

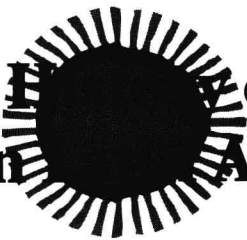


A HISTORY OF MODERN LATIN AMERICA

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A History of Modern America



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HARCOURT BRACE COLLEGE PUBLISHERS

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Cover credit: Mariano Miguel, *La Popa*, 1923, oil on canvas, 41" × 51". Gift of The Cuban Foundation. Courtesy of The Museum of Arts and Sciences, Daytona Beach, Florida.

ISBN: 0-15-500253-8

Library of Congress Catalog Card Number: 98-72417

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Address for Orders

Harcourt Brace College Publishers, 6277 Sea Harbor Drive, Orlando, FL 32887-6777 1-800-782-4479

Address for Editorial Correspondence

Harcourt Brace College Publishers, 301 Commerce Street, Suite 3700, Fort Worth, TX 76102

Web site Address

<http://www.hbcollege.com>

Printed in the United States of America

8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 0 1 8 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Harcourt Brace College Publishers

To the memory of William L. Sherman, friend and colleague

Preface

A History of Modern Latin America is a general history of Latin America covering the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. As such, it is largely concerned with the modern period which dates from the Wars of Independence in the early nineteenth century until today. We have written this textbook for college undergraduates taking an introductory course in Latin American history who are most likely first-time readers in the field. A colonial prologue has been included to give students a brief look at the colonial period, but it is only that—an introduction—and not meant to be a substitute for a good colonial text.

Features of the Book

We are old-fashioned enough to know that the story of men and women and how they fared in the past, how they thought, fought, loved, hated, and carried themselves through life is what truly fascinates us. We have, therefore, indulged our love of biographical detail—the flesh and blood of history. A strong narrative style distinguishes *A History of Modern Latin America* from its predecessors of the past two or three decades, which relied heavily on social science jargon and analysis as the medium for presenting Latin American history. This textbook brings to light major interpretations and analysis for the student to consider, but does so with an entertaining and readable literary style too long out of fashion. This certainly reflects upon the wonderful dichotomy of history, equally at home in the social sciences and the humanities.

We begin each chapter with a dramatic moment in time that gives definition to the age or themes treated in that chapter. In some of these action introductions, much of the narrative is authentic, borrowing, if possible, from the actual words spoken or recorded by eyewitnesses. In other instances, we have taken the liberty to imagine a scene and dialogue. Everything either happened, or most certainly could have happened, given what we know of historical circumstances. No other textbook, to our knowledge, has ever employed such an engaging opener to pull the reader into the flow of the chapter.

A History of Modern Latin America weaves together the history of women, minorities, the enduring Amerindian cultures, and the environment to add depth and dimension to the Latin American story.

We have tried to be comprehensive by giving attention to all the nations of Latin America. The biggest and most populous nations—such as Mexico, Argentina and Brazil—take up a significant amount of our attention, but we have highlighted important events in the histories of all nations, from Chile in the south to Cuba in the northern Caribbean.

We have described the major themes of modern Latin American history. From the age of caudillos in the nineteenth century to the revolutionary struggles of the twentieth century, common themes run through the region's history that help to give form and understanding to how and why things happened. We have turned to certain themes—ethnic strife, populism, militarism for example—which have transcended borders and given Latin America its unity of experience, even while an extraordinary diversity marks the region's geography, native people and cultures.

Pedagogical Features

At the end of each chapter, a summary wraps up the major points, providing students with an easily accessible synopsis. A set of questions is included for further probing into the contents of each chapter by both instructors and students. The questions can be used to open discussions on the contents of the chapter, to help summarize and analyze each chapter's principal elements, or as a springboard for emphasizing an instructor's own particular interests.

Boxed inserts of topical readings and primary documents are included throughout the text. These bring the contents to life with vivid descriptions by the historical players and witnesses themselves. They also serve to explain basic concepts (dependency theory, race relations, political alignments) in a format that stands out and brings attention to that particular subject, intrinsically important for a deeper and clearer understanding of Latin American history.

There are over 90 photos and a section of full-color inserts to enhance and enrich the learning experience for the reader. Each photo was specifically chosen to depict the richness of Latin American history.

Each of the five major sections in this textbook are preceded by an introduction to give the reader a sense of the flow of events and their significance in the chapters that follow.

A bibliography of the most up-to-date works is included at the end of each of the five parts, and a general bibliography is included at the back of the book. These works provide students with a place to begin research on individual topics suggested by the more general treatment afforded in the text.

Acknowledgments

We would like to thank the following people for their assistance in the making of this textbook. The idea germinated on a train ride from Manchester to London in the spring of 1982 when William Sherman and Lawrence Clayton talked about a textbook in the style of the one you have before you as “long overdue” in Latin American history. Sherman was to contribute the colonial section, which he began but never was able to finish. We owe Bill Sherman an immense debt of gratitude for giving us a standard of readable, exciting prose—especially as evidenced in the widely read text of Mexican history that he co-authored with Michael Meyer.

At Harcourt Brace, Drake Bush, former history acquisitions editor, encouraged us over the years to keep at it. He never lagged in his enthusiasm for the project and we thank him with much warm feeling. His successor, David Tatom, was equally encouraging in the latter stages of the work. Laurie Runion, developmental editor, organized us and led us to the final stages, while Laura Hanna, senior project editor, Linda McMillan, production manager, Vicki Whistler, art director, and John Ritland, text designer, shepherded the book through production.

Along the way, a number of colleagues read the manuscript or helped in other ways, and we are immensely grateful to them. They include Ximena Sosa-Buchholz, Sandra McGee Deutsch, William P. McGreevey, Pamela Murray, Carleen Payne, Samuel Brunk, Paul J. Dosal, Marshall C. Eakin, and Ralph Lee Woodward, Jr., Felix Angel, Barbara Tenenbaum, Alan LeBaron, Lyman Johnson, Maria Christina Maldonado, and George Ortiz Sotelo.

While this textbook is principally concerned with the founding and evolution of the Latin American nations from the Wars of Independence to the present, we need to reach back and examine the history of the region before then to appreciate fully how things became the way they were. Nothing left a deeper imprint on the early history of Latin American civilization than the conquest, and for this we turn to a moment in 1532 on the north coast of Peru.

A History of Modern Latin America

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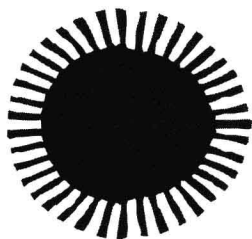
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Colonial Prologue

Atahualpa and Pizarro

It was November in the year of our Lord 1532. Earlier Francisco Pizarro had founded a community, San Miguel de Piura, on the coast, and now the small Spanish expedition that Pizarro commanded, 62 horsemen and 106 foot soldiers, marched south and east, deeper and deeper into the heart of the Inca empire toward the city of Cajamarca.

There the Inca Emperor Atahualpa was camped outside the city. Atahualpa had just triumphed in a bloody civil war against his brother Huascar for dominion of the immense Inca empire. The Tihuantisuyo. The Four Corners of the Earth. It stretched from Ecuador in the north to central Chile far to the south.

On November 15, the Spanish force entered Cajamarca. Atahualpa, surrounded and served by thousands of warriors, noblemen, women, and courtiers, stayed in his camp outside the city. A small troop of Spaniards approached Atahualpa. Hernando Pizarro, brother of Francisco, said, "Our governor would be delighted for you to visit him." Fearing nothing from these few, although exotic, strangers, Atahualpa agreed.

November 16, 1532. Atahualpa and a lightly armed retinue of five or six thousand noblemen and warriors slowly moved toward Cajamarca. Pizarro's army, a pitifully small army by comparison, was arrayed for an ambush, hidden in the buildings surrounding the central courtyard. Outside the city, the Indians seemed to fill every space as they joined Atahualpa's procession.

"Are you afraid?" young Pedro Pizarro, brother to Francisco, asked an even younger soldier standing next to him in the shadows. The soldier shuddered involuntarily. "No!" he snapped and then quickly followed, "Yes, by God, aren't you? They sound like a swarm of bees out there," he said, gesturing toward the entrance to the city.

"Yes, Bernardo," Pedro said. "But commend your soul to God. He will see us through." Pedro Pizarro crossed himself, and so did his companion. It fortified them. God would not allow Christians to be overcome by pagans.