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**DIRECTOR** Mariella Sala Eguren  
**MANAGING EDITOR** Elsa Chanduví Jaña  
**EDITORS** Cecilia Remón Arnáiz, David Shanks  
**DESIGN** David Shanks  
**LAYOUT** William Chico Colugna

**ADDRESS**

Av. San Felipe 943, Lima 11, Peru  
 Apartado Postal 18-0964, Lima 18, Peru  
**T** (511) 265-9014 — 265-9098  
**F** (511) 265-9186

**E** postmaster@acna.org.pe  
**WWW** latinamericapress.org

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Contact Patricia Díaz: [pdiaz@acna.org.pe](mailto:pdiaz@acna.org.pe)  
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DANIEL MOREL

**Haiti:** Somber scenes at Carnival highlight political, economic and social unrest.  
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**LATIN AMERICA**  
 Cecilia Remón in Lima

## NEW INTERNATIONAL ORDER

Postwar panorama bleak for region.

"We face a re-ordering of the world, based not on diplomacy or negotiations between countries, but on the unilateral use of force," said Peruvian economist Humberto Campodónico March 20, after the United States ignored the United Nations (UN) and attacked Iraq.

Analysts say this decision has cast doubt on the role of multilateral organisms and set off a trend for resolving political issues by force.

"We have seen a disintegration of alliances, institutions and agreements across the world," said Peruvian international analyst Alejandro Deustua. "Deep divisions now exist inside organisms like the UN and the Organization of American States (OAS) which, although affecting their efficacy, will not lead to their disappearance."

According to Campodónico, "the old orders and political mechanisms in Latin America will change, and not only with regard to multilateral organisms. The US attack has divided the region."

Some Central American countries have backed the US for fear of economic reprisals. El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama, all members of the Central American Integration System, made a joint declaration March 18, stating, "The moment has arrived for the Iraqi government to disarm." Fellow members Belize, Costa Rica and Guatemala did not sign.

Other commercial and political blocks, such as the Andean Community of Nations and the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR), have not issued such declarations. "The presidents of the countries involved have not taken up a joint position. Brazil's President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva has disagreed with any attack on Iraq that is not UN-endorsed, but he has not assumed the leadership of the continent. Nor has Mexico's President Vicente Fox," said Campodónico.

According to Deustua, the Latin American countries' inability to assume a common position regarding the war will make relations with the US even more bilateral. "This is a defining moment for Latin America. Each country has its own position, based on its own interests. From now on political and economic pragmatism will prevail," he said.

A Latin American diplomat, who asked to remain anonymous, said, "Each nation state has interests rather than friends. The region's countries are all seeking their own space. Peru, for example, has taken an ambiguous stance regarding Iraq. It is waiting to see what happens rather than committing itself."

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