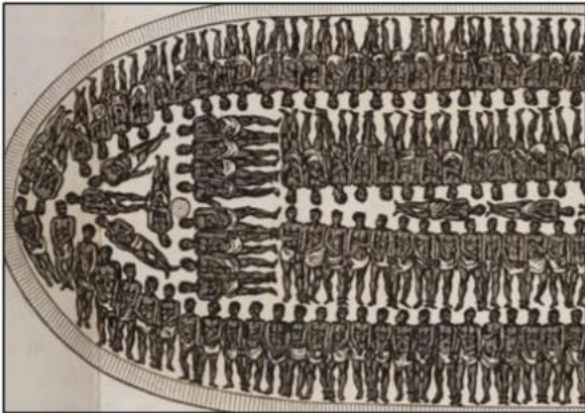


Latin American History Teacher Notes

African Slavery



With the rapid expansion of European influence into the New World, the need for a cheap and steadily available labor force to establish and maintain colonial industries and infrastructure – particularly as relates to the cultivation and exportation of sugarcane and coffee – was crucial. Spanish and Portuguese landowners at first sought such a labor force among the conquered **indigenous** populations of Latin America; however, the arrival of Europeans in the **New World** brought with it a number of virulent diseases (e.g., small pox) which decimated native populations.

As such the Spanish and Portuguese began importing slave labor from West Africa in what became known as the **transatlantic slave trade**. Sanitation and living conditions on the many slave ships, which brought black Africans to the Americas, were deplorable; the mortality rate on such journeys was typically 25%. This black African slave labor force was impressed into agricultural work on plantations and **haciendas** throughout Latin America, as well as in gold and diamond mines in Brazil.

Although slavery was abolished in Europe in the early 19th century, it persisted in Latin America through the 1880s, most notably in Cuba and Brazil. Over time intermarriage among those of Spanish and Portuguese ancestry with **indigenous** peoples and black Africans gave rise to a new cultural identity in Latin America which prevails today.

Impact of Spanish and Portuguese

The **Colombian Exchange**, which began with Christopher Columbus in 1492, was not merely a question of agricultural **commodities** exchange between Europe and the Americas. This 15th century example of **globalization** was also cultural in scope. The diffusion of **Iberian** languages and religious beliefs throughout Latin America during the colonial period has had an indelible impact on the development of the region.

In terms of language, both Spanish and Portuguese are classified as **Romance** languages, meaning they derive from the Latin language once used throughout the Roman Empire in Europe. Although grammatically similar, the two languages are quite different from one another phonetically and structurally.

The influence of Spanish is most pronounced throughout Mexico, Central America (excepting Belize), northern and western South America, and the western Caribbean. There are more Spanish-speakers in Mexico today than there are in Spain itself. Portuguese, meanwhile, is the official language of Brazil.



Although Spanish is spoken in more individual countries throughout South America, Portuguese is the most-spoken language on the continent given Brazil's estimated 208 million population. Both Spain and Portugal were officially **Roman Catholic** kingdoms during the age of exploration and colonization, and as such both promoted the Christian faith throughout their respective Latin American colonies. As a result, the region remains heavily Christianized today.

Latin American Greetings	
<u>Spanish</u> ¡Buenos días! <i>(bway-nohs DEE-us)</i>	<u>Brazilian Portuguese</u> Bom dia! <i>(bohm JEE-ah)</i>

Cuban Revolution

Prior to 1959, Cuba was a relatively American-friendly nation. Although the island had languished under the dictatorship of **Fulgencio Batista** since 1952, U.S. investment on the island was booming – particularly with regard to the sugar industry.

All of this changed on 1 January 1959 when Fidel **Castro** seized power and declared the island a **communist** state. All American-owned property on the island – as well as all Cuban-owned private businesses, factories, and farmland – was declared the property of the state. Basic personal freedoms of expression were suspended; media outlets were shut down; even churches were closed and their property seized. In response to **Castro's** repressive takeover, the United States placed an economic **embargo** on Cuba, which blocked the island's sugar exports to American markets. This action was countered by the **Soviet Union**, who became fast friends with the new Cuban leadership, agreeing to purchase its sugarcane as well as provide the Castro regime with weapons and military training.



Although the **Castro** regime did provide improvements to education and healthcare, civil rights on the island were severely restricted. And, as one might expect, having a **communist** state situated so close to American soil – there are only 90 miles lying between Cuba and Key West, Florida – did not sit well with the U.S. government. In a watershed moment of the **Cold War**, the Cuban government agreed to allow the U.S.S.R. to build a missile launching complex on the island, as well as house a substantial complement of intermediate and medium-range ballistic missiles there. This was discovered by U.S. intelligence in 1962, sparking a thirteen-day standoff known as the Cuban Missile Crisis.

Soviet premier Nikita **Khrushchev** argued that the placement of missiles in Cuba was aimed at countering the presence of American Jupiter missiles in Italy and Turkey. The **Soviet** government also claimed the move was in response to the failed American-backed **coup** against Fidel **Castro** at the Bay of Pigs one year earlier.)

Although the **Kennedy** administration diffused the situation through diplomatic means, the **Cuban Missile Crisis** was arguably the closest the world – up to that point – had ever come to a Third World War.



U.S.-Cuban relations remained tense for the next half-century. Only recently have diplomatic relations been normalized between the United States and Cuba. Each nation reopened its embassy in the other's capital in July 2015. The U.S. eased trade restrictions on Cuba in January 2016. Two months later, Barack Obama became the first U.S. president to

visit Cuba in 88 years. In addition, the decades-old American policy of permitting Cuban nationals to immigrate to the United States without a visa was suspended as of January 2017.

Current Events

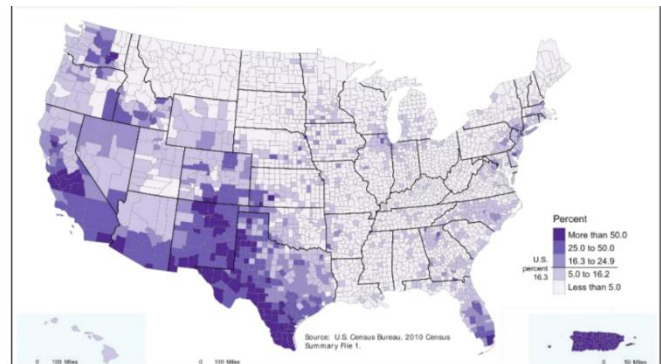
There are several prevailing socio-economic issues which affect the lives and livelihoods of Latin Americans. These same issues have also had a dramatic impact on the development – or the underdevelopment – of the region as a whole.

Rampant poverty is a major concern throughout Latin America as a whole. Even in the case of Brazil – a **BRICS** nation and one of the region’s fastest growing economies – the level of **rural** poverty is over 50%. In a region of nearly 650 million people, one in five lives in chronic poverty. This is due largely to a regional lack of high-quality, high-skill employment opportunities as well as insufficient investment in and access to education. Over half of 15-year-olds in Latin America are functionally illiterate; math and science competency scores across the region are especially low. Such sobering statistics make it easy to understand why the region is struggling economically.

Most of Latin America was once dubbed the “Third World”; however, since the end of the **Cold War**, the term “developing nation” is more commonly used to describe many of the countries found in this region.

The war on drugs throughout Latin America is another issue depressing regional development. Cocaine production is most pronounced in the **Andean** region of South America (i.e., Colombia, Peru, and Bolivia), with Central America (particularly Guatemala) and Mexico serving as the corridor through which the trade is funneled into the United States.¹¹ U.S.-backed efforts to inhibit regional drug **trafficking**, such as the Central American Regional Security Initiative (CARSI) and Plan Colombia, have only been marginally successful. This is due in large part to government corruption and collusion with the various drug **cartels** of the region. Civilian casualties in Latin America associated with **narco-terrorism** number in the tens of thousands.

Between the war on drugs and the general lack of economic opportunities in the region, many Latinos have **emigrated** to the United States in search of safer living conditions and more stable work environments. This pattern of mass migration to the U.S., particularly over the last two decades, has occurred both through legal **naturalization** as well as illegal immigration via the nearly 2,000-mile long U.S.-Mexico border. Government corruption, minimal job and education opportunities, and narcotics-driven gang violence have contributed to an unprecedented surge in unaccompanied Central American minors entering the U.S. since 2011. **Latinos** at present make up the largest minority group in the United States.



Latin America Glossary

Vocabulary Term	Definition	Picture and/or Sentence
1. Andean	geographic term for countries located along the Andes mountain range of South America	
2. arable	suitable for farming	
3. cartel	a group which dominates the trade of a specific product or service	
4. Colombian Exchange	The movement of peoples, agricultural commodities, diseases, and cultures between the Old World and New World during the European Age of Exploration.	
5. commodities	any raw material or agricultural product that is bought and sold	
6. communism	an economic system wherein private ownership is largely forbidden and all industries and resources are under the control of the state	
7. coup	the act of overthrowing an existing governing authority	
8. embargo	economic policy which blocks all trade with a given nation, typically due to safety and/or humanitarian concerns; embargoes are also enacted to sanction enemy nations	
9. emigrate	to relocate to a new country for the purpose of employment	
10. globalization	Process of interaction and integration among various parts of the world through commercial and cultural exchange.	
11. hacienda	Spanish agricultural plantations throughout Latin America during the colonial period.	
12. indigenous	Term referring to the native peoples or species of a given place; synonymous with aboriginal	
13. Latino	general term for those with Latin American ancestry from a Spanish-speaking country	
14. narco-terrorism	violent extremism associated with the illegal drug trade	

Vocabulary Term	Definition	Picture and/or Sentence
15. naturalization	the process by which a citizen of one country may become a legal citizen of another country	
16. New World	General term used to describe the newly discovered Americas during the European Age of Exploration; this is in contrast to the "Old World" of the eastern hemisphere, particularly Europe	
17. Romance	Referring to the languages and cultural characteristics which evolved out of the Latin-speaking Roman Empire	
18. rural	an area that is largely countryside; this is in contrast to an urban (i.e., city) area	
19. trafficking	the illegal smuggling of people or products	
20. Transatlantic slave trade	The enslavement and forced transportation of 12-15 million black Africans to the Americas between the 15th and 19th centuries; associated terms include the triangular trade and the middle passage across the Atlantic	
21. urban	an industrialized area of a city or town	

GUIDED QUESTIONS PART 1 (TEACHER NOTES PG. 1 & 2)**African Slavery**

1. Why did Europeans have a need for a cheap and steadily available labor force?
2. What two crop exports were crucial?
3. Which population did the Spanish and Portuguese landowners first used as a labor force?
4. What was the effect of European arrival in the New World for the indigenous populations?
5. From where did the Spanish and Portuguese import their slave labor force?
6. Describe the conditions on the slave ships (include the mortality rate).
7. Where did the Africans work in Latin America (name two locations)?
8. When was slavery abolished in Latin America?
9. What gave a rise to a new cultural identity in Latin America, prevailing today?

Impact of Spanish

10. The _____ Exchange, which began with Christopher _____ in 1492, was not merely a question of agricultural _____ exchange between Europe and the Americas. This 15th century example of _____ was also cultural in scope.
11. Spanish and Portuguese are Romance languages. What does "Romance" mean?
12. Where is the influence of Spanish most pronounced?
13. What is the official language of Brazil?
14. What religion was spread by the Spanish and Portuguese?

friday - cnn organizer

story title	notes
1.	
2.	
3.	

friday – news clip directions

Respond to **ONE** of the news clips and/or current events in **THREE** complete sentences. If you need more room, you may write in the space below.

- I. Summarize the event. (SAY)
- II. In which strand of social studies does this news clip/current event belong (geography, history, economics, government, or culture)? (MEAN)
- III. What effect would the event have on people in the world? (MATTER)

friday – news clip response

Name: _____

Due Date: _____

GUIDED QUESTIONS PART 2 (TEACHER NOTES PG. 2-3)

Cuban Revolution

1. US investment in Cuba was booming due to which industry?
2. Who seized power on 1 January 1959?
3. What type of government was established in 1959?
4. What became property of the state/government (name two)?
5. Basic personal freedoms of expressions were _____; media outlets were _____; even churches were _____ and their property _____.
6. In response to Castro's repressive takeover, what did the United State place on Cuba?
7. What was the Soviet Union's response to the US's embargo?
8. What were two improvements that the Castro regime provided?
9. Why did the US feel uneasy about Cuba's communist government?
10. Summarize the "watershed moment of the Cold War" that was discovered by US intelligence in 1962.
11. How was Kennedy able to diffuse the Cuban Missile Crisis?
12. Name two ways in which diplomatic relations have been normalized between the US and Cuba.
13. Who was the first US president to visit Cuba in 88 years?

friday - cnn organizer

story title	notes
1.	
2.	
3.	

friday – news clip directions

Respond to **ONE** of the news clips and/or current events in **THREE** complete sentences. If you need more room, you may write in the space below.

- IV. Summarize the event. (SAY)
- V. In which strand of social studies does this news clip/current event belong (geography, history, economics, government, or culture)? (MEAN)
- VI. What effect would the event have on people in the world? (MATTER)

friday – news clip response

Name: _____

Due Date: _____

GUIDED QUESTIONS PART 3 (TEACHER NOTES PG. 3)

Current Events

1. Rampant _____ is a major concern throughout Latin America as a whole.
2. What is Brazil's level of rural poverty?
3. What are two reasons that one in five Latin Americans live in chronic poverty?
4. How many Latin Americans are functionally illiterate (unable to read and write)?
5. What term describes many of the Latin American countries?
6. US backed efforts to _____ drug trafficking have only been marginally _____.
7. Why has the effort only been marginally successful?
8. What is one effect of narco-terrorism in Latin America?
9. Why have many Latinos emigrated to the United States (name two reasons)?
10. What do they hope to gain by moving to the US (name two)?
11. How has the migration affected the United States?
12. What is largest minority group in the United States today?

friday - cnn organizer

story title	notes
1.	
2.	
3.	

friday – news clip directions

Respond to **ONE** of the news clips and/or current events in **THREE** complete sentences. If you need more room, you may write in the space below.

- VII. Summarize the event. (SAY)
- VIII. In which strand of social studies does this news clip/current event belong (geography, history, economics, government, or culture)? (MEAN)
- IX. What effect would the event have on people in the world? (MATTER)

friday – news clip response
