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Book review: Wassner, Dalia (2014) *Harbinger of Modernity – Marcos Aguinis and the Democratization of Argentina*, Boston: Leiden

Since the collapse of the dictatorship regimes in the Latin America in the last decades, the region has began to occupy a significant role in geopolitics, with countries like Brazil emerging as the eighth biggest economy. The relationship of the public intellectual to nation-building in Latin America, and the complex intersections of culture and politics that has characterised the action of many artists and thinkers in the continent since the collapse of the dictatorships in the 1980's, is at the core of Wassner's book on the internationally acclaimed Argentine writer, Marcos Aguinis. The book *Harbinger of Modernity – Marcos Aguinis and the democratization of Argentina* (Leiden: Boston, 2014). At one point Wassner quotes Shils, who in his article "The Intellectual in the Political Development of New States", states that post-colonial countries have intellectuals who speak for the rest of society amid the public's inability to represent their own voices.

Although Latin American countries did not gain independence in the decade of the 1960's like other former European colonies, the struggle for wider democratization and social and political inclusion in the Habermasian public sphere has been behind much of what Aguinis has been about. /Similarly to other public intellectuals n other countries of the continent, such as Paulo Freire and Fernando Henrique Cardoso in Brazil, /Set the scene of what Argentine is currently experiencing.

Strengths of the book, interesting points to include:

Provides a good intellectual engagement with the role of the intellectual in nation-building and democracy./others/Its shortcomings as well.

Link with other books on democratization of Latin America, its contribution to the literature. Offers an understanding of the political history of the country and the difficulties it encountered in the transition to democracy, including Afonsin's/Conclusion

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(300- 500 words)