

# Latin lessons: what South America can teach the rest of the world

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Members of the Unidos da Tijuca samba school perform at the Sambodrome, during the first night of Rio de Janeiro's famed carnival parades, in Brazil on February 14, 2010. AFP PHOTO/VANDERLEI ALMEIDA (Photo credit should read VANDERLEI ALMEIDA/AFP/Getty Images)

## Amid much global gloom, PAUL KNOTT finds an area of the world which much to be confident about.

Anyone despairing about the rise of extremism in Europe and the US can look to Latin America for encouragement.

For all its ups, downs and Venezuela, the region has progressed remarkably since the dark days of the 1970s and early 1980s. Its experiences show that even the worst political dysfunction can be overcome.







Perhaps as a result of being bombarded with propaganda during the decades of dictatorship, surveys suggest Latin Am<sup>34</sup> | <sup>34</sup> α