

Chapter 32
Latin America: Revolution and Reaction
into the 21st Century



Latin America After World War II

- ◆ First world nations: capitalist industrialized nations
- ◆ Second world nations: communist industrialized nations
- ◆ Third world nations: developing nations, usually less economically powerful
- ◆ Latin America fit the third world definition closely because of its earlier political independence and more Western social and political structures.

Latin America After World War II

- ◆ From the 1940's to 2000, Mexico was controlled by the Party of Institutionalized Revolution (PRI).
- ◆ 1994- The Zapatistas emerged as a guerilla movement but were put down by the Mexican government.
- ◆ Mexico also joined the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).
- ◆ Vicente Fox, leader of the National Action Party, was elected in 2000.

Radical Options in the 1950's

- ◆ Juan Jose Arevalo used a series of programs that conflicted with foreign companies working in Guatemala, such as the United Fruit Company.
- ◆ Jacobo Arbenz was elected President in 1951.
- ◆ The US Central Intelligence Agency invaded Guatemala to overthrow Arbenz and installed a US-supported government.
- ◆ Reforms were minimal.

Radical Options in the 1950's

- ◆ Cuba had a large middle class but was dependent on American imports and the export of sugar.
- ◆ From 1934-1944, Fulgencio Batista ruled Cuba as a authoritarian reformer.
- ◆ Fidel Castro and Ernesto "Che" Guevara joined to create a small military force to overthrow Batista.
- ◆ The "26th of July Movement" had support from students, labor organizations and rural workers.

Radical Options in the 1950's

- ◆ Castro and Guevara's movement were able to drive Batista from power.
- ◆ Castro changed the way Cuba had been run by implementing a socialist economy.
- ◆ The United States cut off relations with Cuba in 1961.
- ◆ Cuba then dependent on the Soviet Union throughout the Cold War.
- ◆ Achievements of socialism are accompanied with restrictions on freedoms.

**The Search for Reform and the Military
Option**

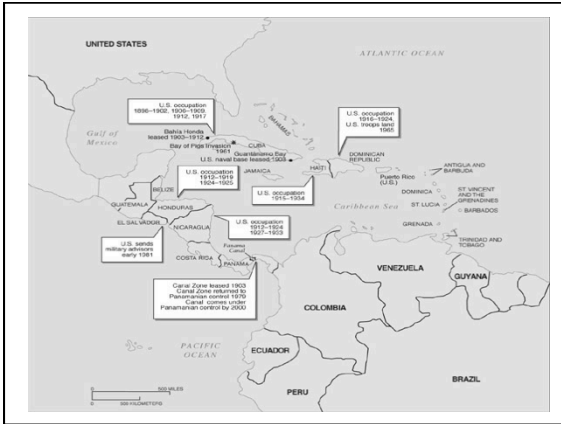
- ◆ Many militaries in Latin American seized power after World War II and imposed new types of bureaucratic and authoritarian regimes.
- ◆ Government economic policies fell heaviest on the working class.
- ◆ All military governments were nationalistic.

**The Search for Reform and the Military
Option**

- ◆ South American governments returned to civilian governments in the mid 1980's.
- ◆ Large foreign loans taken in the 1970's threatened economic stability in Brazil, Peru and Mexico.
- ◆ International commerce in drug trafficking stimulates criminal activity in many Latin American countries.
- ◆ Latin American continues to have economic and political problems.

**The Search for Reform and the Military
Option**

- ◆ Private investment by American companies were the chief means of influence in Latin America.
- ◆ The United States intervened periodically in Latin America to protect investments.
- ◆ Direct interventions were usually followed by the creation or support of conservative governments that would be friendly to the United States.



The Search for Reform and the Military Option

- ◆ The US launched a program called the Alliance for Progress in 1961, which aimed to develop regions and eliminate ideas of radical political solutions.
- ◆ After 2000, US concerns with Latin America continued to focus on issues of commerce, immigration, the drug trade, and political stability.
- ◆ Over 30% of the population of Latin America falls under the poverty line, which contributes to legal and illegal immigration to the US.

Societies in Search of Change

- ◆ Women slowly gained suffrage in Latin America, but were even more slowly integrated into national political programs.
- ◆ Migration among Latin American countries is common because of job opportunities and politics.
- ◆ Movement in Latin American from rural to urban areas is extremely high.

Societies in Search of Change

- ❖ Latin American popular culture combines crafts, music, dance.
- ❖ The struggle for social justice, economic security and political formulas still exists.
- ❖ Economics of Latin America have expanded but problems of distribution of wealth are prevalent.
