



When you're on one of the Caribbean islands, sometimes it's hard to picture how they fit in with the rest, but when you see them all joined together like a necklace from space, you see the natural geographic connectedness of them all.

Chris Hadfield

# Setting the Boundaries



- The Caribbean includes 26 states and dependent territories located in the Caribbean Sea.
- isolated proximity
- Europeans, then the US, influenced the region.
- Plantation agriculture is important.
- high population densities, environmental problems
- cultural diversity greater than Latin America
- economy based on tourism, offshore banking, manufacturing, exports (e.g., flowers).
- wide disparities in wealth

# Setting the Boundaries



State	Population (2016)
Cuba	11,392,889
Haiti	10,848,175
Dominican Republic	10,648,613
Puerto Rico	3,680,772
Jamaica	2,803,362
Trinidad and Tobago	1,364,973
Guadeloupe	470,547
Martinique	396,364
Bahamas	392,718
Barbados	285,006
Saint Lucia	186,383
Curaçao	158,635
Saint Vincent and the	109,644

## Grenadines

State	Population (2016)
Grenada	107,327
US Virgin Islands	106,415
Aruba	104,263
Antigua and Barbuda	92,738
Dominica	73,016
Cayman Islands	60,764
Saint Kitts and Nevis	56,183
Sint Maarten	39,538
Turks and Caicos Islands	34,904
British Virgin Islands	30,659
Caribbean Netherlands	25,328
Anguilla	14,763
Montserrat	5,154



# Physical Setting: Isolated Proximity



- **isolated proximity**: a concept used to explain the Caribbean's unusual and contradictory position in world
- isolation sustains cultural diversity (but limits economic opportunity)
- proximity to North America ensures transnational connection and economic dependence



Cattlewash, Bathsheba, on  
the east coast of Barbados

# Physical Setting: Isolated Proximity

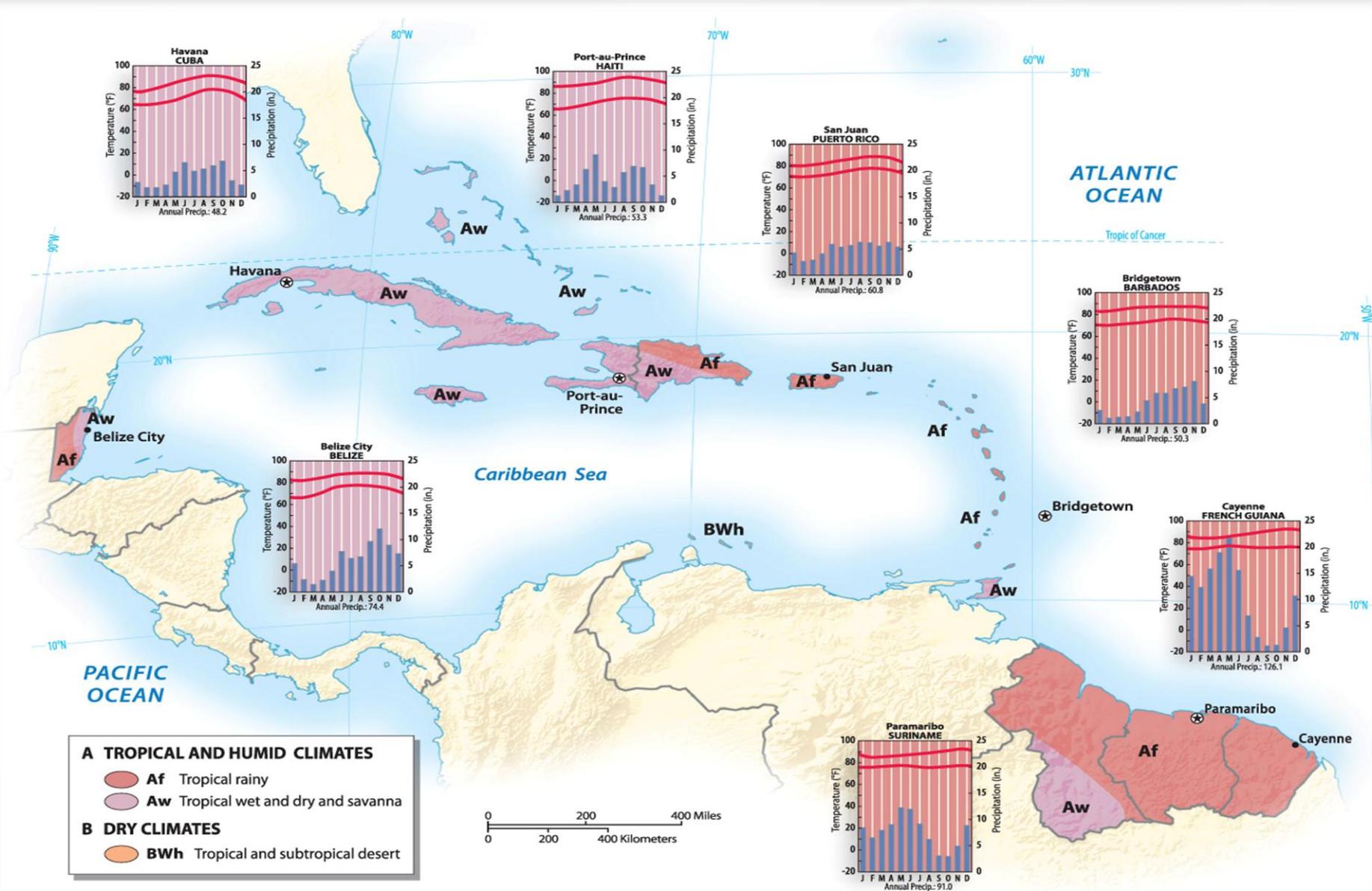


- the sea, islands and rimland: The Caribbean Sea links the states in this region.
- **the Antillean islands**
  - **Greater Antilles:** four large islands of Cuba, Jamaica, Hispaniola (Haiti and the Dominican Republic) and Puerto Rico
  - **Lesser Antilles:** double arc of small islands from Virgin Islands to Trinidad
- **rimland states:** includes Belize and the Guianas on the South American coast (usually included for cultural reasons but were included in the Latin American section instead)
  - still contain significant amounts of forest cover, low population densities

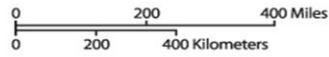
Caribbean Sea



# Physical Setting: Caribbean Climate



- A TROPICAL AND HUMID CLIMATES**
- Af** Tropical rainy
  - Aw** Tropical wet and dry and savanna
- B DRY CLIMATES**
- BWh** Tropical and subtropical desert



# Physical Setting: Caribbean Climate



- The Caribbean climate is **tropical**, moderated to a certain extent by the prevailing **northeast trade winds**. Individual climatic conditions are strongly dependent on elevation. At sea level there is little variation in temperature, regardless of the time of the day or the season of the year.
- The conventional division, rather than the four seasons, is between the long **rainy season** from May through October and the **dry season**, corresponding to winter in the northern hemisphere.
- Even during the rainy season, however, **precipitation fluctuates** greatly. Windward sides of islands with mountains receive much rain, whereas leeward sides can have very dry conditions. Flat islands receive slightly less rainfall, but its pattern is more consistent. Most rainfall occurs during short heavy bursts during daylight hours.

# Physical Setting: Hurricanes



- Hurricanes are a constant feature of most of the Caribbean, with a season of their own lasting from **June to November**.
- Hurricanes develop over the ocean (usually in the eastern Caribbean) during the summer months when sea surface temperature is high and air pressure falls. These conditions create an **eye** about 12 miles wide, around which a steep pressure gradient forms that generates wind speeds of 75 to 175 miles per hour.
- The **diameter** of hurricanes can extend as far as 300 to 500 miles and produce extremely heavy rainfalls as well as considerable destruction of property.
- 6 to 12 move through the region annually.
- **Hurricane Mitch** (1998), which killed at least 10,000 and left 2.5 million homeless, was the deadliest tropical storm of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

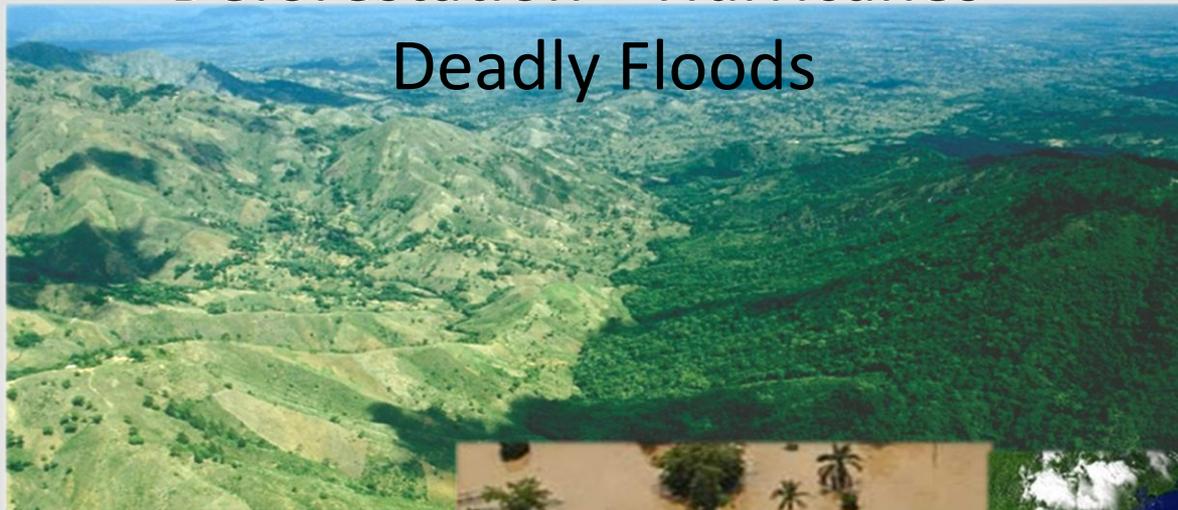


Satellite image of Hurricane Mitch

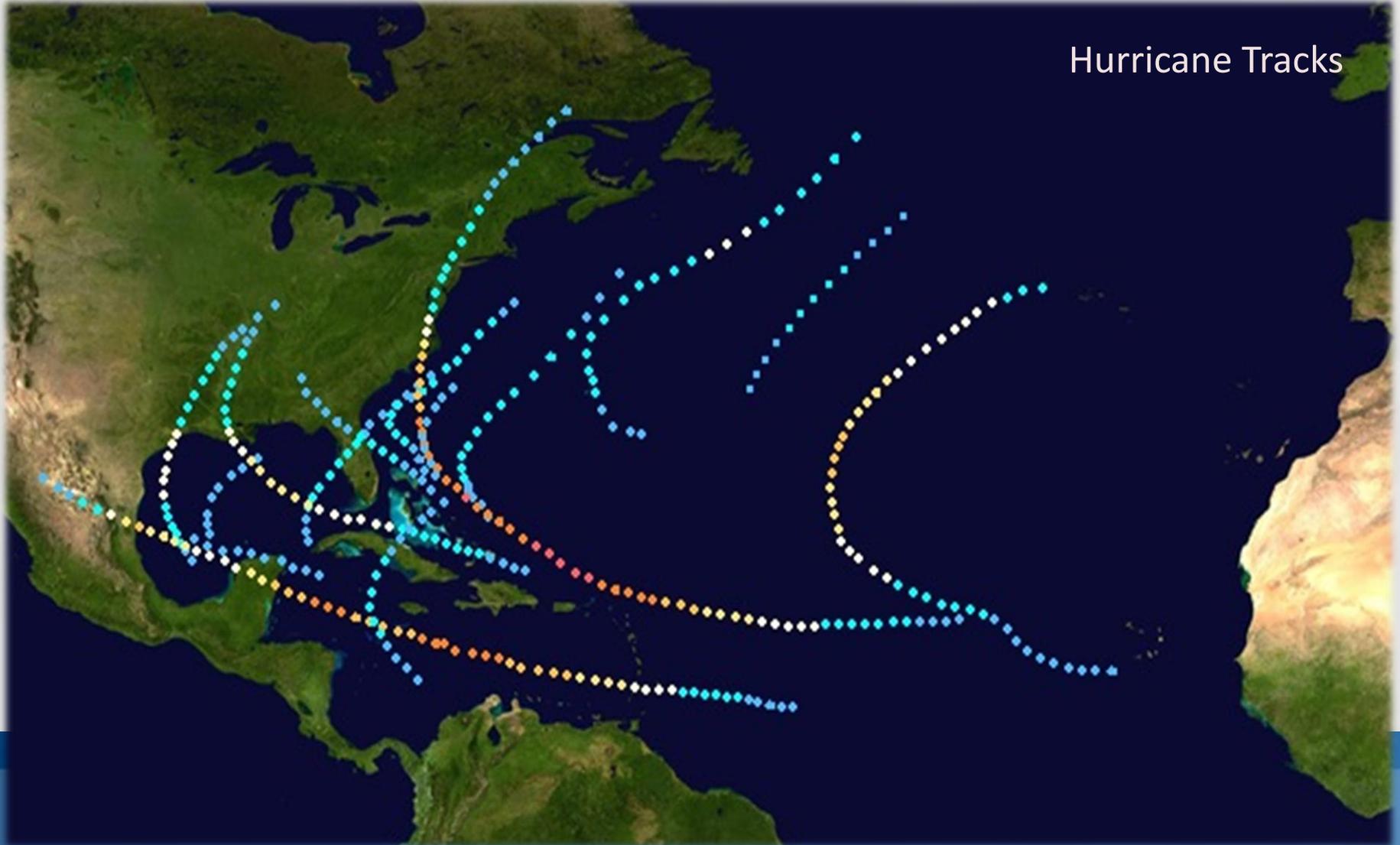
# Physical Setting: Hurricanes



Haiti's Environmental Disasters:  
Deforestation + Hurricanes =  
Deadly Floods



# Physical Setting: 2015 Atlantic Hurricane Season



# Physical Setting: Earthquakes



- Earthquakes are common in the Caribbean, but most are less than 3.0 on the **Richter Scale**.
- The Caribbean has a long history of destructive tremors. One of the most infamous occurred in 1692 when a 7.5-magnitude quake dismantled the city of Port Royal, Jamaica. Much of the city was submerged under water, and thousands of people lost their lives.
- Three quakes have been accompanied by **tsunamis**, the last being in 1946.
- The earthquakes occurring in the Caribbean are either tectonic or volcanic in origin. **Tectonic earthquakes** are generated when plates move as accumulated energy is released. **Volcanic earthquakes** are generated by the movement of magma within the lithosphere.

<http://earthquaketrack.com/v/caribbean/recent>

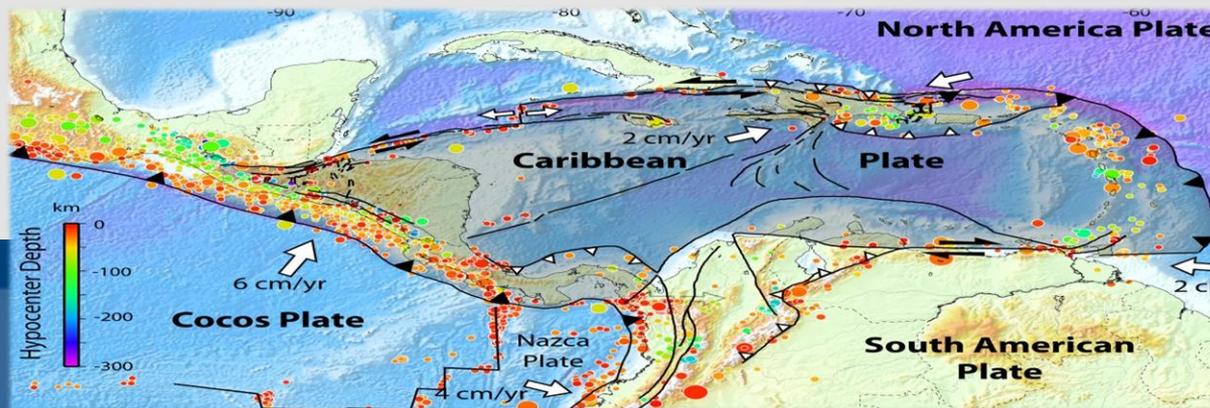


earthquake in Haiti

# Physical Setting: Earthquakes



- The **Caribbean Plate** is sandwiched between numerous tectonic plates including the North American and South American. This zone of **subduction**, where one tectonic plate slowly slides below another, is a concern to many geophysicists. A major tremor and potential accompanying tsunami could cause utter destruction to populated areas and create serious economic hardship.
- The Eastern Caribbean Islands are particularly vulnerable to impact from **submarine** (underwater) **eruptions** from the **Kick-em-Jenny volcano** located five miles north of Grenada and about 450 feet under water.



Kick-em-Jenny volcano



# Physical Setting: Caribbean Flora



- The geography of the Caribbean is highly variable with numerous habitats and microclimates capable of sustaining an extremely **high diversity** of plants.
- Islands were almost **totality covered by forests** of various kinds when the Europeans arrived more than 500 years ago.
- Colonial powers transformed the prevalent natural habitats through **logging**, and the establishment of large scale **plantations, range lands** and permanent **dwelling**s.
- The **destruction** of natural habitats was extensive, spreading over the whole region.

deforestation in Haiti



# Physical Setting: Caribbean Flora



- The amount of forest that remains varies from 2% (Haiti) to nearly 84% (the Bahamas) of total territory, for an **average of 25%** for the entire Caribbean.
- Almost two-thirds of the **Cuba** landscape consists of flatlands and rolling plains. Sugarcane, coffee and tobacco are grown there. Three-fourths of the territory consists of grasslands, hills, and the lower and gentler mountain slopes.
- **Dominica** has one of the most rugged landscapes in the Caribbean, covered by a largely unexploited, multi-layered rain forest.



tropical forest in El Yunque  
National Forest in Puerto Rico

# Physical Setting: Environmental Issues in the Caribbean



- Agriculture's Legacy of Deforestation
  - Much of tropical rainforest cover was removed after arrival of Europeans.
  - Removed to grow **sugar cane** and to produce fuel to refine sugar.
  - Haiti's forests almost gone; 30% left in Jamaica and Dominican Republic; less in Puerto Rico and Cuba.
  - **Haiti** has the highest rates of deforestation of any state in the world – a mere 2% of Haiti's original forests remain. **Deforestation** on such a grand scale has contributed significantly to loss of soil from **erosion**, higher and more extreme incidences of **flooding**, **degradation of water resources**, **habitat destruction**, **shifting seasonal rainfall** patterns and **less precipitation**.



# Physical Setting: Environmental Issues in the Caribbean



- **Water contamination and sewage disposal** is regarded as one of the most widespread causes of degradation of the coastal environment in the Caribbean. It is a big problem for public health and tourism. The urban poor are most vulnerable.
- Pollution by sewage has caused **fish mortality, eutrophication**, threats to **corals, swamp** ecosystems and **seagrass** beds, biological **diversity loss, red tides** which have killed marine organisms, threats to **human health** due to elevated numbers of pathogenic microorganisms (e.g. viruses, bacteria) and toxins created by **algal bloom**, and threats to **tourism**.
- **85% of untreated waste-water is discharged into seas, rivers and bays.** Depending on the territory, such waste-water comes from a mix of oil refineries, sugar factories, domestic sewage, food and beverage processing, and manufacturing operations.

rural coastal town in St. Lucia



# Physical Setting: Environmental Issues in the Caribbean

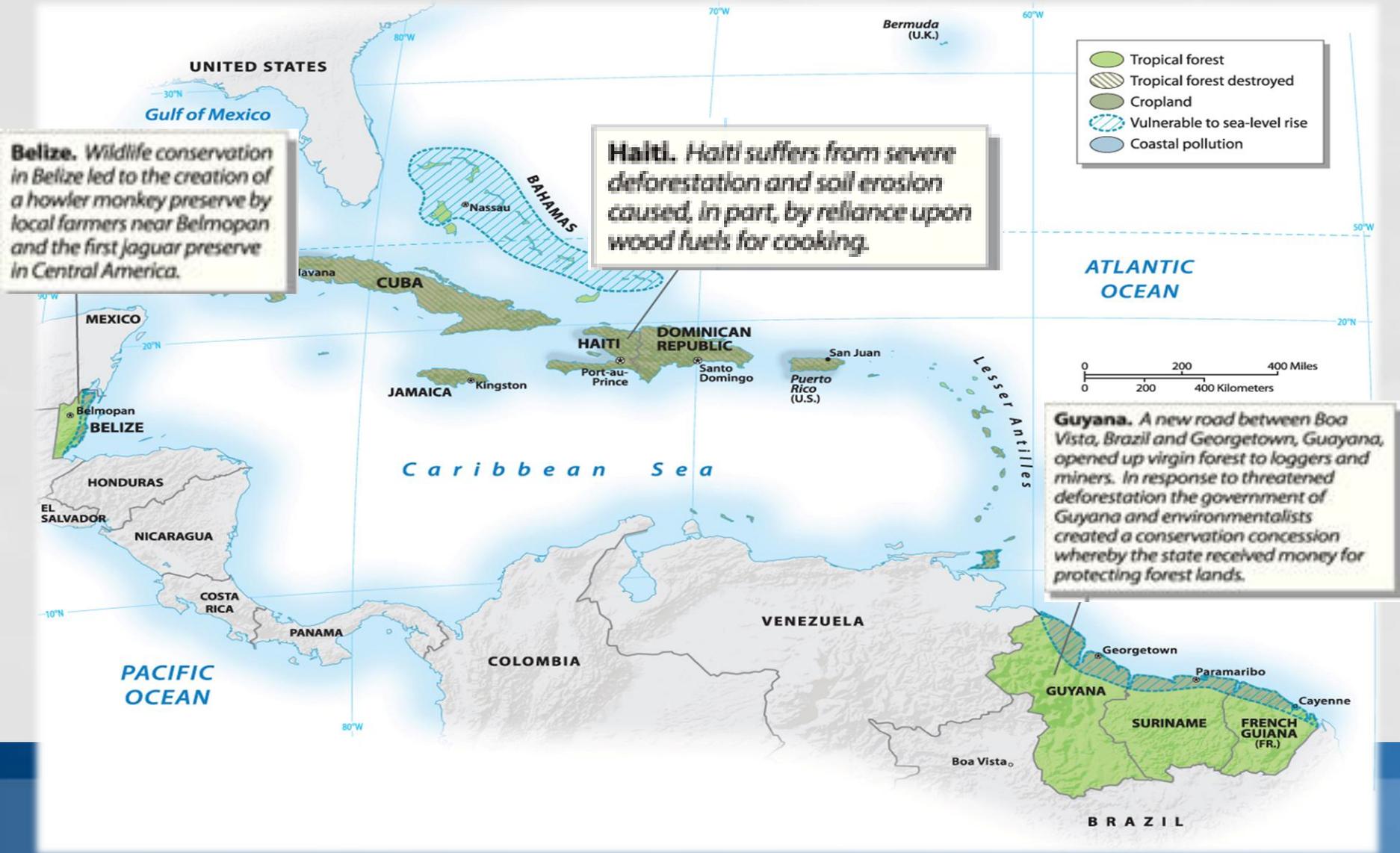


- The Caribbean is extremely vulnerable to the **negative impacts of climate change**.
  - sea-level rise
  - increased intensity of storms and hurricanes
  - variable rainfall leading to both floods and droughts
  - loss of biodiversity
- This tropical region has exploited its environment to produce export commodities such as sugar and bananas. However, serious problems with deforestation and soil erosion have degraded urban and rural environments.



Cuba and Hurricane Dennis

# Physical Setting: Environmental Issues in the Caribbean



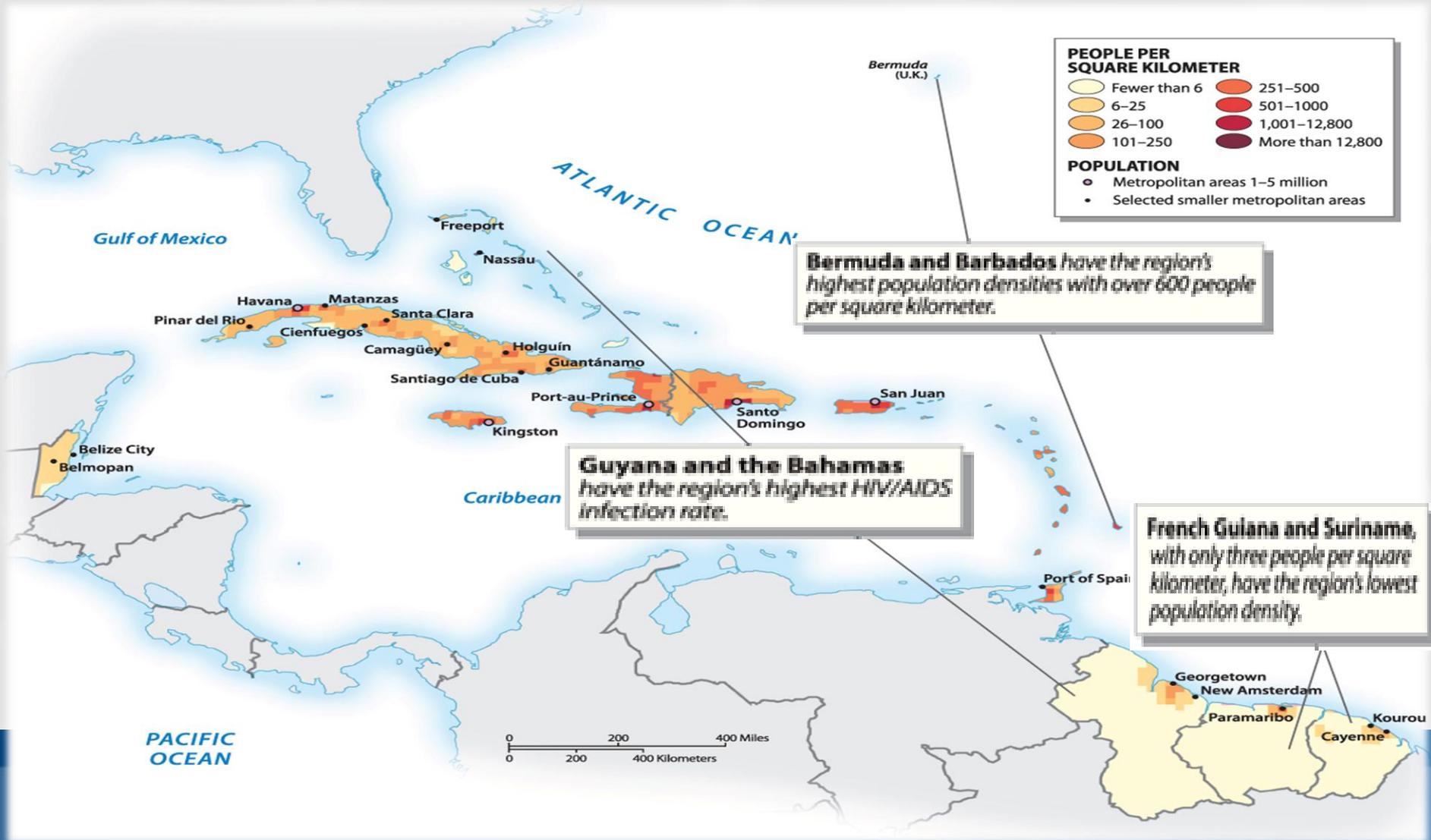
# Population and Settlement: Densely Settled Islands



- 87% of the region's population is concentrated on the four islands of the Greater Antilles
  - Cuba -- largest population
  - Sint Maarten -- highest population *density*
  - The regional population density is 498 people per mi<sup>2</sup>.
  - The table to the right shows the 5 most crowded and the 5 least crowded Caribbean states.

State	Density (P/mi <sup>2</sup> )
Turks and Caicos	95
Bahamas	102
Montserrat	133
Caribbean Netherlands	200
Dominica	252
Haiti	1,019
Puerto Rico	1,075
Aruba	1,500
Barbados	1,717
Sint Maarten	3,012

# Population and Settlement: Densely Settled Islands

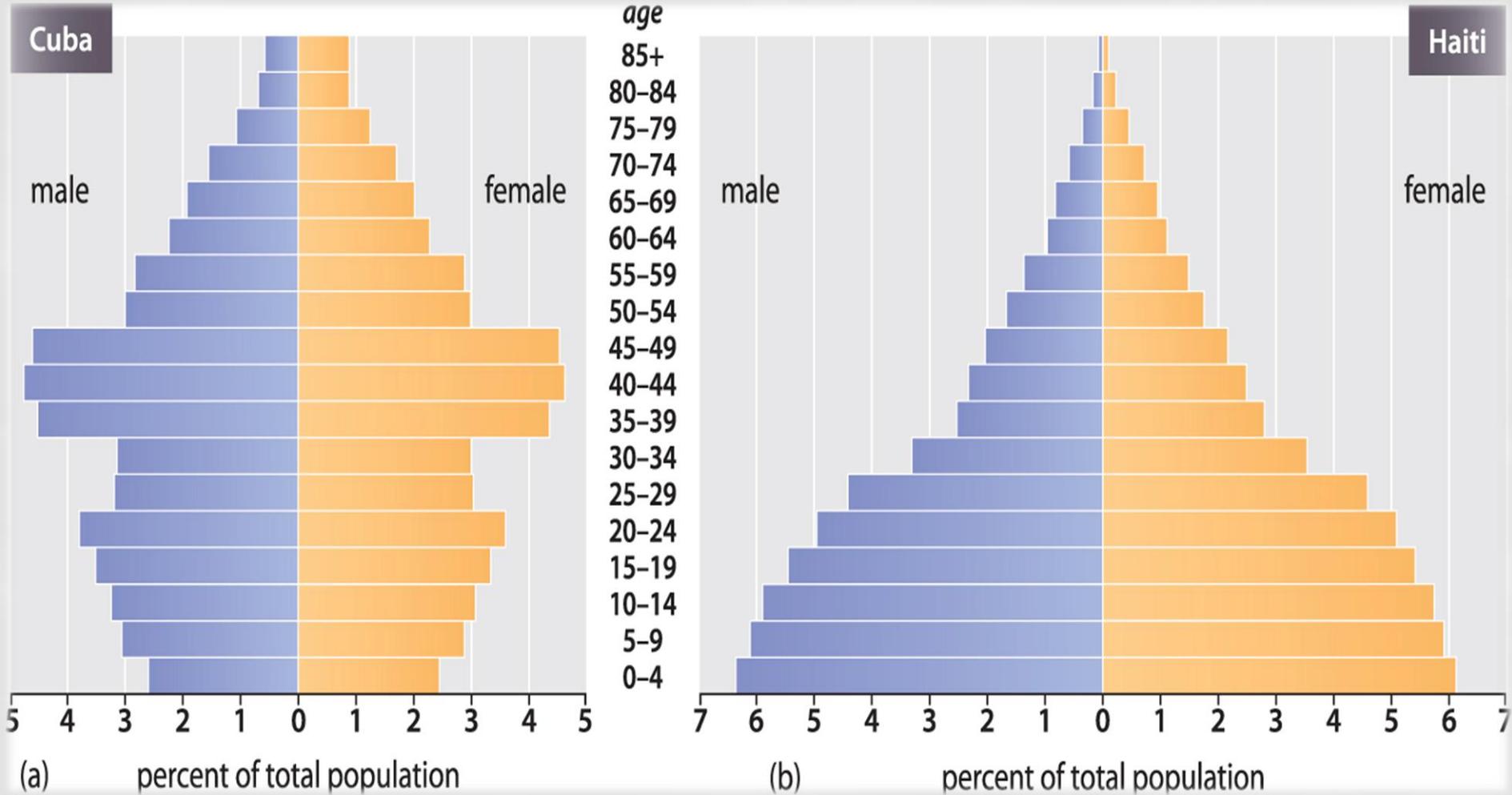


# Population and Settlement: Demographic Trends



- Demographic Trends
  - The region currently has a 0.67% growth rate due mainly to **out-migration** (region's annual net migration is -116,102).
  - Puerto Rico and Martinique have lowest growth rates, Sint Maarten and the Caribbean Netherlands the highest.
  - decline in fertility, increase in life expectancy
  - **causes**: education of women, out-migration
  - increase in **HIV/AIDS** cases, infection rate more than 3X North America
  - More than 2% of the Caribbean population between ages 15 and 49 has HIV/AIDS.
  - youthful populations with high expectations

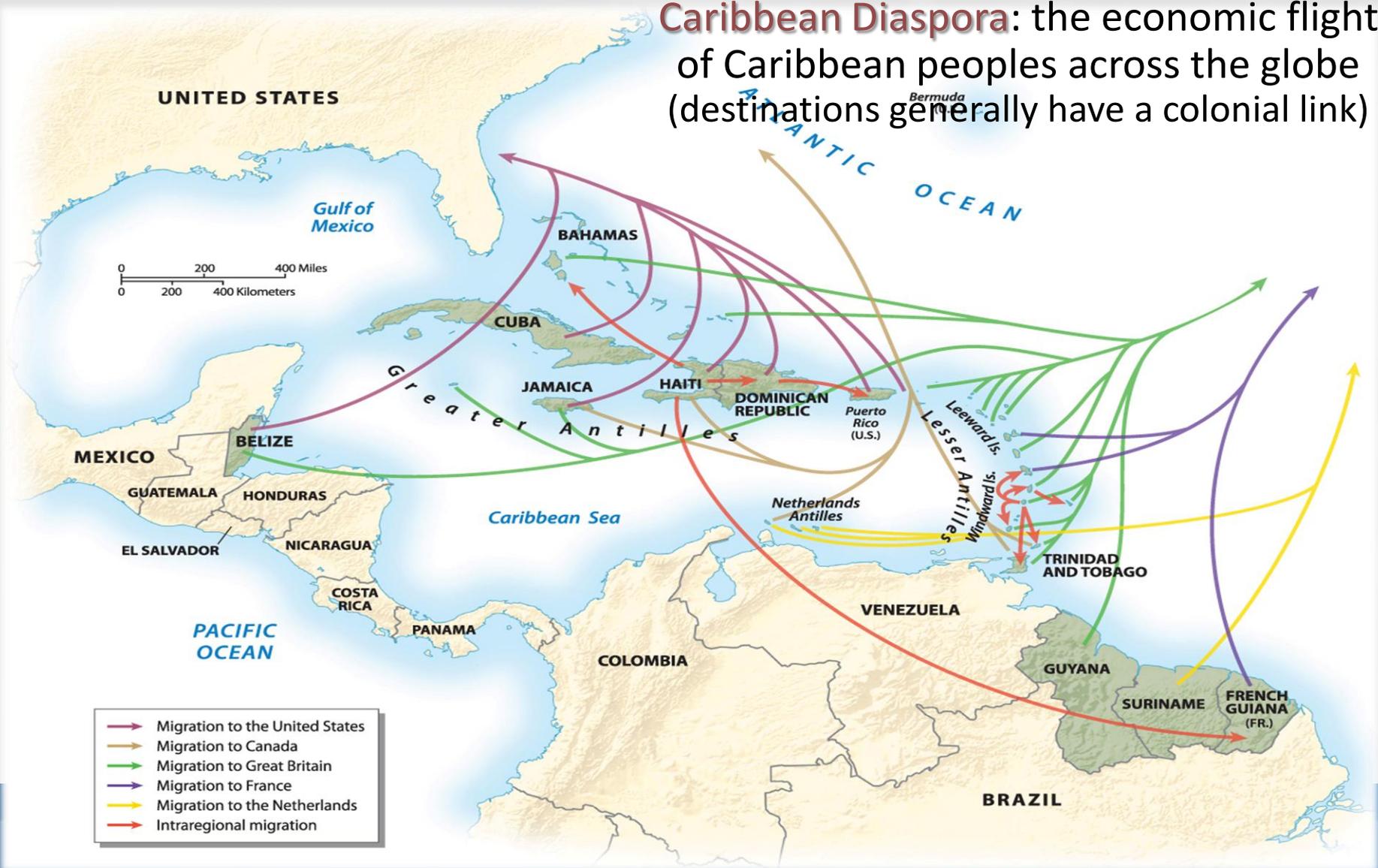
# Population and Settlement: Demographic Trends



# Population and Settlement : Migration



**Caribbean Diaspora:** the economic flight of Caribbean peoples across the globe (destinations generally have a colonial link)



# Population and Settlement: The Rural-Urban Continuum



- **Plantation and subsistence farming** shaped settlement patterns.
- Farmlands owned by elite with small plots for **subsistence agriculture** (farmers focus on growing enough food to feed their families, little or no surplus for trade).
- There is a long history of urban dominance by capital port cities (mostly founded during the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries) but no effort to develop major urban centers and little urban growth until the last few decades.



# Population and Settlement: The Rural-Urban Continuum



- Caribbean Cities
  - rural-to-urban migration since 1960s
  - **causes:** mechanization of agriculture, offshore industrialization, rapid population growth
  - 71% of region today is classified as urban.
  - Cayman Islands most urban (99.8%)
  - Saint Lucia least urban (18.5%).
  - Cities reflect colonial influences.



Historic San Juan

# Population and Settlement: Caribbean Cities



- Caribbean cities differ from North American cities in six ways:
  - Population growth rates of Caribbean urban areas are 2X-3X higher.
  - Caribbean urban systems are characterized by higher levels of primacy than those in North America.
  - Caribbean cities have not experienced a manufacturing revolution.
  - Unemployment levels are higher in Caribbean cities.
  - A larger proportion of the labor force in Caribbean cities works in the informal or petty capitalist sector of their economies.
  - Shanty towns and squatter settlements are much more common in Caribbean cities.
- Although Caribbean cities are still growing faster than North American cities, there are indications that their growth rates are beginning to slow, at least on those islands where modernization has been carried the farthest.

You can see the cruise ships from this Trinidad shanty town



# Population and Settlement: Caribbean Cities



## ● Housing

- Decrease in urban jobs played a major role in the surge in urbanization.
- As urbanization occurred, thousands poured into cities, erected shantytowns, pirated electricity from power lines, filled informal sector.
- In Cuba, government-built apartment blocks reflect socialism [housing landscape homogeneity (see below)].



# Population and Settlement: Plantation Society



- Plantation America

- Not meant to describe a race-based division of the Americas, but rather a production system that brought about specific ecological, social and economic relations.
- mono-crop production: one plant growing in the same place, year after year (not conducive to good soil health)



An 1823 drawing depicts slaves cutting sugar cane on the Caribbean island of Antigua.

# 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*
Anguilla	0.01*	169*		1.8*	100*	24*	8*	13*
Antigua and Barbuda	0.1	197	0.8	1.7	30	28	7	2.3*
Bahamas	0.4	26	0.9	1.9	84	25	6	1.8
Barbados	0.3	644	0.5	1.7	45	19	10	0.0
Belize	0.3	14	2.1	2.8	44	34	4	−0.6
Bermuda	0.07*	1171*		2*	100*	18*	15*	2.0*
Cayman Islands	0.05*	199*		1.9*	100*	19*	10*	15.4*
Cuba	11.2	101	0.3	1.7	75	17	13	−2.5
Dominica	0.1	95	0.5	1.8	67	23	10	−5.4*
Dominican Republic	10.1	208	1.6	2.6	66	31	6	−2.7
French Guiana	0.2	3	2.3	3.4	81	35	4	4.9
Grenada	0.1	334	1.3	2.2	40	28	7	−9.5
Guadeloupe	0.4	236	0.6	2.1	98	22	14	−1.5
Guyana	0.8	4	1.5	2.5	29	33	1	−9.5
Haiti	10.3	370	1.8	3.4	47	36	4	−4.2
Jamaica	2.7	247	1.0	2.1	52	27	9	−7.2
Martinique	0.4	359	0.6	2.1	89	20	15	−1.0
Montserrat	0.005*	51*		1.3*	14*	27*	7*	0 *
Netherlands Antilles	0.2	444	0.5	2.2	—	20	12	1.7
Puerto Rico	3.7	416	0.3	1.6	99	20	15	−5.4
St. Kitts and Nevis	0.1	207	0.7	1.8	32	23	8	
St. Lucia	0.2	314	0.7	1.6	28	24	9	−1.1
St Vincent and the Grenadines	0.1	278	1.2	2.3	40	31	7	−9.1
Suriname	0.5	3	1.2	2.3	67	29	6	−1.9
Trinidad and Tobago	1.3	256	0.6	1.8	13	25	7	−2.9
Turks and Caicos	0.05*	49*		1.7*	93*	23*	4*	17.3*

\*Net Migration Rate from the United Nations, Population Division, *World Population Prospects: The 2010 Revision Population Database*.

\*Additional data from the *CIA World Factbook, 2012*.

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

# Cultural Coherence and Diversity: Commonalities



- Common historical and cultural processes hold this region together:
  - the European colonial presence
  - plantation society
  - African influences
  - the mix of European and African cultures -- creolization



# Cultural Coherence and Diversity: Colonial Impact



- The Caribbean's culture has historically been influenced by **European culture and traditions**, especially British, Spanish, Dutch and French. Over time, elements of the cultures of Africans and other immigrant populations have become incorporated into mainstream Caribbean culture. It has also been strongly influenced by the United States.
- The Cultural Impact of Colonialism
  - Plantation system destroyed indigenous systems and people; replaced them with different social systems and cultures.
  - Plantation America designates a cultural region extending from midway up coast of Brazil through the Guianas and the Caribbean into southeastern US.
  - Characterized by European elite ruling class dependent on African labor force and mono-crop production.

sugar cane,  
Dominican Republic



# Cultural Coherence and Diversity: Plantation Society

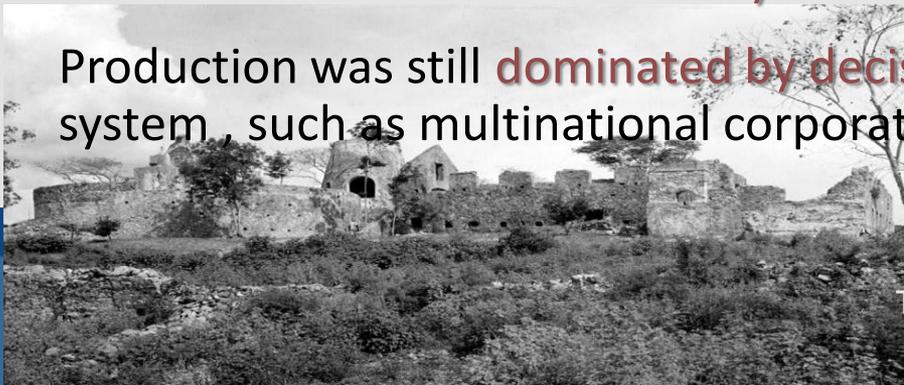


- Each plantation existed in isolation and represented a **self-contained**, organized social system.
- The plantation was a place of **residence** as well as a place of work.
- There were **no linkages** with the other islands or plantations except through the government.
- The main purpose of the plantation was to **produce a crop** (sugar) **for export** and all other needs were satisfied by imports.
- Production in the plantations was **dominated by the planters** who decided what should be done, but they were usually absentee, residing in the mother country, and left the plantations in the care of overseers.
- The plantation was a **pyramidal system** of stratification based on **race and color**: the white planter class occupied the uppermost strata and were fewest in number, Africans occupied the lowest strata and were greatest in numbers, and the mulattos were in the middle.

# Cultural Coherence and Diversity: Plantation Society



- Even after slavery was abolished, the plantation culture contributed significantly to the way of life in the Caribbean and pervaded all aspects of social, cultural, economic and political life.
- Items were generally **imported** from abroad to satisfy the needs of the people. Even technology was imported. This importation interfered with the development of local culture.
- Caribbean economies were dominated by **mono-crop production**, usually staple production for export.
- Everyone aspired to **European practices**, dress, religion, etc.
- There was **limited social mobility**.
- Production was still **dominated by decision-makers from outside** the system, such as multinational corporations.



The Annaberg sugar plantation ruins  
on Saint John, US Virgin Islands

# Cultural Coherence and Diversity: Plantation Society



- The plantation system was all-pervasive, a societal design which perpetuated a society divided into segments – one large and unfree, another small and free and which controlled power in the society.
- Plantation communities are characterized by unstable family units, hierarchical class relations, low levels of community integration, mobile populations often recruited for seasonal work.
- After emancipation, Caribbean society was still modeled along the lines of the plantation society: a lack of social integration, populations brought from all over the world existing as a plural society with no basis for integration.
- **Nationalism** was slow to develop ... the abolition of slavery freed a people but failed to create a society.

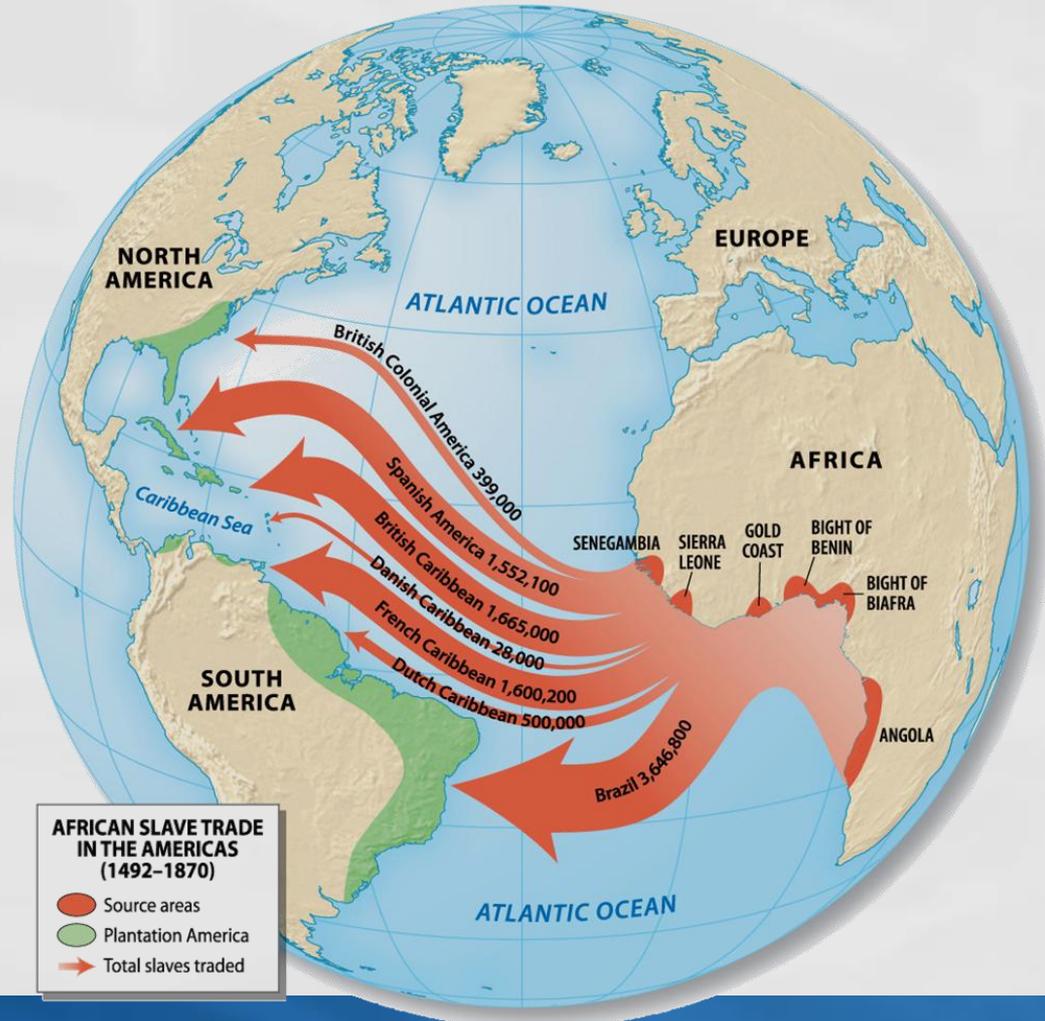


Carnival dancers

# Cultural Coherence and Diversity: A Neo-Africa in the Americas



- Beginning in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, **African Diaspora**: forced removal of Africans from their native area
- At least 10 million were brought to the Americas; 2 million died en route
- Influx of enslaved Africans, plus elimination of most indigenous peoples



# Cultural Coherence and Diversity: Maroon Communities

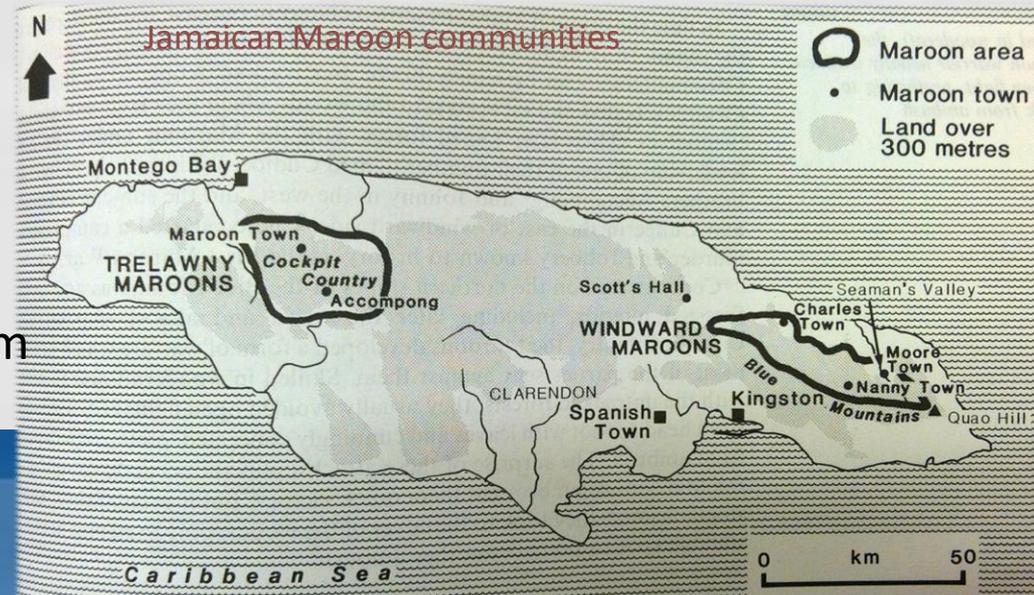


- communities of escaped slaves (Maroons) that existed in isolated areas
- Many short-lived, but others survived and helped African traditions and farming practices to survive.
- Individual maroons fled not only to the hinterlands -- many, especially skilled slaves, escaped to urban centers and successfully melted into the population of freedmen, while others became maritime maroons, fleeing by fishing boat or other vessel across international borders.
- In **Haiti**, maroons played a signal role as catalysts in the Haitian Revolution (1791) that created the first state in the Americas in which all citizens were free.

# Cultural Coherence and Diversity: Maroon Communities



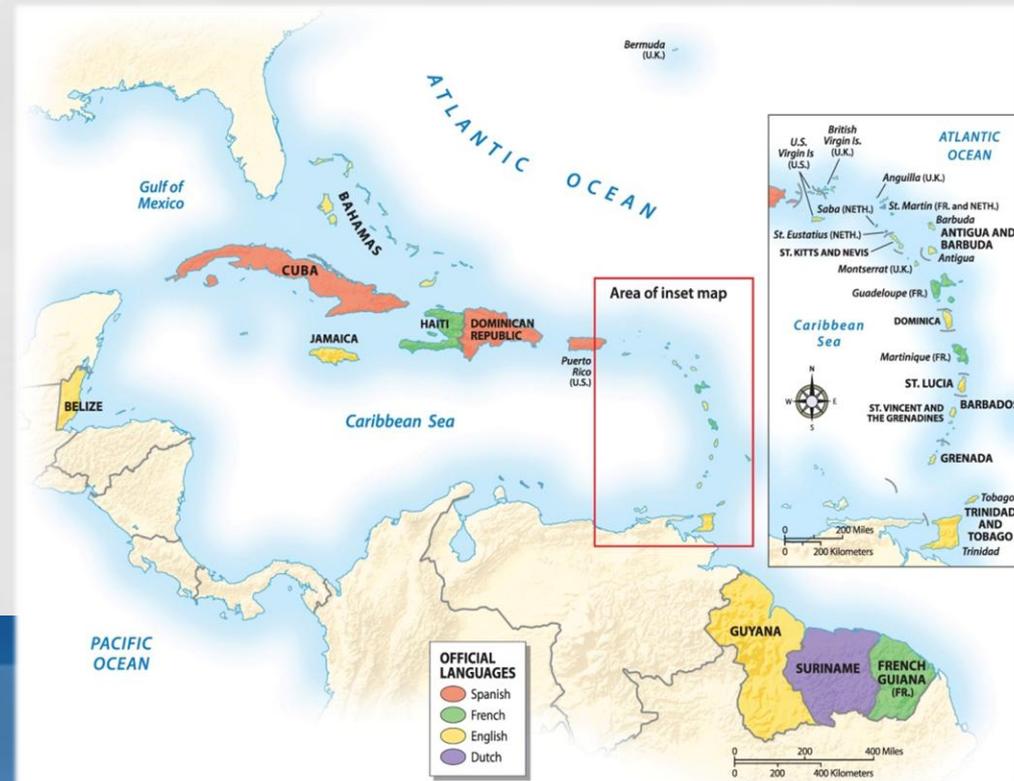
- The Maroon communities of Moore Town and Accompong still demand and generally receive at least symbolic recognition of Maroon distinctiveness and self-determination from the Jamaican government.
- Maroons have maintained differences from other Jamaicans.
  - communally-owned "treaty lands"
  - governing councils with elected leaders, and other such political and economic features
  - religious beliefs, oral historical traditions, music, dance, esoteric languages, and other distinctive forms of expressive culture
  - Differences remain hidden from most other Jamaicans, largely because Maroons choose not to reveal them to outsiders.



# Cultural Coherence and Diversity: Creolization



- Creolization and Caribbean Identity
- **creolization**: blending of African, European, Amerindian cultural elements into a unique system, language, culture, music, etc
- Language
  - Spanish (24 million)
  - French (8 million)
  - English (6 million)
  - Dutch (500,000)



# Cultural Coherence and Diversity: Creolization



- The Caribbean was forged through European colonialism and the labor of millions of Africans. The blending of African and European elements, referred to as creolization, has resulted in many unique cultural expressions, especially in religion, music and languages.
- Several **musical forms** emerged in the region as a result of creolization.
  - reggae, calypso, merengue, rumba, zouk, Afro-Caribbean
  - Music of Bob Marley reflected Jamaica's political situation.
  - steel drums



Haiti's Rara music  
steel drums



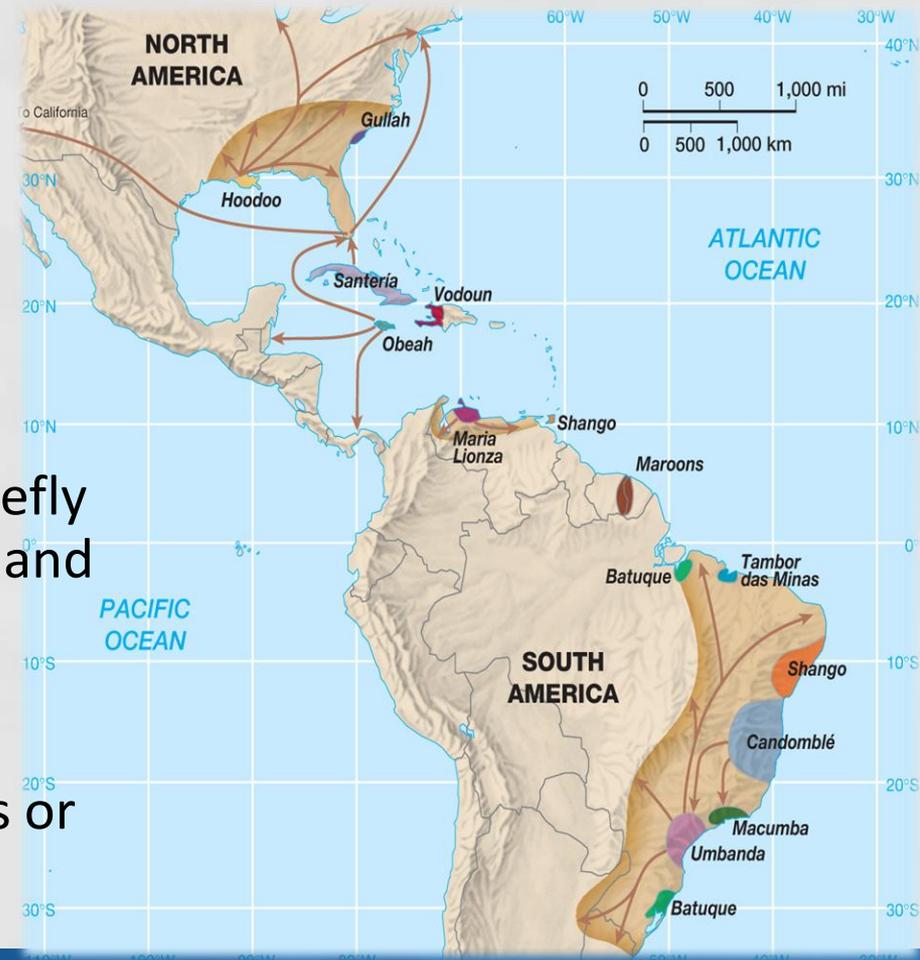
Finnish Samba Band

# Cultural Coherence and Diversity: African Religious Influences



## African Religions

- most strongly associated with northeastern Brazil and the Caribbean
- Vodou:** or Voudon, most widely practiced, a syncretic religion chiefly in Haiti and the Haitian diaspora and now found in Jamaica, the Dominican Republic, Brazil, the United States and elsewhere, practitioners are called vodouists or servants of the spirits



# Cultural Coherence and Diversity: Asian Immigration



- result of colonial governments freeing slaves by mid 19<sup>th</sup> century (1838–1917)
- Indian and Chinese immigration into the Caribbean region was tied to the fortunes of the regional sugar industry.
- **indentured labor**: workers contracted for a set period of time
- largest Asian populations in Trinidad and Tobago



Kamla Persad-Bissessar, former Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago

# Geopolitical Framework: Neocolonialism



- **Monroe Doctrine:** proclaimed US would not tolerate European military involvement in Western Hemisphere
  - **neocolonialism:** economic and political strategies that powerful states use to extend their control over other, weaker states
- Life in the *American Backyard*
  - US maintains a controlling attitude toward the Caribbean.
  - Often designed to protect US business interests, sometimes at the expense of local autonomy and democracy.
  - US imposes its will via economic and military force.
  - Commonwealth of Puerto Rico: a commonwealth of the US, its people are US citizens, independence movements seek secession from US, reflected in protests on Vieques Island

# Geopolitical Framework: Neocolonialism



- Cuba and Regional Politics
  - Cuba began as a Spanish colony
  - Gained freedom in 1898
  - Revolution brought Fidel Castro to power in 1959.
  - Castro nationalized economy and established ties with USSR.
  - Cuban Missile Crisis challenged US Caribbean dominance .
  - US and Cuba still have a strained relationship.



MRBM launch site in Cuba, 1962

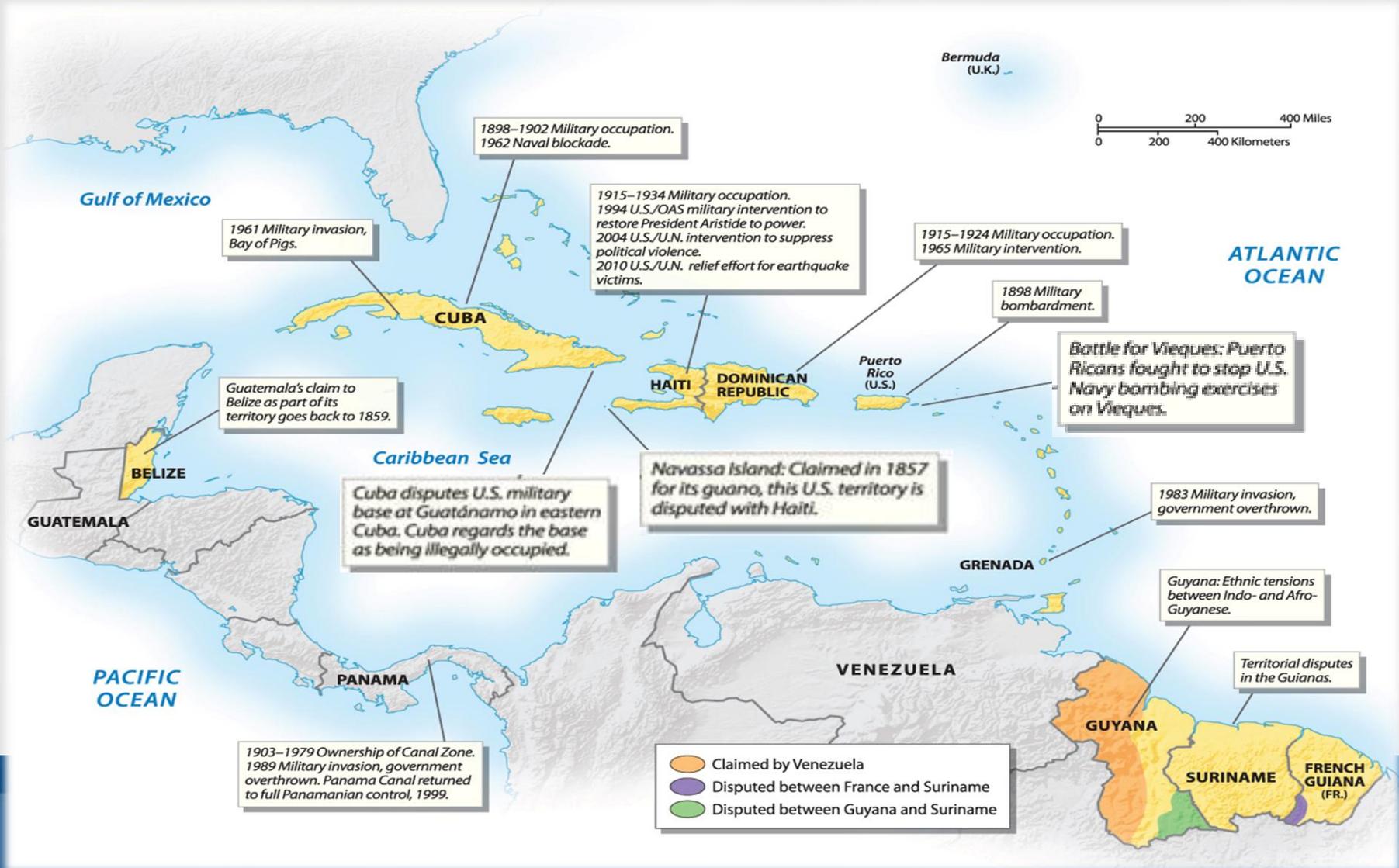
# Geopolitical Framework : Independence and Integration



- Independence Movements: **Haiti** slaves revolted, gained independence in 1804, most Caribbean states are independent now
- Regional integration is limited.
  - experiments in 1960s with regional trade associations to improve economic competitiveness.
  - **Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM)**: organization founded in 1973 to promote economic integration and cooperation
  - 15 full members: Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago
  - 5 associate members: Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, and the Turks and Caicos Islands



# Geopolitical Framework: Issues in the Caribbean



# Economic and Social Development: Caribbean Economies



- Although every island in the Caribbean has its own distinct economic features, there are a number of common characteristics shared among the different economies of the region.
- **Trade Openness:** benefited tremendously from strong regional and international trade relationships since impossible for any to produce all of the goods needed on its own, example - Montserrat has an abundance of construction but is dependent on imports from neighboring Dominica to meet local demand for fruits and vegetables
- **Limited Natural Resources:** majority of Caribbean states make money exporting raw materials and manufactured goods to international markets, long-run problem because of the limited amount of resources they possess
- **Vulnerable to Natural Disasters:** natural disasters have impeded economic progress in the Caribbean, forced to allocate limited financial resources to rebuild the economy instead of servicing debt or investing in increasing productive capacity



# Economic and Social Development: Economic Diversification



- **From Fields to Factories and Resorts**
  - historically linked to world economy through agriculture
  - tourism, offshore banking, assembly plants more important now
- **Assembly-Plant Industrialization**
  - foreign companies invited to build factories
  - **Free Trade Zones (FTZs):** duty-free and tax-exempt industrial parks to attract foreign corporations
  - companies may benefit more than host states
  - assembly plants found in major cities



Cruise ships in Nassau, Bahamas

# Economic and Social Development: Free Trade Zones in the Dominican Republic



**free trade zone:** an area within which goods may be landed, handled, manufactured or reconfigured, and re-exported without the intervention of the customs authorities. Only when the goods are moved to consumers within the state in which the zone is located do they become subject to the prevailing customs duties.

The primary purpose of a free-trade zone is to remove hindrances to trade caused by high tariffs and customs regulations.

The advantages are quick turnaround for ships and planes through the reduction of customs formalities, and the ability to fabricate, refinish and store goods freely.



# Economic and Social Development: Economic Diversification

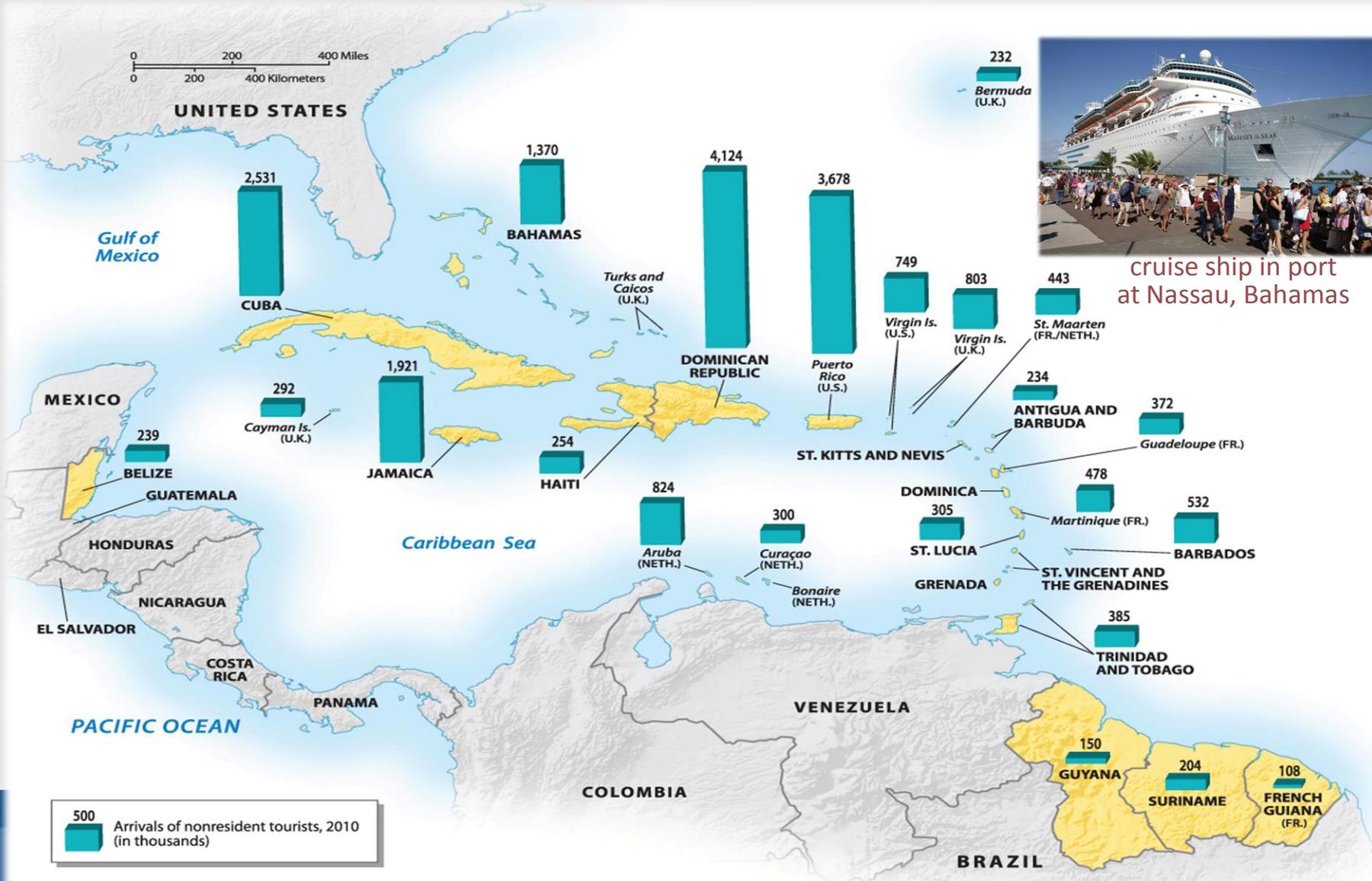


financial services  
in Bermuda



- **Offshore Banking and Online Gambling**
  - specialized services that are confidential and tax-exempt
  - localities make money from registration fees, not taxes
  - proximity to US is appealing, attracts money from drug trade
  - online gambling is newest industry in the region (since 1999)
- **Tourism**
  - Cuba's earlier role as a tourist destination stopped with rise of Castro but has now begun to increase again. The top 3 islands in terms of number of tourists in 2014 were Dominican Republic, Cuba and Aruba.
  - Tourism is dependent on the overall health of world economy and is vulnerable to natural disasters.
  - **capital leakage**: serious problem involving huge gap between gross receipts and total tourist dollars that remain in Caribbean Many corporate headquarters are outside of the region, and profits flow out of the host state.

# Economic and Social Development: Tourism



cruise ship in port at Nassau, Bahamas

# Economic and Social Development: Economic Diversification



- **Agriculture**

- historically significant
- sugar crucial to the economic history of the Caribbean but importance of sugarcane has declined somewhat, example: since 1990 Cuban sugarcane harvest reduced by 50%
- monocrop dependence decreasing: sugar, coffee, bananas
- negatives: environmental costs, no frontiers for expansion, rising production costs

- **The Banana Wars**

- major exporters in Latin America (not Caribbean)
- several states in Lesser Antilles dependent on banana production
- sales dependent on trade agreements and consumer whims
- experimenting with other crops to reduce dependency on bananas



# Economic and Social Development: The Caribbean and the Global Economy



The Caribbean is more integrated into the global economy than most other developing states, albeit as a dependent economic periphery. The region offers some of the clearest examples of the long-term efforts of globalization, from plantation agriculture to offshore banking.

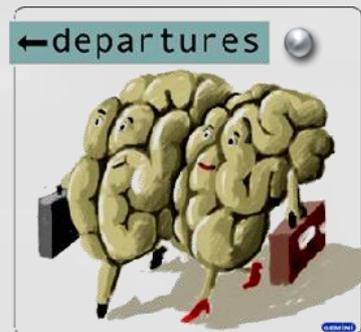
With the end of the Cold War, many microstates in the region fear that their lack of strategic significance may result in neglect by the United States and Europe, which may limit their ability to participate in world trade.

# Economic and Social Development: Caribbean Issues



- Social Development
  - overall improvements socially but Haiti is still in bad shape
- Education
  - high literacy in Cuba and in English colonies
  - **brain drain**: a large percentage of the best-educated / most skilled people leave the region

**brain gain**: a large percentage of new immigrants are educated / skilled, states increasingly are looking to position their immigration policies to attract the types of international workers and students whose skills they desire



# Economic and Social Development: Caribbean Issues



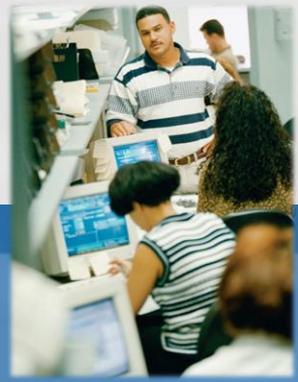
- **Status of Women**

- Many men leave home for **seasonal work**.
- Women control many activities but lack the **status** of men.

- **Labor-Related Migration**

- **Intra-regional** seasonal migration is traditional.
- **remittances**: monies sent back to home state

Many emigrants to the US wire money back home to their families in the Caribbean.



# Economic and Social Development: Human Development Index (HDI)



The **Human Development Index (HDI)** is a composite statistic of life expectancy, education and income per capita indicators, which are used by the United Nations to rank states into four tiers of human development – very high, high, medium and low.

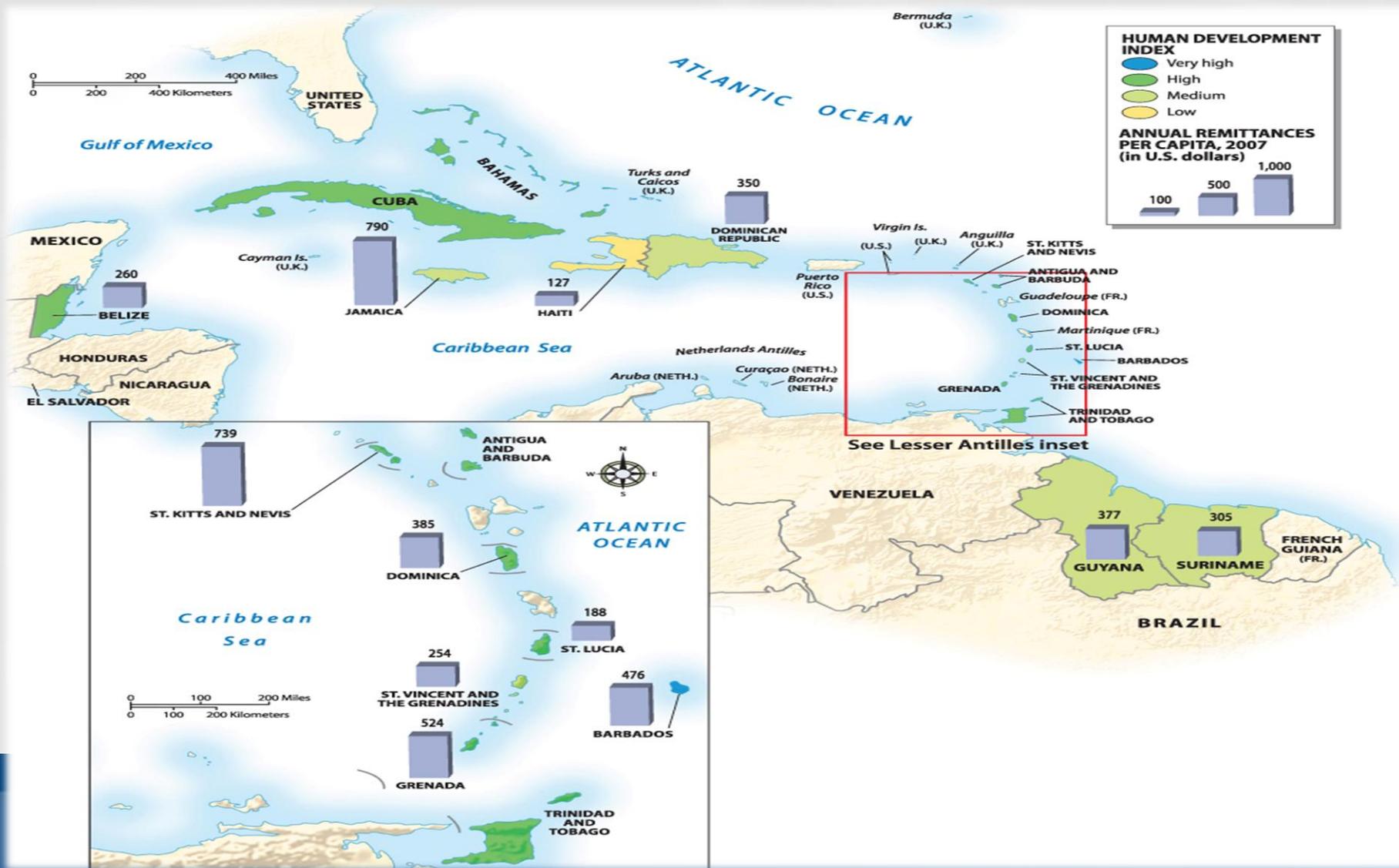
HDI score ranges are 1.000-0.800 (very high), 0.799-0.700 (high), 0.699-0.550 (medium) and 0.000-0.549 (low).

The HDI was created to emphasize that people and their capabilities should be the ultimate criteria for assessing the development of a state, not economic growth alone.

Human Development  
Report 2015



# Economic and Social Development: HDI and Remittances



# Economic and Social Development: Caribbean Issues



Population growth in the Caribbean has slowed over the past two decades. Social measures of development such as life expectancy and literacy are very good in the region, yet states struggle with supplying adequate employment. Because of that, emigration is a way of life in the region.

In terms of development, the Caribbean has gradually shifted from being an exporter of primary agricultural resources to a service and manufacturing economy. The region's strides in social development, especially in education, health and the status of women, distinguish it from other developing areas.

# 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>
Anguilla	12,200*	—	—	—	81*	—	—	—	—
Antigua and Barbuda	20,400	—	.764	—	75	26	8	99	—
Bahamas	24,800	—	.771	—	75	22	16	—	0.332
Barbados	19,000	—	.793	—	74	18	20	—	0.364
Belize	6,200	—	.699	22.0	76	44	17	—	0.493
Bermuda	69,900*	—	—	—	81*	—	—	—	—
Cayman Islands	43,800*	—	—	—	81*	—	—	99	—
Cuba	9,900*	6.7	.776	—	78	13	6	100	0.337
Dominica	11,940	—	.724	—	76	17	12	—	—
Dominican Republic	9,030	5.6	.689	9.9	73	62	27	88	0.480
French Guiana	—	—	—	—	79	—	—	—	—
Grenada	9,930	—	.748	—	76	21	11	—	—
Guadeloupe	—	—	—	—	80	—	—	—	—
Guyana	3,450	—	.633	18.0	70	66	30	—	0.511
Haiti	1,180	0.6	.454	77.5	62	151	165	49	0.599
Jamaica	7,310	1.2	.727	5.4	73	38	24	86	0.450
Martinique	—	—	—	—	81	—	—	—	—
Montserrat	8,500*	—	—	—	73*	—	—	—	—
Netherlands Antilles	15,000*	—	—	—	77	—	—	—	—
Puerto Rico	16,300*	0.0	—	—	79	—	—	90	—
St. Kitts and Nevis	15,970	—	.735	—	74	28	8	—	—
St. Lucia	10,520	—	.723	40.6	73	23	16	—	—
St Vincent and the Grenadines	10,870	—	.717	—	72	27	21	—	—
Suriname	7,680	—	.680	27.2	71	52	31	95	—
Trinidad and Tobago	24,050	6.5	.760	13.5	71	37	27	99	0.331
Turks and Caicos	11,500*	—	—	—	79*	—	—	98*	—

\*Additional data from the *CIA World Factbook, 2012*.

<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*.

The End

