INTRODUCING THE GLOBAL SQUARE
BOOK SERIES

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Global Latin America is the first volume in the University of California Press's GLOBAL SQUARE BOOK SERIES. Over nine volumes, THE GLOBAL SQUARE will focus on how regions and countries interact with the contemporary world. The chapters in each book will draw on specialists in various areas: from academia to journalism, from environmental sciences to public health. The histories, cultures, and societies of particular countries and regions are far from flat as they develop in conjunction with and contradiction to other geographic centers.

Readers will see how countries that gain dominance in the world always do so in relation to broader, non-national historical characteristics, resources, ambitions, and opportunities. No major region or country is isolated, and the ways in which Brazil or Turkey or South Africa is tied to the globe are not identical, by design or execution. The standing of a country or region vis-à-vis its global partners and competitors, its ambitions and anxieties, needs to be documented and analyzed in each case.

By looking at particular regions and countries, we hope that readers will be provoked to examine the global and local implications of economic and political transformations. As the Group of 20 (G20) major economies in the world replaces the Group of 8 (G8) as representative of contemporary world leadership, THE GLOBAL SQUARE BOOK SERIES anticipates a world where the four largest economies in the world will soon be China, the United States, India, and Brazil.

These shifts in economic dominance will have implications well beyond those currently imagined. GLOBAL SQUARE books seek to capture the dynamic and complex geographies and cultural politics developing from one region out around the rest of the world. The world as our grandparents knew it is being turned upside down, and new centers of power and influence are increasingly found in new locations within our GLOBAL SQUARE.