Panama: Crossroads of the World

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United States Fixation on Panama

"The day is not far distant when three Stars and Stripes at three equidistant points will mark our territory: one at the North Pole, another at the Panama Canal, and the third at the South Pole. The whole hemisphere will be ours in fact as, by virtue of our superiority of race, it already is ours morally." William Howard Taft

"We should keep [the Panama Canal]. After all, we stole it fair and square." S. I. Hayakawa

"We built it, we paid for it, it's ours and we are going to keep it." Ronald Reagan

"Regarding the Panama Canal Treaty negotiations, they will find us standing up or dead, but never on our knees; NEVER!" - Omar Torrijos

Theodore Roosevelt and the Canal

"I took it..."

"...the Panama Canal would not have started if I had not taken hold of it, because if I had followed the traditional or conservative method I should have submitted an admirable state paper to Congress... Accordingly I took the Isthmus, started the canal and then left Congress not to debate the canal, but to debate me."

-- Theodore Roosevelt (pictured on steam shovel during 1906 visit)



Facts About Panama

- Christopher Columbus visited in 1502 and Vasco Nuñez de Balboa arrived to explore the area in 1513.
- The earliest recorded mention of a canal through Panama was made by Charles V, King of Spain and Holy Roman Emperor in 1534.
- Panama was the first Latin American country to adopt the U.S. currency as its own.
- The population of Panama in 2016 was estimated by the United Nations at 3,990,000, which placed it as number 132 in population among the 233 nations of the world, and the smallest population in Central America.
- The cargo ship Ancon was the first vessel to transit the Canal on August 15, 1914.
- The City of Panama boasts the oldest, longest, continuously running Municipal Council in the American continent.
- The oldest continually operating railroad is in Panama. It travels from Panama City to Colon and back.
- Panama has the second-largest duty-free zone in the world, the Colon Free Zone, second in size only to Hong Kong.
- The canal generates over one-third of Panama's entire economy.
- There are two basic seasons in Panama: the dry season from December to April and the rainy season from May to November.
- Control of the Panama Canal reverted to Panama at midnight on December 31, 1999.

Historical and Theoretical Overview

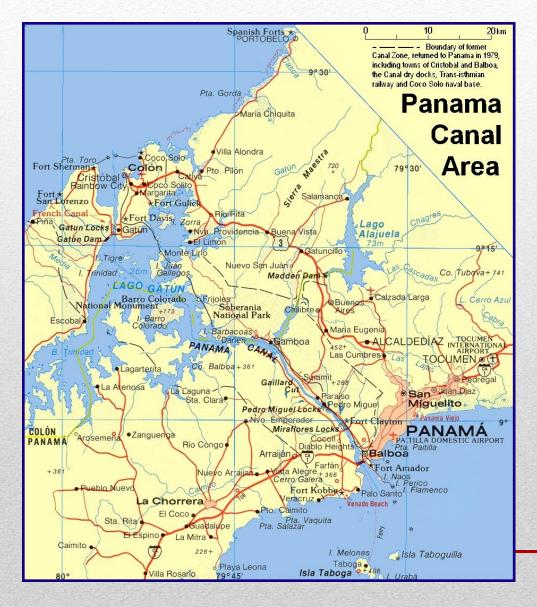
Geography 1. staging point 2. crossroads 3. geopolitics

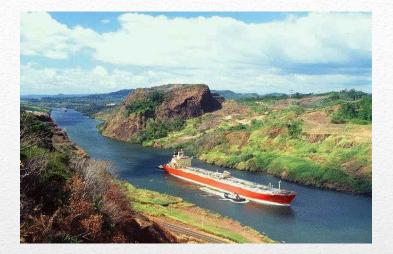
External Domination

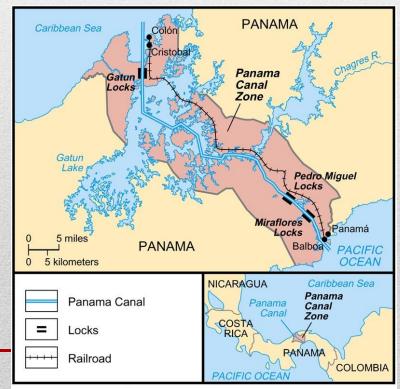
- 1. long period of Spanish colonial control
- 2. forgotten province of Colombia
- 3. United States: legacy of Hay-Bunau-Varilla Treaty



Geography and Canal Zone

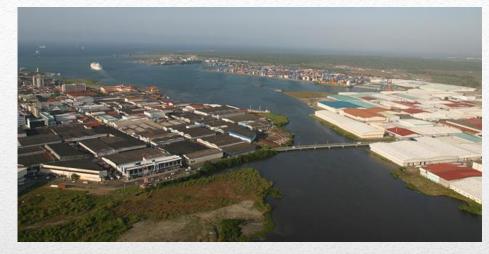


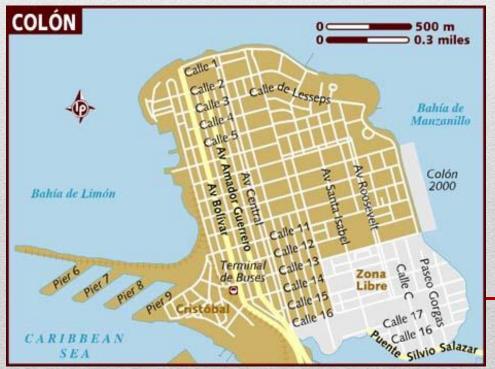




THE PANAMA CANAL ZONE

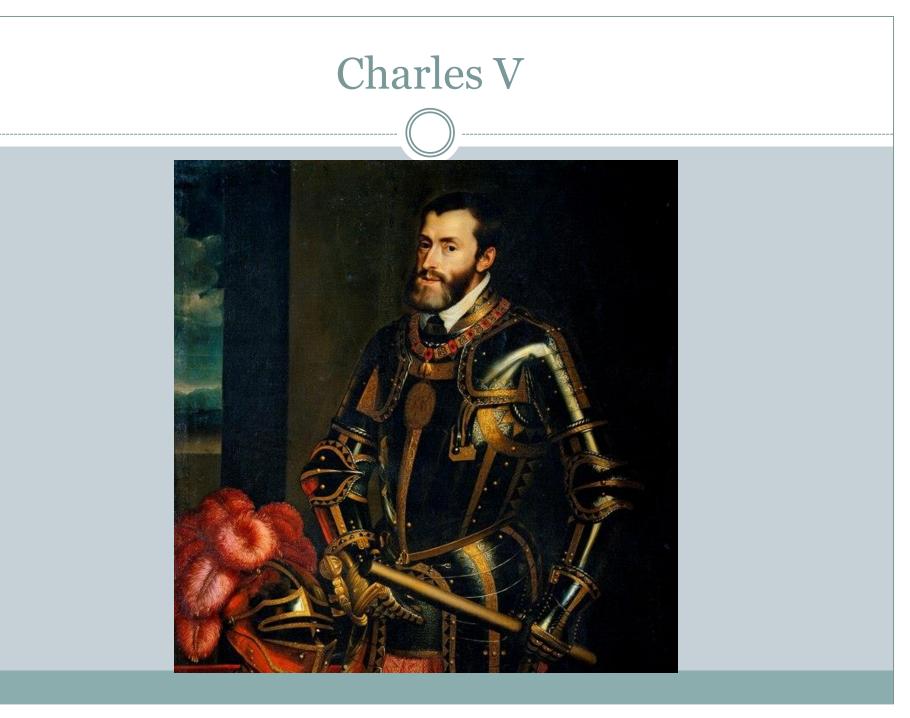
Free Trade Zone in Colón

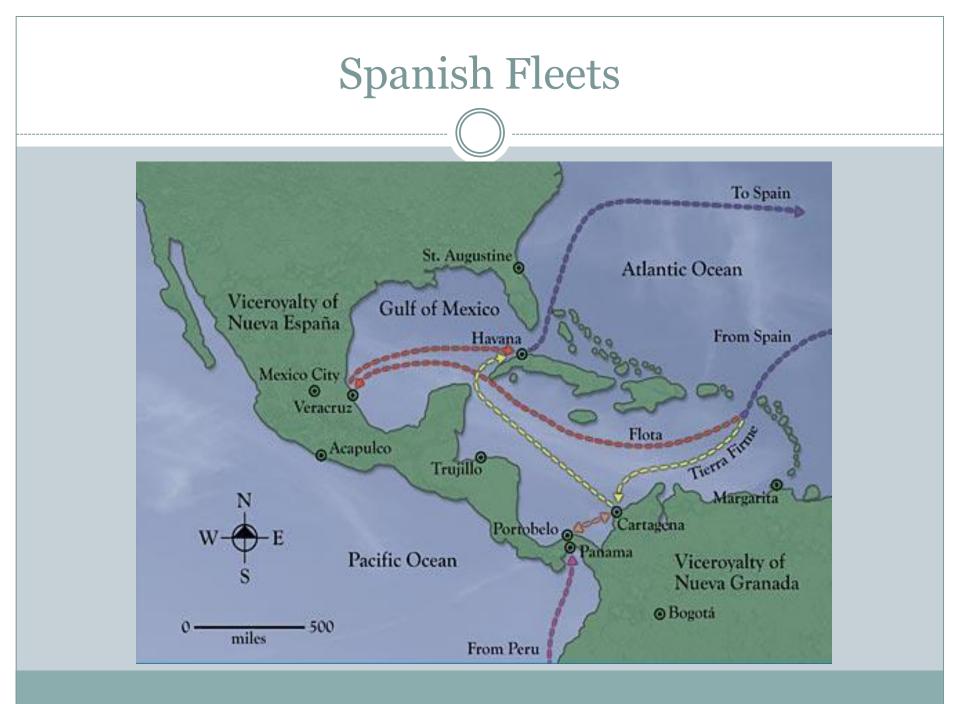


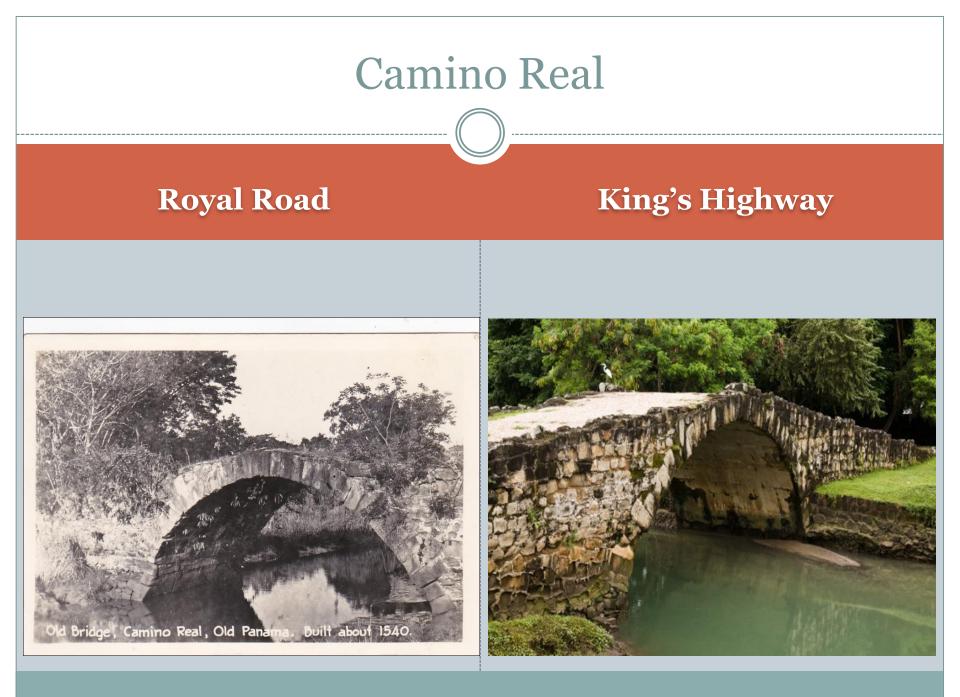








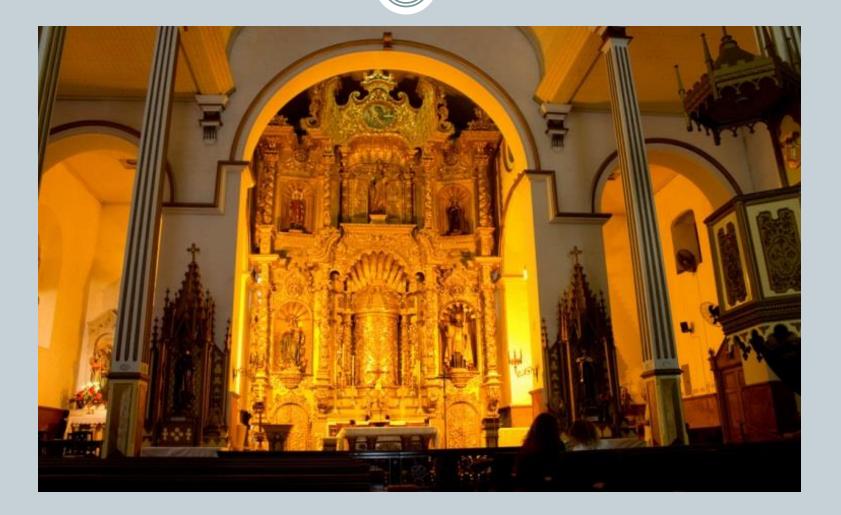


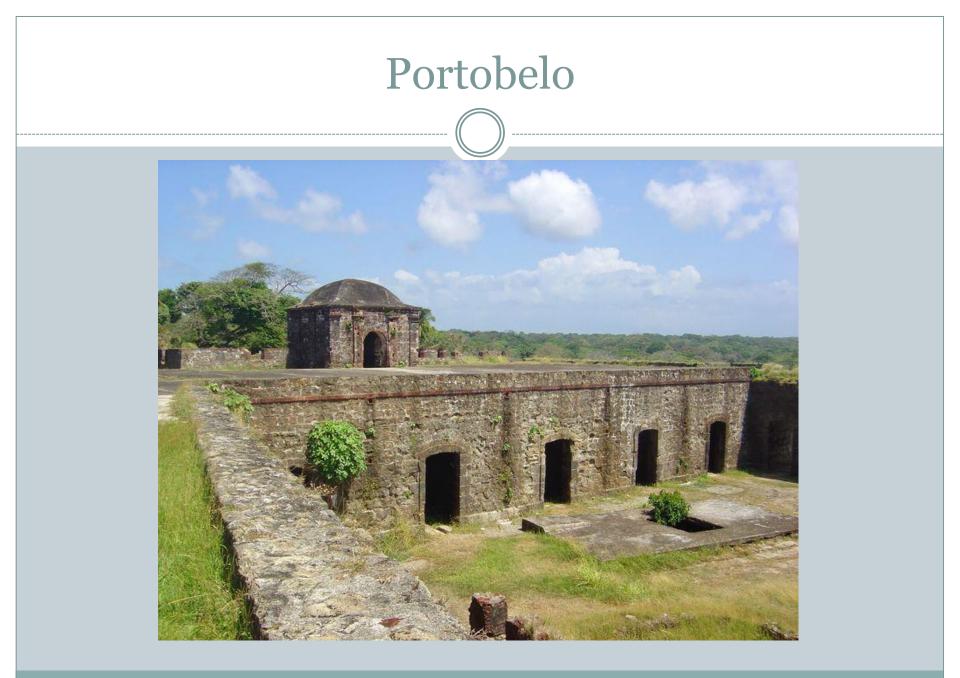






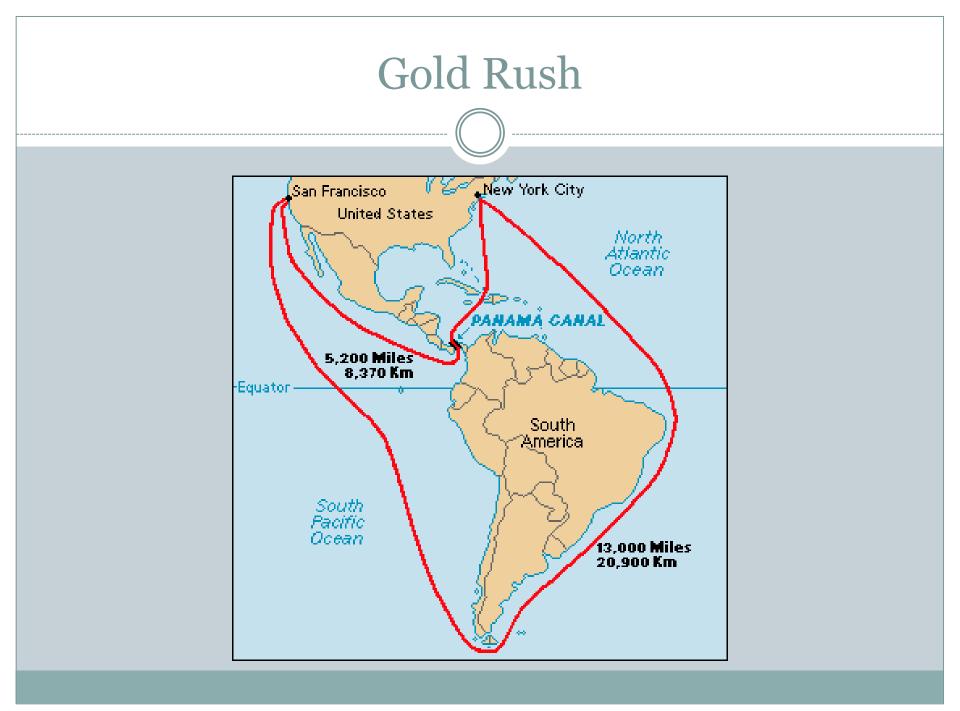
Church of San José in Casco Viejo







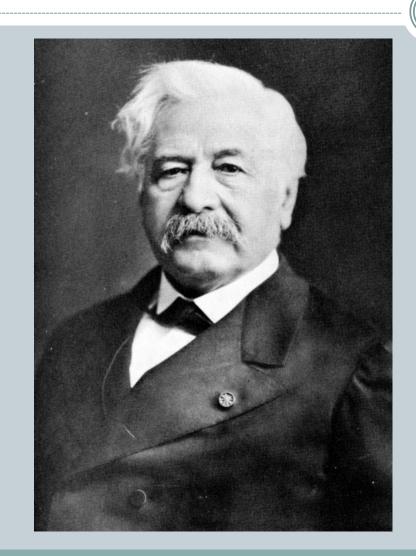


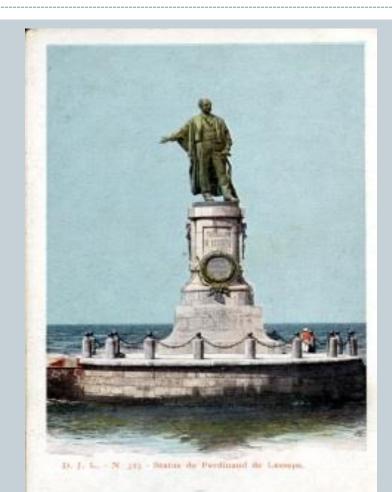


Watermelon War, 1856

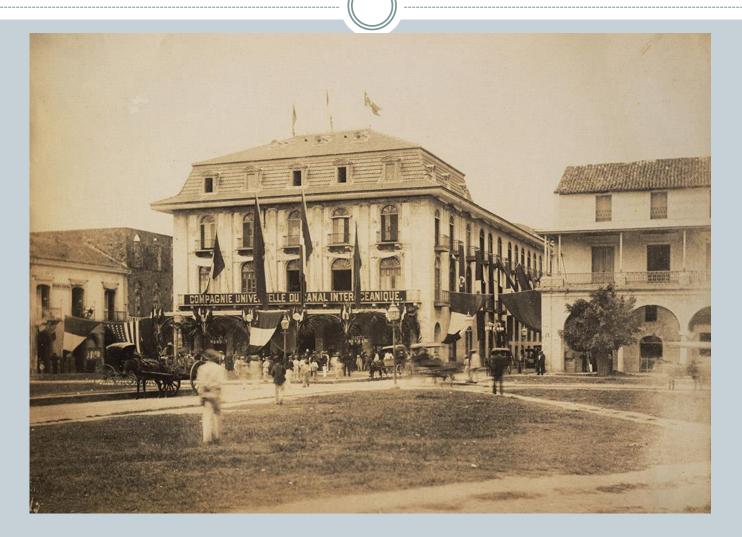


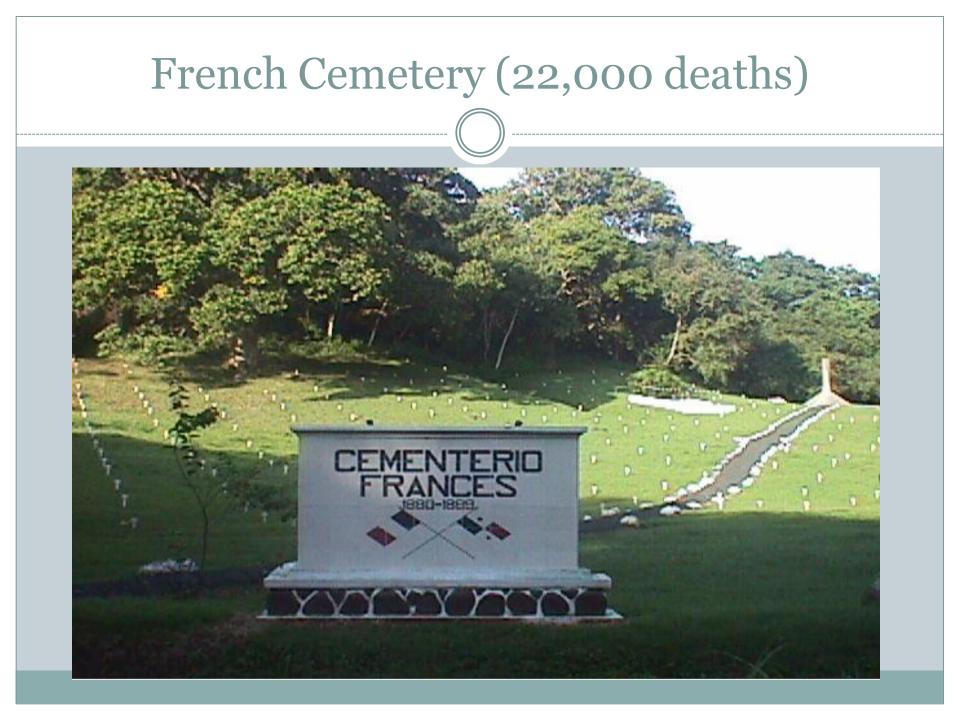
Ferdinand de Lesseps



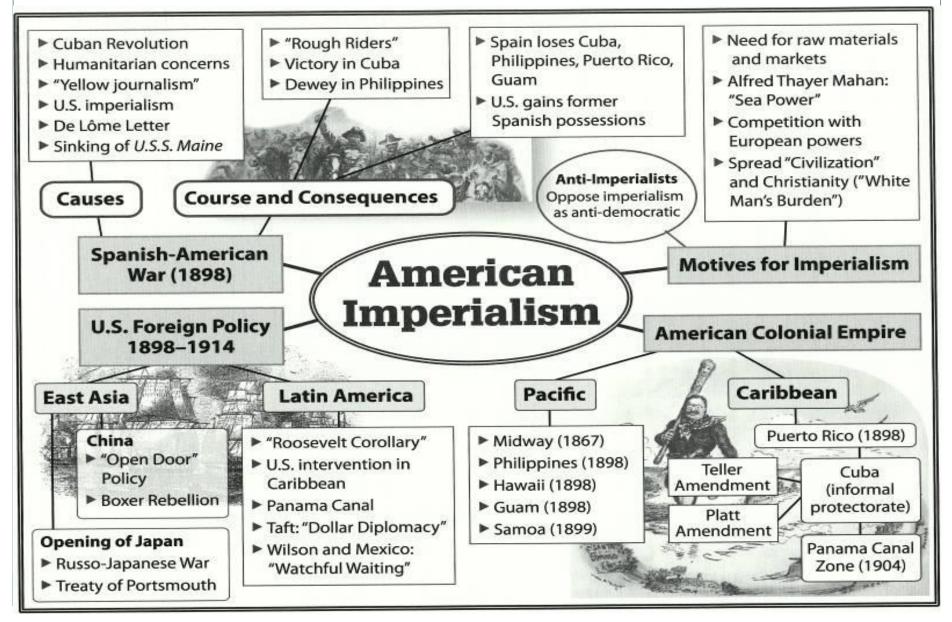


Headquarters of the Compagnie Universelle du Canal Interoceanique in Panama City





U.S. Rise to Global Power

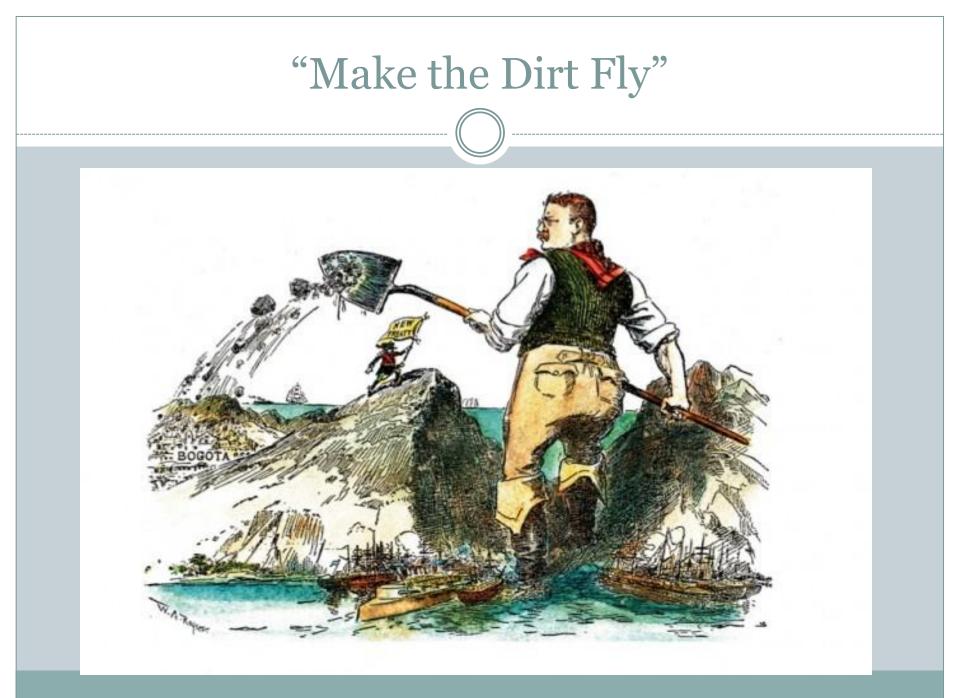






"I took the Canal"

After Panama declared independence from Colombia in 1903, President Theodore Roosevelt attempted to quell suspicions that the U.S. had helped foment revolt in order to build the Panama Canal. Roosevelt asked Secretary of War Elihu Root if he had properly defended himself against accusations of wrongdoing. Root reportedly replied, "You certainly have, Mr. President. You have shown that you were accused of seduction, and you have conclusively proved that you were guilty of rape."

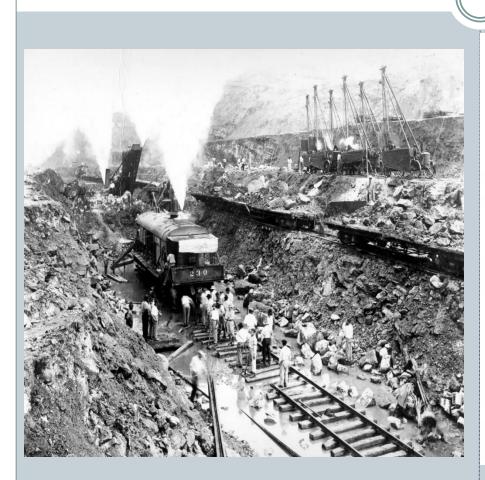


Chief Engineers of the Panama Canal George Washington Goethals John Wallace John Stevens

United States Canal Project

inauspicious beginning John Stevens – railroads **Col.** George Washington Goethals "Make the dirt fly." locks, Gaillard Cut, Chagres River \rightarrow Lake Gatún **Carlos Juan Finlay and William Crawford Gorgas** eradication efforts "black labor on a white canal" Panamanian resentment of "invaders" opening of canal in August 1914 - Ancon

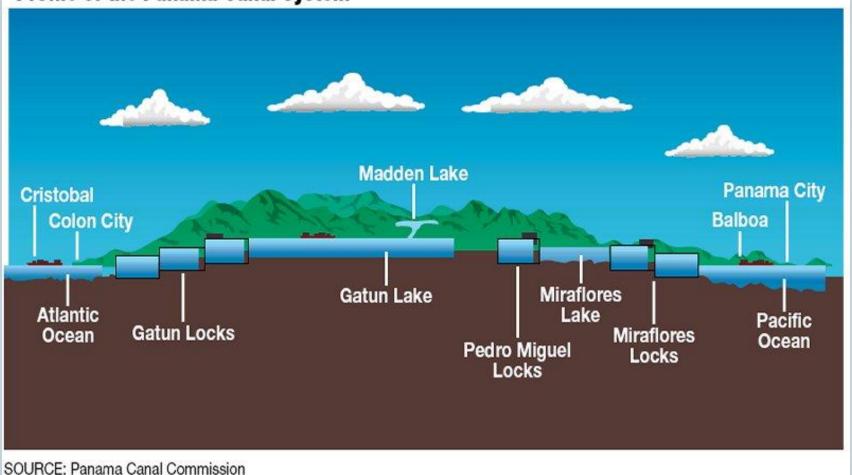
Monumental Project

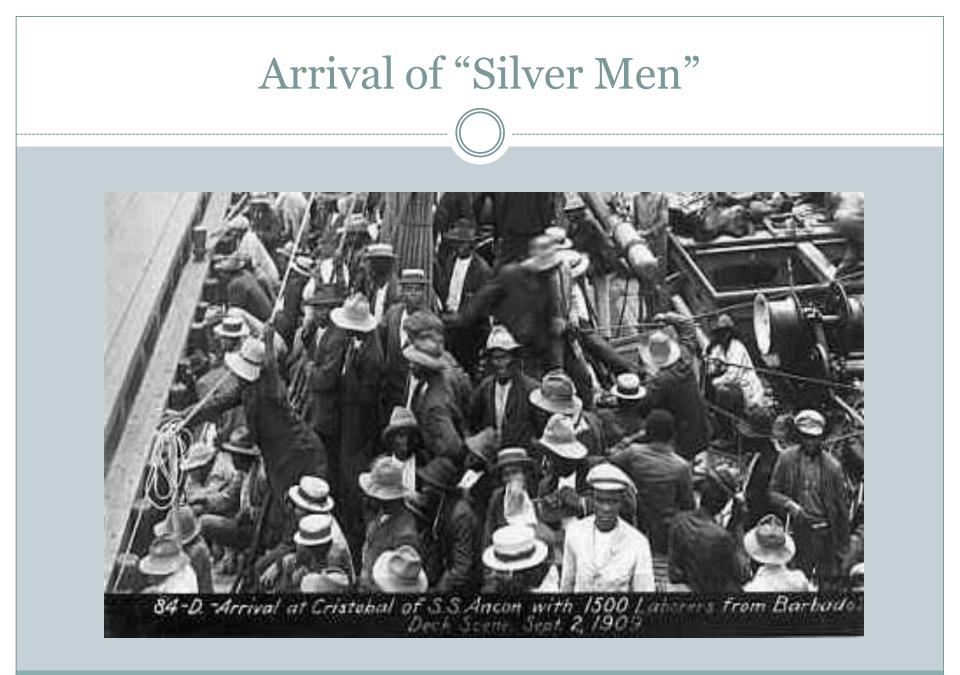




Lock System

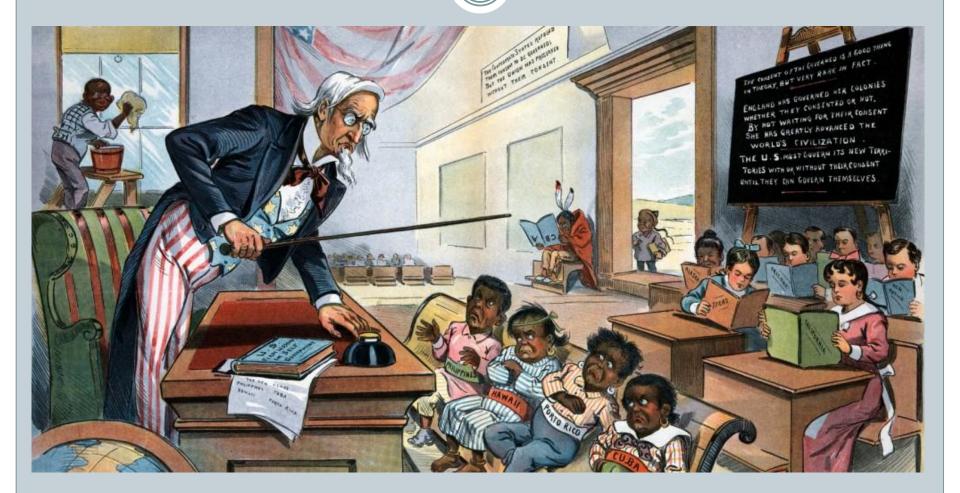
Profile of the Panama Canal System







Nation Building

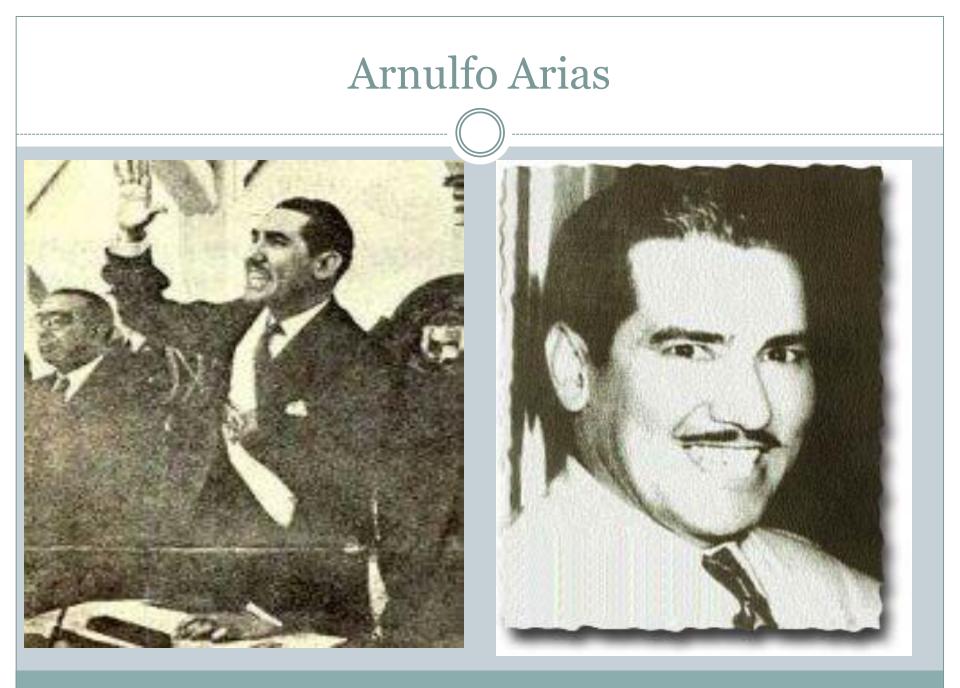


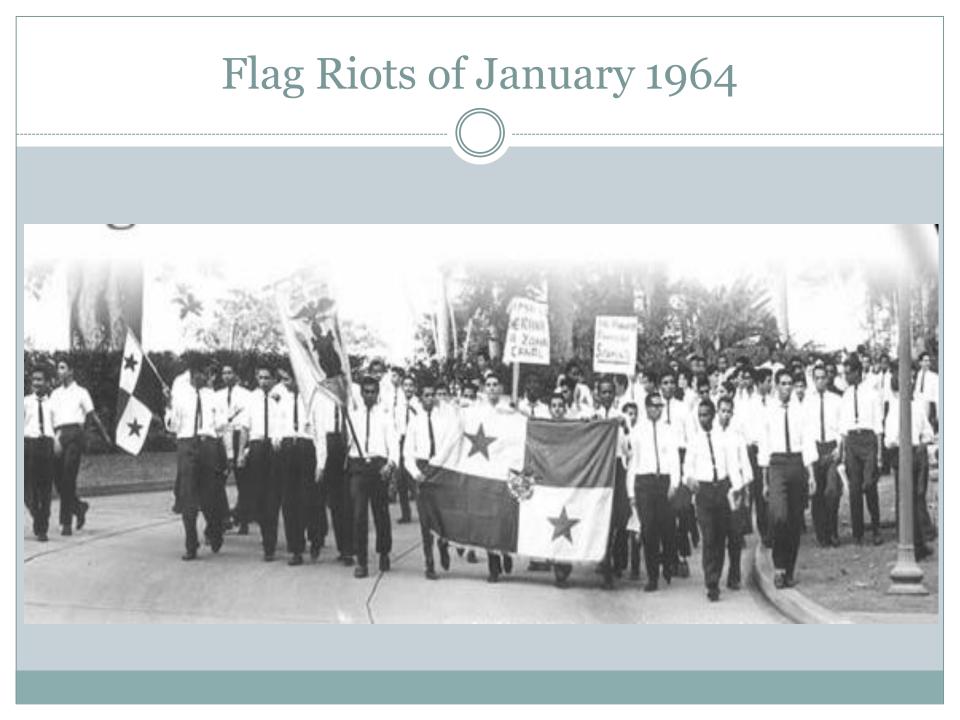
Acción Comunal and the Generation of '31



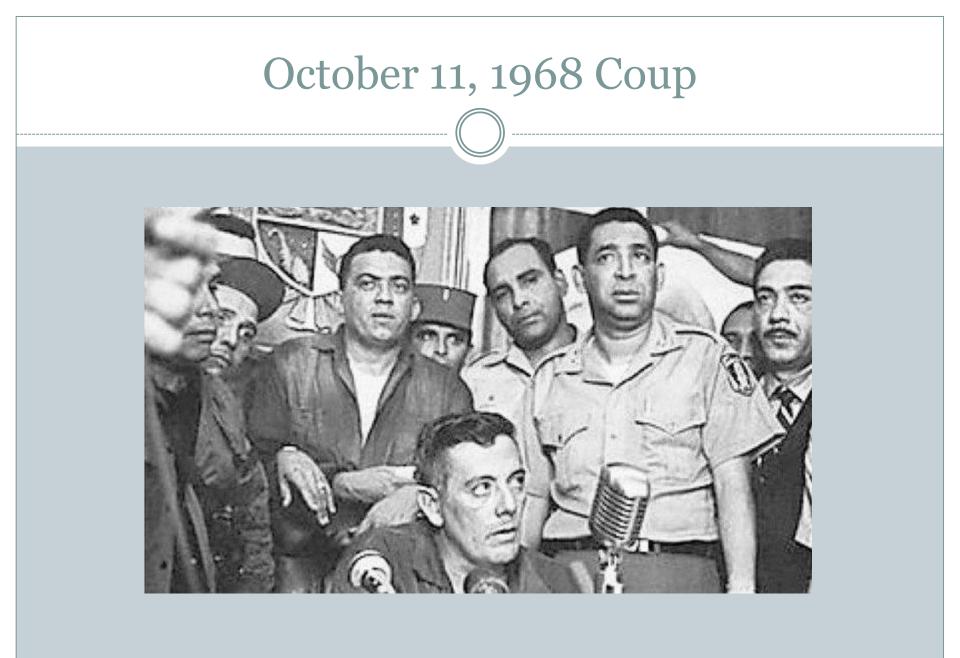










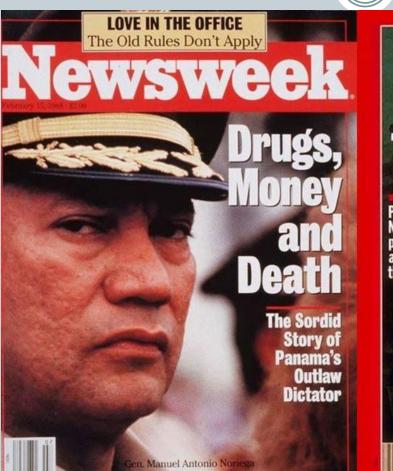




Panama Canal Treaties



Manuel Noriega

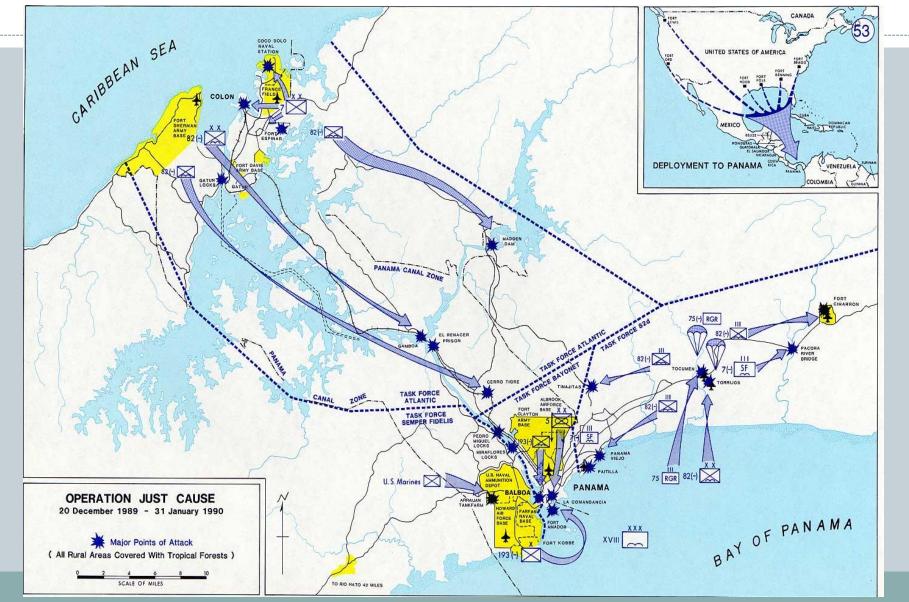


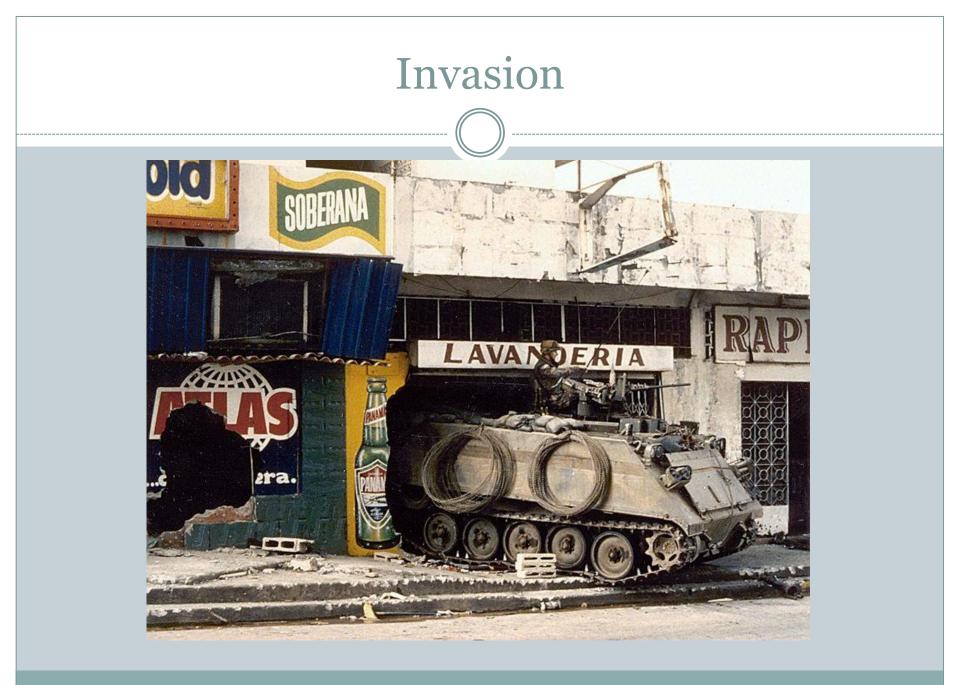
The Drug Thugs

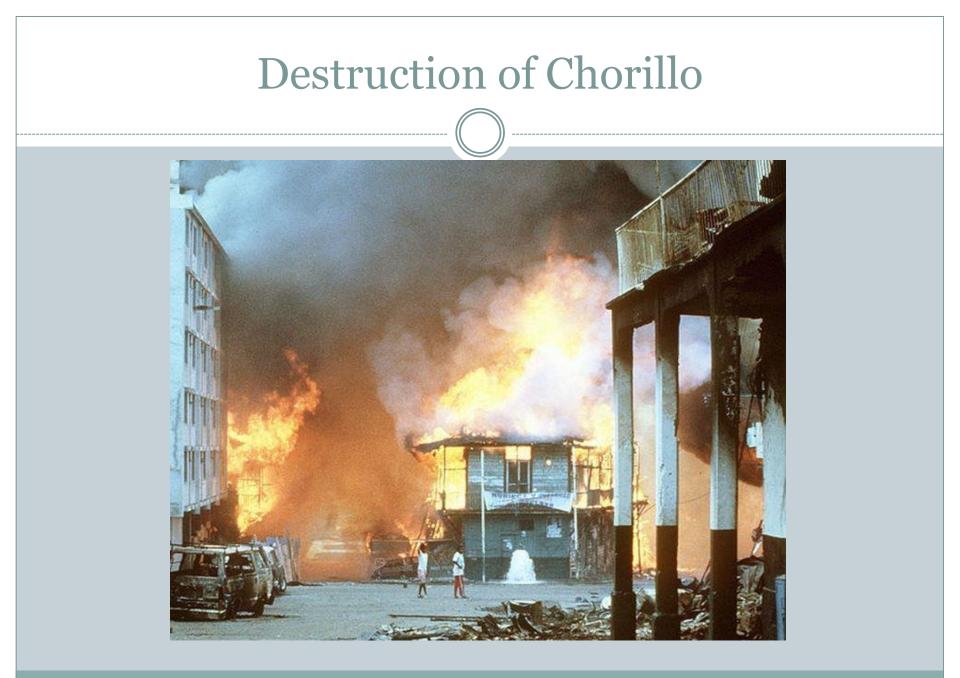
Panama's Noriega proves they're a law unto themselves

MARCH 7, 1988

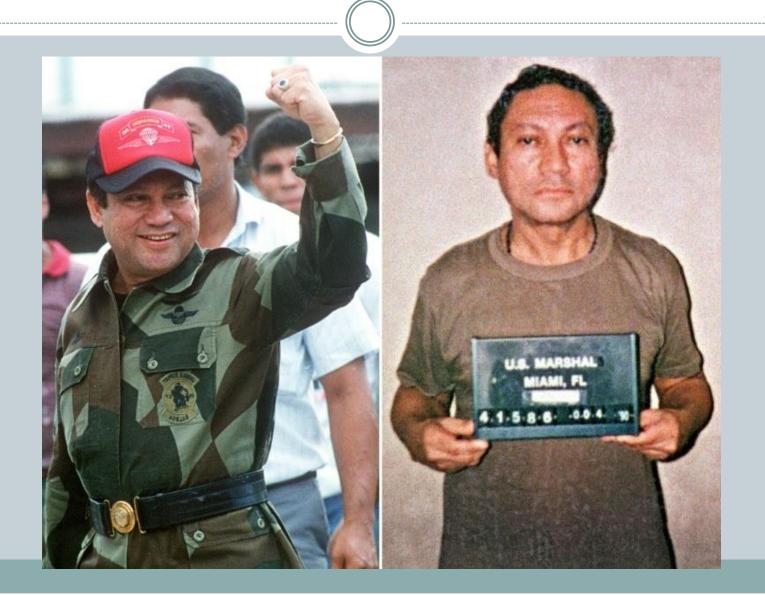
Operation Just Cause



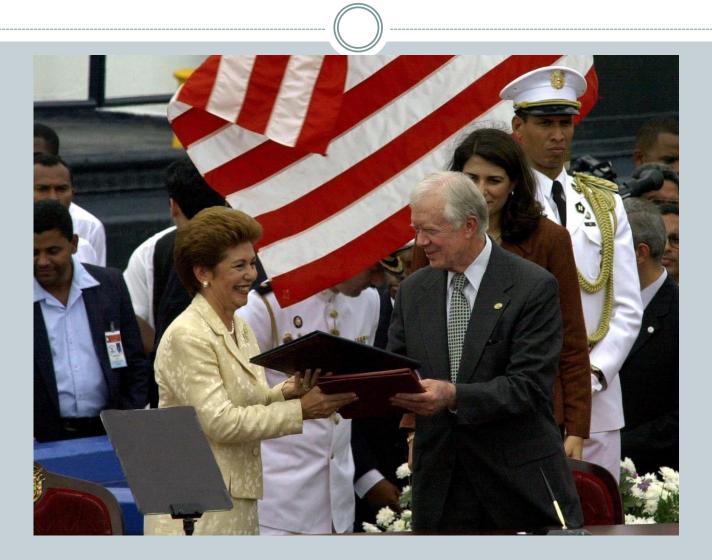




Capture of Noriega



Panama Canal Returned December 31, 1999



Third Locks

