the pink tide and sometimes excluded, either because the countries they lead are in the broader Latin America and the Caribbean region but are not technically part of Latin America or the leaders in question do not necessarily fit under the definition of the pink tide.<sup>[103][104][105][106][107][108][109]</sup>



**Costa Rica**

Óscar Arias \*  
2006–2010

<https://handwiki.org/wiki/index.php?curid=1647002>



**Costa Rica**

Carlos Alvarado Quesada \*  
2018–2022

By Dominik Butzmann / re:publica - Future Affairs Berlin 2019 - „Digital Revolution: Resetting Global Power Politics?“, CC BY-SA 2.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=79440856>



**Dominican Republic**

Leonel Fernández \*  
2004–2012

<https://handwiki.org/wiki/index.php?curid=1371874>



**Dominican Republic**

Danilo Medina \*  
2012–2020

By Presidencia El Salvador from San Salvador, El Salvador, América Central - V Cumbre CELAC- República Dominicana, CC0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=67121804>



**Dominican Republic**



Luis Abinader \*  
2020–present

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**Guiana**

Gabriel Serville  
2021–present

By Jean-Luc Hauser - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=107056616>



**Guyana**

Bharrat Jagdeo  
1999–2011

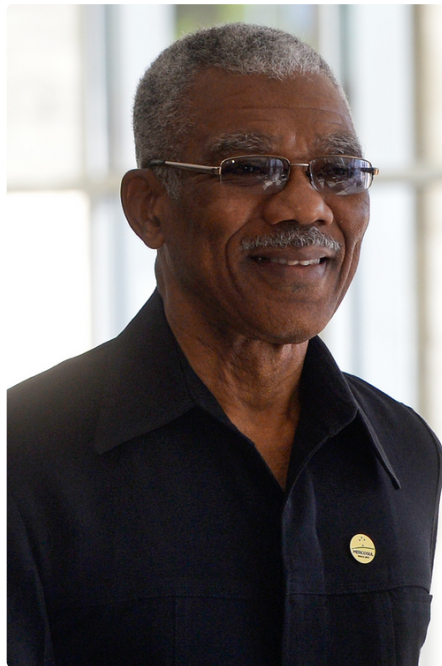
By Carl Lender - <https://www.flickr.com/photos/clender/34327222001/>, CC BY 2.0,  
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=97147397>



**Guyana**

Donald Ramotar  
2011–2015

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**Guyana**

David Granger \*  
2015–2020

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## **Guyana**

Irfaan Ali  
2020–present

By U.S. Department of State from United States - Secretary Pompeo Holds a Joint Press Availability with Guyanese President Ali, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=94306192>



## **Haiti**

Jean-Bertrand Aristide  
2001–2004

<https://handwiki.org/wiki/index.php?curid=2097606>



## **Saint Lucia**

Kenny Anthony  
2011–2016

By National Police of Colombia - This image was sourced from the Flickr gallery of the National Police of Colombia., CC BY-SA 2.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=99567177>



**Saint Lucia**

Philip J. Pierre  
2021–present

By Saint Lucia Government, CC BY 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=107914437>



**Saint Vincent and the Grenadines**

Ralph Gonsalves  
2001–present

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### **Suriname**

Déni Bouterse  
2010–2020

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<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=106140620>



### **Trinidad and Tobago**

Patrick Manning \*  
2001–2010

By Antonio Cruz - Crop of Agência Brasil photograph  
<http://www.agenciabrasil.gov.br/media/imagens/2008/07/23/1355AC00037.jpg/view>, CC BY 3.0 br,  
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=4472581>



### Trinidad and Tobago

Kamla Persad-Bissessar \*  
2010–2015

By Control Arms - <https://www.flickr.com/photos/controlarms/9936466353/>, CC BY 2.0,  
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