



## Who Is the President of Honduras?

**OE Watch Commentary:** On 26 November, Honduras had its general election, which included presidential elections. Following the election, both presidential candidates claimed victory. As the first accompanying passage reports, the Honduran Supreme Electoral Tribunal eventually declared the incumbent, Juan Orlando Hernández as the winner, after a recount of the votes. As reflected in the second of the attached references, the early announcements after the election had leftist Salvador Nasralla as the winner, a result that came as a great surprise to almost everyone. The fact that incumbent President was a candidate was itself controversial, the national constitution having been amended (or reinterpreted) so that he could run. Nine years ago, then President Mel Zelaya, a pro Chávez Bolivarian Marxist, was deposed (in part) for trying to set himself up for reelection. **End OE Watch Commentary (Demarest)**



**Source:** Jacobo García , “El recuento de votos confirma la victoria de Juan Orlando en Honduras (The recount of votes confirms the victory of Juan Orlando in Honduras),” *El País*, 12 December 2017. [https://elpais.com/internacional/2017/12/10/america/1512936486\\_999113.html](https://elpais.com/internacional/2017/12/10/america/1512936486_999113.html)

*“The President of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE) David Matamoros, announced Sunday morning the end of the special vote-by-vote scrutiny of the 4,753 voting tables, whose results were not transmitted this past 26 November. The count finished at 2:48 in the morning and gave 424,363 votes to Juan Orlando Hernández and 267,109 votes to Salvador Nasralla....For its part, the opposition of ex-president Manuel Zelaya, ally of Nasralla, considered the recount ‘spurious’...”*

**Source:** Ricardo Angoso, “Inesperado giro a la izquierda en Honduras (Unexpected turn to the left in Honduras),” *Periodismo Sin Fronteras*, 29 November 2017. <http://www.periodismosinfronteras.org/inesperado-giro-a-la-izquierda-en-honduras.html>

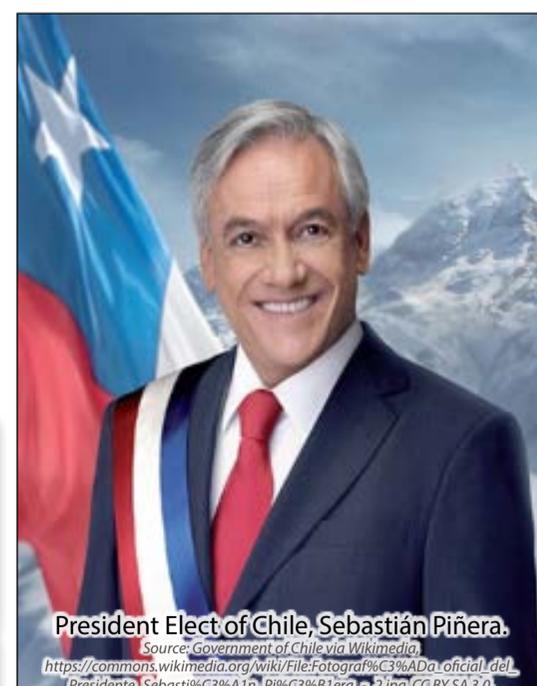
*“Nasralla’s partisans, it is worth remembering, are political ‘children’ of ex-president Manuel Zelaya, who was deposed eight years ago after... an endless stream of monumental mistakes. As you will remember, the coup d’Etat or institutional change, according to the description that one wishes to apply to the events of 2009, in which Zelaya was replaced in the presidency by Roberto Micheletti -- then president of the Honduran parliament -- had its origin, among other things, in the matter of reelection of the incumbent president.”*

## New Old Chilean President Not Socialist

**OE Watch Commentary:** On 17 December, Chile elected a President, Sebastián Piñera, a conservative and former president. Piñera promised to bring Chilean economic policies back to the free-market model that Chile had followed for years, but that had been somewhat abandoned by outgoing President Michelle Bachelet, a progressive and pro-Bolivarian. As the accompanying article notes, Piñera’s sympathizers shouted, “We do not want communism, we do not want socialism” before a speech, in which he promised Chile would return to “the pathway of progress and development.” As with the recent election in Honduras, the result seems to indicate that the hemisphere’s ideological pendulum is not quite moving to the left again, even while the left in Chile did enjoy more support than some might have expected. **End OE Watch Commentary (Demarest)**

**Source:** Federico Grünwald, “Chile gira a la derecha: Piñera vuelve al poder tras una amplia victoria (Chile veers to the right: Piñera returns to power with an ample victory),” *La Nación*, Buenos Aires, 18 December 2017. [http://www.lanacion.com.ar/2092405-chile-gira-a-la-derecha-pinera-vuelve-al-poder-tras-una-amplia-victoria?utm\\_source=n\\_tis\\_notal&utm\\_medium=titularS&utm\\_campaign=NLExt](http://www.lanacion.com.ar/2092405-chile-gira-a-la-derecha-pinera-vuelve-al-poder-tras-una-amplia-victoria?utm_source=n_tis_notal&utm_medium=titularS&utm_campaign=NLExt)

*“Piñera sympathizers shouted, ‘We do not want communism, we do not want socialism’ before his speech, in which he promised Chile would return to ‘the pathway of progress and development’. In spite of surveys that anticipated a close finale, the ex president got more than 54% of the votes against Guillier. After a very polarized campaign and passing aggressive moments, he promised to respect differences and seek unity.”*



*“Chile would return to the pathway of progress and development...”*