Introduction to Latin America

Latin America & the U.S.
19th century relations- Isolationism to Imperialism

- Monroe Doctrine (1823)
- “Manifest Destiny” (1840s)
- Mexican-American War (1846-1848)
- William Walker and Cornelius Vanderbilt (1850s-1860s)
  - Nicaragua
  - Costa Rica
  - Honduras
- Spanish-American War (1898)
  - Cuba
  - Puerto Rico
  - Guam
  - Philippines
20th century relations - Interventionism

- Platt Amendment (1901)
  - Cuba
- Hay-Bunau-Varilla Treaty (1903)
  - Panama
  - Colombia
- Roosevelt Corollary (1904)
  - Guard against “instability”
- “Dollar Diplomacy” (1909-1912)
  - President Taft
  - Dominance through loans
Central America and “banana republics”

- United Fruit Company (1899)
  - 1900-1930
  - Export-tax exempt crops
  - Vertical integration monopoly
  - U.S. controlled plantations
    - Encouraged by Liberal-Positivist governments and elite landowners
- The Banana Massacre (1928)
- US Marines and Augusto Sandino (1927-1933)
  - Assassinated by Gen. Anastasio Somoza
- Result:
  - Destabilization
  - Centralized leadership
  - Violence
World Wars and “Good Neighbors”

• Panama Canal opens (1914)
• Zimmerman Telegram (1917)
  • Mexico
• Good Neighbor Policy (1933)
• WWII and Uneasy Alliances
  • Brazil
  • Mexico
• Organization of American States (OAS)- (1948)
Pre-WWII Cuba

- 1868-1878- Ten Year War for Independence from Spain
- 1886- Slavery abolished
- 1895-1898- José Martí leads second war for independence
- 1898- Spanish-American War; U.S. defeats Spain and territory ceded to U.S.
- 1902- Cuba becomes independent; Platt Amendment exception*
- 1906-1909- Political upheaval and U.S. occupation
- 1912- U.S. forces put down black equality protests
- 1940-1944- Elected President Fulgencio Batista
José Martí (1853-1895)

• Born to Spanish parents in Havana
• Highly educated
• Poet, writer, philosopher, progressive theorist, anti-slavery activists
• Political agitation led to exile in Spain (1871-1874)
• Leader of Cuban independence movement from Spain
• “National Hero of Cuba”
• Wrote famous book of poems Versos Sencillos (Simple Verses)
  • Became lyrics to famous song “Guantanamera”
• Lived and traveled in Mexico, Guatemala, and New York
• Died in skirmish against Spanish forces
Post-WWII Cuba

- 1952-1959: Batista coup d’état and becomes dictator
- U.S. economic control and development
  - Financed by sugar industry
- Playground of the rich and famous
  - Casinos
  - Mafia
  - Tourism
  - Consumerism
    - Rum
    - Cigars
  - “Exotic” backyard

- Footage of 1940s-1950s Cuba
Cuba and the Revolution of 1959

• Reaction to Batista regime (1940-1944); (1952-1959)
  • U.S.-backed leader
• Fidel Castro and guerilla fighters overthrow government (1959)
• Guided by Communist ideology
  • Rejection of foreign interventionism
  • Rejection of U.S. economic dominance
  • Rejection of foreign influence over Cuban identity
• Agricultural reform
• Economic and social equality
Communism and the Cold War

- Cuban Revolution sends shock waves around the world
  - Failed Bay of Pigs invasion (1961)
- Fear of “domino effect”
  - Fear Russian influence in “America’s backyard”
- Backlash against U.S. intervention seen as “communist influence”
  - Violence and bloodshed
  - Political manipulation and coups
  - Installation of military leaders friendly to U.S. interests
- Result:
  - Profound destabilization of region
  - Support for decades-long, brutal, repressive dictatorships in places like Brazil, Argentina, and Chile in the late 20th century
    - Torture, exile, “disappearances”, mass graves
School of the Americas

- 1946-2016
- Fort Benning, GA
- Became Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation in 2001
- Taught CIA tactics of intelligence collection and counter-insurgency
Case study: Chile

- Colony from 1540-1810
  - Concentrated in Central Chile
- Resistance from Mapuche in Southern region
- Not an important/lucrative part of colonial empire
- Independence from 1810-1818
  - Long, fractured, military-style
- Bernardo O’Higgins
  - Authoritarian & Liberal
- Wars with Mapuche at end of 19th c.
- War of the Pacific (1879-1883)
  - Acquired nitrates (guano) and copper
- Parliamentary Era (1891-1925)
  - Political stability
- Patterns: multi-party/coalition govt, anti-clerical, homogenous population, steady revenue, middle class
Overthrow of Democratic Chile

• Part 1
• Part 2
The Pinochet Dictatorship

- 1973-1990
- Military coup on Sept. 11, 1973
  - Bombed the presidential palace
  - Allende committed suicide
  - 40,000 political prisoners held in soccer stadium
- 3,000+ dead or missing
  - “Caravans of Death”
- 30,000+ tortured
  - Villa Grimaldi- swimming pool
- 200,000 exiled
- Book burning, banned political parties, limiting freedoms
- Protests
  - College students
  - Musicians
  - Mothers
- Catholic Church divided
- Ended by public referendum vote
Music and Protest

- Nueva Canción Chilena (Chile)
  - Folk music
  - Renewed interest in traditional Chilean folklore/musical styles in 1950s-1960s
  - Became anti-Pinochet music after coup in 1973
  - Artists like Violeta Parra
  - Exile- themed music

[Intro to Latin America- Spotify Playlist]
“Venceremos” performed by Inti-Illimani (1967)

Desde el hondo crisol de la patria
se levanta el clamor popular.
Ya se anuncia la nueva alborada,
todo Chile comienza a cantar.

Recordando al soldado valiente,
cuyo ejemplo lo hiciera inmortal,
enfrentemos primero a la muerte,
traicionar a la patria jamás.

Venceremos, venceremos,
mil cadenas habrá que romper,
venceremos, venceremos,
la miseria sabremos vencer.

Campesinos, soldados, mineros,
la mujer de la patria también,
estudiantes, empleados y obreros,
cumpliremos con nuestro deber.

Sembraremos las tierras de gloria,
socialista será el porvenir.

Todos juntos seremos la historia,
a cumplir, a cumplir, a cumplir.

Venceremos, venceremos,
mil cadenas habrá que romper,
venceremos, venceremos,
la miseria sabremos vencer.

From the deep crucible of the homeland
The people's voices rise up.
The new day comes over the horizon.
All Chile breaks out in song.

In remembrance of the courageous soldier
Whose example has made him immortal
First, we confront death,
Our country we'll never betray.

We shall prevail, we shall prevail
A thousand chains we'll have to break,
We shall prevail, we shall prevail
We know how to overcome misery.

Peasants, soldiers, miners,
And the women of our country, as well,
Students, workers, white-collar and blue,
We will do our duty.
We'll sow the land with glory.
Socialism will be our future.
All together, we will be history's completion.

We shall prevail, we shall prevail
A thousand chains we'll have to break,
We shall prevail, we shall prevail
We know how to overcome misery.
Aftermath

- Pinochet charged with 300 human rights violations in 1998
- Apprehended in London
  - House arrest for 1 year in Chile
- Indicted by judge but died in 2006 before being convicted
  - Not extradited to stand trial with International Court of Justice because “old and frail”
- Construction of the Museum of Memory and Human Rights
  - Michele Bachalet in 2010