

# Introductory Readings

## ***CIA Statistics***

- 1) Identify 5 stats from the *CIA Statistics* that you find significant.
- 2) According to the *CIA Statistics*, what % of Ecuador's GDP is currently spent repaying foreign or "public" debt?

## ***The Land & the People.***

1) Allen Gerlach (the author) writes that "Ecuador's human contrasts are striking." Provide 5 illustrations of Ecuador's human diversity.

2) Similarly, Ecuador is a land of tremendous geographic and ecological diversity. Provide some illustrations of such diversity.

3) What is CONAIE and why is it important today?

## ***The Oil Era***

1) We often talk about "globalization" but don't always take the time to consider what it's really all about. So what is economic globalization? You might consider thinking about the concept in general as well as in the specific context of Ecuador.

2) How would you characterize the Ecuadorian economy? Put differently, what kind of economy does Ecuador have and what are some of the dangers/pitfalls of such an economy?

3) For better or for worse, how has the discovery and production of oil affected/changed Ecuador over the past 4 decades?

4) Gerlach writes of Ecuador's transition from "the old to the new economic order." What exactly does he mean by "old" and "new" economies? What are some of the key features of each?

5) What roles do lending institutions such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank (WB), and Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) play in a country such as Ecuador? What kinds of policies/actions have these lending institutions formulated/taken with respect to Ecuador and why?