

PERU

Date of Elections: 18 May 1980

Purpose of Elections

Elections were held for all the members of the Parliament established by the 1979 Constitution*.

Characteristics of Parliament

The bicameral Parliament of Peru, the Congress, consists of the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies.

The Senate is composed of 60 elected members. In addition, former constitutional Presidents of the Republic are Senators for life.

The Chamber of Deputies comprises 180 elected members.

All members of Congress have a term of office of 5 years.

Electoral System

All Peruvian citizens at least 18 years of age and in full possession of their civil and political rights are entitled to vote. Disqualified are persons under judicial interdiction, those under sentence which deprives them of their freedom, and members of the armed forces and police on active duty. Voting is compulsory until the age of 70.

Qualified electors who are at least 25 years of age may be candidates for the Chamber of Deputies, while 35 is the age requirement for the Senate. The office of parliamentarian is incompatible with a number of public positions (except Minister of State and participation in certain special committees of an international character), active membership of the armed and police forces, and certain posts in State-connected enterprises.

Candidates for Congress are nominated by political parties or alliances of parties.

Members of Congress are elected according to a party-list system of proportional representation, Senators being elected on a regional basis and Deputies on the district level, the constituency of Lima having the most Deputies (40).

Congress seats which become vacant between general elections are filled by alternate candidates in the order in which they appear on the respective party lists.

General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

The legislative elections were held simultaneously with those for President of the Republic. The polling date had been set on 28 July 1979.

* See section *Parliamentary Developments*, pp. 24-25.

The Constitution of July 1979 had provided for restoration of civilian rule to replace the military regime which had governed the country since 1968.

Primary contenders for the presidency were Mr. Fernando Belaunde Terry (who was overthrown in the 1968 military coup) of the centrist Popular Action Party (*Action Popular*, or AP), Mr. Armando Villanueva del Campo of the centre-left American Popular Revolutionary Alliance (APRA) and Mr. Luis Bedoya Reyes of the conservative Popular Christian Party. During the campaign, Mr. Belaunde's slogan was "Peru for the Peruvians"; he pledged to create new jobs through a variety of agricultural projects, to combat malnutrition and poverty, to respect human rights and freedom of the press, and to seek large foreign capital investments to step up production of various Peruvian industries. For the congressional seats, 18 political parties had registered lists which totalled 3,284 candidates.

On polling day, Mr. Belaunde's strong showing in the presidential race was matched by the AP in the vote for Congress.

As planned, the return to civilian rule occurred on 28 July 1980. Dr. Manuel Ulloa Elias (AP) became the Prime Minister.

Statistics

1. Results of the Elections and Distributions of Seats
in the Congress

Number of registered electors	6,500,000 (approx.)	
Voters	62% (approx.)	

Political Group	Number of Seats in	
	Chamber of Deputies	Senate
Popular Action Party (AP)	98	26
American Popular Revolutionary Alliance (APRA)	58	18
Popular Christian Party (PPC)	10	6
Others	14	10
	180	60