



I must try and break through the clichés about Latin America. Superpowers and other outsiders have fought over us for centuries in ways that have nothing to do with our problems. In reality we are all alone.

Gabriel Garcia Marquez

# Setting the Boundaries



- from **Rio Grande** (Rio Bravo) in north to **Tierra del Fuego** in south
- **colonial landscape**: former colonies of Spain and Portugal, shared colonial history (**Iberian**: associated with the states of Spain and Portugal)
- large, **multiethnic** populations
  - 21 states (see next slide)
  - **urbanization** among the highest in developing world
  - indigenous peoples with Indian and African presence
  - Bolivia elected first Amerindian president in 2005
  - industrialization and development growth since 1960s
  - **Free Trade Area of the Americas** (FTAA): trade agreement currently under negotiation that would expand NAFTA to include 31 additional states in the Western Hemisphere
  - natural resource extraction remains important

# Setting the Boundaries



## Central America (2016)

State	Population	Urban Pop
Mexico	128,632,004	78.1%
Guatemala	16,672,956	51.3%
Honduras	8,189,501	57.1%
Nicaragua	6,150,035	60.5%
El Salvador	6,146,419	70%
Costa Rica	4,857,218	79.9%
Panama	3,990,406	67.6%
Belize*	366,942	42.5%

\*for cultural reasons,  
often included in the  
Caribbean instead

## South America (2016)

State	Population	Urban Pop
Brazil	209,567,920	84%
Colombia	48,654,392	78.5%
Argentina	43,847,277	89.1%
Peru	31,774,225	78.1%
Venezuela	31,518,855	89.5%
Chile	18,131,850	89.4%
Ecuador	16,385,450	64.1%
Bolivia	10,888,402	70.4%
Paraguay	6,725,430	63.2%
Uruguay	3,444,071	95.3%
Guyana*	770,610	30.1%
Suriname*	547,610	66.7%
French Guiana* (France)	275,688	82.2%

# Physical Setting: Extreme Variation



- **Central America** is an isthmian link or **land bridge**.
- The physiography of Central America is highly divided and fragmented.
  - Its funnel-shaped mainland consists of a 3,800 mile connection between North and South America.
  - It narrows to a 40-mile-wide ribbon of land in Panama.
  - Baja California consists of an 800 mile peninsula which is dominated by igneous intrusive rocks with lava caps.
  - The San Bernardino Mountains extend into Baja, where they are known as the Juarez Mountains.



# Physical Setting: Extreme Variation



- **Mexico**
  - high mountains and deep canyons in the center of the state, sweeping deserts in the north, dense rain forests in the south and east
  - Between the **Sierra Madre Oriental** mountain range in the east and the **Sierra Madre Occidental** in the west lie small mountain ranges on the Central Plateau. These regions are rich with valuable metals like silver and copper.
  - The stretch of land called the **Yucatán Peninsula** juts into the Gulf of Mexico from Mexico's southeastern tip. It was once the home of the Maya civilization.

# Physical Setting: Extreme Variation



- A common geographic characteristic of **Central America** is the chain of rugged **mountains** extending through the center of the region.
  - elevation as high as 14,000 feet, cooler and drier
  - On each side of these highlands exists **lowlands** along the Atlantic and Pacific coasts. The lowlands are generally hot, humid, and often plagued by disease.
  - **Coastal lowlands** exist on each side of the mountain ranges.
  - **natural disasters** periodically strike the region: volcanic eruptions, hurricanes and flooding in lowlands, earthquakes



mountains of Guatemala

# Physical Setting: Extreme Variation



South America can be divided into three physical regions: *mountains and highlands*, *river basins* and *coastal plains*. Mountains and coastal plains generally run in a north-south direction, while highlands and river basins generally run in an east-west direction.

South America's extreme geographic variation contributes to the continent's large number of **biomes** (a community of animals and plants that spreads over an area with a relatively uniform climate).

Within a few hundred kilometers, South America's coastal plains' dry desert biome rises to the rugged alpine biome of the Andes mountains. One of the continent's river basins is defined by dense, tropical rain forest, while another is made up of vast grasslands.

With an unparalleled number of plant and animal species, South America's rich **biodiversity** is unique among the world's continents.

# Physical Setting: Extreme Variation



## Western Mountains and Eastern Shields

- The Andes:** relatively young, 5,000 miles long, 30 peaks over 20K feet, contain valuable metals and minerals, extends to **Patagonia**
- Altiplano:** treeless, elevated plain in Peru and Bolivia
- The Uplands** of Mexico and Central America: most major cities and population found here, rich volcanic soils
- The Shields:** large upland plateaus of exposed crystalline rock, **Brazilian shield** is largest (covering most of Brazil), natural resources and settlements



Bolivian Altiplano, showing Lake Titicaca with an elevation of 12,500 ft



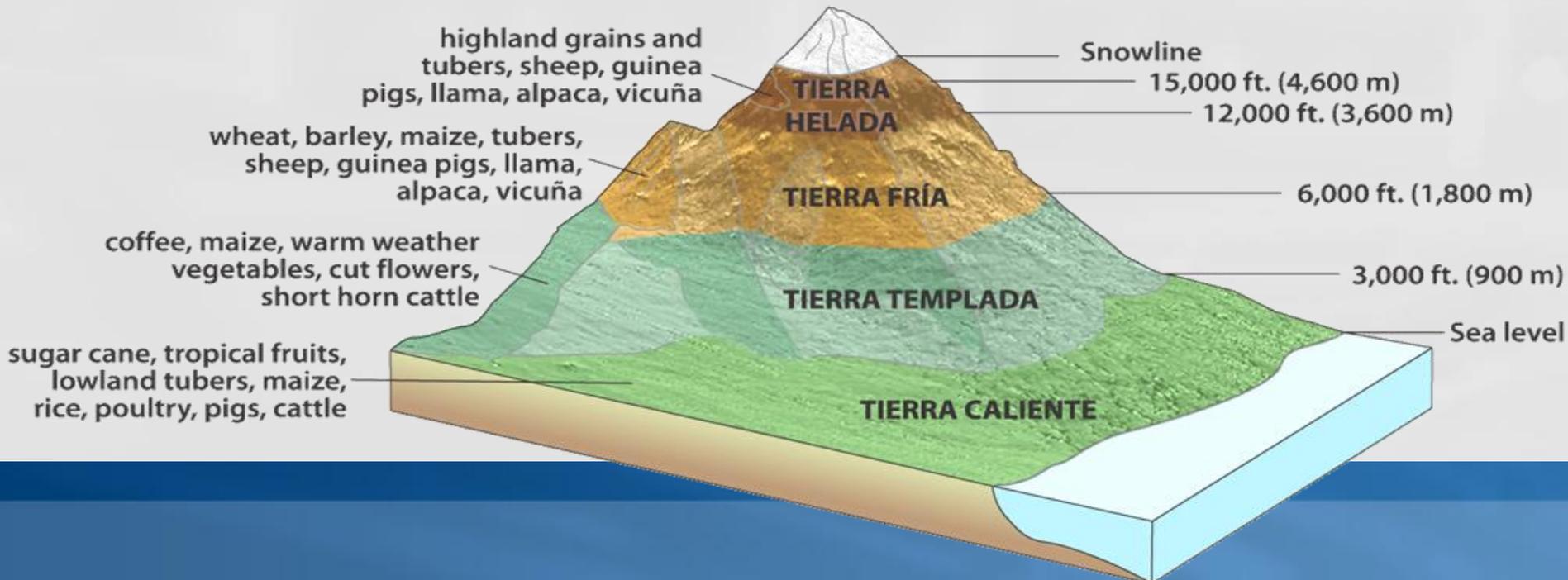
guanacos thrive on the Patagonia shield

# Physical Setting: Extreme Variation



**Altitudinal zonation** in mountainous regions describes the natural layering of ecosystems that occurs at distinct altitudes due to varying environmental conditions. Temperature, humidity, soil composition and solar radiation are important factors in determining altitudinal zones, which consequently support different vegetation and animal species.

The **environmental lapse rate** is the rate at which atmospheric temperature decreases with an increase in altitude.



# Physical Setting: Extreme Variation



## River Basins

- **Orinoco Basin:** one of the longest rivers in South America, originates in Parima Mountains and flows through vast savanna or grassland region, known as the Llanos
- **Amazon Basin:** largest river system in world by volume and second in length, draws from nine states
- **Paraná (La Plata) Basin:** region's second largest river watershed, economically productive



Rapids of the Orinoco River, Venezuela

Itaipú hydroelectric dam, Paraná River



# Physical Setting: Extreme Variation



pampas  
rice



Brazilian  
oranges



Venezuelan  
llanos



Argentine wheat  
in the pampas



pampas  
cats

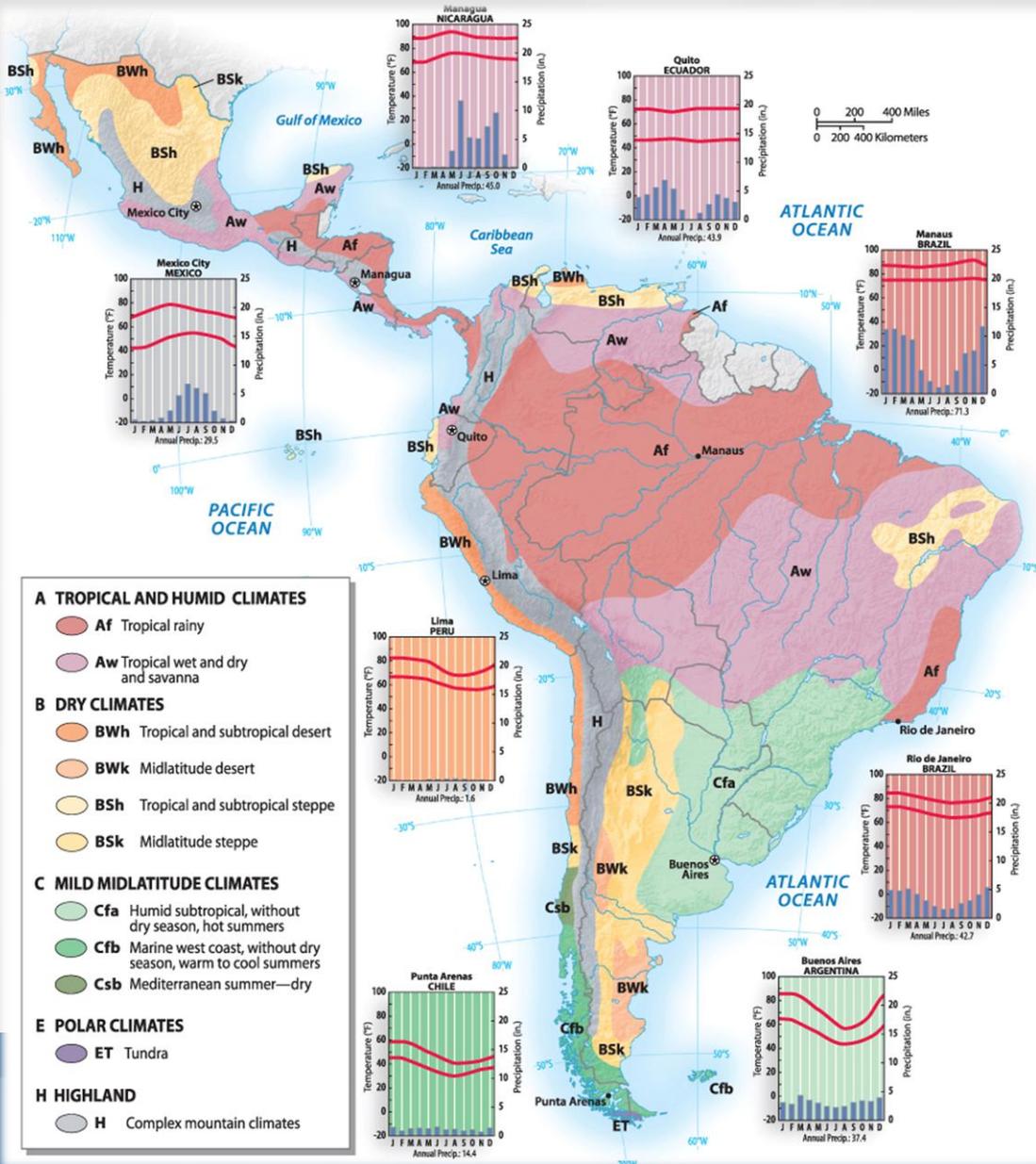


pampas

## Plains and Lowlands

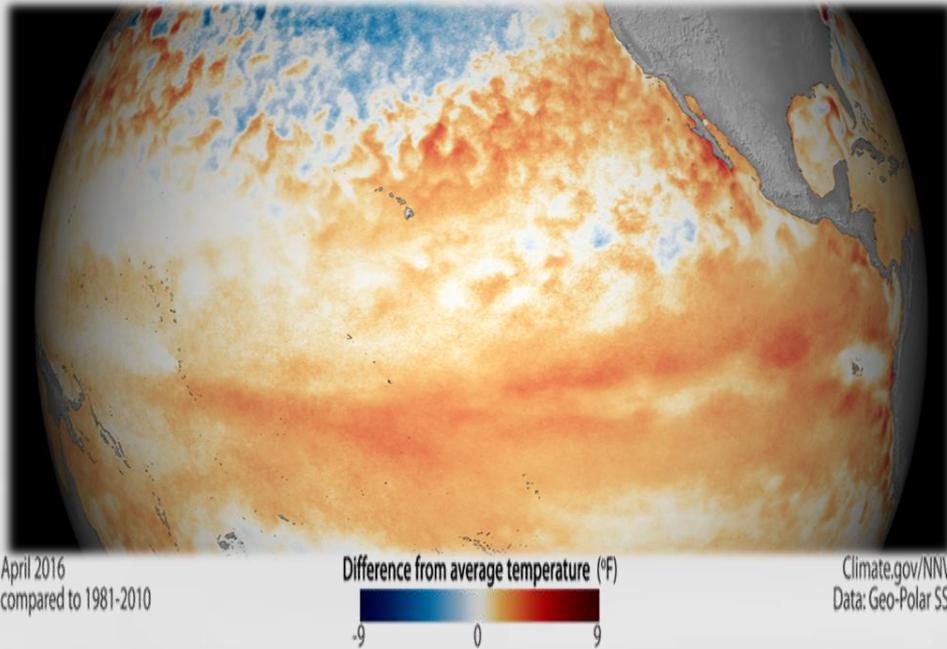
- **Coastal Lowlands:** of varying widths along the Gulf of Mexico, and the Atlantic and Pacific coasts of South America, hemmed in by highland escarpment at times
- grasslands: one of world's major breadbaskets, fertile soil, known for wheat, corn, other crops and cattle
- **llanos** – Columbia and Venezuela
- **pampas** – Argentina, Uruguay and parts of Brazil

# Physical Setting: Latin American Climate



- little *temperature* variation in many areas
- larger regional variations in *precipitation*
- **El Niño**
  - warm Pacific current that usually arrives along coastal Ecuador and Peru in December
  - regional weather upsets (drought, torrential rain, flooding)

# Physical Setting: Latin American Climate



The tropical Pacific Ocean is at the heart of **El Niño**, a natural climate pattern in which the central-eastern tropical Pacific swings back and forth between a warm and rainy state (El Niño) and a cooler and drier state (La Niña).

The warm and cool phases shift back and forth every two to seven years, and each phase triggers predictable disruptions in temperature, wind and rain across the globe.

During El Niño events, water temperatures at the sea surface are higher than normal. Low-level surface winds, which normally blow east to west along the equator, or easterly winds, start blowing the other direction, west to east, or westerly. El Niño's impact on wind, air pressure and rain throughout the tropics can have cascading effects, even shifting the location of the mid-latitude jet streams.

El Niño encourages the development of tropical cyclones across the Pacific. This image shows a typhoon, a hurricane, a tropical storm and a tropical depression all developing simultaneously.



# Physical Setting: Environmental Issues in Latin America



- Relatively large land area and low population density have minimized environmental degradation.
- Latin America has the opportunity to avoid mistakes that other regions have made.
- Neotropics are important population centers.
  - growing environmental movements
  - Brazil and Costa Rica have conservation movements.

forested mesas in southern Venezuela



# Physical Setting: Environmental Issues in Latin America



- Glacial Retreat
  - The glaciers of the tropical Andes have shrunk between 30% and 50% in 30 years and many will soon disappear altogether, cutting off the summer water supply for millions of people and crops.
  - Glaciers in the tropics, 99% of which are in the Andes, are regarded as among the most sensitive indicators of climate change on the planet.

The thinning of the Grey Glacier in Patagonia is visible by comparing the current glacier with the bottom of the vegetation line on the surrounding mountains — where the glacier reached until recently.

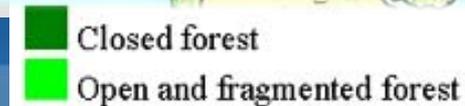
The Pastoruri glacier, located in Northern Peru in the Andes.



# Physical Setting: Environmental Issues in Latin America



- Destruction of Tropical Rainforests
  - cover 6% of Earth's landmass, 50% of the world's species are found in this biome
  - **affected regions:** Brazilian Amazon, Atlantic coastal forests of Brazil and Pacific forests of Central America (agricultural frontier)
  - **causes:** agriculture, settlement and ranching
  - **grassification:** conversion of tropical forest to pastureland

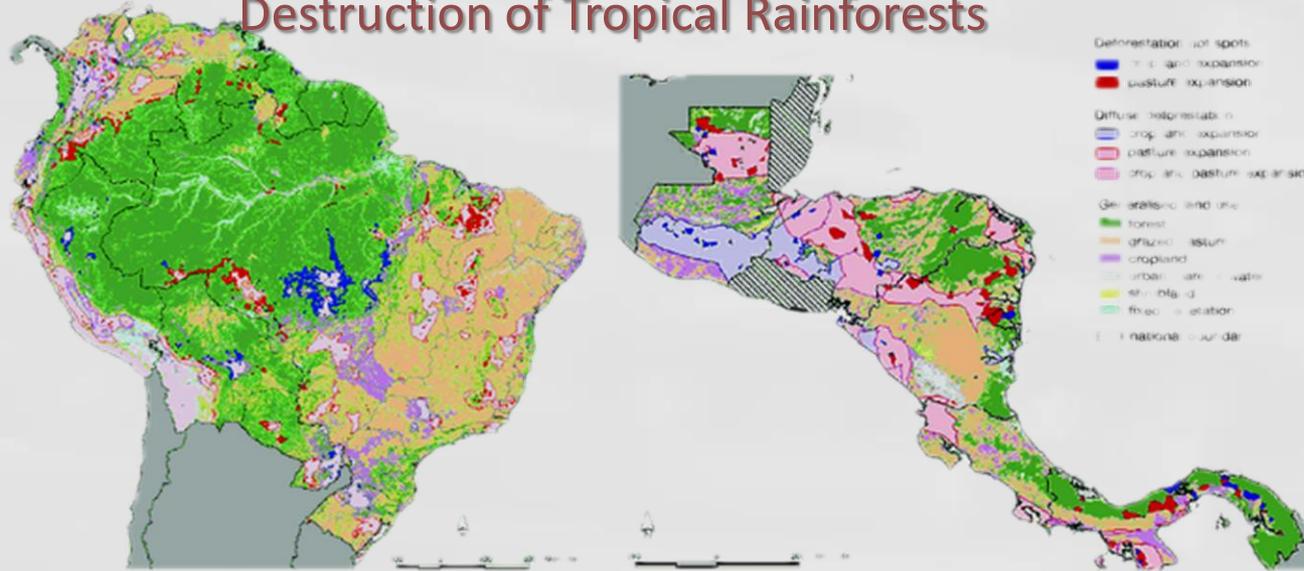


wood chips from Chile awaiting shipment to paper mill in Japan

# Physical Setting: Environmental Issues in Latin America



## Destruction of Tropical Rainforests



tropical forest settlement growth in the Amazon  
2000 above, 2010 below



illegal deforestation in Columbia



converting forest into pasture



# Physical Setting: Environmental Issues in Latin America



- Managing the Rimland Forests
  - rimland: coastal zone of mainland, from Belize to South America
  - this region less threatened, has more forests
  - supports diverse wildlife
  - Protected by successful conservation efforts
  - More than 90% of Guyana's natural wealth remains intact including tropical forests, wetlands, rivers, shrub and grassland savannahs. In addition, Guyana's ecosystems produce enormous volumes of fresh water that make it the fourth most water-rich state in the world.

# Physical Setting: Environmental Issues in Latin America



- Guyana conservation efforts controversial
- Indigenous peoples have accused Conservation International (CI) of signing a memorandum of understanding with the Guyanese government to establish a protected area in the south of the state that
  - impacts the Wapishana and Wai Wai peoples without consulting with those indigenous peoples
  - transfers ownership of the lands to CI despite unresolved claims to title to the traditional lands
  - allows CI to put those lands at the disposal of transnational corporations, including pharmaceutical, agrochemical, and oil, gas and mineral exploration and extraction corporations



Kaieteur Falls, Guyana

# Physical Setting: Environmental Issues in Latin America



## Urban Environmental Challenges

- Valley of Mexico: air pollution, smog, water resources (quantity and quality), sinking land occurring as Mexico city draws down its aquifer
- modern urban challenges (squatter settlements)
- Curitiba Brazil is a planned *green city*
- working toward sustainable cities

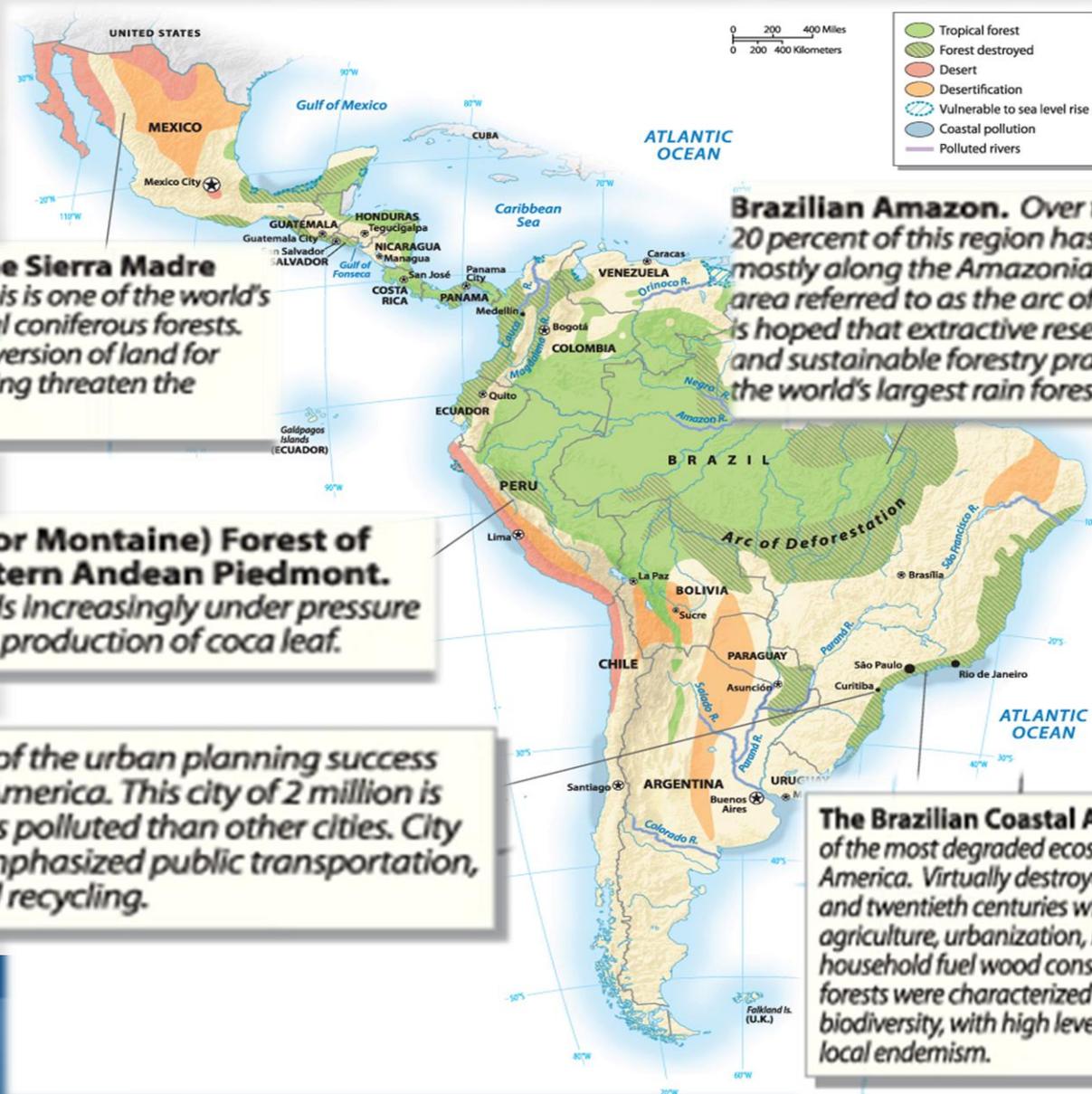


Air pollution in Santiago Chile



Air pollution in Mexico City

# Physical Setting: Environmental Issues in Latin America



**Pine-Oak Forests of the Sierra Madre Occidental, Mexico.** This is one of the world's most extensive subtropical coniferous forests. Commercial logging, conversion of land for agriculture, and overgrazing threaten the viability of the ecosystem.

**Brazilian Amazon.** Over the last 40 years 20 percent of this region has been deforested, mostly along the Amazonian highways, in an area referred to as the arc of deforestation. It is hoped that extractive reserves, natural parks, and sustainable forestry practices can preserve the world's largest rain forest.

**Cloud (or Montane) Forest of the Eastern Andean Piedmont.** Wildlands increasingly under pressure from the production of coca leaf.

**Curitiba.** One of the urban planning success stories of Latin America. This city of 2 million is considerably less polluted than other cities. City officials have emphasized public transportation, open space, and recycling.

**The Brazilian Coastal Atlantic Forest.** One of the most degraded ecosystems in all of Latin America. Virtually destroyed in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries with the expansion of agriculture, urbanization, industrialization, and household fuel wood consumption. The Atlantic forests were characterized by extraordinary biodiversity, with high levels of regional and local endemism.

# Population and Settlement: Centuries of Development



- The South American continent was inhabited by ancient people who migrated to South America via Central America more than 5,000 years ago.
- Thus, for thousands of years indigenous Amerindian communities and societies have been developing in Central and South America.

# Population and Settlement: The Lowland Maya



- Central America was the site of the emergence of a major, ancient civilization.
- one of the world's true **cultural hearths** (source area from which new ideas radiate and whose population contributed to material and intellectual progress)
- The **Maya** civilization is the only culture that rose in the lowland tropics.
- It experienced successive periods of glory and decline, and it reached its zenith between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> centuries AD
- This civilization was ruled by religious leaders and produced skilled artists, writers, mathematicians and astronomers.



Tikal, Guatemala

# Population and Settlement: The Highland Aztecs



- The Aztec civilization began in the 14<sup>th</sup> century with the founding of a settlement on an island in the many lakes within the valley of Mexico, Tenochtitlan (Mexico City).
- Aztec cities became centers of commerce and trade but it was the Aztec farmers that produced the greatest accomplishments of the Aztecs -- plant and animal domestication.

# Population and Settlement: Consequences of the Conquest



- In Central America the confrontation between Hispanic and native cultures led to disastrous results.

- a drastic decline in native population

1532	16 million
1548	6.3 million
1568	2.3 million
1580	1.8 million
1608	1.1 million



- **causes:** epidemics of influenza and smallpox, warfare, forced labor and starvation

# Population and Settlement: Consequences of the Conquest



- removal of the Amerindian from rural communities to nucleated villages and towns where Spaniards could exercise more control
- Indian survival: close association between identity and territory



# Population and Settlement: Consequences of the Conquest

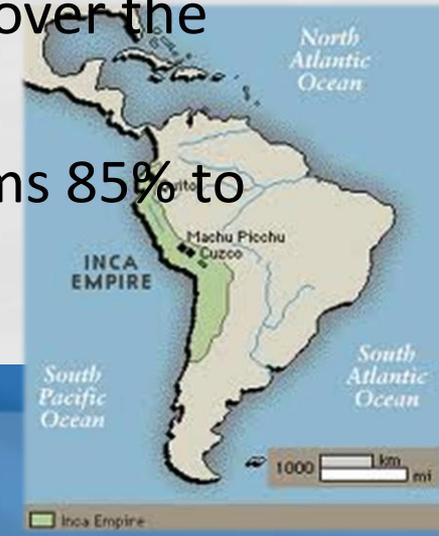


- rapid deforestation by the Spaniards who used wood and charcoal for cooking, heating and smelting
- excess pressure on native vegetation from livestock which competed for the available food
- substitution of wheat for maize and the eventual replacement of cropland which was once used by the natives for food production
- the use of slave labor in gold, silver and copper mining activities

# Population and Settlement: The Inca Empire



- The Inca Empire was forged from a series of elongated basins called **altiplanos**. From their capital Cuzco, a city in the Peruvian Andes, the Incas extended their authority over peoples of coastal Peru and other altiplanos.
- At its zenith, the Inca Empire contained more than 20 million subjects, whose lives were strictly controlled so that there was little personal freedom. The empire was controlled so tightly that a coup at the top was enough to gain power over the empire --- as the Spaniards soon found out.
- **mestizo**: racial mix of Spanish and Indian that forms 85% to 90% of all of the people of South America.



# Population and Settlement: Consequences of the Conquest



- The Decline of Native Populations
  - There were many complex civilizations in Latin American before Europeans arrived.
  - 1500: population of 47 million; 1650: 5 million
  - **causes:** disease, warfare, forced labor, collapse of food production system
- Indian Survival
  - Largest populations of Indians today: Mexico, Guatemala, Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia
  - **land** was key to survival
  - Indians still trying to secure recognized territory in their states
  - **comarca:** loosely defined territory similar to a province or homeland, where Indians have political and resource control

# Population and Settlement: Population Growth and Movement

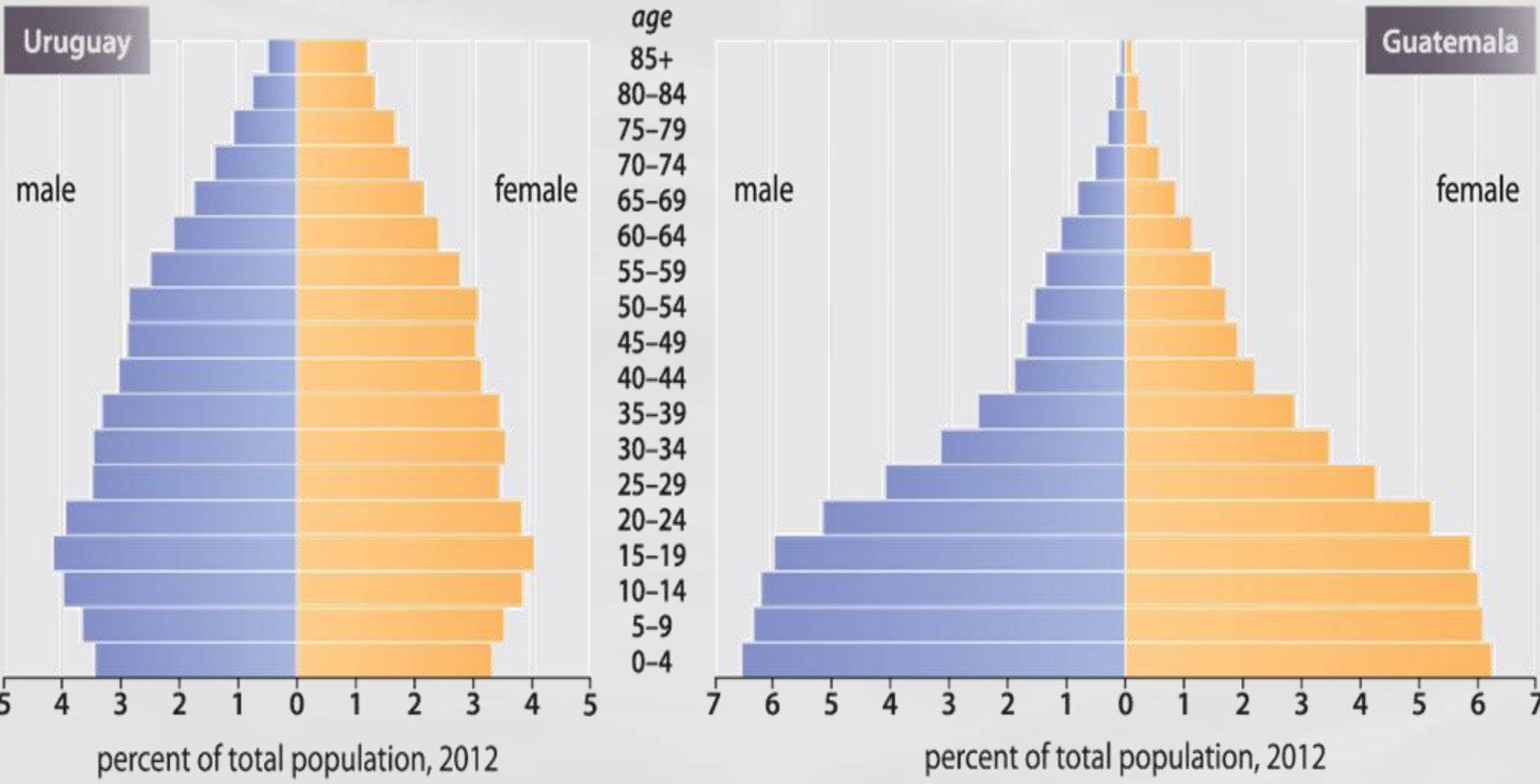


- rapid **growth** throughout most of the century followed by slower growth
  - declining Total Fertility Rates (TFRs) since 1980s
- **European Migration**
  - migration encouraged to till soils and “whiten” the mestizo population (of mixed European and Indian ancestry)
  - many Europeans immigrated between 1870s and 1930s
  - 10 million enslaved Africans came with them
- **Asian Migration**
  - many Chinese and Japanese between 1870s and 1930s
  - former president of Peru a Japanese descendent
  - new wave of immigrants from South Korea



former Peruvian president  
Alberto Fujimori

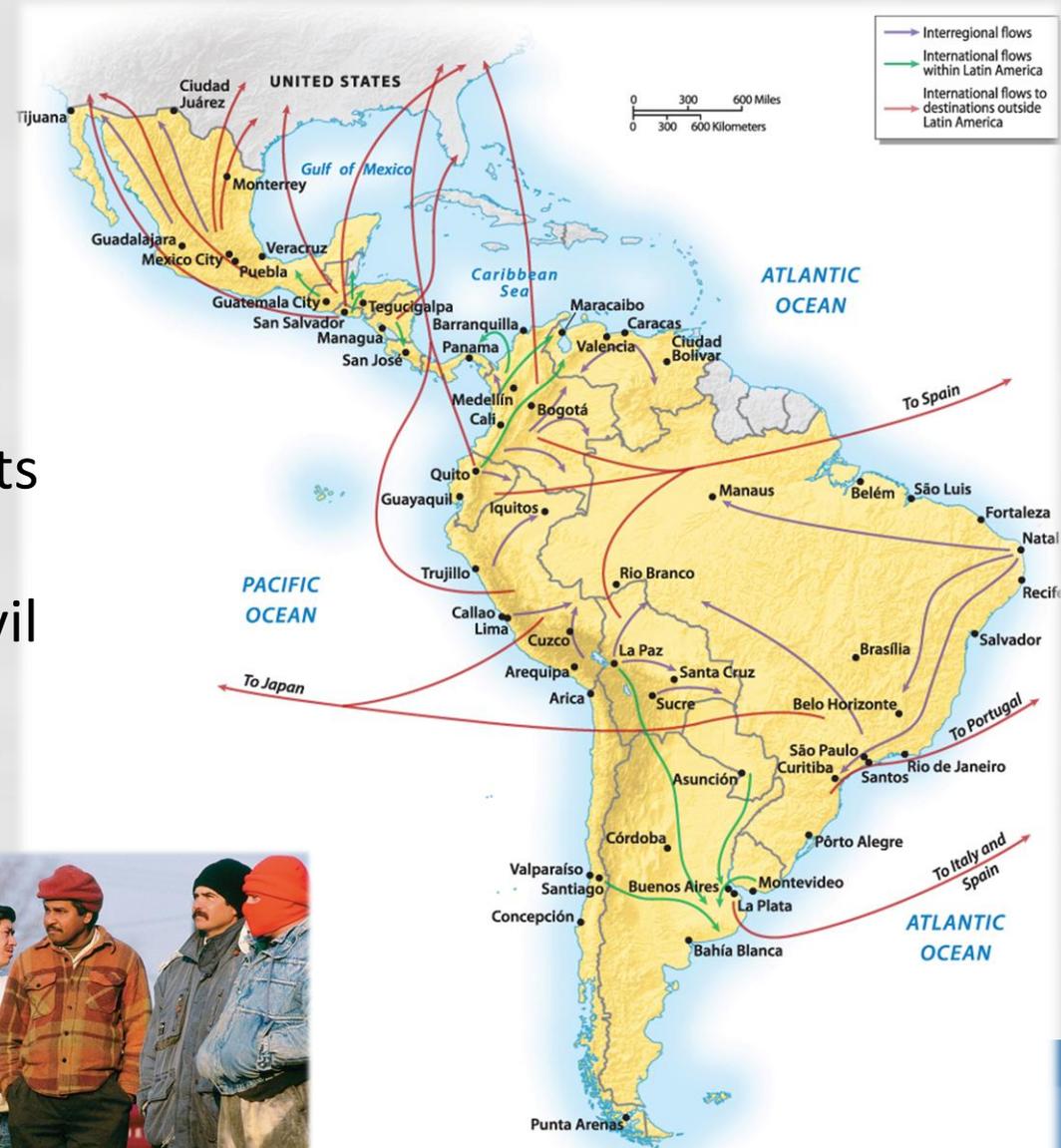
# Population and Settlement: Population Growth and Movement



# Population and Settlement: Population Growth and Movement



- Economic opportunities spurred migrations within Latin America and from Mexico to the US.
- Mexico sends most migrants (legal and illegal) to US.
- **causes:** political turmoil, civil wars



Japanese-Brazilians



Salvadorans in the suburbs

# Population and Settlement: Urbanization



- The populations of all states are highly nucleated. Cities such as São Paulo, Lima and Bogotá have populations over 7 million, and the growth of these cities has resulted in the encirclement of **slums** around the cities which go by different names.
- For example, in Lima approximately  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the population live in *barridas*; in Brazil slums are known as *favelas*; in Columbia as *ranchos*; and in Argentina as *barrios*.
- Today, 76% of the Latin American population resides in urban areas, a trend that will continue for the foreseeable future. Moreover, the urban population is growing at a faster rate than rural populations. Urban population has grown annually by 5% since 1950 while the increase in rural areas has been 2%.



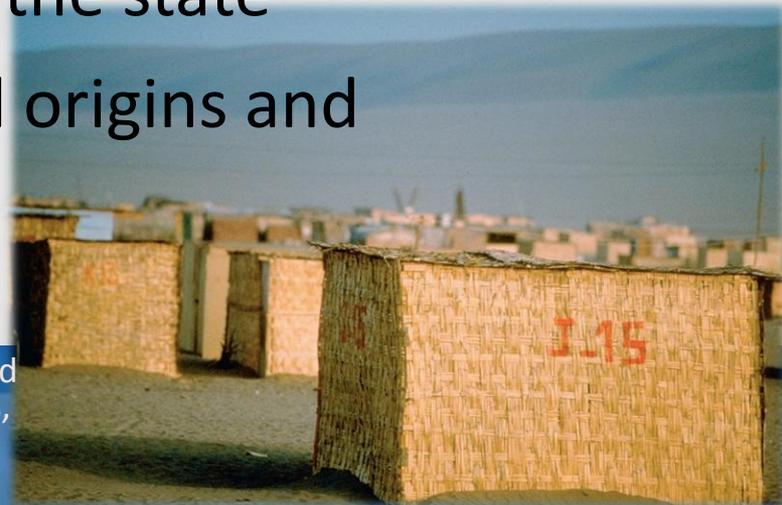
Bogotá's TransMilenio

# Population and Settlement: The Dominance of Cities



- The Latin American City
  - urbanization began in 1950s; today 76% urbanized
  - **causes:** mechanization of agriculture, population pressure, consolidation of lands
  - **urban primacy:** a state has a primate city 3-4 times larger than any other city in the state
  - **urban form:** reflects colonial origins and contemporary growth

squatter settlement: makeshift housing on land not legally owned or rented by urban migrants, usually in unoccupied spaces in or near a rapidly growing city, such as these in Lima



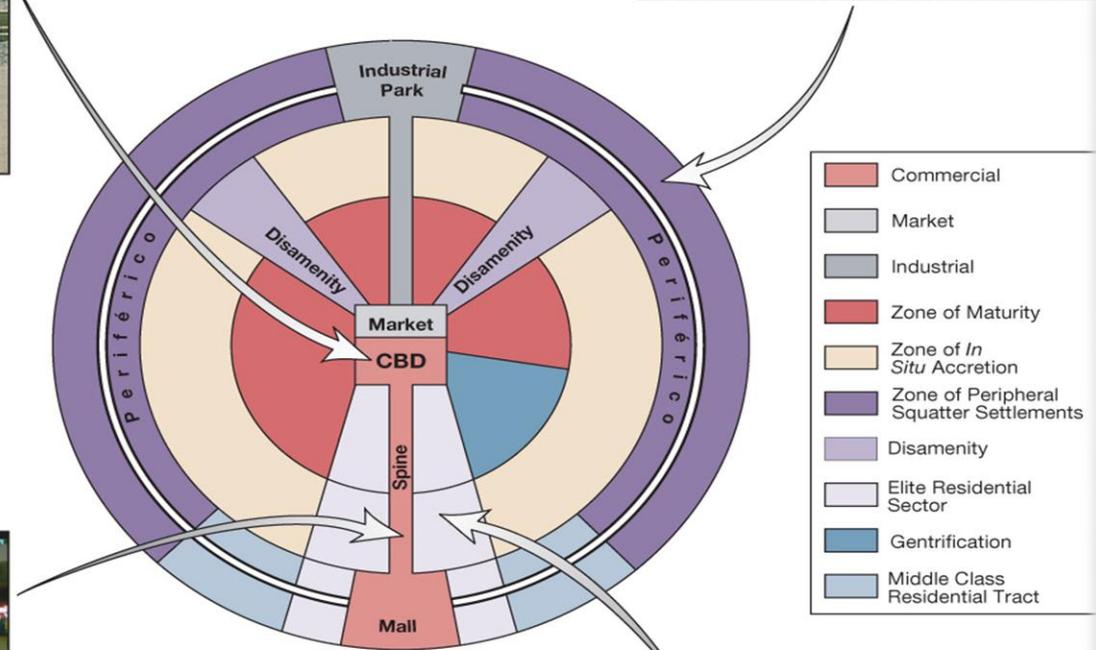
# Population and Settlement: The Dominance of Cities



- 3/4 of the population live in cities for cultural and economic reasons
- interior lowlands of South America sparsely populated
- higher population in Central American and Mexican interior plateaus
- dramatic population growth in the 1960s and 1970s



# Population and Settlement: The Dominance of Cities



# Population and Settlement: Patterns of Rural Settlement



- 25% of population lives in rural areas
- uneven distribution of arable land
- **rural landholdings**: large estates used the best lands, relied on mixture of hired, tributary and slave labor
- **latifundia**: long-observed pattern of maintaining large estates
- **minifundia**: pattern associated with peasants farming small plots for their own subsistence
- **agrarian reform**: a popular but controversial strategy to redistribute land to peasant farmers

# Population and Settlement: Patterns of Rural Settlement



- Agricultural Frontiers
  - Brazilian Amazon settlement controversial
  - provided peasants with land, tapped unused resources, shored up political boundaries
  - 12 million in Brazilian Amazon in 2000; today almost 21 million (1.3%-1.7% indigenous)



Frontier Settlement in  
Rondonia, Brazil

# Population and Settlement: Population Indicators



Country	Population (millions) 2012	Population Density (per square kilometer)	Rate of Natural Increase (RNI)	Total Fertility Rate	Percent Urban	Percent <15	Percent >65	Net Migration (Rate per 1000) 2010–15 <sup>a</sup>
Argentina	40.8	15	1.1	2.4	91	25	10	-0.5
Bolivia	10.8	10	1.9	3.3	66	36	5	-3.0
Brazil	194.3	23	1.0	1.9	84	24	7	-0.2
Chile	17.4	23	1.0	1.9	87	23	9	0.3
Colombia	47.4	42	1.3	2.1	76	29	6	-0.5
Costa Rica	4.5	88	1.1	1.8	62	24	7	2.7
Ecuador	14.9	52	1.6	2.5	66	30	6	-1.6
El Salvador	6.3	298	1.4	2.3	63	32	7	-7.3
Guatemala	15.0	138	2.4	2.6	50	41	4	-1.0
Honduras	8.4	75	2.2	3.2	50	38	4	-1.3
Mexico	116.1	59	1.5	2.3	77	29	6	-2.3
Nicaragua	6.0	46	1.9	2.6	57	35	5	-4.0
Panama	3.6	48	1.5	2.4	65	29	7	0.6
Paraguay	6.6	16	1.9	3	59	34	5	-1.2
Peru	30.1	23	1.5	2.6	74	30	6	-2.8
Uruguay	30.4	19	0.4	2.0	94	23	14	-1.8
Venezuela	29.7	33	1.5	2.5	88	29	6	0.3

<sup>a</sup>Net Migration Rate from the United Nations, Population Division, *World Population Prospects: The 2010 Revision Population Database*.

Source: Population Reference Bureau, *World Population Data Sheet, 2012*.

# Cultural Coherence and Diversity: Cultural Fragmentation



John Augelli divides Latin America into five regions.

- **Tropical-Plantation:** the humid Brazilian coastline and four areas in the Atlantic-Caribbean, resembles the rimland's culture and economic characteristics
- **European-Commercial:** the southern states, including southern Brazil, an area that is economically more advanced than the rest
- **Amerindian-Subsistence:** the high Andes where most of the inhabitants are Amerindian who live in minifundias
- **Mestizo-Transitional:** a mix of the three major culture groups -- Europeans, Amerindians and mestizos -- and surrounds the Amerindian-Subsistence region, less commercial than the European region but less subsistent in orientation than the dominantly Amerindian areas
- **Undifferentiated:** the Amazon Basin, an area that is hard to classify because it is remote and exhibits limited economic development

# Cultural Coherence and Diversity : Cultural Fragmentation



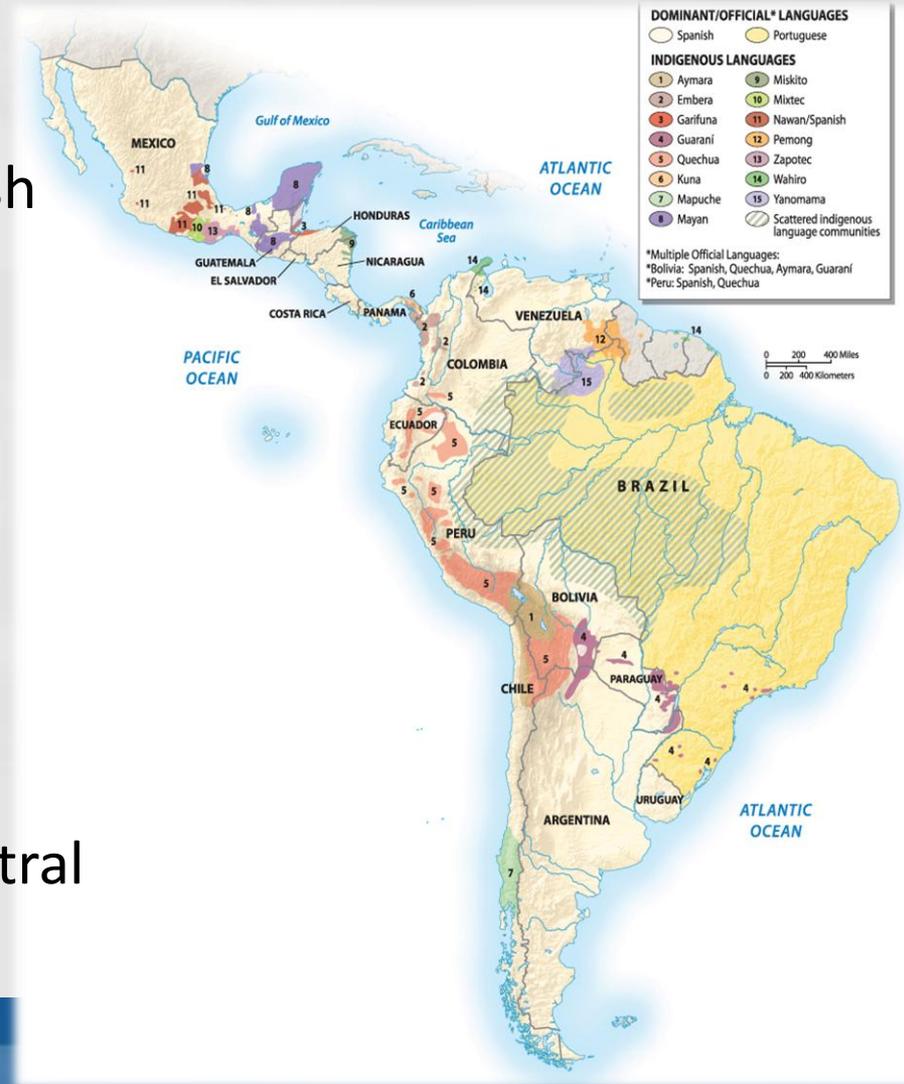
- Latin America is a continent of plural societies where different cultures -- Amerindians, Europeans from Iberia, blacks from Africa and Asians from India, Japan and Indonesia -- form a mosaic of cultural and economic spheres.
- not a simple transplanting of Iberia across the Atlantic, blended European and Indian traditions
- forced assimilation but some Indian cultures proved resilient



# Cultural Coherence and Diversity: Patterns of Ethnicity and Culture



- racial **caste system** under Spanish
  - blanco – European
  - mestizo -- mixed ancestry
  - indio – Indian
  - negro – African
- **languages**
  - about  $\frac{2}{3}$  Spanish speakers
  - $\frac{1}{3}$  Portuguese speakers
  - indigenous languages in central Andes, Mexico, Guatemala



# Cultural Coherence and Diversity: Patterns of Ethnicity and Culture



- Interactions among European, African and indigenous populations resulted in:
  - **complex ethnic patterns**
  - persistence of **indigenous languages**
  - **religious syncretism** -- blending of two or more religious belief systems into a new system, or the incorporation into a religious tradition of beliefs from unrelated traditions



Iglesia de Santa María de los Dolores,  
Tegucigalpa Honduras

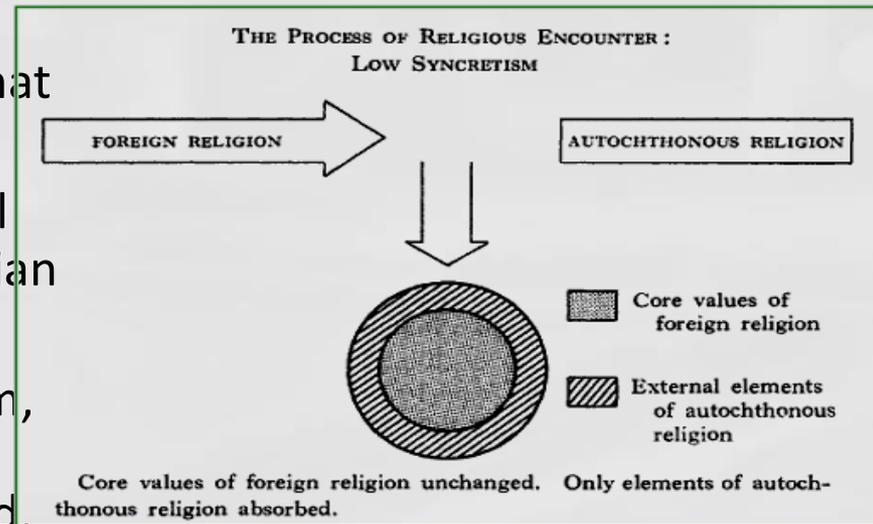
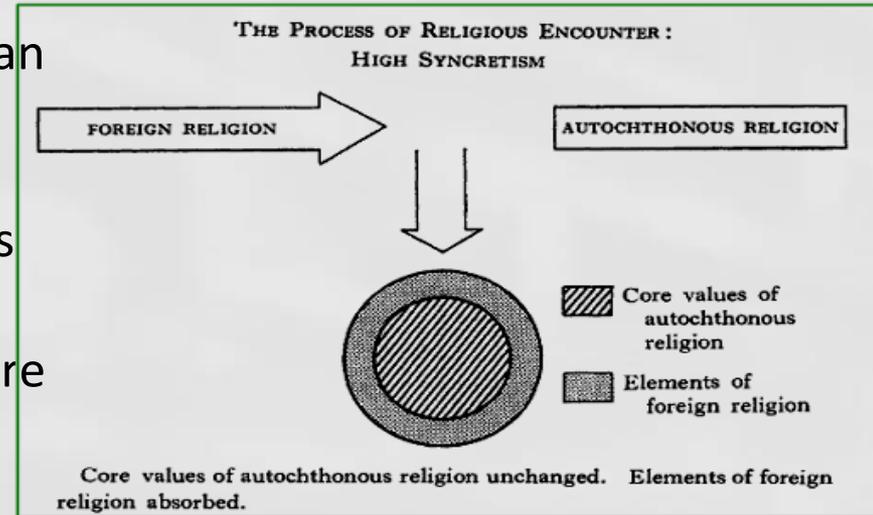
# Cultural Coherence and Diversity: Patterns of Ethnicity and Culture



Stephen Hayes identifies four models for an encounter between a missionising and indigenous religion:

- rejection*: the traditional knowledge is rejected as purely evil
- dvoeverie*: two incompatible beliefs are held side by side, with little or no interaction between them
- syncretism*: two different beliefs are mingled to make a new third belief that is different from either
- inculturation*: where the original local culture is transformed and the Christian belief becomes part of it

There is more than one form of syncretism, depending on the relative political and cultural status of the two systems involved.



# Cultural Coherence and Diversity: Patterns of Ethnicity and Culture



- blended religions
  - 90% Roman Catholic
  - El Salvador, Uruguay have sizeable Protestant populations.
- syncretic religions: blending of different beliefs
  - allows animist practices to be included in Christian worship
  - Catholicism and African religions (example: Brazil's carnival)



Brazil: the goddess of the Ocean, *Yemanjá*, who is associated to the Virgin Mary

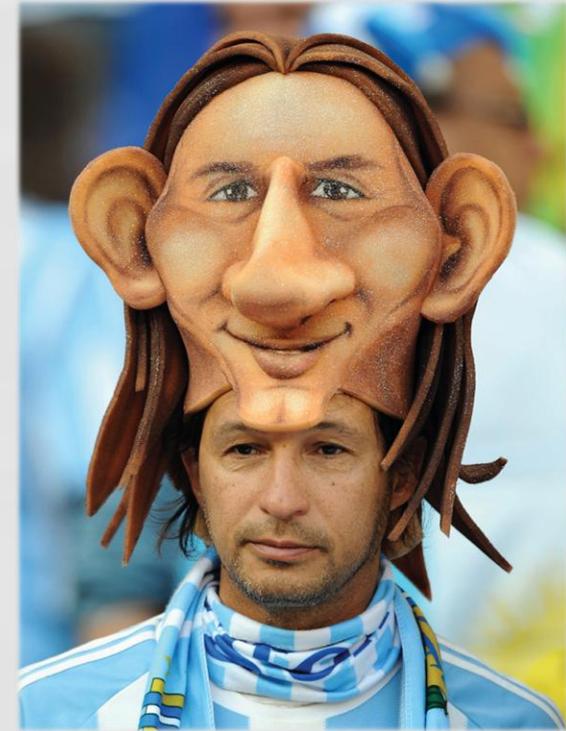
*Mexican Day of the Dead*: Photos, incense, religious statues and pictures, and favorite belongings of the dead are placed on home altars as well as the gravesite. This is done to encourage the souls of the dead to return and join in the remembrance.



# Cultural Coherence and Diversity: The Global Reach of Latino Culture



- Univision 
- Soccer 
- telenovelas: a type of limited-run serial drama originally produced in states of Latin America that has become popular in European, Asian and other global television networks
- Latin American literature: magic realism of Gabriel García Márquez, Mario Vargas Llosa and Carlos Fuentes, to name a few
- music: salsa, merengue, bachata, tango, samba and many other diverse styles
- food: You can think of your own examples!

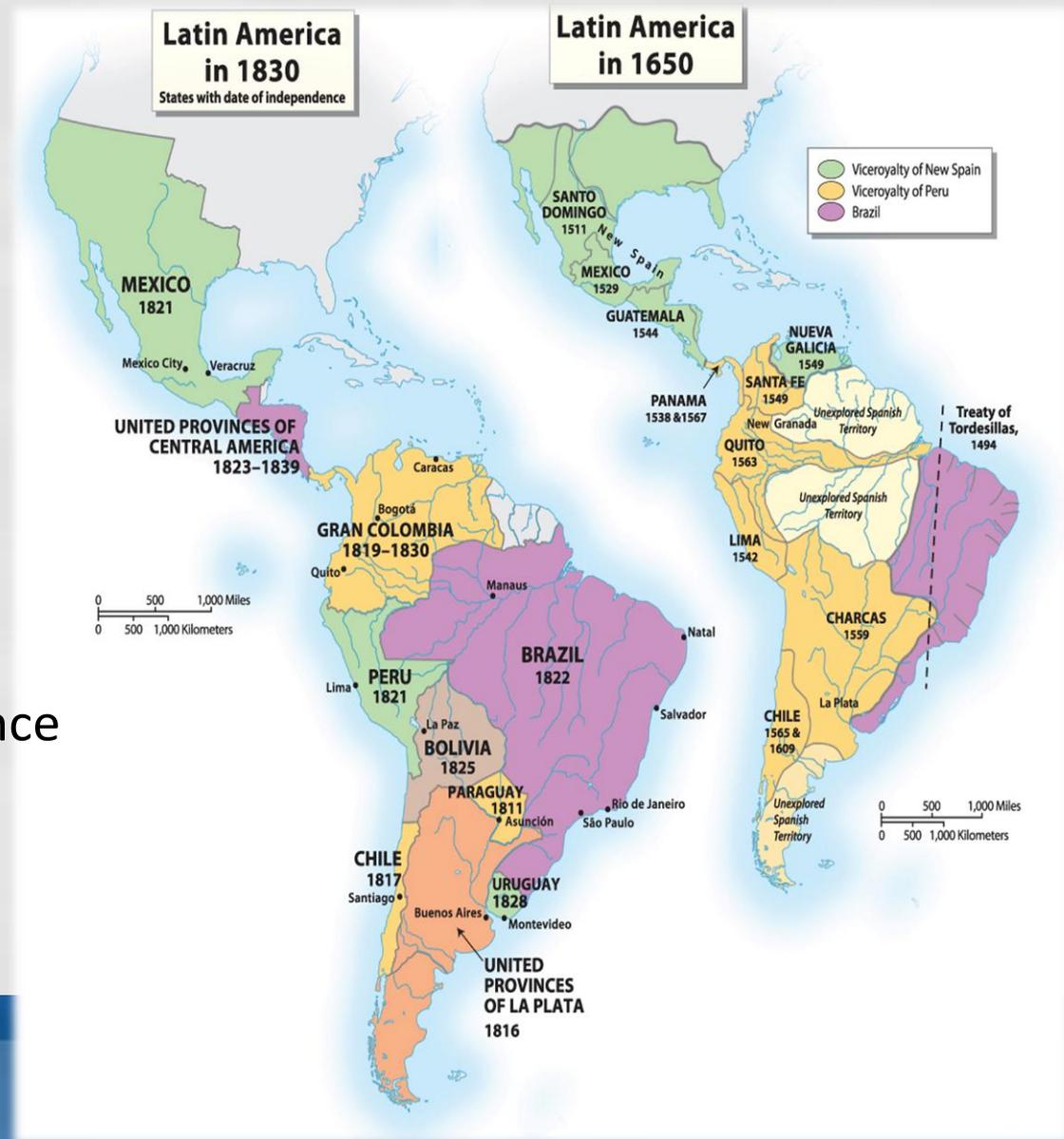


Messi Mania over Argentine soccer star Lionel Messi

# Geopolitical Framework: Redrawing the Map



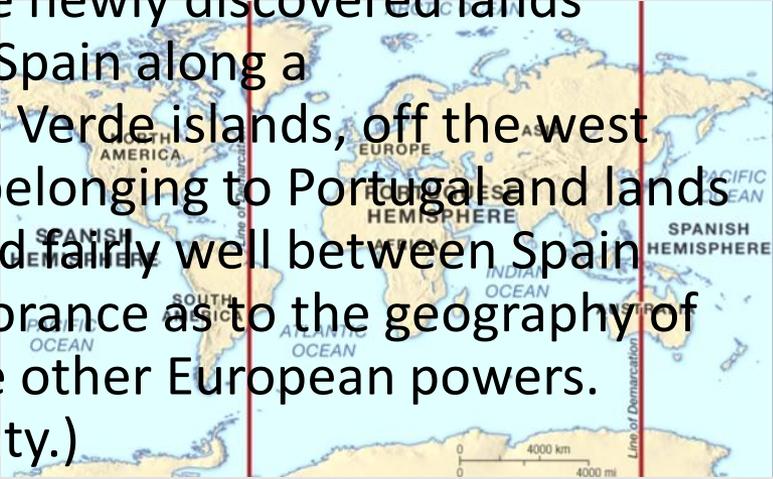
- cycles of antagonism and cooperation
- Iberian conquest and territorial division
  - Treaty of Tordesillas
- revolution and independence
- persistent border conflicts



# Geopolitical Framework: Redrawing the Map



- **Treaty of Tordesillas** (1494): divided the newly discovered lands outside Europe between Portugal and Spain along a meridian 370 leagues west of the Cape Verde islands, off the west coast of Africa, with lands to the east belonging to Portugal and lands to the west to Spain (This treaty worked fairly well between Spain and Portugal, despite considerable ignorance as to the geography of the New World but it omitted all of the other European powers. Those states generally ignored the treaty.)
- **revolutionary movements and independence** of Latin American states, elites born in the Americas led revolutions, resulted in creation of new states from 1810-1826
- **persistent border conflicts** between newly independent states which had no input in drawing the borders, colonial boundary lines not well accepted
- **trends toward democracy** by all Latin states at different speeds with many setbacks, political stability has been a problem



# Geopolitical Framework: Redrawing the Map



- Guyana's **border controversy** with its western neighbor Venezuela, relates to the more than a century-old dispute which arose as a result of Venezuela's contention that the Arbitral Award of 1899 (tribunal decision) is null and void.
- Venezuela has long claimed a huge tract of land known as the Essequibo, which comprises nearly 40% of Guyana's current territory
- Guyana's pursuit of a peaceful settlement, over the years, has yielded mixed results.

# Geopolitical Framework: Redrawing the Map



- In 2015, after oil was discovered in the disputed area, Venezuela reiterated its land claims and extended them out to sea – leaving Guyana effectively landlocked.
- Venezuela already sits on some of the world's largest oil supplies. Guyana, however, is one of the poorest states in the region, second only to Haiti in terms of GDP.



# Geopolitical Framework: Regional Organization



- Most states are free-market economies.
- regional organizations
  - **supranatural organizations**: governing bodies that include several states (trade blocs)
  - **subnational organizations**: groups that represent areas of people within the state (ethnicity/ideology)
- **trade blocks**: alliances formed to foster internal markets and reduce trade barriers
  - Organization of American States (OAS)
  - MERCOSUR (Southern Cone Common Market)
  - Latin American Integration Association (formerly LAFTA)
  - Central American Common Market (CACM)
  - Andean Group
  - NAFTA

# Geopolitical Framework: Regional Organization



## Latin American Economic Trade Blocks



# Geopolitical Framework: Patterns of Conflict



- insurgencies and drug traffickers
- Guerrilla groups have controlled large portions of states through violence and intimidation.
- FARC (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia), ELN (National Liberation Army)
- Colombia has highest murder rate in the world.
- drug cartels:** powerful and wealthy organized crime syndicates





# Economic and Social Development: Economic Development Strategies



- **dependency theory**
  - Holds that expansion of European capitalism created Latin American condition of underdevelopment (core/periphery).
  - Dependent economies are export-oriented and vulnerable to fluctuations in the global market.
- **neoliberalism as globalization**
  - benefits include increased trade and more favorable terms for debt repayment, most political leaders are embracing it
  - some signs of discontent with neoliberalism and support for reduction of poverty and inequality
- **dollarization**: the process of aligning a country's currency with the US dollar, tends to reduce inflation, eliminate fears of currency devaluation and reduce costs of trade

# Economic and Social Development: Economic Development Strategies



- **Primary Export Dependency:** exportation of primary goods to maintain economic stability
- Latin America specialized in **commodities** into the 1950s: bananas, coffee, cacao, grains, tin, rubber, petroleum
- **agricultural production:** Since 1960s, agriculture has become more diversified and mechanized. Machinery, hybrid crops, chemical fertilizers, pesticides, make agriculture very productive.
- **mining and forestry**
  - products: silver, zinc, copper, iron ore, bauxite, gold, oil, gas
  - Mexico, Venezuela, Ecuador export oil
  - mining becoming mechanized, laying off workers
  - logging: exportation of wood pulp provides short-term cash infusions, plantation forests of introduced species replace diverse native forests



soy production  
in Brazil

# Economic and Social Development: Economic Development Strategies



- Mexico ranks high in its allotment in crude oil reserves. These reserves are found in the Gulf of Mexico:
  - around the Tampico area and offshore
  - Bay of Campeche where large oil pools are found in deep layers of sedimentary bedrock
- Venezuela's proven oil reserves are recognized as the largest in the world. It also has oil sands deposits approximately equal to the world's reserves of conventional oil.



oil production,  
Lake Maracaibo, Venezuela

# Economic and Social Development: Economic Development Strategies



- **import substitution**: policies that foster domestic industry by imposing inflated tariffs on all imported goods
  - **industrialization**: manufacturing emphasized since 1960s
  - **growth poles**: planned industrial centers, Ciudad Guayana (Venezuela), Ciudad Juárez and Tijuana (Mexico)
  - **local investment**: industrial sectors developed without direct state support, Monterrey (Mexico), Medellín (Colombia), São Paulo (Brazil)



Kourou, French Guiana



Atucha Nuclear Power Plant Argentina



Brazilian technicians assemble an aircraft at an Embraer plant



A worker in Intel's high-tech computer chip factory in Costa Rica

# Economic and Social Development: Economic Development Strategies



- **maquiladoras** and foreign investment
  - maquiladoras: Mexican assembly plants lining US border
  - other Latin American states attract foreign investment
- **informal sector**
  - provision of goods and services without government regulation
  - self-employment: construction, manufacturing, vending, etc
  - often includes illegal activities -- drug smuggling, sale of contraband items, prostitution
  - houses, services and employs inhabitants of squatter settlements, effort of urban poor to make a place for themselves



Workers assemble car radios at a maquiladora in Matamoros, a city on Mexico's border with the US



Informal Sector in Peru

# Economic and Social Development: Economic Development Strategies



The most significant development in Mexico's manufacturing is the growth of maquiladora plants in the northern border zone.

**Maquiladoras** are factories (half are US-owned) that assemble imported duty-free components and raw materials into finished industrial products. Approximately 80% of these goods are eventually re-exported to the US whose import tariffs are limited to the value added to products during fabrication stage.

Among the things that are assembled include electronic equipment, electrical appliances, auto parts, clothing, plastics and furniture.

# Economic and Social Development: Economic Development Strategies



Most of South America's republics have replaced old policies that protected domestic economies with new ones that embrace market-oriented reform and the expansion of trading partners.



Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao (R) shakes hands with Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, June 21, 2012. China and Brazil announced they have agreed to upgrade bilateral ties to a comprehensive strategic partnership in a major step to further their cooperation level.

# Economic and Social Development: Economic Integration



- The following are new economic organizations that have developed in order to forge new trading zones.
  - **Mercosur**: trading area consists of the Southern Cone Common Market which includes Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay
  - **Andean Community**: trading group includes Bolivia, Columbia, Ecuador and Peru
  - **Group of Three (G-3)**: free-trade agreement involves Mexico, Venezuela and Columbia
  - **North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)**: free-trade agreement includes Canada, Mexico and the US, hope to include Chile soon
  - These organizations represent only an intermediate step toward a much grander goal: the creation of the **Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA)**.

# Economic and Social Development: Latin America and the Global Economy



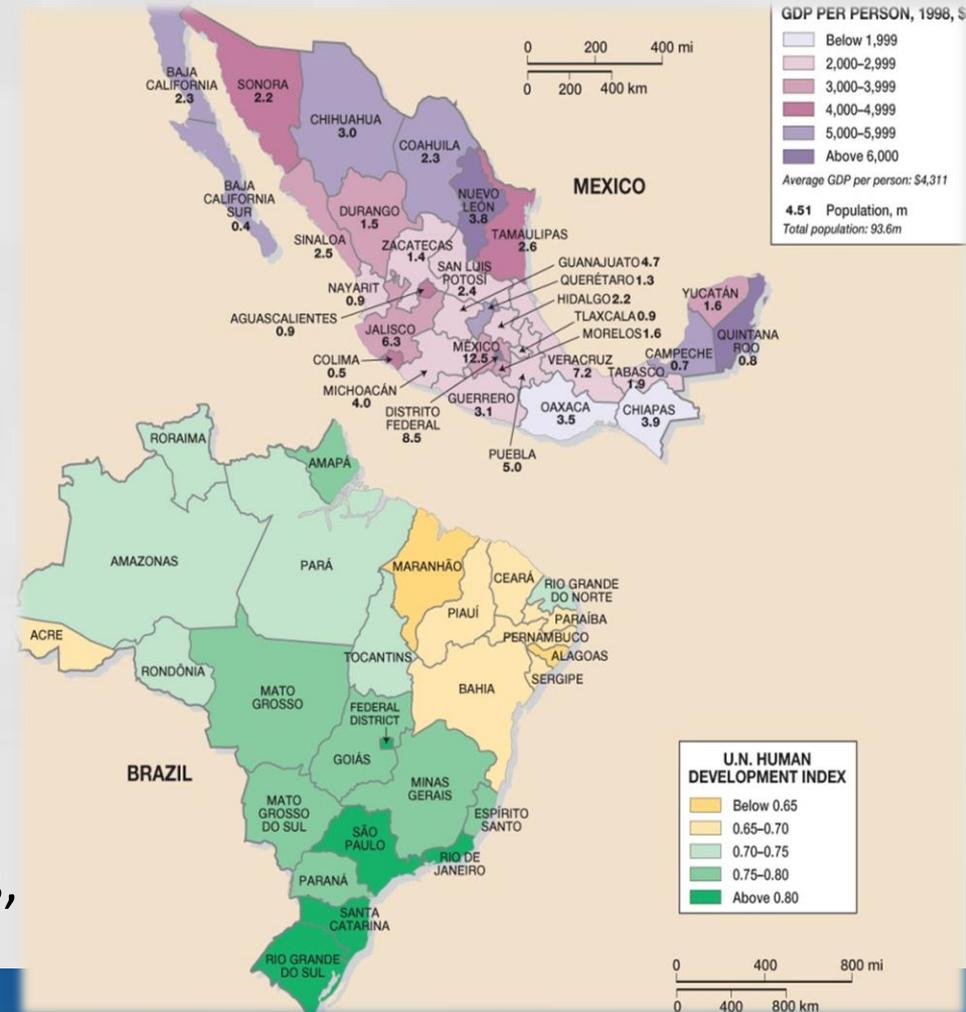
## Global Linkages: Foreign Investment and Remittances



# Economic and Social Development: Social Issues



- significant improvement in life expectancy, child survival, educational attainment in last 30 years
- grassroots, **nongovernmental organizations** (NGOs) important, churches play a large role in advancing social well-being
- 80% have access to clean water
- literacy above 90% in most states in the region
- **extreme variations** between rural and urban areas, between regions, and along race and gender lines



Mapping Poverty and Prosperity

# Economic and Social Development: Social Issues



- The complex racial and ethnic mix fostered **tolerance for diversity**.
- More often than not, **link between race and poverty** can be found.
  - Southern Mexico (Indian), Northeastern Brazil (Black) – more likely to be poor
- Race does not necessarily determine one's economic standing, but it certainly influences it.

# Economic and Social Development: Social Issues



- **status of women**
  - many women work outside of the home (30%-40%)
  - legally, women can vote, own property and sign for loans but less likely than men to do so
- machismo and marianismo: cultural traits assigned to men and women
  - **machismo**: honor, risk-taking, self-confident
  - **marianismo**: patient, loving, gentle, willing to suffer in silence, keeper of home, nurturer of children, deferential to husband
  - fading stereotype



Dr. Michelle Bachelet (a pediatrician) is the first woman president in Chile

# Economic and Social Development: Social Issues



## Women's Participation in National Politics



# Economic and Social Development: Social Issues



**Bolsa Familia:** (*Family Allowance*) a social welfare program of the Brazilian government that provides financial aid to poor Brazilian families.

If they have children, families must ensure that the children attend school and are vaccinated. The program attempts to both reduce short-term poverty by direct cash transfers and fight long-term poverty by increasing human capital among the poor through conditional cash transfers. It also works to give free education to children who cannot afford to go to school to show the importance of education.

school children  
in Panama



# Economic and Social Development: Development Indicators



Country	GNI per capita, PPP 2010	GDP Average Annual %Growth 2000–10	Human Development Index (2011) <sup>1</sup>	Percent Population Living Below \$2 a Day	Life Expectancy (2012) <sup>2</sup>	Under Age 5 Mortality Rate (1990)	Under Age 5 Mortality Rate (2010)	Adult Literacy (% ages 15 and older)	Gender Inequality Index (2011) <sup>3,1</sup>
Argentina	15,570	5.6	.797	<2	76	27	14	98	0.372
Bolivia	4,640	4.1	.668	24.9	67	121	54	91	0.473
Brazil	11,000	3.7	.718	10.8	74	59	19	90	0.449
Chile	14,640	4.0	.805	2.7	79	19	9	99	0.374
Colombia	9,060	4.5	.710	15.8	73	37	22	93	0.482
Costa Rica	11,270	4.9	.744	6.0	79	17	10	96	0.361
Ecuador	7,880	4.8	.720	10.6	75	52	20	84	0.469
El Salvador	6,550	2.2	.674	16.9	72	62	16	84	0.487
Guatemala	4,650	3.6	.574	26.3	71	78	32	74	0.542
Honduras	3,770	4.6	.625	29.8	73	58	24	84	0.511
Mexico	14,340	2.1	.770	5.2	77	49	17	93	0.448
Nicaragua	2,790	3.6	.589	31.7	74	68	27	78	0.506
Panama	12,770	6.8	.768	13.8	76	33	20	94	0.492
Paraguay	5,080	3.8	.665	13.2	72	50	25	95	0.476
Peru	8,930	6.1	.725	12.7	74	78	19	90	0.415
Uruguay	13,620	3.6	.783	<2	76	23	11	98	0.352
Venezuela	12,150	4.7	.735	12.9	74	33	18	95	0.447

<sup>1</sup>United Nations, *Human Development Report, 2011*.

<sup>2</sup>Population Reference Bureau, *World Population Data Sheet, 2012*.

<sup>3</sup>Gender Inequality Index—A composite measure reflecting inequality in achievements between women and men in three dimensions: reproductive health, empowerment, and the labor market, that ranges between 0 and 1. The higher the number, the greater the inequality.

Source: World Bank, *World Development Indicators, 2012*.

# Economic and Social Development: Hope for the Future



- Latin America and the Caribbean were the first world regions to be fully colonized by Europe. The result was an unprecedented level of racial and cultural mixing.
- Most Latin America live in cities that are large and combine aspects of the formal industrial economy with an informal one.
- Latin America is still rich in natural resources and relatively lightly populated but there is particular concern for the relentless cutting of the tropical rain forests.

Buenos Aires, Argentina



# Economic and Social Development: Hope for the Future



- Uneven development and economic frustration have led many Latin Americans to consider emigration as an economic option. Those emigrants send billions of dollars in remittances back to Latin America each year.
- Most Latin American governments embraced neoliberal policies in an attempt to foster economic development. As a result, exports and direct foreign investment in the region surged. Although the region has experienced growth, income inequality is still stubbornly high.
- New political actors are emerging -- from indigenous groups to women -- who are challenging old ways of doing things.

# The End

