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Carlos Eduardo VARGAS LEÓN

no. **24** 2005

**El retorno
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a la democracia:
las elecciones peruanas
del 2001**

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NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ETHNOLOGY

SUITA, OSAKA 565-8511 JAPAN

PHONE : +81-(0)6-6878-8343

FAX : +81-(0)6-6878-8353

<http://www.minpaku.ac.jp/jcas>

mail jcasmail@idc.minpaku.ac.jp

Political Parties Return to Democracy: The Peruvian Elections in 2001

Carlos Eduardo VARGAS LEÓN

Abstract

The 2001 Peruvian presidential and parliamentary election developed against different political scenery than previous years because of the impartial role of the then government, the efficiency of the electoral administration, the return of the political parties to the political scene and the public sphere after a decade of political hostility, and the huge interest from citizens in participating in an electoral contest where uncertain results had been the norm.

This paper presents and analyzes the social, political and electoral context in which the 2001 general election developed. In the first part of the paper the author examines the huge work developed by the electoral administration in the organization of this electoral contest, and describes the principal changes in the electoral system that had the consent of the political parties. In the second part, the author makes a diagnosis of the situation of the population and citizens at the moment of the election, in terms of social and spatial distribution, and also describes the presidential and parliamentary candidates profile.

Finally, the author analyzes political dynamism in terms of campaigns and results, paying attention to the candidates and electoral behavior, and the change in political preferences according to the social variables presented previously, which help us to understand the election of the actual Peruvian president.

Keywords: Peru, 2001 elections, political parties, democracy, electoral administration