

GLOBAL STUDIES

# LATIN AMERICA

SEVENTH EDITION



Mexico • Central America  
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**GLOBAL  STUDIES**

# LATIN AMERICA

**SEVENTH EDITION**

**Dr. Paul Goodwin, Jr.**  
University of Connecticut, Storrs

**Dushkin Publishing Group/Brown & Benchmark Publishers,  
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# Latin America

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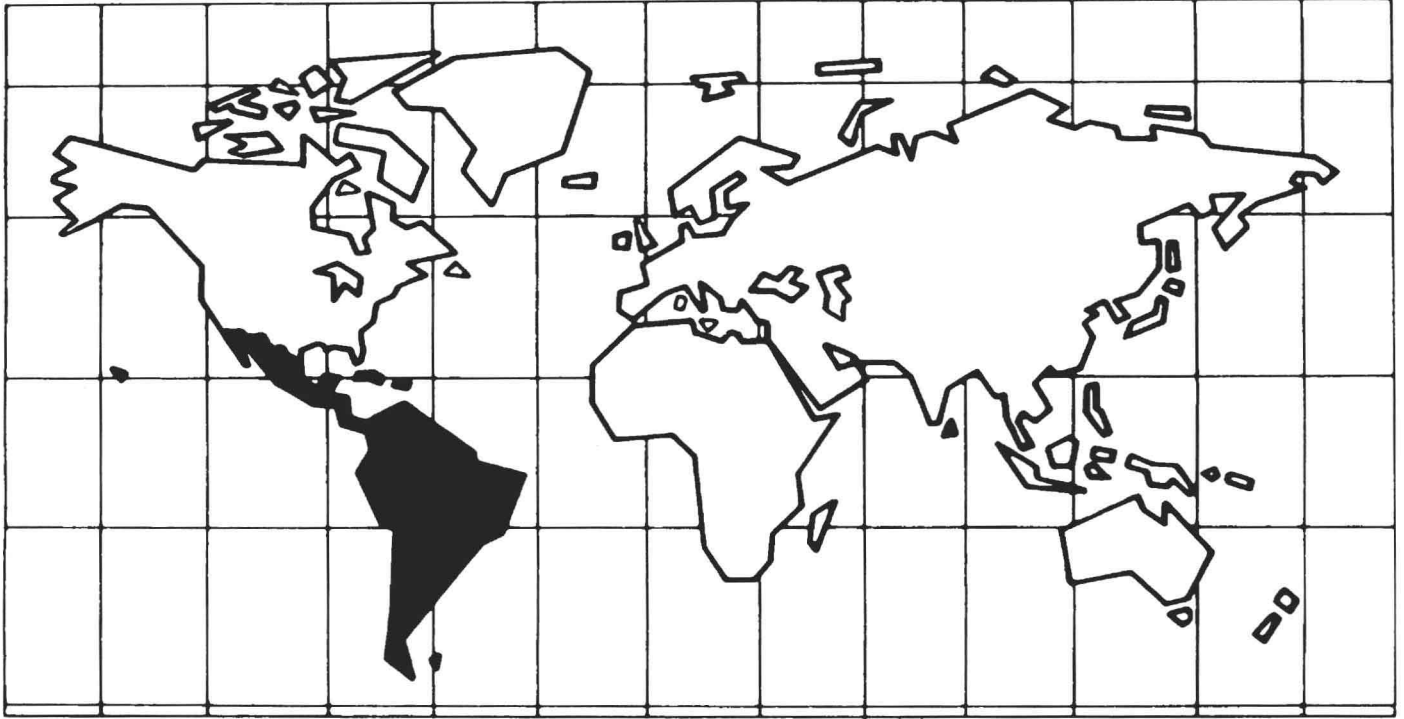
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# Latin America

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The author/editor for *Global Studies: Latin America* is Associate Dean of Arts and Sciences at the University of Connecticut at Storrs. Dr. Goodwin has written, reviewed, and lectured extensively at universities all over the United States and in many other countries. His particular area of interest is modern Argentina and Anglo–Latin American relations. Dr. Goodwin’s work with the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies has included running workshops and mini-courses designed to develop a better understanding of Latin America among educators throughout the United States. Dr. Goodwin contributed numerous articles to the five-volume *Encyclopedia of Latin American History* (Scribner’s, 1995).

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# Introduction

## THE GLOBAL AGE

As we approach the end of the twentieth century, it is clear that the future we face will be considerably more international in nature than was ever believed possible in the past. Each day print and broadcast journalists make us aware that our world is becoming increasingly smaller and substantially more interdependent.

The energy crisis, world food shortages, nuclear proliferation, and regional conflicts in Central America, the Middle East, and other areas that threaten to involve us all make it clear that the distinctions between domestic and foreign problems are all too often artificial—that many seemingly domestic problems no longer stop at national boundaries. As Rene Dubos, the 1969 Pulitzer Prize recipient, stated: “[I]t becomes obvious that each [of us] has two countries, [our] own and planet Earth.” As global interdependence has become a reality, it has become vital for the citizens of this world to develop literacy in global matters.

## THE GLOBAL STUDIES SERIES

It is the aim of the Global Studies series to help readers acquire a basic knowledge and understanding of the regions and countries in the world. Each volume provides a foundation of information—geographic, cultural, economic, political, historical, artistic, and religious—that allows readers to better understand the current and future problems within these countries and regions and to comprehend how events there might affect their own well-being. In short, these volumes provide background information necessary to respond to the realities of our global age.

### Author/Editor

Each of the volumes in the Global Studies series is crafted under the careful direction of an author/editor—an expert in the area under study. The author/editors teach and conduct research and have traveled extensively in the regions about which they are writing.

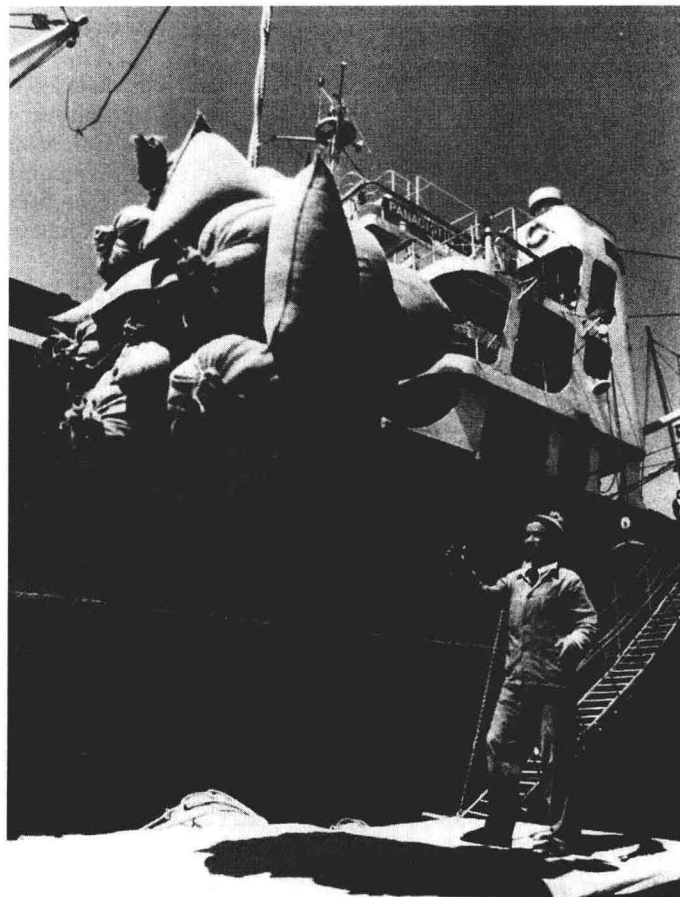
The author/editor of *Global Studies: Latin America, Seventh Edition*, has written the umbrella regional essay introducing the area. He has also written the subregional essays and the country reports. In addition, he has been instrumental in the final selection of the world press articles.

### Contents and Features

The Global Studies volumes are organized to provide concise information and current world press articles on the regions and countries within those areas under study.

#### *Regional and Subregional Essays*

*Global Studies: Latin America, Seventh Edition*, covers Mexico, Central America, South America, and the Caribbean. For each of these subregions, the author/editor has written an



(United Nations/Yutaka Nagata)

The global age is making all countries and all peoples more interdependent.

essay focusing on the geographical, cultural, sociopolitical, and economic differences and similarities of the countries and people in the region. The purpose of the *subregional essays* is to provide readers with an effective sense of the diversity of the area as well as an understanding of its common cultural and historical backgrounds. Accompanying each of the narratives is a full-page map showing the political boundaries of each of the countries within the subregion.

In addition to these subregional essays, the author provides a brief introductory narrative on Latin America. This *regional essay* examines a number of broad themes in an attempt to define what constitutes “Latin America.”

#### *Country Reports*

Concise reports on the individual countries within the region follow each of the subregional essays. These reports are the heart of each Global Studies volume. *Global Studies: Latin America, Seventh Edition*, contains 33 *country reports*, including a Mexico report, 7 reports for Central America, 12 for South America, and 13 for the Caribbean region. The reports cover each *independent country* within the Latin American area.

The country reports are comprised of six standard elements. Each report contains a small, detailed map visually positioning the country among its neighboring states; a summary of statistical information; a brief “wildcard” that describes an interesting facet of the country under study; an essay providing important historical, geographical, political, cultural, and economic information; a historical timeline offering a convenient visual survey of a few key historical events; and four graphic indicators, with summary statements about the country in terms of development, freedom, health/welfare, and achievements, at the end of each report.

All of these elements have been updated to reflect the most current state of affairs in today’s Latin American world. Since the first edition of *Global Studies: Latin America* was published, we have had a tremendous and positive response from both students and teachers alike. This important input is reflected in *Global Studies: Latin America, Seventh Edition*.

#### *A Note on the Statistical Summaries*

The statistical information provided for each country has been drawn from a wide range of sources (the most frequently referenced are listed on page 240). Every effort has been made to provide the most current and accurate information available. However, occasionally the information cited by these sources differs significantly; and, all too often, the only information available for some countries is quite dated. Aside from these difficulties, the statistical summary for each country is generally quite complete and reasonably current. (Care should be taken, however, in using these statistics—or, for that matter, any published statistics—in making hard comparisons among countries.) We have also included comparable statistics on Canada and the United States, which follow on the next two pages.

#### *World Press Articles*

Within each Global Studies volume is reprinted a number of articles carefully selected by our editorial staff and the author/editor from a broad range of international periodicals and newspapers. The articles have been chosen for currency, interest, and their differing perspectives on the subject countries and regions. There are 21 articles in *Global Studies: Latin America, Seventh Edition*—3 general articles, 4 articles pertaining to Mexico, 4 to Central America, 7 to South America, and 3 to the Caribbean.

The articles section is preceded by an *annotated table of contents* as well as a *topic guide*. The intent of the annotated table of contents is to offer a brief summary of each article, while the topic guide indicates the main theme(s) of each of the articles reprinted. Thus, readers desiring to focus on articles dealing with a particular theme, say, human rights, may refer to the topic guide to find those articles.

#### *Glossary, Bibliography, Index*

At the back of each Global Studies volume, readers will find a *glossary of terms and abbreviations*, which provides quick reference to the specialized vocabulary of the area under study and to the standard abbreviations (UN, OAS, GATT, etc.) used throughout the volume.

Following the glossary is a *bibliography*, which contains specific references for most of the literary works mentioned in the body of the text. The bibliography is organized into general reference volumes, national and regional histories, novels in translation, current events publications, and periodicals that provide regular coverage on Latin America.

The *index* at the end of the volume is an accurate reference to the contents of the volume. Readers seeking specific information and citations should consult this standard index.

#### **Currency and Usefulness**

*Global Studies: Latin America, Seventh Edition*, is intended to provide the most current and useful information available necessary to understand the events that are shaping the cultures of Latin America today.

We plan to issue this volume on a regular basis. The statistics will be updated, essays rewritten, country reports revised, and articles completely replaced as new information becomes available. In order to accomplish this task, we will turn to our author/editors, our advisory boards, and—hopefully—to you, the users of this volume. Your comments are more than welcome. If you have an idea that you think will make the volume more useful; an article or bit of information that will make it more up to date; or a general comment on its organization, content, or features that you would like to share with us, please send it in for serious consideration for the next edition.



(United Nations photo)

Understanding the problems and lifestyles of other countries will help make us literate in global matters.



# Canada

## GEOGRAPHY

*Area in Square Kilometers (Miles):*  
9,976,140 (3,850,790) (slightly larger than the United States)  
*Capital (Population):* Ottawa (920,000)  
*Climate:* from temperate in south to subarctic and arctic in north

## PEOPLE

### Population

*Total:* 28,435,000  
*Annual Growth Rate:* 1.09%  
*Rural/Urban Population Ratio:* 23/77  
*Ethnic Makeup:* 40% British Isles origin; 27% French origin; 20% other European; 1.5% indigenous Indian and Eskimo; 11.5% mixed  
*Major Languages:* both English and French are official

### Health

*Life Expectancy at Birth:* 75 years (male); 82 years (female)  
*Infant Mortality Rate (Ratio):* 7/1,000  
*Average Caloric Intake:* 127% of FAO minimum  
*Physicians Available (Ratio):* 1/449

### Religions

46% Roman Catholic; 16% United Church; 10% Anglican; 28% others

## Education

*Adult Literacy Rate:* 97%

## COMMUNICATION

*Telephones:* 18,000,000  
*Newspapers:* 96 in English; 11 in French

## TRANSPORTATION

*Highways—Kilometers (Miles):*  
849,404 (530,028)  
*Railroads—Kilometers (Miles):* 78,148 (48,764)  
*Usable Airfields:* 1,386

## GOVERNMENT

*Type:* confederation with parliamentary democracy  
*Independence Date:* July 1, 1867  
*Head of State/Government:* Queen Elizabeth II; Prime Minister Jean Chrétien  
*Political Parties:* Progressive Conservative Party; Liberal Party; New Democratic Party; Reform Party; Bloc Québécois  
*Suffrage:* universal at 18

## MILITARY

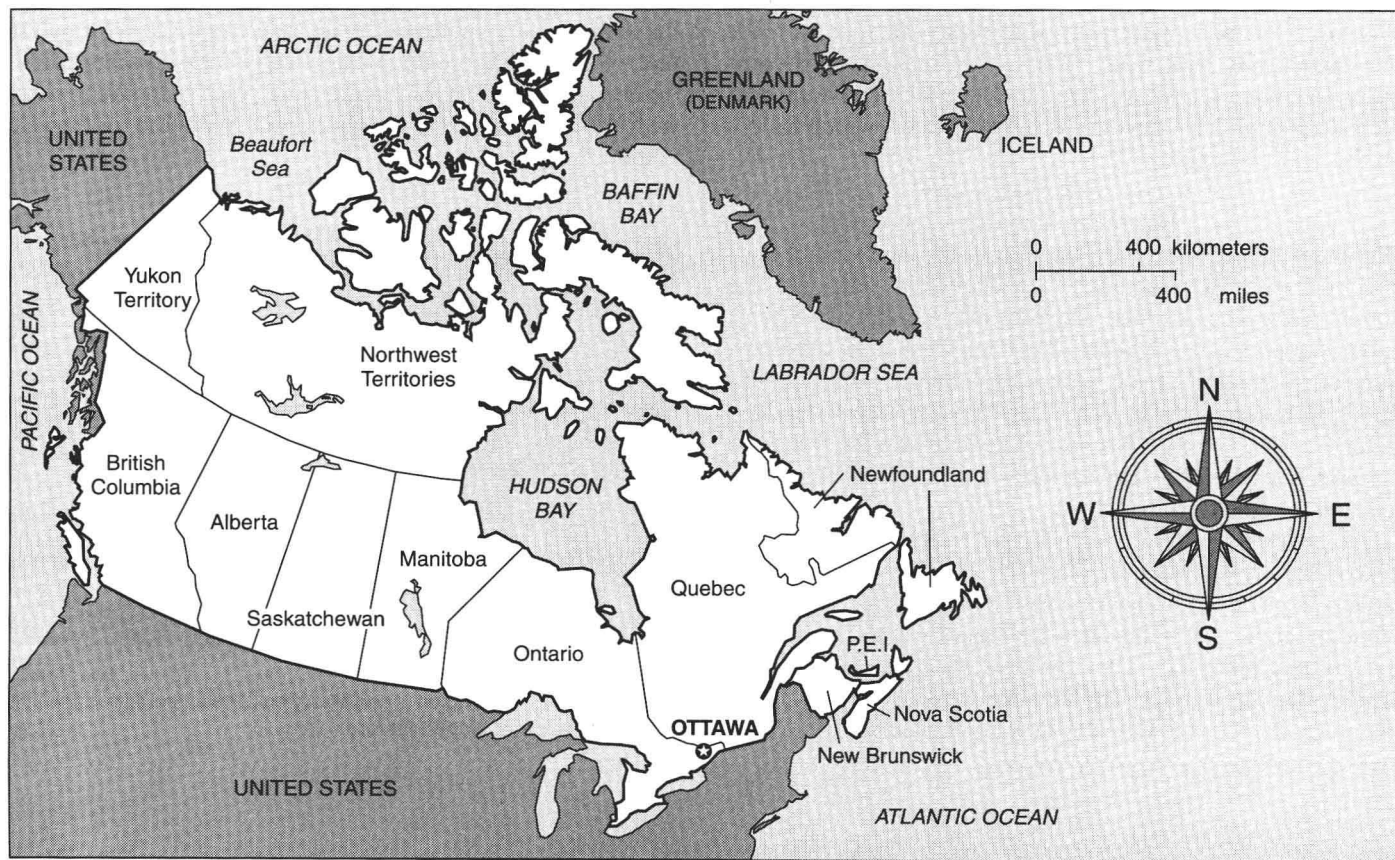
*Number of Armed Forces:* 88,000  
*Military Expenditures (% of Central Government Expenditures):* 2%  
*Current Hostilities:* none

## ECONOMY

*Currency (\$U.S. Equivalent):* 1.41 Canadian dollars = \$1  
*Per Capita Income/GDP:* \$22,760/\$639.8 billion  
*Inflation Rate:* 0.2%  
*Total Foreign Debt:* \$243 billion  
*Natural Resources:* petroleum; natural gas; fish; minerals; cement; forestry products; fur  
*Agriculture:* grains; livestock; dairy products; potatoes; hogs; poultry and eggs; tobacco  
*Industry:* oil production and refining; natural-gas development; fish products; wood and paper products; chemicals; transportation equipment

## FOREIGN TRADE

*Exports:* \$164.3 billion  
*Imports:* \$151.5 billion



# The United States

## GEOGRAPHY

*Area in Square Kilometers (Miles):*  
9,578,626 (3,618,770)  
*Capital (Population):* Washington, D.C.  
(606,900)  
*Climate:* temperate

## PEOPLE

### Population

*Total:* 263,814,000  
*Annual Growth Rate:* 1.02%  
*Rural/Urban Population Ratio:* 20/80  
*Ethnic Makeup:* 73% white; 12% black; 10% Latino; 5% Asian, Pacific Islander, American Indian, Eskimo, and Aleut  
*Major Languages:* predominantly English; a sizable Spanish-speaking minority; many others

### Health

*Life Expectancy at Birth:* 73 years (male); 80 years (female)  
*Infant Mortality Rate (Ratio):* 8.4/1,000  
*Average Caloric Intake:* 138% of FAO minimum  
*Physicians Available (Ratio):* 1/404

## Religions

56% Protestant; 28% Roman Catholic; 4% Muslim; 2% Jewish; 10% others or unaffiliated

## Education

*Adult Literacy Rate:* 97.9% (official) (estimates vary widely)

## COMMUNICATION

*Telephones:* 182,558,000  
*Newspapers:* 1,679 dailies; approximately 63,000,000 circulation

## TRANSPORTATION

*Highways—Kilometers (Miles):*  
6,243,163 (3,895,733)  
*Railroads—Kilometers (Miles):*  
240,000 (149,760)  
*Usable Airfields:* 15,032

## GOVERNMENT

*Type:* federal republic  
*Independence Date:* July 4, 1776  
*Head of State:* President William ("Bill") Jefferson Clinton  
*Political Parties:* Democratic Party;

Republican Party; others of minor political significance  
*Suffrage:* universal at 18

## MILITARY

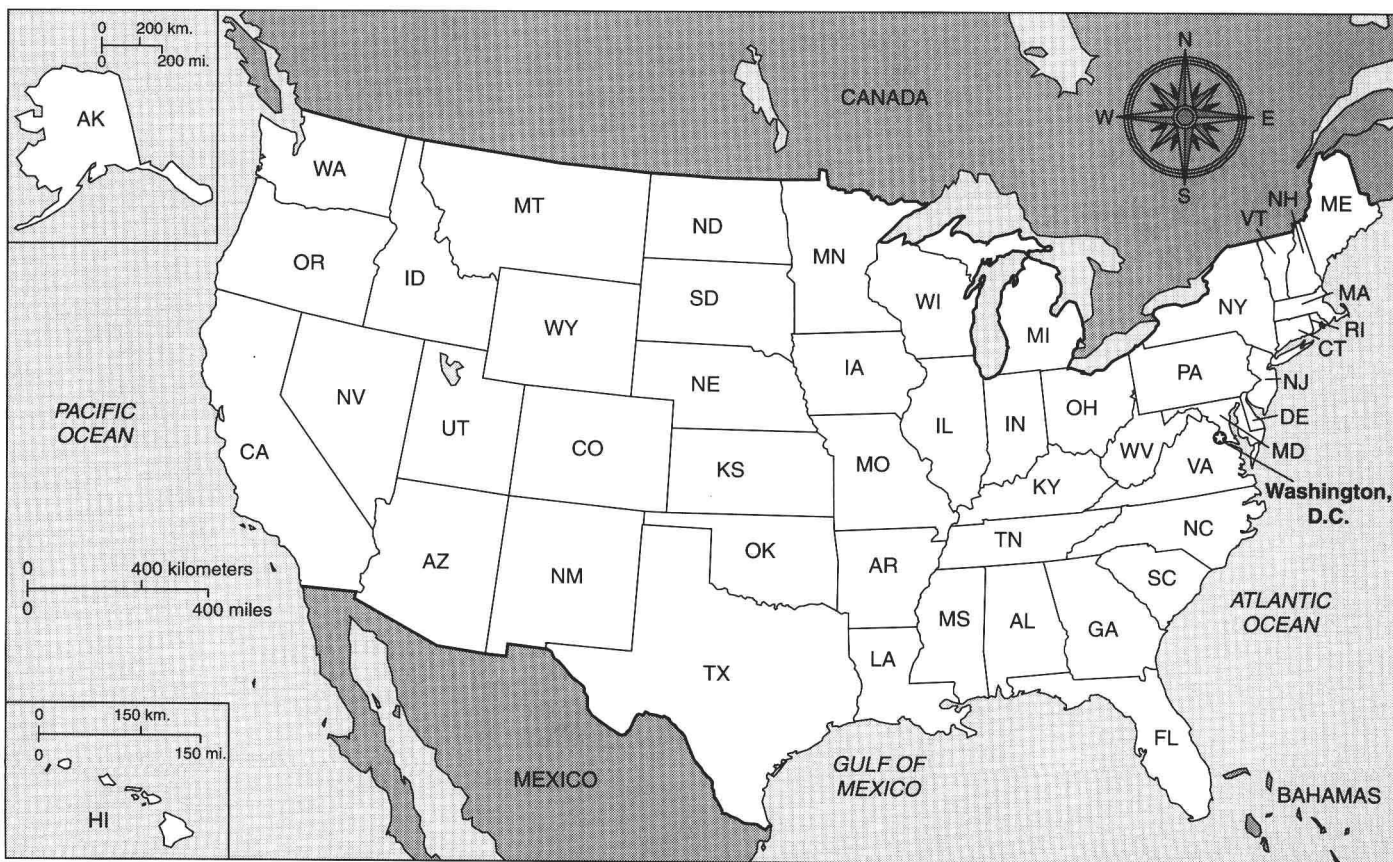
*Number of Armed Forces:* 1,807,177  
*Military Expenditures (% of Central Government Expenditures):* 4.2%  
*Current Hostilities:* none

## ECONOMY

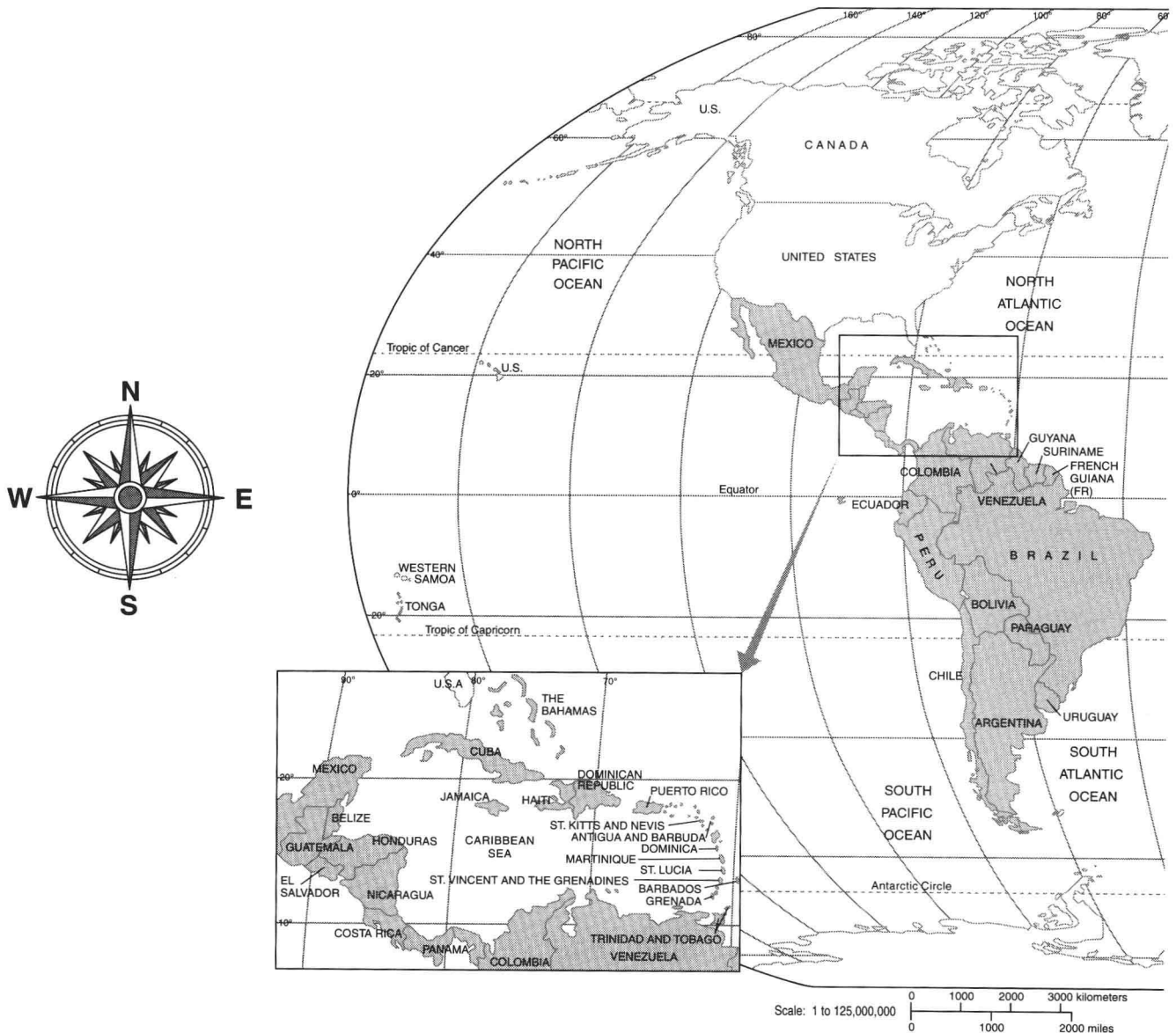
*Per Capita Income/GDP:*  
\$25,850/\$6.74 trillion  
*Inflation Rate:* 2.6%  
*Natural Resources:* metallic and nonmetallic minerals; petroleum; arable land  
*Agriculture:* food grains; feed crops; oil-bearing crops; livestock; dairy products  
*Industry:* diversified in both capital- and consumer-goods industries

## FOREIGN TRADE

*Exports:* \$513 billion  
*Imports:* \$664 billion

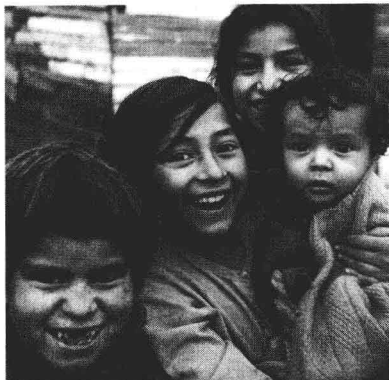


This map of the world highlights the Latin American and Caribbean countries that are discussed in this volume. We include only independent countries of the Caribbean and exclude French departments, Dutch territories, British associate states, and United States possessions. All of the following essays are written from a cultural perspective in order to give the readers a sense of what life is like in these countries. The essays are designed to present the most current and useful information available. Other books in the Global Studies series cover different global areas and examine the current state of affairs of the countries within those regions.



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# Latin America



# Latin America: Myth and Reality

Much of the world still tends to view Latin Americans in terms of stereotypes. The popular image of the mustachioed *bandito* wearing a large sombrero and draped with cartridge belts has been replaced by the figure of the modern-day guerrilla. But the same essential image, of lawlessness and violence, persists. Another common stereotype is that of the lazy Latin American who constantly puts things off until *mañana* ("tomorrow"). The implied message here is that Latin Americans lack industry and do not know how to make the best use of their time. A third widespread image is that of the Latin lover and the cult of *machismo*.

Many of those outside the culture find it difficult to conceive of Latin America as a mixture of peoples and cultures, each one distinct from the others. Indeed, it was not so long ago that then-U.S. president Ronald Reagan, after a tour of the region, remarked with some surprise that all of the countries were "different." Stereotypes spring from ignorance and bias; images are not necessarily a reflection of reality. In the words of Spanish philosopher José Ortega y Gasset, "In politics and history, if one takes accepted statements at face value, one will be sadly misled."

## THE LATIN AMERICAN REALITY

The reality of Latin America's multiplicity of cultures is, in a word, complexity. Europeans, Africans, and the indigenous people of Latin America have all contributed substantially to these cultures. If one sets aside non-Hispanic influences for a moment, is it possible to argue, as does historian Claudio Veliz, that "the Iberian [Spanish and Portuguese] inheritance is an essential part of our lives and customs; Brazil and Spanish America [*i.e.*, Spanish-speaking] have derived their personality from Iberia"? Many scholars would disagree. For example, political scientist Lawrence S. Graham argues that "what is clear is that generalizations about Latin American cultural unity are no longer tenable." And that "one of the effects of nationalism has been to . . . lead growing numbers of individuals within the region to identify with their own nation-state before they think in terms of a more amorphous land mass called Latin America."

Granted, Argentines speak of their Argentinity and Mexicans of their *mejicanidad*. It is true that there are profound differences that separate the nations of the region. But there exists a cultural bedrock that ties Latin America to Spain and Portugal, and beyond—to the Roman Empire and the great cultures of the Mediterranean world. African influence, too, is substantial in many parts of the region. Latin America's Indians, of course, trace their roots to indigenous sources.

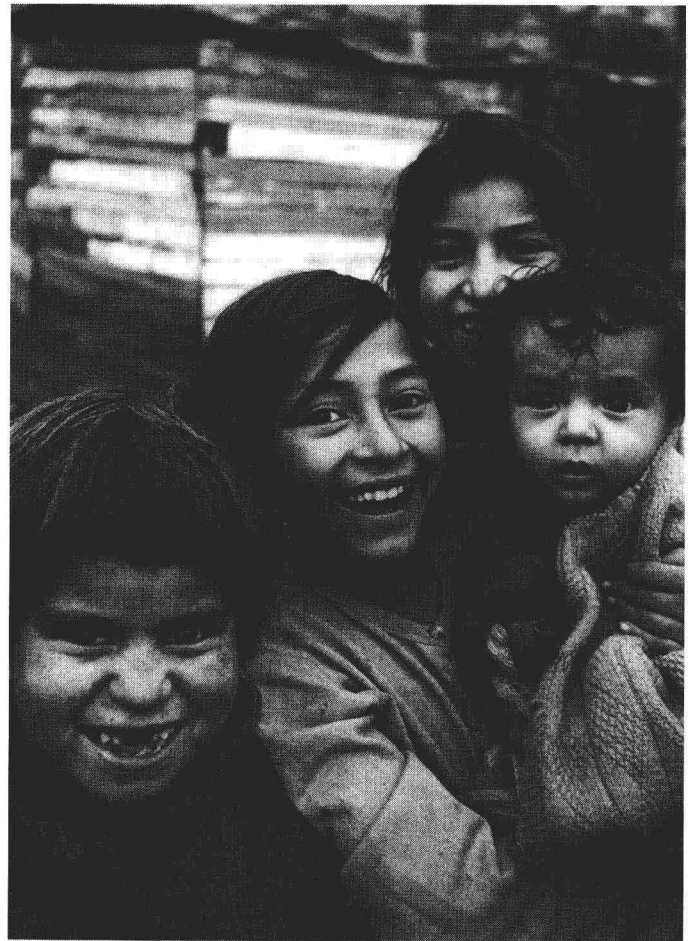
To understand the nature of Latin American culture, one must remember that there exist many exceptions to the generalizations; the cultural mold is not rigid. Much of what has happened in Latin America, including the evolution of its cultures, is the result of a fortunate or unfortunate combination of various factors.

## THE FAMILY

Let us first consider the Latin American family. The family unit has survived even Latin America's economic development and the pressures of modernization. Family ties are strong and dominant. These bonds are not confined to the nuclear family of father, mother, and children. The same close ties are found in the extended family (a network of second cousins, godparents, and close friends of blood relatives). In times of difficulty, the family can be counted on to help. It is a fortress against the misery of the outside world; it is the repository of dignity, honor, and respect.

## AN URBAN CIVILIZATION

In a region where the interaction of networks of families is the rule and where frequent human contact is sought out, it is not surprising to find that Latin Americans are, above all, an urban people. There are more cities of more than half a million people in Latin America than in the United States.



(United Nations photo)

In Latin America, the family is an important element in the cultural context. These children, who live in a slum in Santiago, Chile, come from caring families.



This is unusual, for urbanization is usually associated with industrialization. Latin American urban culture was not created by industrial growth; it actually pre-dated it. As soon as the opportunity presented itself, the Spanish conquerors of the New World, in Veliz's words, "founded cities in which to take refuge from the barbaric, harsh, uncivilized, and rural world outside. . . . For those men civilization was strictly and uniquely a function of well-ordered city life." The city, from the Spanish conquest until the present, has dominated the social and cultural horizon of Latin America. Opportunity is found in the city, not in the countryside. This cultural fact of life, in addition to economic motives, accounts for the continuing flow of population from rural to urban areas in Latin America.

### A WORLD OF APPEARANCES

Because in their urban environment Latin Americans are in close contact with many people, appearances are important to them. There is a constant quest for prestige, dignity, status, and honor. People are forever trying to impress one another with their public worth. Hence, it is not unusual to see a blue-collar worker traveling to work dressed in a suit, briefcase in hand. It is not uncommon to see jungles of television antennas over shantytowns, although many are not connected to anything. It is a society that, in the opinion of writer Octavio Paz, hides behind masks. Latin Americans convey an impression of importance, no matter how menial their position. Glen Dealy, a political scientist, writes: "And those of the lower class who must wait on tables, wash cars, and do gardening for a living can help to gain back a measure of self-respect by having their shoes shined by someone else, buying a drink for a friend . . . , or concealing their occupation by wearing a tie to and from work."

### MACHISMO

Closely related to appearances is *machismo*. The term is usually understood solely, and mistakenly, in terms of virility—the image of the Latin lover, for example. But *machismo* also connotes generosity, dignity, and honor. In many respects macho behavior is indulged in because of social convention; it is expected of men. *Machismo* is also one of those cultural traits that cuts through class lines, for the macho is admired regardless of his social position.

### THE ROLE OF WOMEN

If the complex nature of *machismo* is misunderstood by those outside the culture, so too is the role of women. The commonly held stereotype is that Latin American women are submissive and that the culture is dominated by males. Again, appearances mask a far more complex reality, for Latin American cultures actually allow for strong female roles.

Political scientist Evelyn Stevens has found that *marianismo*, the female counterpart of *machismo*, permeates all strata of Latin American society.

Marianismo is the cult of feminine spiritual superiority that "teaches that women are semi-divine, morally superior to and spiritually stronger than men." When Mexico's war for independence broke out in 1810, a religious symbol, the Virgin of Guadeloupe, was identified with the rebels and became a rallying point for the first stirrings of Mexican nationalism. Earlier in this century, it was not uncommon in Argentine textbooks to portray Eva Perón (1919–1952), the president's wife, in the image of the Virgin Mary, complete with a blue veil and halo. In less religious terms, one of Latin America's most popular novels, *Doña Barbara*, by Rómulo Gallegos, is the story of a female *caudillo* ("man on horseback") on the plains of Venezuela.

The Latin American woman dominates the family because of a deep-seated respect for motherhood. Personal identity is less of a problem for her because she retains her family name upon marriage and passes it on to her children. Women who work outside the home are also supposed to retain respect for their motherhood, which is sacred. In any conflict between a woman's job and the needs of her family, the employer, by custom, must grant her a leave to tend to the family's needs. Recent historical scholarship has also revealed that Latin American women have long enjoyed rights denied to women in other,



(United Nations photo/Bernard P. Wolff)  
The role of the native woman in Latin America has been defined by centuries of tradition. This woman is spinning wool, in Chimburazo, Ecuador, just as her ancestors did.