

third  
edition



DAVID L. CLAWSON

# Latin America & the Caribbean

LANDS AND PEOPLES

THE MCGRAW-HILL COMPANIES  
FOR DONATION ONLY  
NOT FOR RESALE

09-ASA-005

MCGRAW-HILL EDUCATION

THE MCGRAW-HILL COMPANIES  
FOR DONATION ONLY  
NOT FOR RESALE



# Latin America & the Caribbean

---

L A N D S   A N D   P E O P L E S

*third edition*

DAVID L. CLAWSON

*University of New Orleans*



**Higher Education**

Boston Burr Ridge, IL Dubuque, IA Madison, WI New York San Francisco St. Louis  
Bangkok Bogotá Caracas Kuala Lumpur Lisbon London Madrid Mexico City  
Milan Montreal New Delhi Santiago Seoul Singapore Sydney Taipei Toronto

LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN: LANDS AND PEOPLES  
THIRD EDITION

Published by McGraw-Hill, a business unit of The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc., 1221 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10020. Copyright © 2004, 2000, 1997 by The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means, or stored in a database or retrieval system, without the prior written consent of The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc., including, but not limited to, in any network or other electronic storage or transmission, or broadcast for distance learning.

Some ancillaries, including electronic and print components, may not be available to customers outside the United States.



This book is printed on recycled, acid-free paper containing 10% postconsumer waste.

2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 QPD/QPD 0 9 8 7 6 5 4

ISBN 0-07-252144-9

Publisher: *Margaret J. Kemp*  
Sponsoring editor: *Thomas C. Lyon*  
Developmental editor: *Fran Schreiber*  
Executive marketing manager: *Lisa L. Gottschalk*  
Lead project manager: *Joyce M. Berendes*  
Production supervisor: *Sherry L. Kane*  
Coordinator of freelance design: *Michelle D. Whitaker*  
Cover designer: *Kaye Farmer*  
Lead photo research coordinator: *Carrie K. Burger*  
Compositor: *Shepherd-Imagineering Media Services, Inc.*  
Typeface: *10/12 New Caledonia*  
Printer: *Quebecor World Dubuque, IA*

**Cover Images**

Main and back cover images: *Colonial era Roman Catholic church of Campeche, Mexico, at sunset.*

© *David L. Clawson*

Inset image: *Highland market woman, Saquisilí, Ecuador.* © *Oscar H. Horst*

Bottom image: *Iguaçu (Iguazú) Falls, Paraná River, near the junction of Brazil, Argentina, and Paraguay.*

© *Oscar H. Horst*

The credits section for this book begins on page C-1 and is considered an extension of the copyright page.

**Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data**

Clawson, David L. (David Leslie), 1948–

Latin America & the Caribbean : lands and peoples / David L. Clawson. —  
3rd ed.

p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 0-07-252144-9 (hard copy : alk. paper)

1. Latin America. 2. Caribbean Area. I. Title: Latin America and the Caribbean. II. Title.

F1408.C62 2004

980—dc21

2002155766

CIP

*This book is dedicated to Margaret  
and our five children,  
Elizabeth, Ernest, Emma, Mary, and John*

# PREFACE

This book has been written primarily as a geography of Latin America and the Caribbean, but is also intended to serve as an interdisciplinary introduction to the region. Latin America and the Caribbean are extremely diverse in their physical attributes. Massive mountain ranges, many of them among the highest and least accessible in the world, are set among enormous lowland plains on the continental mainland while tiny islands dot the Caribbean Sea. Virtually every climate, vegetative association, and soil type found on the earth are present to one degree or another. Cultural diversity also abounds. Economic activities range from traditional slash and burn agriculture to modern, high-technology manufacturing. Almost every racial and ethnic group and political and philosophical persuasion are represented among its peoples. Human settlements vary from remote peasant villages to huge urban agglomerations containing neighborhoods that range from palatial mansions to inner city tenements and peripheral shantytowns.

Yet, beneath this external diversity, there exists a dominant Hispanic cultural heritage whose values and institutions have shaped much of human behavior throughout the region for over 500 years. Although some economic and social subgroups have embraced this heritage more fully than others, it is these values and institutions that have made Latin America a distinct culture realm. This text has been written with the intent of enabling the reader to recognize and appreciate both the diversity and the unity of Latin America and the Caribbean.

## ORGANIZATION

The material is organized topically rather than regionally. One of the principal advantages of a thematic approach is its capacity to place current developments in their historical contexts, enabling the reader to know not only what things are like, but how they came to be that way. This understanding, in turn, prepares the student to evaluate the causes and conse-

### Case Study 4.1: Biodiversity and the Tropical Rain Forest

The term "biodiversity" is often used to refer to the number of life forms, be they plant or animal, that exist in a given area. Biodiversity is important to the stability of an ecosystem because, all else being equal, the greater the number of species and varieties, the greater the ability of the ecosystem to withstand the loss of some of its members. Various researchers have estimated that somewhere between 4 and 30 million forms of life exist on the earth today and that only 1.5 to 1.8 million of those have been identified to date. As a general rule, the warmer and wetter the environment of a given area, the greater the biodiversity. Two of the most genetically diverse biomes on earth are the coral reefs found in warm, shallow tropical waters and the tropical rain forests.

Scholars believe that approximately half of all life forms existing on the planet today are associated with the tropical rain forests, which are especially rich in flowering plant and insect life. The Amazon Basin contains the largest surviving stand of rain forest vegetation and may be the most genetically diverse rain forest as well. One indication of the incredible diversity of life in Amazonia is found in two recent studies of a single 5.0 square kilometer (1.93 square mile) section of the Manu Biosphere Reserve of southeastern Peru where researchers identified over 5,000 species of plants and animals. These included 1,147 species of vascular plants, 244 species of mosses and liverworts, 117 species of mammals, 415 species of birds, 128 species of reptiles and amphibians, 210 species of fish, and 2,935 species of insects and spiders (Wilson and Sandoval 1996;

Dallmeir, Kabel, and Foster 1996). As amazing as the findings were, the investigators estimated that the remainder of the reserve contains five to ten times the number of species found in the small study site.

Just as the tropical rain forest exhibits an immense collective array of life, it also varies greatly in its vegetative composition from one microregion to another. These variations can be reflections of minute differences in physical habitats, such as underlying landforms, soil moisture and nutrient levels, rainfall, and exposure to sunlight, as well as diverse human uses of the natural environment (Jain 2000; Mazer 1996). This, in turn, suggests that conservation measures will succeed only if large tracts of land can be set aside as forest preserves. The varied genetic makeup also helps us understand why large-scale monoculture, or the cultivation of a single crop over a wide area, is environmentally incompatible with the rain forest biome. Yet the Amazonian rain forests have been cut and burned recently at a rate equivalent to an area the size of Belgium each year. As a result of the destruction of the Amazonian rain forests, and others in Latin America, Africa, Asia, and Australia, the earth is losing an estimated 4,000 to 6,000 species annually (Wilson 1989).

Why are so many people so concerned about the genetic erosion currently under way? The answers are varied but fall into two general categories. The first is that the genetic erosion results in the loss of invaluable medicinal and otherwise economically useful products (Mittermeir and Konstant 2001; Calderon et al. 2000;

Plotkin 1988). To use medicinal substances as one example, it is estimated that only 12.5 percent of all medicinal drugs potentially available from rain forest plants have been discovered to date (Mendelsohn and Balick 1995). Derivatives from just one of these, the rosy periwinkle, offer a 99 percent chance of remission for victims of lymphocytic leukemia and a 58 percent chance of recovery from Hodgkin's disease. Quinine, an alkaloid derived from the bark of cinchona trees, is used to prevent and treat malaria. Numerous other rain forest substances are used to treat illnesses ranging from heart, eye, and neurological disorders to sickle-cell anemia, Parkinson's disease, and bacterial infections (Posey 2000; Chivian 1997; Wilson 1992). As rain forest species become extinct, we are risking the loss of an incalculable number of medicinal cures and treatments without even realizing what we have forfeited. Other species are of considerable potential worth for use as fuels, fibers, foods, and industrial compounds.

Perhaps an equally compelling argument for maintaining biodiversity is that each species is irreplaceable and, as such, represents a small portion of our earthly heritage—in a sense, the loss of any species is a loss of part of ourselves. In spite of all our technological knowledge, we do not yet have, and may never have, the capacity to create a single new species of life. For these reasons, concerned individuals and institutions from the Amazon Basin nations and elsewhere are endeavoring to develop programs and strategies that will help to stem the loss of biodiversity within the region.



quences of change, be it the loss of biodiversity within lands formerly covered by tropical rain forest or such cultural issues as the plight of street children and the evolving status of women.

The text is designed for maximum flexibility. Written to be readable for beginning students, it is also generously documented with scholarly references for the research needs of advanced undergraduate and graduate students. The individual chapters can be used in all or in part and in any order. The volume is suitable to either single term or multiterm courses.

## PEDAGOGY

The focus of this text is on comprehension of concepts, patterns, and issues rather than on memorization of facts and figures. The latter are provided, but they are intended primarily to illustrate the underlying conditions rather than to serve as the focus of the text. Two pedagogical tools that have been employed to accomplish this objective are highlighted key terms and case studies. The maps and photographs are intended to promote a deeper understanding of the Latin American way of life and its regional expressions.



FIGURE 8.10

Literacy rates (percentage) in Latin American and Caribbean nations.

Source: United Nations Statistical Yearbook 1998/2001, 73-74.

## CHANGES AND ADDITIONS FOR THIRD EDITION

The text has been thoroughly updated for the third edition. New and updated topics include the devastating El Salvador earthquakes of 2001, the on-going loss of Latin America's irreplaceable biodiversity, the changing economic and cultural parameters of the South American drug trade, the hidden costs of corruption, and the evolving status of women throughout the region. Political conditions for each nation have been updated along with the impacts of International Monetary Fund structural reforms. Patterns of population growth, urban and rural landuse, and international migration are each addressed, as well as human development indicators, social class structure, and the growth of charismatic Protestantism and Catholic liberation theology. Treatments of human health and well-being focus on advances in nutrition, improved water supplies and health care, increasing human life expectancies, and the ominous resurgence of malaria, dengue fever, and other debilitating diseases of the tropical lowlands. The maps and graphs have been expanded and updated to reflect the latest available data, and additional photographs have been added to enable the reader to gain a greater feeling for how the people live.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

As in the first two editions, I am indebted to my wife Margaret, who is not only an inspiration but who also functions as typist, editor, and critic. I would also like to acknowledge my Latin Americanist colleagues and students in geography and its allied disciplines for the things they have taught me.

The following have given generously of their slides and photographs for the production of this text:

Delwin L. Clawson  
Alexander Coles  
*Tulane University*  
Cyrus B. Dawsey  
*Auburn University*  
John W. DeWitt  
*Radford University*  
Oscar H. Horst  
*Western Michigan University*  
Robert L. Layton  
*Brigham Young University*  
Charles M. Nissly  
*Millersville University*  
Kally Marie Ray Squires  
Christoph Stadel  
*University of Salzburg, Austria*  
Peter H. Yaukey  
*University of New Orleans*

Thanks is also given to the following individuals who have reviewed one of the editions:

Jorge A. Brea  
*Central Michigan University*  
Alexander Coles  
*Tulane University*  
William V. Davidson  
*Louisiana State University*  
Cyrus B. Dawsey  
*Auburn University*  
John W. DeWitt  
*Radford University*  
Richard Ethorne  
*Northern Michigan University*  
Gary S. Elbow  
*Texas Tech University*  
Daniel W. Gade  
*University of Vermont*  
Jerry D. Gerlach  
*Winona State University*  
Charles Gildersleeve  
*University of Nebraska at Omaha*  
Linda Greenow  
*State University of New York, New Paltz*  
Charles F. Gritzner  
*South Dakota State University*  
Dennis G. Gruwell  
*a physician practicing in New Orleans, Louisiana*  
Lawrence M. Harmon  
Oscar H. Horst  
*Western Michigan University*  
Merrill L. Johnson  
*University of New Orleans*  
Gregory V. Jones  
*Southern Oregon University*  
Gregory W. Knapp  
*University of Texas, Austin*  
Elizabeth M. Larson  
*Arizona Humanities Council*  
Joseph S. Leeper  
*Humboldt State University*  
James Loucky  
*Western Washington University*  
Colin M. MacLachlan  
*Tulane University*  
Ines M. Miyares  
*Hunter College-CUNY*  
Charles M. Nissly  
*Millersville University*  
Samuel M. Otterstrom  
*Brigham Young University*  
David J. Robinson  
*Syracuse University*  
Kathleen Schroeder  
*Appalachian State University*

# CONTENTS

.....

*List of Maps* xi  
*List of Tables* xii  
*Preface* xv

## Chapter 1 The Changing Face of Latin America and the Caribbean 1

GEOGRAPHY AND REGIONAL STUDIES 6  
DELIMITING LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN 6  
LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN SUBREGIONS 8  
  
KEY TERMS 12  
SUGGESTED READINGS 12

## *Part I*

## PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY 13

### Chapter 2 Landform Regions of Latin America and the Caribbean 14

THE EASTERN HIGHLANDS 14  
THE CENTRAL LOWLANDS 20  
THE WESTERN ALPINE SYSTEM 22  
    Recent Earthquake and Volcanic Activity 23  
    Physiographic Regions of the Andes 24  
CASE STUDY 2.1: THE EL SALVADOR EARTHQUAKES 25  
    Physiographic Regions of Central America 34  
    Physiographic Regions of Mexico and the Caribbean 34  
  
SUMMARY 44  
KEY TERMS 44  
SUGGESTED READINGS 44

### Chapter 3 Weather and Climate 46

CONTROLS OF CLIMATE 46  
    Temperature 46  
    Altitude 46

*Ocean Currents* 51  
    *Latitude* 53  
    *Precipitation* 53  
    *Continentality* 54  
    *Atmospheric Pressure Belts* 54  
    *Prevailing Winds and Orographic Effects* 56  
HURRICANES 62  
CASE STUDY 3.1: HURRICANE MITCH 66  
  
SUMMARY 68  
KEY TERMS 68  
SUGGESTED READINGS 68

### Chapter 4 Natural Regions 70

TROPICAL RAIN FOREST 70  
CASE STUDY 4.1: BIODIVERSITY AND THE TROPICAL RAIN  
    FOREST 75  
TROPICAL AND TEMPERATE SAVANNA 76  
DESERT 78  
STEPPE 80  
HUMID SUBTROPICAL 82  
MEDITERRANEAN 83  
MARINE WEST COAST RAIN FOREST 83  
HIGHLAND 84  
  
SUMMARY 86  
KEY TERMS 87  
SUGGESTED READINGS 87

## *Part II*

## CULTURAL PATTERNS 89

### Chapter 5 Iberian Heritage, Conquest, and Institutions 90

LATIN AMERICA'S ROMAN HERITAGE 90  
ISLAM IN IBERIA 91  
SPANISH RESPONSES TO ISLAMIC RULE 92  
THE SPANISH RECONQUEST 94



## THE CONQUEST AND SETTLEMENT OF LATIN AMERICA 94

Mexico and Central America 97

South America 98

## THE COLONIAL ERA 102

The Mercantile System 104

The Encomienda System 104

Decline of Spanish Influence in the Greater Caribbean Basin 105

Peninsular-Creole Divisions 106

## INDEPENDENCE AND THE REPUBLICAN PERIOD 107

Conservative-Liberal Schisms 108

Caudillismo 109

## POLITICAL MATURATION IN THE LATE TWENTIETH CENTURY 110

SUMMARY 111

KEY TERMS 111

SUGGESTED READINGS 112

Chapter 6  
Political Change 114

## MEXICO 114

## CENTRAL AMERICA 115

Guatemala 115

Belize 116

Honduras 117

El Salvador 117

Nicaragua 118

Costa Rica 119

Panama 119

## THE GREATER ANTILLES 120

Cuba 120

Jamaica 121

Haiti 122

Dominican Republic 122

Puerto Rico 123

## ANDEAN SOUTH AMERICA 123

Venezuela 124

Colombia 125

Ecuador 126

Peru 126

CASE STUDY 6.1: COLOMBIA'S VIOLENT  
DRUG WAR 127

Bolivia 130

## SOUTHERN SOUTH AMERICA 131

Chile 131

Paraguay 132

Argentina 133

Uruguay 134

Brazil 135

## THE GUIANAS 137

Guyana 137

Suriname 138

French Guiana 138

SUMMARY 139

KEY TERMS 139

SUGGESTED READINGS 139

Chapter 7  
Race, Ethnicity, and Social Class 141NATIVE POPULATION LEVELS AT THE TIME  
OF THE CONQUEST 141NATIVE AMERICAN CIVILIZATIONS ON THE EVE  
OF THE CONQUEST 142

Western Highland Peoples 143

*The Aztecs* 145*The Maya* 146*The Chibcha* 148*The Inca* 148

## CASE STUDY 7.1: NATIVE ANIMALS OF THE ANDES 150

*The Southern Andean Indians* 151

Eastern Lowland Peoples 152

*The Southern Hunters* 152*The Tropical Forest Dwellers* 152

Common Indian Traits 153

Impacts of European Conquest and Settlement 153

Causes of Indian Depopulation 154

Aftermath of the Conquest 156

## BLACKS IN THE NEW WORLD 156

Antecedents of Latin American Black Slavery 156

The African Slave Trade 157

Living Conditions in the New World 157

Forms of Slave Resistance 159

Abolition 159

## CASE STUDY 7.2: MAROON SOCIETIES IN LATIN AMERICA 159

## EAST ASIANS IN THE CARIBBEAN 160

## RACIAL MIXING 161

The Evolution of Social Races 161

## RACIAL WHITENING 163

## RACISM AND ITS RAMIFICATIONS 164

CASE STUDY 7.3: INDIAN HOMELANDS AND THE MESOAMERICAN  
BIOLOGICAL CORRIDOR 167

## CURRENT RACIAL PATTERNS 167

Mexico and Central America 169

South America 169

The Caribbean 170

SUMMARY 170

KEY TERMS 171

SUGGESTED READINGS 171

Chapter 8  
Latin America as a Culture Region 173

## HONOR AND SHAME: INDIVIDUAL IDENTITY AND SELF-WORTH 173

*Machismo* 173*Marianismo* 174

Sex, Reproduction, and Honor 174

PERSONALISMO	175
CASE STUDY 8.1: THE HIDDEN COSTS OF CORRUPTION	177
SOCIOECONOMIC CLASSES	177
The Upper Class	179
CASE STUDY 8.2: THE PERPETUATION OF OLIGARCHICAL POWER IN A CENTRAL AMERICAN NATION	181
The Middle Class	181
The Lower Class	182
CONSEQUENCES OF SOCIAL RIGIDITY	183
Fatalism and Luck	183
Dual Educational Systems	184
FAMILY LIFE	186
Street Children	187
POSSIBLE RESPONSES	188
Status of Women	189
CASE STUDY 8.3: WOMEN AND THE INFORMAL ECONOMIC SECTOR	190
OTHER ELEMENTS OF CULTURE	194
Literature and Poetry	194
Architecture, Painting, and Sculpture	195
Music	197
Sports	198
Mass Media and Tempo of Living	199
SUMMARY	199
KEY TERMS	200
SUGGESTED READINGS	200

## Chapter 9 Religion 202

RELIGIOUS PRACTICE IN INDIGENOUS AMERICA	202
MEDIEVAL IBERIAN CATHOLICISM ON THE EVE OF THE CONQUEST	203
THE SPIRITUAL CONQUEST OF THE NEW WORLD	204
RELIGIOUS SYNCRETISM	206
Marianism and the Cult of the Virgin Mother	207
CASE STUDY 9.1: CUZCO'S LORD OF THE EARTHQUAKES	210
Challenges to Colonial Catholicism	210
THE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL POWER OF THE CHURCH IN THE COLONIAL AND REPUBLICAN PERIODS	211
THE CURRENT STATUS OF LATIN AMERICAN CATHOLICISM	212
Subtypes of Latin American Catholicism	213
Forms of African Folk Catholicism	217
CASE STUDY 9.2: JAMAICAN RASTAFARIANISM	219
NON-CATHOLIC FAITHS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN	220
Hinduism and Islam	220
Judaism	221
Protestantism	221
CASE STUDY 9.3: VENTA PRIETA: A JEWISH COMMUNITY IN MEXICO	222
Characteristics of and Challenges to Latin American Protestantism	223
The Catholic Counter-Reformation	227
SUMMARY	229
KEY TERMS	229
SUGGESTED READINGS	229

## Part III ECONOMIC PATTERNS 233

### Chapter 10 Agriculture and Agrarian Development 234

IMPACT OF THE EUROPEAN CONQUEST	235
CASE STUDY 10.1: WARU WARU AGRICULTURE	235
ENCLAVE ECONOMIES	237
Haciendas	237
Estancias	238
Plantations	238
Sugar Cane in the Caribbean	239
Coffee in Colombia, Central America, and Brazil	241
Bananas in Central America and Ecuador	242
The Plantation Controversy	243
SMALLHOLDER AGRICULTURE	244
Common Attributes of Smallholder Agriculturists	244
Slash and Burn Agriculture	247
Peasant Agriculture	249
AGRARIAN REFORM	250
New Land Colonization	252
AGRICULTURAL MODERNIZATION	253
EXPANSION OF COMMERCIAL AGRICULTURE	255
Plant Crop Production	255
Animal Husbandry	257
Tree Farming	258
Fishing	260
CASE STUDY 10.2: HARVEST STRIP FORESTRY	261
Narcotic Drug Production	262
SUMMARY	263
KEY TERMS	264
SUGGESTED READINGS	264

### Chapter 11 Mining, Manufacturing, and Tourism 267

PRE-CONQUEST MINING AND MANUFACTURING	267
MINING AND MANUFACTURING IN COLONIAL LATIN AMERICA	267
Silver Mining	268
Impact of Amalgamation	270
Labor Supply	271
Gold and Diamond Mining in Colonial Brazil	272
Other Colonial Mining Centers	273
Impacts of Mining	273
MANUFACTURING IN COLONIAL LATIN AMERICA	273
CASE STUDY 11.1: MINING AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN COLONIAL LATIN AMERICA	274
MINING AND MANUFACTURING DURING THE EARLY REPUBLICAN PERIOD	275
BEGINNINGS OF MODERN MANUFACTURING	275
CASE STUDY 11.2: "BIG BILL" GREENE AND AMERICAN INDUSTRIALIZATION IN NORTHERN MEXICO	276
THE GREAT DEPRESSION AND IMPORT SUBSTITUTION INDUSTRIALIZATION	277

GROWTH POLES AND THE SPATIAL CONCENTRATION OF INDUSTRY	279
Chile and the Arica Automobile Manufacturing Experiment	280
Brazil: Large-Scale Regional Development and Underdevelopment	281
Venezuela: Growth Pole Development in a Frontier Setting	281
STATE OWNERSHIP AND PRIVATIZATION	283
EXPORT PROMOTION MANUFACTURING: AN ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT MODEL	286
Puerto Rico's Operation Bootstrap	286
The Mexican <i>Maquiladora</i> Industry	287
Other Export Promotion Initiatives	288
CASE STUDY 11.3: OFFSHORE CARIBBEAN FINANCIAL SERVICES INDUSTRIES	289
CURRENT INDUSTRIALIZATION PATTERNS	290
CURRENT MINING DEVELOPMENTS	290
ENERGY RESERVES AND DEVELOPMENT	295
Hydroelectric Power Generation	296
Renewable Organic Fuels	296
TOURISM	298
SUMMARY	301
KEY TERMS	302
SUGGESTED READINGS	302

## Chapter 12 Urbanization, Population Growth, and Migration 305

NATIVE AMERICAN URBANIZATION	305
COLONIAL EUROPEAN SETTLEMENT	306
Colonial Urban Primacy	310
Functional Classification of Cities	310
Morphology of the Colonial City	313
Settlement in Portuguese America	315
Rural Settlements	317
Late Colonial Population Levels	318
THE REPUBLICAN PERIOD	318
CASE STUDY 12.1: CONFEDERATE SETTLEMENTS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN	321
THE TWENTIETH CENTURY	321
The Demographic Transition Model	323
Urbanization	324
City Size in the Modern Era	328
Urban Primacy	330
MORPHOLOGY OF THE MODERN CITY	333
The Inner City: Zone of Commercial High-Rises and Low Income Tenements	334
CASE STUDY 12.2: SOCIAL EXPRESSIONS OF THE LATIN AMERICAN PLAZA	335
Peripheral Squatter Settlements	336
Urban Population Densities	338
NEW CITIES	338
CASE STUDY 12.3: PLANNED SQUATTER SETTLEMENT INVASIONS	339
MIGRATION	341
Interregional Flows	342
Migration between Latin American and Caribbean Countries	342

Migration to Europe and Anglo America	342
Political Refugees	345
The Brain Drain	345
Remittances	346
CONCLUSIONS: ARE LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN OVERPOPULATED?	346
KEY TERMS	349
SUGGESTED READINGS	349

## Chapter 13 Development and Health 353

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND UNDERDEVELOPMENT DURING THE COLONIAL AND REPUBLICAN PERIODS	354
The International Financial Cycle	356
Recurring Economic Crises	356
THE LOST DECADE	357
Foreign Indebtedness	357
Inflation	357
Currency Devaluation	358
Economic Stagnation and Human Suffering	360
FISCAL RESTRUCTURING AND AUSTERITY	361
CASE STUDY 13.1: IMF AUSTERITY MEASURES AND CIVIL UNREST IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN	363
THE FOUND DECADE	363
CASE STUDY 13.2: STRUCTURAL REFORM AND ARGENTINE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL TURMOIL	364
REGIONAL AND SUBREGIONAL ECONOMIC UNIONS	366
Central American Common Market	366
Andean Community	368
Caribbean Community	368
Southern Cone Common Market	368
North American Free Trade Association	368
Free Trade Area of the Americas	369
HEALTH AND NUTRITIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN	369
Provision of Clean Water and Sewage Treatment	370
CASE STUDY 13.3: THE LATIN AMERICAN CHOLERA EPIDEMIC	372
Food and Nutrition	374
Access to Health Care	377
HEALTH AND THE PHYSICAL-CULTURAL ENVIRONMENT	378
Tropical Lowlands	380
Highlands	382
Urban Centers	383
CASE STUDY 13.4: ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH IN MEXICO CITY	384
Rural Regions	385
SUMMARY	387
KEY TERMS	387
SUGGESTED READINGS	388

GLOSSARY	G-1
CREDITS	C-1
INDEX	I-1

# LIST OF MAPS

---

- Figure 1.12** Cultural core and fringe areas of Latin America 7
- Figure 1.14** Latin American and Caribbean subregions 9
- Figure 1.15** Eastern Middle America and the Caribbean Islands 11
- Figure 2.1** Structural zones of South America 15
- Figure 2.2** Physiographic provinces of South America 16
- Figure 2.16** Tectonic plates of Latin America 24
- Figure 2.31** Physiographic diagram (provinces) of North America 35
- Figure 2.32** Western Central America 36
- Figure 2.33** Eastern Central America 37
- Figure 2.47** Outer and Inner Arc Islands of the Lesser Antilles 43
- Figure 3.13** Latin American ocean currents 52
- Figure 3.15** Atmospheric pressure belts and idealized seasonal precipitation in Latin America 55
- Figure 3.16** Hypothetical pressure-driven wind patterns of Latin America 57
- Figure 3.17** Actual prevailing winds of Latin America 58
- Figure 3.23** Dominican Republic hurricanes: 1870–2001 64
- Figure 4.1** Natural regions of (a) South America and (b) Middle America 71
- Figure 5.3** Columbus' voyages to the New World 96
- Figure 5.8** Exploration and conquest of Latin America 99
- Figure 5.11** *Capitanias* of sixteenth-century Brazil 102
- Figure 5.12** Viceroyalties of colonial Latin America 103
- Figure 6.13** South American boundary changes in the republican period 128
- Figure 7.2** Pre-Columbian Indian populations on the eve of the European Conquest 144
- Figure 7.26** Generalized racial patterns of Latin America 168
- Figure 8.10** Literacy rates (percentage) in Latin American and Caribbean nations 185
- Figure 8.15** Status of Latin American and Caribbean women 191
- Figure 9.11** Latin American Catholic subtypes 215
- Figure 9.14** Generalized distribution of Brazilian forms of African Folk Catholicism 218
- Figure 9.17** Protestant percentage of population 226
- Figure 11.1** Principal mining and manufacturing centers of colonial Latin America 269
- Figure 11.7** Principal industrial regions of early twentieth-century Latin America 278
- Figure 11.9** Regional development agencies of northern Brazil 282
- Figure 11.11** Ciudad Guyana regional development 284
- Figure 11.14** Leading industrial regions of modern Latin America and the Caribbean 291
- Figure 11.19** Leading mining zones of modern Latin America and the Caribbean 294
- Figure 12.1** Major pre-Hispanic urban centers 307
- Figure 12.2** Leading urban centers of early colonial Latin America 309
- Figure 12.12** Leading urban centers of late colonial Latin America 320
- Figure 12.15** Regional patterns of population natural increase 326
- Figure 12.17** Regional patterns of urbanization 329
- Figure 12.18** Leading urban centers and emerging megalopoli: early twenty-first century 331
- Figure 12.31** Principal Latin American and Caribbean migration flows 343
- Figure 13.1** Human Development index rankings of Latin American and Caribbean nations, by quartiles of world rankings: 2002 355

**Figure 13.2** Gross national income purchasing  
power parity per capita: 2000 365  
**Figure 13.3** Regional economic unions and trading  
groups 367  
**Figure 13.5** Life expectancy at birth 371  
**Figure 13.7** Caloric intake per capita per day 376

**Figure 13.9** Malaria cases per 100,000 persons 379  
**Figure 13.11** Distribution of dengue fever 381  
**Figure 13.12** Distribution of Chagas' Disease 381  
**Figure 13.14** Remaining areas where river  
blindness is endemic 382

# LIST OF TABLES

---

- Table 1.1** Nations and Territories of Middle and South America 10
- Table 2.1** Selected Recent Volcanic Eruptions in Latin America 26
- Table 2.2** Recent Catastrophic Earthquakes in Latin America 27
- Table 3.1** Orographic Precipitation Regions of Latin America 60
- Table 3.2** Rating Scales of Tropical Cyclones 63
- Table 3.3** Recent Major Caribbean Hurricanes 65
- Table 4.1** Tropical Rain Forest Biomes 72
- Table 4.2** Tropical and Temperate Savanna Biomes 77
- Table 4.3** Desert Biomes 79
- Table 4.4** Steppe Biomes 81
- Table 4.5** Humid Subtropical Biomes 82
- Table 4.6** Mediterranean Biomes 83
- Table 4.7** Marine West Coast Rain Forest Biomes 84
- Table 4.8** Highland Biomes 85
- Table 5.1** Forms of *Caudillismo* 109
- Table 5.2** Overt United States Military Invasions/Occupations of Middle American Nations 111
- Table 7.1** Estimates of the Aboriginal Population of Latin America and the Caribbean on the Eve of the European Conquest 142
- Table 7.2** Selected Crops Domesticated by Native American Indians Prior to 1492 143
- Table 7.3** Food Animals of Lowland Latin America 152
- Table 7.4** Post-Conquest Population Loss on Mainland Latin America 154
- Table 7.5** Growth of Free Black Populations in Latin America 158
- Table 7.6** Estimated Slave Imports into Latin America and the Caribbean 160
- Table 7.7** Black and White Demographic Patterns in Nineteenth-Century Buenos Aires, Argentina 165
- Table 8.1** Percentage Share of Household Income by Percentile Group of Households 179
- Table 8.2** Size of Land Holdings in Juazeiro and Petrolina, Northeast Brazil 180
- Table 8.3** Social Class Membership in Juazeiro and Petrolina, Northeast Brazil 180
- Table 8.4** Divorce Rates in Latin and Anglo America 187
- Table 8.5** Women in National Governments 192
- Table 8.6** Gender-Based Wage Gaps 193
- Table 8.7** Labor Force Participation in the Dominican Republic 194
- Table 9.1** Similarities between Iberian Catholicism and Pre-Conquest Aztec Religious Belief and Practice 207
- Table 9.2** Latin American Illegitimacy Rates 213
- Table 9.3** Latin American and Caribbean Jewish Populations 222
- Table 9.4** Protestant Growth in Latin America 225
- Table 9.5** New Ecclesiastical Units Established in the City of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil: 1990–1992 225
- Table 9.6** Ratio of Catholic Priests to Members 228
- Table 10.1** Selected Old World Plants and Animals Introduced by the Spanish and Portuguese into the Americas 236
- Table 10.2** Characteristics of Latin American and Caribbean Plantation Crops 240
- Table 10.3** Plantation Crop Production in Latin America, 1980–2000 245
- Table 10.4** Agrarian Reform in Latin America 251
- Table 10.5** Relationship of Size of Landholding to Proportion of Land Farmed in Latin America and the Caribbean 252
- Table 10.6** Staple Food Crop Production in Latin America, 1980–2000 253
- Table 10.7** Per Capita Food Production in Latin America and the Caribbean 254
- Table 10.8** *Ex Situ* Germplasm Conservation of Human Food Crops in Latin America, 1989–1990 256
- Table 10.9** Commercial Crop Production in Latin America, 1980–2000 256



<b>Table 10.10</b>	Annual Deforestation Rates for Latin American and Caribbean Countries, 2000	259
<b>Table 10.11</b>	Plantation Forestry in Latin America: 1965–1995	260
<b>Table 10.12</b>	Latin American and Caribbean Fish Catches, 1953–2000	262
<b>Table 10.13</b>	Andean Coca and Cocaine Production: 1999	263
<b>Table 11.1</b>	Value of Latin American and Caribbean Privatizations, 1990–1999	285
<b>Table 11.2</b>	Growth of the Mexican <i>Maquiladora</i> Industry	287
<b>Table 11.3</b>	Leading Latin American and Caribbean Manufacturers by Industrial Product Category, 1998	293
<b>Table 11.4</b>	Leading Mineral Producing Nations of Latin America and the Caribbean	295
<b>Table 11.5</b>	International Tourism to Latin America and the Caribbean, 1998	300
<b>Table 12.1</b>	Founding Dates of Leading Latin American and Caribbean Cities	308
<b>Table 12.2</b>	Urban Primacy of <i>Vecino</i> Populations in the Early Colonial Era	310
<b>Table 12.3</b>	Functional Categories of Early Colonial Cities	310
<b>Table 12.4</b>	Urban <i>Vecino</i> Populations in 1580 and 1630	312
<b>Table 12.5</b>	National Populations in the Late Colonial and Mid-Republican Eras	319
<b>Table 12.6</b>	Urban Populations in the Late Colonial and Mid-Republican Eras	319
<b>Table 12.7</b>	Latin American and Caribbean Crude Birth, Death, and Population Growth Rates by Decade: 1900–2000	323
<b>Table 12.8</b>	National Birth, Death, and Natural Increase Rates: Early Twenty-First Century	325
<b>Table 12.9</b>	Growth of Urbanization, 1850–2000	327
<b>Table 12.10</b>	Estimates of Metropolitan Area Populations in the Early Twenty-First Century	330

<b>Table 12.11</b>	Urban Primacy in the Early Twenty-First Century	332
<b>Table 12.12</b>	Selected National Names for Shantytowns and Squatter Settlements	337
<b>Table 12.13</b>	Population Densities of Latin American and Non-Latin American Cities	340
<b>Table 12.14</b>	Foreign-Born and Illegal Alien Resident Population of the United States: 2001	344
<b>Table 12.15</b>	National Population Densities in the Early Twenty-First Century	348
<b>Table 13.1</b>	Human Development Index Rankings of Latin American and Caribbean Nations, 2002	354
<b>Table 13.2</b>	Total External Debt and Debt to Gross Domestic Product Ratios, 1970–2000	358
<b>Table 13.3</b>	Latin American and Caribbean Inflation, 1961–2000	359
<b>Table 13.4</b>	Currency Devaluation in Venezuela, 1988–2001	359
<b>Table 13.5</b>	Gross Domestic Product per Capita, 1960–2000	360
<b>Table 13.6</b>	Cost of Food, Clothing, and Rent Indices for Selected Latin American and Caribbean Nations	361
<b>Table 13.7</b>	Gross Domestic Products of Regional Economic Unions	368
<b>Table 13.8</b>	Life Expectancy at Birth by World Region	370
<b>Table 13.9</b>	Proportion of Population with Access to Safe Drinking Water, 1970–2000	370
<b>Table 13.10</b>	Caloric and Protein Intake per Capita per Day, 1970–1997	375
<b>Table 13.11</b>	Health Infrastructure in Latin America and the Caribbean	378
<b>Table 13.12</b>	Prevalence Rates of Symptoms of Respiratory Illness in São Paulo City, Brazil	386
<b>Table 13.13</b>	Rural versus Urban Health Indicators	386
<b>Table 13.14</b>	Rural versus Urban Mortality Rates, Age 4 and Under	387

# The Changing Face of Latin America and the Caribbean

Latin America and the Caribbean form one of the earth's most important and rapidly changing culture realms. Their lands and peoples, regrettably, are also among the least understood. Our perceptions of Latin America are too often shaped by somewhat sensationalized and fragmentary media accounts of distant crises. A day seldom passes, for example, without media reports of political or military strife. Other accounts carry predictions of impending economic ruin, images of physical devastation, and scenes of intense human poverty and deprivation.

These momentary glimpses, while generally accurate in the limited contexts in which they are presented, often convey unintentionally a distorted picture of the daily life of most Latin American and Caribbean peoples. They also communicate little, if any, appreciation of the almost infinitely diverse physical landscapes of the region. They fail, further, to convey an understanding of the centuries-old struggle for human dignity and development that has been waged against both internal and external exploitation.

It is human nature, perhaps, to generalize and oversimplify what we know little about (Goodwin 2003; Pike 1992; Weber 1988). Misconceptions of Latin America abound. Physically, the region is often assumed to be dominated by vast, impenetrable tropical rain forests or by scorching deserts. Those who live in the technologically advanced, more industrialized nations have often thoughtlessly attributed Latin America's collective underdevelopment to a lack of natural resources. Others have speculated that many Latin Americans are poor because the tropical heat makes them lazy and virtually incapable of sustained physical labor. A surprising number still believe that most Latin Americans are illiterate

Indians living simple lives in tiny farming villages that are ruled over by crude military dictators residing in distant capital cities. Yet another misconception is that virtually all Latin Americans are still traditional Roman Catholics who faithfully engage in reassuring rounds of Masses, fiestas, and sacraments throughout their lives.

One of the reasons for the widespread ignorance of Latin America and the Caribbean is the rapidity and intensity with which change has come to the region. While each of these stereotypes has some basis in fact, each is outdated and inaccurate. Tropical rain forests and deserts, for example, are but two of the many environments found in Latin America and the Caribbean (Figures 1.1, 1.2, and 1.3). Contrary to popular perception, Latin American and Caribbean collective underdevelopment has occurred despite the presence of many of the most richly endowed mineral and agricultural regions on earth (Figures 1.4 and 1.5). Those who believe that most Latin Americans are poor because of climatically induced laziness and lethargy ignore both the relatively mild temperatures that characterize much of the region and the common needs and desires of peoples of all climates, cultures, and races to work hard and to provide adequately for themselves and their loved ones. They further fail to recognize that the peoples of all nations and regions are equally capable and industrious when provided proper health care and educational and employment opportunities.

The stereotype that most of the peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean are poor peasant farmers residing in remote villages is countered by the realization that the region is rapidly becoming one of the most urbanized on earth, with many of the world's largest and most environmentally threatened cities (Figure 1.6).



FIGURE 1.1



Tropical rain forest vegetation bordering the Acre River, Amazon Basin, Brazil.

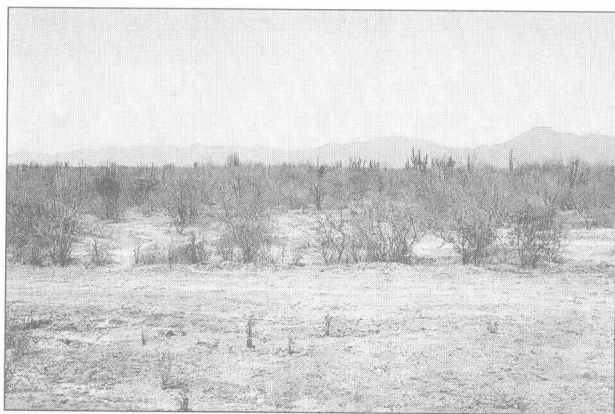


FIGURE 1.2



Desert vegetation in northwestern Mexico.

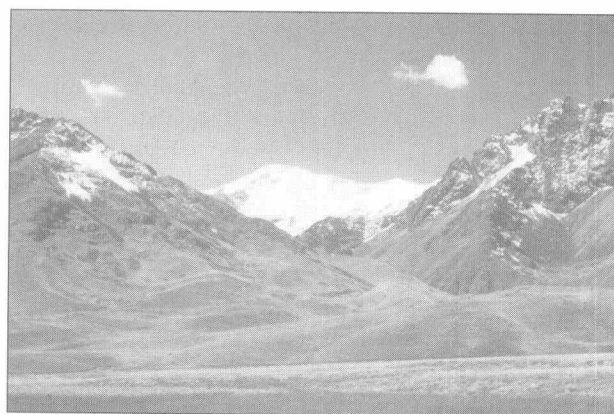


FIGURE 1.3



Highland environment of the central Andes.