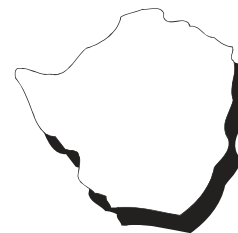


the West during the Cold War. Zaire was used for many *covert* (secret) operations by the West against Marxist countries, or types of countries who follow **Marxism**, like Angola.

During the 1980s and 1990s, opposition to Mobuto's rule grew. His downfall began when he tried to expel the Zairian Tutsis, an ethnic group that had lived in eastern Zaire for centuries. A rebel leader named Laurent Kabila led a military rebellion against Mobuto. His government was finally overthrown in May 1997 by General Kabila. Kabila returned the country to the name which it had held 27 years ago, the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Mobuto fled into exile to Morocco and died of cancer later that year. Kabila's autocratic government soon faced opposition from many of his former allies. In July 1999, a cease-fire agreement signed by all opposing parties halted the outbreaks of violence; however, fighting continued throughout various parts of the country. President Kabila was assassinated in January 2001, and his son Joseph Kabila was named head of state. Uniting the tribes into one country and resolving ethnic rivalries will be the greatest challenge facing the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the coming years.

Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) and Majority Rule

Rhodesia was a British colony in southern Africa which had fertile farmland and a wide variety of valuable mineral resources. When the desire for independence swept across the African colonies during the 1960s, the white minority that ruled Rhodesia refused to give up power to the native black majority. Great Britain supported the idea of rule by the black majority. However, white Rhodesians rejected the idea of giving up their power to the black majority. Despite Great Britain's opposition, Rhodesia proclaimed its independence from Britain in November 1965.



Zimbabwe

Conservative whites, led by Prime Minister Ian Smith, would not share political power with the black majority, despite international pressure, economic sanctions, and guerrilla attacks. The white minority had forced the native African people to live as *second-class* citizens. Whites made up only five percent of Rhodesia's population but controlled the government, the schools, and all industry and owned half the land. Native Africans were not permitted to hold certain jobs and were told where they had to live.

As other African nations became independent, black Nationalists in Rhodesia prepared to fight for their rights. In the mid-1970s, the situation in Rhodesia became a crisis. If the white minority government did not grant equal rights to the African majority, bloodshed was certain. The government of Rhodesia, however, was doing everything it could to prevent Africans in Rhodesia from gaining equal rights. During the 1970s, guerrillas gained control of most of Rhodesia. Economic sanctions imposed by the UN and the United States put pressure on the Rhodesian government to grant Africans equal rights. After a lengthy civil war, a settlement was finally reached.

Elections were held in 1974 and Nationalist leader Robert Mugabe was elected prime minister. In 1980 Rhodesia became the independent state of Zimbabwe. Recovery after years of civil war and economic sanctions was a difficult process. During the 1980s and 1990s, Mugabe was reelected to office. His administration worked to rebuild agriculture and industry. Zimbabwe's biggest challenge has been the *autoimmune deficiency syndrome* (AIDS) epidemic that has reduced the average Zimbabwean life expectancy to 39 years of age.

President Mugabe's land reform policy resulted in the forced removal of white-owned farms without compensation. The seized land was given to his political supporters who did not efficiently farm the land. This resulted in a fall in productivity and widespread starvation. In 2002 and 2005, Mugabe was reelected president; however many claim that these elections were rigged. His administration is accused of corruption, many human rights abuses, and widespread violence against his political opponents.

South Africa: The Fight for Freedom



South Africa

At the beginning of the 20th century, South Africa won self-rule from Great Britain. It withdrew from the British Commonwealth in 1961 to become a republic. South Africa was governed by a white minority of ethnically British and *Afrikaners* (descendants of Dutch settlers). The white minority controlled vast mineral resources and fertile farmlands. They also controlled the government and denied basic freedoms to the African population and other minorities living in South Africa. The official policy of

the South African government towards the African majority was called **apartheid**. *Apartheid* separated the races in order to maintain white rule. Native Africans in South Africa were treated like second-class citizens. The South African government recognized four categories of race: whites, blacks, people of mixed ancestry called *coloreds*, and Asians. Under apartheid laws, white, black, and mixed races were strictly **segregated**. Blacks could not vote or own property. They were forced to live in *segregated* rural areas called *homelands*. All nonwhites had to carry special identification cards whenever they left their areas. Under this strictly controlled and *repressive* system, blacks were forced to work at low-paying jobs. Apartheid laws banned racially mixed marriages and set up segregated schools, restaurants, and other facilities.

United States President Jimmy Carter spoke out many times against the policy of apartheid. He cut off much trade with South Africa in order to put economic pressure on the South African government. Many countries refused to trade or do business in South Africa. South African athletes were *banned*, or stopped, from competing in many international sports events, including the Olympic Games. South Africa found itself diplomatically isolated as more and more countries broke off diplomatic relations because of its government's racial policies.

Black Africans in South Africa joined nationalist movements that opposed white domination. Marches, boycotts, and strikes spread throughout South Africa. In response, the government imposed even harsher laws. White officials banned black Nationalist organizations and arrested their leaders. The *African National Congress* (ANC), the largest black Nationalist movement in South Africa, was banned in 1960. In 1964, Nelson Mandela, an ANC leader, was sentenced to life in prison for organizing acts of civil disobedience against apartheid laws and conspiracy against the government. Mandela, who remained in prison for 27 years, became a powerful symbol of the struggle against apartheid.



United States President Jimmy Carter spoke out many times against the policy of apartheid.

The ANC began **guerrilla warfare** against the government in the 1970s. Responding to growing unrest, white leaders began to ease many of the laws that *discriminated* against blacks. Desmond Tutu, a black bishop in South Africa, won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1984 for his nonviolent opposition to apartheid and his efforts to bring justice to South Africa. A state of emergency was imposed by the white government in 1985 when protests and violence escalated. In 1989 the newly elected South African president, F. W. de Klerk, pledged change through negotiations with the black population. He ended apartheid and repealed the segregation laws. In 1990 the ban on the ANC was lifted, and Nelson Mandela was finally released from prison after almost three decades of imprisonment.



Nelson Mandela

During the next four years, de Klerk and Mandela worked together to reform South Africa's government. By 1992, South Africans voted to support reforms that allowed equal rights for all citizens. For the first time, both black and white South Africans were allowed to vote together. In 1993, the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded jointly to F. W. de Klerk and Nelson Mandela for their efforts to bring about a peaceful end to apartheid in South Africa. Nelson Mandela was elected in 1994 as the first black president of the new democratic government. As expected, the African National Congress won over 60 percent of the vote. In 1997, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, led by Desmond Tutu, began public hearings to examine human rights violations between 1960 and 1993. The commission promised *amnesty*, or a general pardon, to those who confessed their crimes under the apartheid system. In 1998 F. W. de Klerk, P. W. Botha, and leaders of the ANC appeared before the commission as part of the painful process of national recovery. Nelson Mandela retired in 1999 after completing his term as president. Thabo Mbeki, Mandela's vice president and also a leader in the ANC's struggle against apartheid, was elected the second black president of democratic South Africa in June, 1999 and was subsequently reelected for a second term in April 2004. Black poverty and unemployment in South Africa still remains high; however, the overall economic outlook is slowly improving.

Problems Facing Africa

In the decades following World War II, European colonial rule in Africa came to an end. Many newly independent African nations were unprepared to establish democratic governments. Although they had won independence, many were still economically dependent on the support of their former European colonial rulers.

Colonial boundaries of African nations did not reflect the cultural, ethnic, or language divisions of Africa. These boundaries were drawn for the convenience of Europeans, not Africans. Tribal homelands often were split between several countries, fragmenting the tribes.

All the current African nations include a wide variety of different groups. In some parts of Africa, there are more than 75 different languages or dialects in one nation. Due to this diversity, it has been difficult for the now independent nations to develop the common identity needed for loyalty to one's nation.

Disagreements among different ethnic groups in each nation have led to civil wars. In the 1990s, ethnic unrest in the countries of Rwanda and Burundi led to one of the most violent conflicts in African history. Two ethnic groups, the *Hutu* and the *Tutsis*, fought against one another in a bitter civil war in Rwanda in which *genocide* claimed the lives of 500,000 people, mostly Tutsi.

Newly independent African nations have also seen democratic governments give way to a series of corrupt and brutal military *dictatorships* or government with one-party rule. Over 70 leaders of African countries were overthrown by violence between 1957-1982.

In 1974 military leaders in Ethiopia overthrew Emperor Haile Selassie and began a Marxist dictatorship. Civil war broke out when the new government persecuted and killed many political opponents. During the 1990s, a long **drought** and then a civil war led to the eventual fall of the military dictatorship. When the Ethiopian province of Eritrea became



Colonial boundaries of African nations did not reflect the cultural, ethnic, or language division of Africa.

independent in 1993, border disputes and war erupted again, eventually spreading to Ethiopia's neighbor Somalia. Somalia is another country that has suffered from the effects of an unstable government. Since 1991 Somalia has been engulfed in **anarchy**. Rival clans and warlords fought for control of the government as a severe *drought* killed hundreds of thousands of Somalis.

Another area affected by drought has been Sudan's western Darfur region. An intense drought in 1983-1984 led to famine. This increased tensions between ethnic African tribes in Darfur and Sudan's predominantly Arab government. In 2003, armed conflict broke out. Darfuri rebels accused the government of neglecting the Darfur region and revolted against the Sudanese government. The government responded by sending aircraft to bomb villages. With the support of Sudan's military, further attacks on the villages by Arab tribal militias followed. These militias, also called the *Janjaweed*, have been accused of genocide. United Nations researchers estimate that at least 200,000 people in Darfur have died. Around 2.5 million people have been displaced. Many people fled to refugee camps or across the border into Chad. The world's largest relief effort has been mounted in response to the conflict. However, violence has prevented aid from reaching many parts of Darfur.

Independence did not bring economic prosperity to Africa. The dependence on the *export* of a single crop or natural resource, like Liberia's rubber or Nigeria's oil, has created economic instability in these countries. When the prices of these goods dropped, the economies of these African nations suffered. One-product economies, such as those of Ghana with cocoa and Burundi with coffee, are at the mercy of constant price changes on the world market. Nigeria has tried to use its oil and mineral wealth to fund the development of modernization projects within the country. However, **importing** manufactured goods and expensive technology from the West has also drained African economies. In their rush to industrialize, African nations failed to adequately develop agriculture. In addition, rapid population growth in many African nations has crippled efforts to modernize economic systems and improve standards of living.

Problems in Africa are not only political or economic. The people of Africa have recently suffered the world's worst food shortages because of crop failures and drought. Millions of people are in danger of starvation and



Rapid population growth in many African nations has crippled efforts to modernize economic systems and improve standards of living.

malnutrition. Drought conditions have led to widespread hunger and starvation, first in the West African countries of Mali and Niger and later in Ethiopia, Somalia, and the Sudan. Widespread hunger has also caused countless numbers of African people to migrate to neighboring countries in search of food. The AIDS epidemic has devastated Africa, killing millions in recent years and leaving behind hundreds of

thousands of orphaned children to fend for themselves. Because of all of these problems, widespread poverty has impacted both rural and urban life. Massive slums surround many African cities, mostly populated by rural people who fled to the city seeking a better life.

Economic and political changes will be a slow and painful process. A number of African leaders believe in *Pan Africanism*, the belief in unity of all black Africans, regardless of national boundaries. In 1963 Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana and Ahmed Sekou Toure of Guinea invited 32 African nations to form the *Organization of African Unity* (OAU). The OAU is an organization created to promote a common identity and a common sense of destiny for all Africans. Enlightened African leaders hope that someday a Pan-African Union will unite all the countries of the African continent into a broader community. OAU members hope that someday it can create an all-African common market similar to the European Union.

Latin America

Latin America is a geographically diverse region that stretches from Mexico at its northern border, through Central America and the Caribbean islands down to the tip of South America. Throughout their history, the nations of Latin America have been controlled by foreign powers. As colonies, they were directly controlled by their parent countries of Spain, Portugal, and France. After independence in the 19th century, the United States and Great Britain used their economic and political power to manipulate the countries of Latin America. These foreign powers used Latin America's people and resources to gain wealth. Most of Latin America still has not recovered from the colonial practices of these imperialist nations and remain very poor.

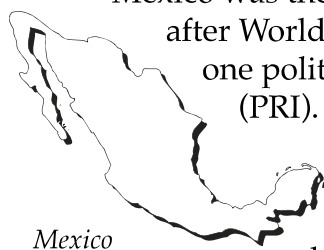


The economies of most Latin American nations, like many African nations, were based upon one major industry or **cash crop**. For example, Cuba depended on sugar cane, Colombia on coffee, Bolivia on tin, and Nicaragua on bananas. When a country's economy is based upon one major resource, it will usually have a weak economy. If poor weather destroys a crop, the entire economy of the country can be ruined.

Depending on the world supply of these goods, prices on the world market can rise and fall at any time. A fall in prices for a product can hurt an economy. An example of this happened in Mexico. Mexico discovered huge oil fields at a time when oil prices were high. In order to drill and refine the oil, the Mexican government took out large loans from banks around the world. When the price of oil on the world market fell, the Mexican government was stuck with huge debts and an oil surplus.

During the last 200 years, most Latin American countries have had military dictatorships. Latin American countries, like many African nations, have had a history of unstable governments. These military governments outlawed political parties and censored the press. In many Latin American countries, governments imprisoned or executed thousands of *dissidents*. Since the 1980s, most Latin American countries have replaced their dictatorships with democratically elected governments as they attempt to modernize their societies and economies.

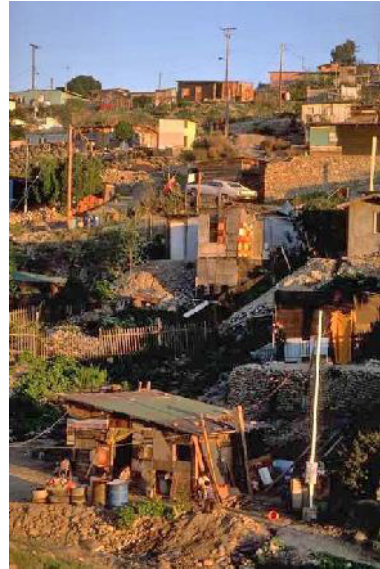
Mexico



Mexico was the most politically stable country in Latin America after World War II. Since 1929 Mexico has been dominated by one political party, the *Institutional Revolutionary Party* (PRI). The PRI controlled Mexico's national and local governments for most of the 20th century. During the 1950s and 1960s, the Mexican government promoted steady economic growth. Although there were increases in industrial growth and national income, wealth was unevenly distributed. Most of the new wealth went to the educated upper classes. Little wealth reached the masses of poor people. For example, despite Mexico's new wealth from oil production, millions of peasants in rural areas remain desperately poor.

In 1968 thousands of students protested the policies of the Mexican government. Police opened fire on the protestors, killing hundreds of

students. During the 1970s, the government responded to the growing demands for social and economic reforms. The government began a land reform program and restricted foreign investment. Political reforms allowed competition between rival political parties in all elections. Many other democratic reforms and freedoms were put in place. However, economic problems continued to *plague* (trouble) Mexico. Although the discovery of oil caused an economic boom, the worldwide *recession* in the 1980s caused oil prices to fall. High interest rates on loans made it difficult for Mexico to pay its debts. As a result, Mexico had to cut government spending, especially for social programs that helped the poor. The government sold off government-owned companies and reduced regulations on private businesses. It also opened up Mexico to foreign investment.



Despite Mexico's new wealth from oil production, millions of peasants in rural areas remain desperately poor.

In 1994 the Mexican government had to deal with a guerrilla uprising in the southern state of Chiapas. The rebels demanded democratic, social, and economic reforms to help Mexico's poor. The PRI was widely criticized for its corrupt and ineffective use of power in Chiapas, as well as in Mexico.

Mexico signed the *North American Free Trade Agreement* (NAFTA) in 1993 with the United States and Canada. This agreement was supposed to



Mexico's population has continued to grow rapidly, and the gap between rich and poor has widened.

lower trade barriers between these countries and open new markets. It was hoped that increased business investment would increase prosperity in Mexico. However, economic improvements had little impact on the lives of Mexico's poorest citizens.

Mexico's population has continued to grow rapidly, and the gap between rich and poor has widened. Illegal immigration and

drug smuggling have created problems between the United States and Mexico. Economic and social pressure, plus dissatisfaction with the PRI, have led to increased challenges from opposition political parties. After 71 years of political control of Mexico, the PRI finally lost the presidency to a rival party in July 2000. Vicente Fox of the center-right *National Action Party* (PAN) was elected president. Mexico at last may be developing into a democracy that is not dominated by one political party but instead is open to a variety of different groups and points of view. Vicente Fox retired as president of Mexico at the end of his term of office. The 2006 presidential election resulted in a narrow margin of victory for Felipe Calderon of the PAN political party. Many believed that the election was “too close to call.” Lopez Obrador, the presidential candidate of the *Party of the Democratic Revolution* (PRD), appealed the election outcome, charging that the election was fraudulent. On September 5, 2006, the Federal Electoral Tribunal ruled the election was fair and that Felipe Calderon was the winner.

The Caribbean

Cuba

The Caribbean island nation of Cuba won its independence from Spain in 1898. It is only 90 miles from Florida. In the decades that followed, the United States became Cuba’s most important trading partner, purchasing Cuba’s main export—sugar. The United States heavily invested in Cuban sugar plantations and sugar mills. It also influenced Cuban politics, supporting Cuban dictator Fulgencio Batista. Batista allowed American corporations to control Cuba’s economy. By the 1950s, American investors controlled Cuba’s productive land, mines, and the oil industry. Batista’s Cuba was ruled as a police state. Corrupt government officials took bribes and payoffs from American gamblers who operated the casinos in Cuba.

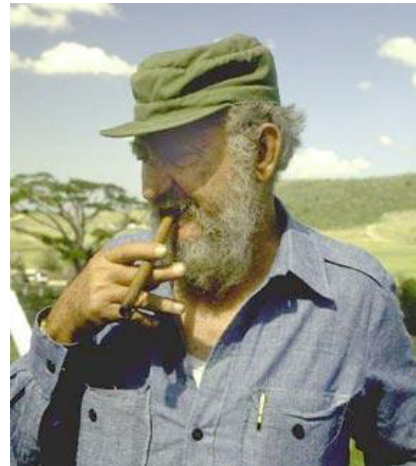


In the mid-1950s, a young lawyer named Fidel Castro began a guerrilla movement against Batista’s corrupt government. Support for Castro grew, and, by 1959, Castro and his guerrilla army overthrew the Batista government. Castro was welcomed as a hero by his many supporters who

believed that he was going to establish democracy in Cuba. Within a few months, Castro arrested and jailed his political opponents and turned Cuba into a Communist state. He nationalized all foreign-owned businesses and industries, and seized American money in local banks. Most of the land was eventually turned into Soviet-style, government-owned farms.

The Bay of Pigs Invasion

When the United States broke off diplomatic relations with Cuba in 1961, Castro formed an alliance with the Soviet Union. Castro's friendship with the Soviet Union made Cuba a focus of the Cold War in the Americas. Many Cubans, unhappy with Castro's harsh authoritarian rule, fled to the United States. With the help of the United States, some of these Cuban exiles planned an invasion of Cuba, hoping that the invasion would spark an uprising against Castro. About 2,000 anti-Castro exiles trained by the CIA landed at the Bay of Pigs on April 17, 1961. President



Fidel Castro

Kennedy gave approval for the invasion but did not provide any military support. The invasion was a failure. Most of the exiles were captured or killed. Castro used the Bay of Pigs invasion to rally public opinion against the United States. In 1962 the United States placed a trade embargo on Cuba. Travel between the countries was also restricted.

The Cuban Missile Crisis: The Superpowers Avoid War

Perhaps the closest the superpowers came to fighting each other was during the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962. For the first time, the Cold War almost turned into a real war between the Soviet Union and the United States. Castro let the Soviet Union install nuclear missile bases in Cuba, just 90 miles off the Florida coast. If launched, these missiles could have destroyed every large city in the eastern United States. In October 1962, President Kennedy ordered a naval blockade of 200 warships to Cuba. Kennedy demanded that Premier Krushchev, the leader of the Soviet Union, remove the weapons. Both superpowers prepared for war. The

crisis ended a few days later when Krushchev removed the missiles in Cuba. The Cuban Missile Crisis had ended without either side taking any military action. In a secret agreement with the Soviet Union, the United States agreed not to invade Cuba and to remove its nuclear missiles from Turkey, an ally on the southern border of the Soviet Union. The United States kept its naval base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Cuba Exports Revolution

In the decades following the Cuban Missile Crisis, the Soviet Union became Cuba's main trading partner. The Soviet Union gave economic and military aid to Cuba. Castro used his influence in the different countries of Latin America to encourage local Communist rebels and their guerrilla activities aimed at establishing Communist dictatorships. The United States continued its trade embargo of Cuba in an effort to isolate it from the rest of the Western Hemisphere. Anti-Communist governments in Latin America were given economic and military assistance in an effort to halt the spread of **communism**.



Cuban farmer

Cuba during and after the Cold War

The United States established limited diplomatic ties with Cuba in the late 1970s. Emigration to the United States increased dramatically in 1980, when Castro allowed thousands of Cubans to sail to the United States. The *Freedom Flotilla*, which left from the Cuban port of Mariel, included people who were opponents of Castro, peasants, criminals, mental patients, and others unwanted by the Cuban government. Cuban Americans used this opportunity to bring family members to the United States. Boats and ships of all kinds brought the refugees into Florida.

In late 1980s and early 1990s, when *communism* collapsed in Eastern Europe, Cuba's foreign aid from the former Soviet Union ended. Cuba's economy suffered. However, Castro refused to give up on communism. He recruited foreign investment and encouraged tourists to visit Cuba. Castro improved ties with other nations in the Western Hemisphere. Although there have been minor improvements in United States-Cuban relations, the United States has refused to lift its embargo against Cuba.

In 1998 Pope John Paul II made a historic visit to Cuba, raising hopes that Castro would ease restrictions on personal freedoms and allow religious freedom for Cubans. Many believe that Cuba is no longer a threat and that the United States should lift its embargo. Cuba will continue to be a lasting symbol of the Cold War until relations are normalized or until Fidel Castro leaves office. In July of 2006, Fidel Castro transferred his duties as president of Cuba to his brother Raul Castro. The government claimed that the transfer of duties was temporary while Castro recovered from surgery. However, while the transfer was not intended to be permanent, there are no indications when or if he will be able to return to his previous duties.

Haiti

The country of Haiti is located on the eastern side of an island that lies east of Cuba. Part of the West Indies, French-speaking Haiti shares the mountainous island of Hispaniola with the Spanish-speaking country of the Dominican Republic. These countries are the poorest in the Western Hemisphere.



Dictators have ruled Haiti during much of its history. François Duvalier, nicknamed “Papa Doc,” established a dictatorship over Haiti from 1957-1971. His son Jean-Claude Duvalier, or “Baby Doc,” succeeded his father as dictator in 1971. The use of secret police, corruption, and repression of human rights marked both Duvalier dictatorships. Jean-Claude Duvalier had to flee the country in 1986, when his government was overthrown in a military coup.

After four years of political instability and economic struggle, the Haitian people voted in their country’s first democratic elections ever. A Roman Catholic priest named Jean Bertrand Aristide was elected president. However, in 1991 Aristide was overthrown by the military and forced to flee the country. In 1994 United Nations military forces put Aristide back into power. Peacekeeping forces tried to help the country make the transition from military dictatorship to democracy.

François “Papa Doc” Duvalier (1907-1971)

François Duvalier was a Haitian politician and president (1957-1971). He was born in Port-au-Prince. He trained as a doctor—which gave him his nickname Papa Doc—at the University of Haiti. Duvalier became director of the National Public Health Service in 1946 and minister of health and labor in 1948. He organized opposition to the military government of Paul Magloire, promoted black nationalism, and was elected president in 1957 after the resignation of Magloire.

Duvalier held power from 1957 until his death. His regime saw the creation of his dreaded private militia, the *Tontons Macoutes*, and the exile of many people. Duvalier ruled by terror, helped by the Tontons Macoutes. His regime of terror stopped any political opposition. He declared himself president for life in 1964 and was succeeded by his son, Jean-Claude “Baby Doc” Duvalier.

Little progress was made towards bringing about political and economic stability in Haiti. Several free elections have failed to solve the country’s economic problems. Without a strong tradition of democratic government, Haiti has had a difficult time keeping democracy alive. Many of its freely elected leaders have suspended the parliament and have begun ruling by *decree* (order). Election fraud has been a problem as well. Large numbers of poor Haitians still flee their country every year seeking a better life. Many have migrated illegally to the United States, only to be sent back to their country by United States immigration officials.

Instability and violence continues to plague Haiti in the 21st century. Jean-Bertrand Aristide was reelected president in 2000 only to be overthrown by armed rebels in 2004 Haitian Rebellion. Aristide was forced to flee the country. After much delay, the interim (or temporary) government scheduled elections in February 2006 and Rene Preval was elected president.

Central America

Panama



Panama

Since World War II, the country of Panama has been peaceful and prosperous. Panama, once a part of Colombia, became a separate country with the help of the United States in 1903. The United States gave the Panamanians aid in their struggle for independence in return for control of the Panama Canal, a shortcut which connects the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Panama also gave up control of a strip of land on both sides of the canal where the United States went on to build many military bases.

Omar Torrijos governed Panama from 1968 to 1981. During his rule, Panama was a stable and prosperous country. Economic programs enabled many of the poor to have jobs and improve their *standard of living*.

Much of Panama's prosperity came from the American-owned Panama Canal. After a while, many Panamanians resented what they believed to be American domination of their country. In 1977 a treaty was signed by the leaders of the United States and Panama. The United States agreed to give control of the Panama Canal to Panama by December 1999, in return for Panama's promise to allow ships from any country to use the canal.



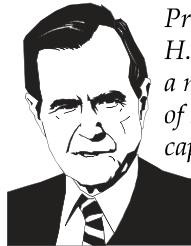
Panama Canal



The United States agreed to give up control of the Panama Canal to Panama by December 1999, in return for Panama's promise to allow ships from any country to use the canal.

After the death of Omar Torrijos in 1981, Panama entered a period of political instability. By 1988 a general named Manuel Noriega had seized power. He refused to allow newly elected officials to take office and ignored the results of presidential elections. Noriega's paramilitary supporters attacked opposition political

leaders. Noriega had worked as an agent for the *Central Intelligence Agency* (CIA), yet he began to get involved in the drug smuggling trade. His corrupt and brutal rule turned the United States government against him.



President George H. W. Bush ordered a military invasion of Panama to capture Noriega.

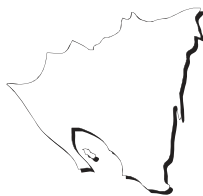
In 1989 United States President George H. W. Bush ordered a military invasion of Panama to capture Noriega. He was brought to Florida and convicted on narcotics charges. Guillermo Endara became the new president, whose election in 1989 Noriega had ignored. In May

1999 voters chose Mireya Moscoso as their new president.

Panama entered the 21st century in control of the Panama Canal. The canal was transferred from the United States to Panama in December 1999, ending nearly a century of control by the United States.

In the 2004 presidential election, Martin Torrijos, son of the former president Omar Torrijos, defeated the incumbent president Mireya Moscoso. Torrijos ran on a campaign of “zero tolerance” for corruption which has been an ongoing problem in the past two administrations.

Nicaragua



Nicaragua

From 1850-1936, a long series of rulers with unlimited authority controlled Nicaragua. The United States Marines occupied the country at times in the early 20th century, when the threat of civil war in Nicaragua endangered United States economic interests.

In 1937 a military commander named Anastasio Somoza Garcia became president and ruthlessly ruled Nicaragua for nearly 20 years. After he was assassinated in 1956, he was replaced by his son Luis. Eleven years later Luis’ younger brother Anastasio Somoza Debayle replaced him as president. All three Somozas became rich at the expense of the common people of Nicaragua.

In 1979 a Marxist revolutionary group known as the *Sandinistas* overthrew the last Somoza government. The Sandinista leader Daniel Ortega became the new president of Nicaragua. Although the Sandinistas made many reforms, such as redistribution of the farm land to the poor and increased spending for education and health care, the economy did not improve.

The revolutionaries lost the support of many Nicaraguans who had backed them during the revolution. A new group known as the *Contras*, or counterrevolutionaries, began launching guerrilla raids and attacks against the Sandinistas. The United States CIA gave aid and assistance to the Contras. The United States also ordered an embargo on trade with Nicaragua. This embargo was very damaging to the Nicaraguan economy because the United States had been its chief trading partner. In 1985 the United States Congress rejected President Ronald Reagan's request for military aid to the Contras. The secret transfer of funds to the Contras from money received in a secret arms sale to Iran caused a major scandal. The scheme took place at a time when military aid to the Contras was forbidden by law.

Fighting between the Sandinistas and the Contras dragged on for years. The civil war caused great hardship in Nicaragua. The Sandinistas agreed to hold presidential elections. In a surprising upset, the Sandinistas were defeated in February 1990. Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, a moderate, became the newly-elected president, ending 11 years of Sandinista rule.

The pace of reforms in her **coalition government**, or temporary alliance of various political governments, failed to satisfy business interests and other political groups. In 1996 the conservative candidate Arnoldo Aleman won the presidential election. He campaigned under a strong anti-Sandinista platform.

Presidential elections were held in November of 2001. Enrique Bolanos of the Liberal Constitutional Party was elected, defeating Daniel Ortega of the Sandinista Party. Bolanos had served as vice president under the former president, Arnoldo Aleman. The new president promised to fight corruption and work to strengthen the economy.

El Salvador



El Salvador

El Salvador is another Central American nation troubled by political violence. During the 20th century, this nation was ruled by a long series of military strongmen. During the 1960s, mostly military candidates won the presidency.

Reformers and **left-wing** revolutionaries constantly challenged the military dictators and the wealthy landowning class. During the 1970s, discontent over a poor economy and a repressive

followed a policy of increased **industrialization** in order to please his chief supporters—labor and the urban middle class. He appealed to Argentine pride when he nationalized foreign-owned industries.

Eva Perón (also known as *Evita* to her followers) used state funds to help the poor and orphans. She began programs that donated goods to the poor and built hospitals, schools, and nursing homes. Eva helped her husband get votes by helping women get the right to vote. During this time, the Peróns also used state funds to finance their lavish lifestyle. While achieving widespread support of the lower classes, Perón's authoritarian government crushed all opposition. He created Fascist gangs modeled after Hitler's Brownshirts to terrify his opponents. Perón's popularity declined in the 1950s. His popular wife Eva died in 1953, and his agricultural policies soon led to a decline in food production. Soon Argentina's economy began to experience declining income and high **inflation**, with problems in agriculture (chiefly its beef and grain exports). As anti-Perón protests grew, Perón's dictatorship became more harsh. Protestors were often jailed or tortured. Opposition to Perón continued, and eventually the military overthrew his government in 1955. Perón was forced into exile in Spain.

In the 1960s and 1970s, military and civilian governments alternated in power. The military leaders allowed Juan Perón to return from exile in Spain. In 1973 Perón was again elected president. In 1974 he died and his new wife Isabel ruled as the first woman president in the Western Hemisphere. When she could not solve the country's economic problems, her government was overthrown by the military in 1976. The new military government used harsh measure to suppress opposition. They kidnapped, tortured, and murdered thousands of innocent citizens, mostly young people. It is estimated that up to 30,000 people were killed. In the late 1970s, groups of Argentine women known as the *Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo* began gathering weekly in the main square in Buenos Aires to demand a government accounting for relatives who had disappeared during the military's terrorist campaign.

Eva Perón (1919-1952)

Eva Duarte de Perón (Evita) was the second wife of Argentine president Juan Perón. She was revered by the lower classes. Eva Duarte married Colonel Juan Perón, a widower, in 1945. Evita had had an undistinguished career as a stage and radio actress. She helped in her husband's presidential campaign, winning the love of the masses, whom she addressed as *los descamisados* (the shirtless ones).

Following Perón's election, Evita began to play an increasingly important role in the political affairs of the nation. She acted as minister of health and labor, giving wage increases to the unions. This increased political support for Perón. She also cut off government subsidies to the traditional *Sociedad de Beneficencia* (Aid Society), making more enemies among the rich. She replaced it with her own Eva Perón Foundation, which established thousands of schools, hospitals, homes for the aged, orphanages, and other charitable institutions. Evita introduced compulsory religious education into all Argentine schools. During the early months of the Perón administration, she launched an active campaign for national women's suffrage. Due largely to her efforts, women were allowed to vote for the first time in a national election. Although she knew she was dying of cancer, in 1951 she obtained the nomination for vice president, but her failing health caused her to decline the nomination. Eva died on July 26, 1952, at the age of 32.

After her death, her working-class followers tried unsuccessfully to have her canonized. Eva Perón remains a controversial figure in Argentine history.

In 1982, Argentina attempted to seize the British-held Falkland Islands in the Atlantic Ocean east of Argentina to divert the people's attention from worsening economic problems. Argentina had long claimed these islands, which they called the *Malvinas*, as part of Argentina. In a brief war, the British defeated the Argentine forces and recaptured the Falklands. When the Argentine forces surrendered to the British, angry citizens denounced the military government. In 1983 the government allowed elections to be held. The new government tried to restore democratic government in Argentina. The economy continued to decline rapidly during the 1980s. Extremely high levels of *inflation* in 1989 resulted in widespread rioting and looting. In the 1990s, Argentina's economy began to improve. The government worked to control the soaring inflation rates and reduce the country's international debt and unemployment rate.

During the early 21st century, the Argentine government was faced with continued economic problems resulting from unemployment, poverty, and trade deficits. Argentina defaulted on its international debt obligations, but was able to refinance some of its debts with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). By the end of 2002, its economy began to stabilize.

Colombia



From the late 1940s to the mid 1960s, Colombia suffered from an extended period of instability resulting from violent rivalries between conservative and liberal political groups. Armed conflicts caused 200,000 deaths. This period is referred to as *La Violencia*, or the violence. During the 1960s to 1990s, terrorist groups with ties to the drug trade weakened the government. Drugs like marijuana and cocaine became Colombia's largest export, mainly going to the United States. *Drug lords* (leaders of drug gangs) have *amassed* (collected) huge fortunes over the years from drug trafficking. They have murdered government officials, journalists, and other innocent people. Hundreds of government officials, mostly prosecutors and judges, who tried to stop the drug trade have been murdered by the drug lords.

The government of Colombia made some progress in breaking the power of the *drug cartels* (illegal groups that run the drug trade). After a dramatic rise in violence by the Medellin drug cartel in 1989, the government began to seize the cartel's property and seize their drugs, despite the threat of violent revenge attacks or retaliations. In 1997 radical leftist terrorist groups began a wave of kidnappings, murders, and violence against local government officials and the Colombian army. The leftist rebel groups known as the *Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia* (FARC) and the *National Liberation Army* (ELN) gained control of large areas of Colombia. These rebel groups continue to grow in strength largely due to the weapons acquired with millions of dollars from the drug trade and kidnappings. Civil unrest, economic instability, clashes with leftist guerrillas, and drug wars have continued to plague Colombia.

Peru



Since the 1940s, Peru has been governed by both military and civilian dictatorships. The rise and fall of these governments has been linked to the ups and downs of Peru's economy. Its economy depends heavily on the overseas sale of raw materials such as sugar, cotton, and copper. Another cause of unrest is the large Native American peasant population, who are mainly poor and landless. General Juan Velasco ruled Peru from 1968-1975.

He tried to improve the Peruvian economy by distributing land to the peasants and by nationalizing foreign-owned industries. When inflation and unemployment continued to rise, other Peruvian military leaders removed General Velasco from power. Military control of the government did not solve Peru's severe economic problems, and soon civilians controlled Peru's government.

During the 1980s and 1990s, Peru experienced a violent guerrilla war as a radical Communist group known as the *Shining Path* fought to overthrow the government. They killed government officials, missionaries, priests, and other innocent people. Drug traffickers helped finance Shining Path guerrillas in exchange for protection from the police and soldiers.

In 1990 the Peruvian people elected Alberto Fujimori as president. The son of Japanese immigrants, Fujimori began a *zero tolerance* policy toward terrorism. He suspended the constitution, dissolved the legislature, and declared martial law. By 1995 he had ended the 15-year civil war with the Shining Path and was reelected president. Economically, Fujimori had success in limiting inflation and in introducing free-market reforms. Fujimori resigned in 2000, ending 10 years as president of Peru. The Peruvian Congress refused to accept Fujimori's resignation. They instead, under Peru's constitution, dismissed the president for "moral incapacity" and declared him unfit for office. The country's vice president declined to take charge, leaving Peru's congress to choose an interim president until a special election in 2001. Alejandro Toledo was elected president. He was the first Indian elected president in Peru's history. By 2003, the last of the Shining Path's leaders was prosecuted.

Alberto Fujimori (1938-)

Alberto Fujimori was born in Lima, Peru. He earned an agronomic engineering degree in the study of managing land and crops from the National Agrarian University in Lima in 1961. Fujimori is the son of a Japanese immigrant and his wife, Susana Higuchi, who is also Japanese by birth.

Fujimori was elected president of Peru in 1990. He inherited a country in economic chaos on the verge of collapse. He suspended the constitution and the congress. Fujimori tried to re-establish a free-market system and lowered inflation. He also decreased guerrilla activity. Fujimori won re-election in a landslide victory in 1995.

Despite growing dissatisfaction with his government, Fujimori continued his dictatorial style. Fujimori resigned in 2000. He admitted that he committed errors but that he was not a criminal. Outraged lawmakers refused to accept his resignation and declared him morally unfit for office. "The dictator has fallen!" Fujimori critics chanted in Congress. Fujimori fled to Japan, his ancestral homeland. This ended his 10 years as president of Peru.

Brazil



Brazil is the world's fifth largest country in landmass, occupying half of the continent of South America. This gigantic country has a wide variety of natural resources, including minerals, fertile farmland, the world's largest tropical rain forest, and the massive Amazon River. Many countries in Latin America have economies focused on the export of one agriculture product—for Brazil it was coffee. As a result, the government was dominated by powerful coffee growers.

Since 1930, successive governments have pursued industrial and agricultural growth. Between 1930-1945 Getulio Vargas was the dictator of Brazil. Like Juan Perón in Argentina, he won the favor of working-class people by improving wages and benefits. Brazil became a leading

industrial power in the 1970s. The middle and upper classes supported the military dictatorships that governed Brazil until the mid-1980s. These dictatorships ruled the country with a heavy hand, opening the country to foreign investment and starting huge development projects in the Amazon jungle. By 1985, democratic elections were held and the nation returned to civilian rule. In 1989, Brazilians were able to vote directly for a president for the first time in 29 years. Today Brazil is a land of great contrasts. One-half of all Brazilians are of African or of mixed ancestry and live in the outskirts of cities in *favelas* (slums) with no electricity or running water. One-half are of European ancestry and belong to the upper and middle classes who live mostly in the cities.



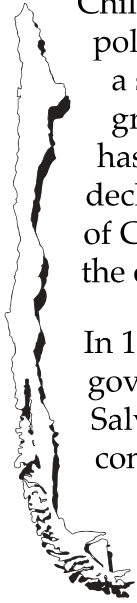
One-half of all Brazilians claim mixed ancestry.

Modernization has caused problems. Foreign debt in Brazil is among the largest in the world.

Because of this debt, by 1990 the government had to greatly cut its spending. To spur the growth of its economy, Brazil has encouraged the development of the Amazon region. This has caused huge problems for the environment, especially in the destruction of the rain forest. Although progress has been made in modernization, Brazil has a long way to go toward improving the standard of living among all its people. Brazil faces many challenges as it continues on the path of democracy.

During the Cardoso administration from 1995-2002, Brazil moved toward a more capitalist or free-market economy and encouraged foreign investment. However, Brazil still faces serious challenges. These include improving government efficiency, modernizing its transportation system, improving the quality of its public services, and fostering continued economic growth.

Chile



Chile

Chile is another South American nation that has experienced political unrest. In Chile, as in most other South American nations, a small number of wealthy landowners and powerful business groups own and control most of the land and industries. Chile has suffered from rural poverty, labor unrest, inflation, and a decline in the mining industry. Copper exports made up 80 percent of Chile's export income. Whenever the price of copper went down, the entire Chilean economy was negatively affected.

In 1970, Chile held free elections. For the first time, a *Marxist* government (a type of Communist government) was elected. Salvador Allende became the new president. His government took control of the major industries. Nationalization of the copper industry angered the American owners and United States President Richard Nixon. Many of these industries had been owned by American companies. Accordingly, the United States cut off all aid to the Marxist government.

During this time, workers began to seize control of land owned by the wealthy. The upper and middle classes actively opposed the Marxist government of Allende. In 1973 with the approval and support of the CIA, a group of army officers overthrew the Marxist government and set up a right-wing government. Official reports stated that Allende committed suicide, but many claim he was assassinated. General Augusto Pinochet (peen-o-shay) became president and dictator of Chile.

Repression continued throughout the 1980s in Chile. Thousands of Chileans who opposed the government were jailed, tortured, or killed. The government's terrible abuse of human rights led to growing unrest against Pinochet in the mid-1980s. In 1989 Chileans rejected Pinochet's bid for another eight-year term. A new president, Patricio Aylwin, was elected later in 1989.

While in Britain seeking medical treatment in 1998, Pinochet was arrested after Spain sought his **extradition** for the murder of Spanish citizens in Chile during his dictatorship. Spain was unable to put him on trial due to



Chile has suffered from rural poverty.

health reasons. When he returned to Chile, the Chilean Supreme Court decided that a Chilean prosecutor could put him on trial for the murder, torture, and kidnapping of thousands of people during his 17-year dictatorship.

Since the late 1980s, Chile's economy has expanded rapidly as its exports have increased and the middle class has prospered. In 1994 Aylwin was succeeded as president by Eduardo Frei, and that same year Chile was invited and made preparations to sign the *North American Free Trade Agreement* (NAFTA). Ricardo Lagos was elected president in January 2000, the first Socialist to run the country since Allende.

Augusto Pinochet (1915-2006)

Augusto Pinochet was Chile's dictator from 1973 to 1990. He was born in Valparaiso, Chile and graduated from the military academy in Santiago in 1936. He was a career army officer and led a military coup overthrowing the Allende government in 1973. Pinochet then established himself at the head of the ensuing military regime, giving himself an eight-year presidential term. He immediately moved to crush Chile's liberal opposition, arresting approximately 130,000 individuals in a three-year period. A new constitution went into effect in 1981. Under its terms, Pinochet would serve as president for another eight-year term. In 1988, he lost his bid for another presidential term, but he remained in office until after free elections installed a new president, the Christian Democrat Patricio Aylwin, in 1990.

Pinochet was able to retain his post as commander-in-chief of the army until 1998. He was able to serve in the Chilean Senate, a post he was to hold for the rest of his life. When Pinochet traveled to the United Kingdom for medical treatment, he was arrested based on a Spanish warrant which accused him of human rights violations against Spanish citizens. He was kept under house arrest for more than a year. Eventually, he was released on medical grounds and allowed to return to Chile. He was indicted in his homeland for human rights abuses that were committed while he served as Chile's president. The Chilean Supreme Court recently ruled that he was fit to stand trial.

Gen. Augusto Pinochet, 91, the former Chilean dictator whose government tortured and murdered thousands during his 17-year rule, suffered a heart attack and died December 10, 2006.

The first woman president, Michelle Bachelet Jeria, was elected in January of 2006. Her administration promised to expand Chile's free market economy and to work to reduce the gap between rich and poor.

The United States and Latin America

Since 1945, the people of Latin America have experienced unstable governments and economic turmoil. Militaries have often overthrown civilian governments and established military dictatorships. The challenge of establishing democracy in countries where rich **elites** have traditionally ruled will be difficult. Conflicts between rich and poor and among the various political factions have limited the development of stable democracies.

Although Latin American nations have increased their agricultural exports and built up their industries, they still have a long way to go. Except in Argentina and perhaps Chile and Colombia there is only a small middle class in most Latin American countries. The rich control the government and economy while the vast majority of people live in poverty.

United States President Franklin Roosevelt launched the *Good Neighbor Policy* during the 1930s. This policy emphasized economic development in Latin America. The idea of being a good neighbor was extended by President Kennedy in the early 1960s with the *Alliance for Progress Program*. He felt that the United States had to change its image among the people of Latin America. President Kennedy wanted to help the poor and **illiterate** people of Latin America. The Alliance tried to promote economic development and social reform in Latin America.

In the 1970s and 1980s, the United States government became fearful of the expanding Communist influences in Latin America. As a result, the United States supported anti-Communist forces in Chile, El Salvador, and Nicaragua. During the first Bush administration (1989-1993), the United States military invaded Panama and overthrew the dictatorship of Manuel Noriega. Noriega was *indicted* (charged with a crime) by United States courts on charges of drug smuggling and brought to the United States to stand trial.

Two issues which today concern the United States are the number of *immigrants* (legal and illegal) coming to the United States from Latin America and the rate of population growth in Latin America. Slums in Latin American cities are growing at an alarming rate. The rate of poverty and disease continues to rise in many Latin American countries. Latin

American countries have borrowed heavily to speed industrial development. Many of these nations have been unable to pay back their loans. To pay off their debts, countries have had to industrialize rapidly. This has led to a high rate of pollution in their cities. They have also tried to boost their agricultural production. However, this has led to the destruction of rain forests and other lands. The destruction of their rain forests have had negative effects on the world's environment. Vast differences between rich and poor, problems caused by drug trafficking, and violent civil wars between terrorist groups and governments have added to the social and economic instability of Latin America.

Review

The Middle East is one of the most unstable regions in the world because of continued interference by foreign powers attracted to the region's oil reserves. Hostility among various religious and ethnic groups has led to ongoing terrorist activities. Permanent peace in the Middle East also depends on Israel and the Palestinians reaching a peaceful resolution of their differences.



In recent years, crop failures and drought have led to widespread hunger and starvation in Africa.

Third World nations in Africa have faced many challenges after gaining independence. Different political parties and ethnic groups have often fought for control of the government. This led to unstable governments, military rule, and sometimes even civil war. Countries in Africa have experienced many bloody civil wars as they have struggled to form stable and

democratic governments. The economies of these Third World nations are usually also unstable. Their economies had been shaped to meet the needs of their former parent countries. This was particularly true in Africa. Once foreign powers left, the local people had to begin the long and difficult task of reshaping their economy to fit their own needs.

In recent years, crop failures and drought have led to widespread hunger and starvation. The AIDS epidemic has also devastated Africa. Millions have died, leaving behind thousands of orphaned children.

Latin America nations have also experienced both political and economic turmoil. Conflicts and rivalries between Communist rebels and civilian governments have led to numerous civil wars. The struggle to end military rule and establish democratic governments is one of Latin America's biggest challenges. The economies of many Latin American countries have improved, but still have a long way to go. The vast majority of Latin American people still live in poverty. Heavy borrowing and rapid industrial development has led to many Latin American countries falling deeply in debt to Western banks. Pollution, drug trafficking, and illegal immigration to the United States are issues that remain unsolved.