

# Latin America Study Guide

Test Date: Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup>

## Main Ideas (define and explain):

- Imperialism
  - when a country puts its influence on other countries for power and personal gain
  - fueled by:
    - the desire for military strength, power, and prestige (political)
    - assert cultural superiority, including religion (social)
    - get natural resources, labor, trade routes, and new markets (economic)
  - forms / means / methods:
    - military power, war, conquering, colonizing (political)
    - culture and media
      - sometimes it can just be cultural and not relate to colonialism at all
      - examples: McDonalds, Walmart creating huge impacts on other countries and spreading Westernization or Americanization
    - economically
      - opening up new markets, sometimes illegitimately
      - mercantilism is the idea of colonization with an emphasis on exploiting trade and control (and exploitation) to increase power and economy
  - examples:
    - Britain and France → Ottoman Empire post-WWI
- Colonialism
  - a specific form of imperialism that involves direct political governing
  - examples:
    - British empire and colonies
      - 13 colonies (United States)
      - India
    - British and U.S. → Iran
    - Spanish → Mexico and much of Latin America
    - France → much of Africa (“Scramble for Africa”)
- Encomienda
  - large plots of land and people granted by the Spanish shortly after conquering Latin America as a reward for helping with the conquest
  - people were very often mistreated, similar to slaves (and African slaves also often brought in)
  - related: hacienda
    - similar to an encomienda, but mostly self-sufficient
    - more of a hierarchal system of labor like the feudal system
- Maquiladora
  - a factory in Mexico owned by a foreign country whose products are shipped to that country
  - many American corporations looking to outsource to Mexico as a result of NAFTA to get cheaper labor lead to a huge amount of maquiladoras
  - usually leads to population booms in border towns, which leads to worse living conditions and overpopulation
  - although pay is much lower than in the U.S., it is still higher than many jobs in Mexico
  - examples: Walmart
- NAFTA
  - “North American Free Trade Agreement”
  - a trade agreement that promotes free trade — i.e., lowering (protectionist) trade barriers such as tariffs and subsidies
  - pros and cons:

pros	cons
increases trade (and trade generally benefits everyone)	hurts local businesses
makes new jobs	outsourcing becomes more common
goods are cheaper and more diverse	maquiladoras have terrible working conditions, and there are lower wages

- Creoles
  - Spanish-descent (white) born-in-latin-americans
  - second on hierarchy to peninsulares in the caste system of Latin America
  - some organized revolts in Mexico and led the overthrow of Spanish rule in Mexico during the revolution for Mexican independence
- Peninsulares
  - Spanish-descent, Spanish-born
  - highest on the hierarchy
  - many conquistadors and hacienda owners were peninsulares
  - were generally hated by others, even the creoles
- Mestizos
  - mix between Spanish and indigenous descent
  - third on hierarchy after peninsulares and creoles

## Essential Questions:

- What is the legacy of European colonialism in Latin America? (Name and describe at least 5 long-lasting results of colonialism on Latin America).
  - poverty
    - the indigenous people in the countryside are very poor as a result of being suppressed when colonized
    - huge economic gap, only a few rich people and corporations hold the power and money
  - religion
    - Roman Catholic Church brought over and dominated culture
    - syncretism occurred (mixing of cultures / religions)
  - language
    - many speak Spanish, Portuguese, and mix of languages
      - creole language = mixtures of languages
  - disease
    - infected many people
    - killed many/most indigenous people
  - pattern of development/settlement
    - highlands with volcanic, fertile soils are densely populated in Mexico
    - near the coast of South America is populated
    - there are core areas and hinterland
- How has U.S. involvement impacted Latin America?
  - general purpose:
    - protect economic interests
    - improve conditions for the people
    - stop infiltration of socialists and communists (1945 - 1990)
      - because of Cold War (communist/socialist (Soviets) vs. capitalists (U.S.A.), with proxy wars (Korean, Vietnam))
      - increased U.S. aid to Latin America to help reduce poverty and to reduce the spread of communism
  - history of U.S. involvement in Latin America:

- Monroe Doctrine (1823)
  - Spain wanted to reclaim colonies after Napoleon was defeated
  - President Monroe said Europeans could not colonize the west (the Americas)
- Mexican-American War (1848)
  - border dispute began a war that the U.S. wins
  - U.S. takes half of Mexico's land, and creates hate
- Spanish-American War (1898)
  - America goes to war with Spain because of economic issues
  - wins Cuba, Puerto Rico, and Guam
  - Cuba is "independent," but is a protectorate, so the U.S. has influence (and built military bases there)
- Roosevelt Corollary (1904)
  - extension of Monroe Doctrine, says we can use force if we feel threatened — allows for our intervention and imperialism in Latin America (and the Caribbean)
- Building of the Panama Canal (1904-14)
  - we needed the canal for economic and military reasons
  - we helped pay the land in return for Panamanian revolt and separation from Columbia so that they would allow the construction; now returned to Panama
- Good Neighbor Policy (1930s)
  - FDR policy to withdraw armed forces from Latin America, and keep watch peacefully; this would increase trade and cooperation while lowering military intervention
- Bay of Pigs (1961)
  - unsuccessful overthrow of Fidel Castro by CIA, Eisenhower, Kennedy because of communist Cuba so close to U.S.A.
  - it was a huge disaster and humiliating defeat that led to tensions and an embargo even up to today (but improved recently)
- Cuban Missile Crisis (1960)
  - Soviets attempt to deploy missiles in Cuba, and missile bases were being built there
  - JFK ended it in two weeks diplomatically: Cuban and Turkish missiles would be disarmed if neither side were to attack
- NAFTA (1990s)
  - Clinton's efforts for free trade in all of North America
  - (see rest of study guide about it)
- U.S. business in Latin America:
  - United Fruit Company goes into Nicaragua and Guatemala (1899), and owned huge amounts of land
  - huge American companies like Shell, Woolworth, Esso, Sears, Citigroup, Westinghouse, Coca Cola, moved into Latin America for profit
- negative U.S. influence:
  - Guatemala:
    - land reform to help against the United Fruit Company
    - U.S.-trained rebel group took over, instilled military dictatorship
    - traded communism for crime
  - Nicaragua
    - same deal as Guatemala
  - Chile
    - attempts to nationalize and have land reforms
    - same output with militaristic dictatorship
- Why is there so much economic inequality in Latin America and what has been the impact of this inequality on Latin American countries?
  - it is a long-lasting result of Spanish colonialism, and corruption of the rich

- Spanish created encomienda system, and then hacienda system, which greatly suppressed the poor and benefitted the rich
  - various leaders, such as Porfirio, suppressed the poor and helped the rich
- leads to many revolts and revolutions
- leads to lots of corruption and a rich few
- How has the drug trade impacted Mexico?
  - led to mass violence, both with the drug cartels and by the military
  - people want peace
  - drug cartels are so rich, and are constantly growing because of growing U.S. market
- Has NAFTA been a success in Mexico?
  - no:
    - it has created the horrible mess of the maquiladoras with terrible and unfair working conditions
    - even if people are paid a little better in maquiladoras, the profit and benefits go to the U.S. and do not benefit Mexico much
    - Mexico is less industrialized and therefore will have a much harder time competing with the U.S.
- What is the connection between the drug trade and free trade in Mexico?
  - the more the free trade, the more the drugs flowing out of the country
  - many people say they need fairer trade, with more regulation of what goes in and out — U.S. needs to enforce these

## Other Information

- early Mexican history:
  - Olmec (1200 - 800 B.C.): giant stone heads, language, farming
  - Maya (200 B.C. - now): colonial society, large cities
  - Teotihuacano (200-700 A.D.): city ruins in Mexico city; careful city planning
  - Aztec (1200 - 1520 A.D.): huge, complex cities, colonizing others
  - Viceroyalty of Spain (1521 - 1821):
    - viceroy: leader of a colony
    - used to make Spain rich with hacienda system and mercantilism
    - used the Church to spread “Gold, Glory, God”
    - 85% of Mexicans are Catholic
- later Mexican history
  - September 16th, 1810: Mexican Independence Day
    - Miguel Hidalgo (criollo) attacked with many peasants, quickly lost
    - 1820 Spain had its own revolution, king lost power; Plan de Iguala written by criollos and peninsulares, and they gained independence in 1821
      - independence created huge problems: economic instability, foreign countries taking profit; military coups; debt, deaths
  - U.S. / Mexican War
    - Treaty of Miguel Hidalgo ended war, losing Mexican Cession
  - Porfirio took over, ruled until 1910
  - Mexican revolution: Constitution of 1917 by middle class, strengthened government, land reforms
  - PRN (national revolutionary party) → PRI (party of institutionalized revolution)
    - ISI (import substitution industrialization) — become less dependent on other countries for trade
  - economy improved because of WWII, but economic gap increased; fell into debt
- social classes:

