EDITORIAL PREFACE

This collection of essays is based on the contributions to an international symposium on “Inter-American Relations in an Era of Unilateralism” that was held at the Tampa campus of the University of South Florida on October 3-5, 2004. At this symposium, organized by the university’s Latin American and Caribbean Studies Program, a distinguished group of scholars and specialists from Canada, the Caribbean, Mexico, South America and the United States exchanged their research findings and perspectives on the nature and effects of globalization, regionalization and unilateralism in the Americas. The essays in this collection were produced by these scholars and specialists and they are the product of their presentations, the discussions and the collaboration that took place at this symposium. They are representative of the ongoing research, dialogue and debates taking place in intellectual circles throughout the Americas on the topics addressed in this collection.

Like the symposium that gave birth to this collection of essays, the contributions to this collection seek to:

1. Provide new information and analytical perspectives on how the forces of globalization and regional integration are altering the basic nature of interactions between the states, non-state actors and peoples of the Americas;
2. Examine and assess the effects of the United States government’s doctrines of unilateralism and preemptive action on Inter-American relations;
3. Analyze the role of civil society and non-state actors such as transnational companies, non-governmental organizations, and new political movements in the relations between the states and societies of the Americas; and
4. Reveal the extent to which the above processes and conditions are affecting economic, political, social, and cultural developments at the local level (and vice-versa).

Thus, this collection of essays represents the fulfillment of the aims of the Tampa symposium and provides an important contribution to the existing body of knowledge on globalization, regionalization and unilateralism in the Americas.

The publication of this unique collection of essays would not have been possible without the vision, collaborative leadership, editorial expertise and hard work of the two distinguished editors of this collection — Dr. Jorge Nef, Director of the Latin American and Caribbean Studies (LACS) Program at the University of South Florida (USF), and Dr. Harry E Vanden, Professor of Government and International Affairs at USF. In addition to their invaluable intellectual and editorial contributions, the publication of this collection of essays was made possible by the support and assistance provided by the USF’s Provost Office (Dr. Renu Khator), the International Affairs Center (Dr. JoAnn McCarthy), the Dean’s Office of the College of Arts and Sciences (Dr. Kathleen Heide), the Globalization Research Center (Dr. Mark Amen), the LACS Program Assistant Ellen Kang, and of course the invaluable contributions and colle-
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gial collaboration of the international team of scholars and specialists who wrote the essays in this collection.

Richard L Harris,
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