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**The Indian Movements in Latin America: A Historical
Reversal.**

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Abstract

In a world dominated by the markets as well as by the neo-communitarian forces and violence, the Indian struggles in Latin America are among the few movements, which combine social conflict, cultural projects and democratic aims. Today they constitute, in a great number of Latin-American societies, the main, if not the only social movement. Through them a historical reversal of the Indian issue is operating: from dependence to emancipation; from passive resistance, withdrawal or fruitless uprising to long-term, organised, collective action; from the duplication of tradition to the production of new social links and a new vision; from shame to self esteem; from internalised racism to assertion of equality in difference.

[Research paper \(pdf\)](#)

About the Author

Yvon Le Bot, sociologist, is a member of the CADIS-Centre d'analyse et d'intervention sociologiques (Ecole des hautes études en sciences sociales/Centre national de la recherche scientifique).

Since 1968, he has carried out long fieldwork in Colombia, Bolivia, Haiti, Guatemala and Mexico and several missions in other countries in the region. He has been engaged in comparative and analytical studies, focussing on community issues, modernity, violence, armed conflicts, ethnic questions and social movements. His current researches are about cultural movements and globalisation in Latin America; social and cultural actors among Latin-American migrants in the United States.

He is the author of several books, including *La guerre en terre maya* (1992), *Violence de la modernité en Amérique latine* (1994), *Le reve zapatiste* (1997), *Indiens: Chiapas > Mexico > Californie* (2002) and has participated in numerous collective publications. He analysed wars between and within communities in M. Wiewiorka (ed), *Une société fragmentée?* (1997); the relationship between armed conflict and movements based on identity in P. Hassner et R.

Marchal (eds), *Guerra et sociétés. Etats et violence après la guerre froide* (2003); the ambiguity of forms of behaviour in Mexico in the face of globalisation in M. Wieviorka (ed), *Un autre monde...* (2003).