The Achievements and the Structural Limits of Latin American Neo Extractivism and the Emergence of the Post Extractivist Debate

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We review the structural limits of leftist “neo extractivism” and discuss the emergence of alternatives, including multilateral, governmental and civil society approaches.

Leftist governments in Venezuela, Bolivia and Ecuador have tried to maximize the fiscal benefits of the exploitation of natural resources, achieving high levels of growth, reducing poverty and inequality in the context of the super cycle. But the super cycle is over and the structural limits of neo extractivism have also become evident: deepening of a primary exporting condition, exposure to the volatility of commodities, evidence of Dutch Disease, gross productivity gaps, negative environmental and social impacts, social conflicts, etc.

In response, a debate is emerging on how to move beyond “neoliberal extractivismo” and “neo extractivism” exploring avenues for productive diversification, sustainable use of renewable natural resources, using less fossil energies, protecting the environment, and guaranteeing indigenous territorial and consultation rights.

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3 CEPAL, Pactos para la Igualdad, Santiago de Chile, 2014.


