

# SIN BARRERAS/WITHOUT BARRIERS THE HISPANIC EXPERIENCE



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# US – Latin American Relations

75 years and beyond

# US and Latin America

- The Americas—
- Separation of identities—when, how and why?
  - Manifest Destiny
  - Cold War and its legacies
- Current Trends: Political Exclusion and Cultural inclusion



# Amerigo Vespucci





# Monroe Doctrine, 1823



# Manifest Destiny Meets Mexico



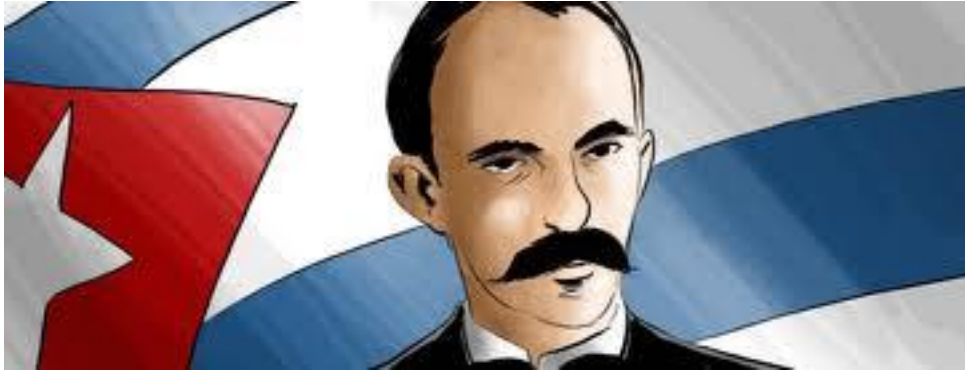


## US Mexican War, 1846-48



**NEW TERRITORIES CARTOON. 'Patient Waiters Are No Losers.' An American cartoon of 1897 showing a patient Uncle Sam waiting for new territories (Cuba, Canada, Hawaii, and Central America) to fall into his possession**





I have lived inside the monster and  
I have seen its entrails.  
My sling is the sling of David," May  
18, 1895



Jose Martí, poet  
and leader of  
Cuban  
independence  
[or The Splendid  
Little War from  
the US  
perspective]

# Ruben Dario, To Roosevelt, 1904 [Panama Canal]

- The United States is potent and great.  
When you shake there is a deep tremblor  
that passes through the enormous vertebrae of the  
Andes.  
If you clamor, it is heard like the roaring of a lion.  
Hugo already said it to Grant: The stars are yours.  
(The Argentine sun, ascending, barely shines,  
and the Chilean star rises...) You are rich.  
You join the cult of Hercules to the cult of Mammon,  
and illuminating the road of easy conquest,  
Liberty raises its torch in New York.

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# U. S. Interventions in Latin America: 1898-1920s



# Central America



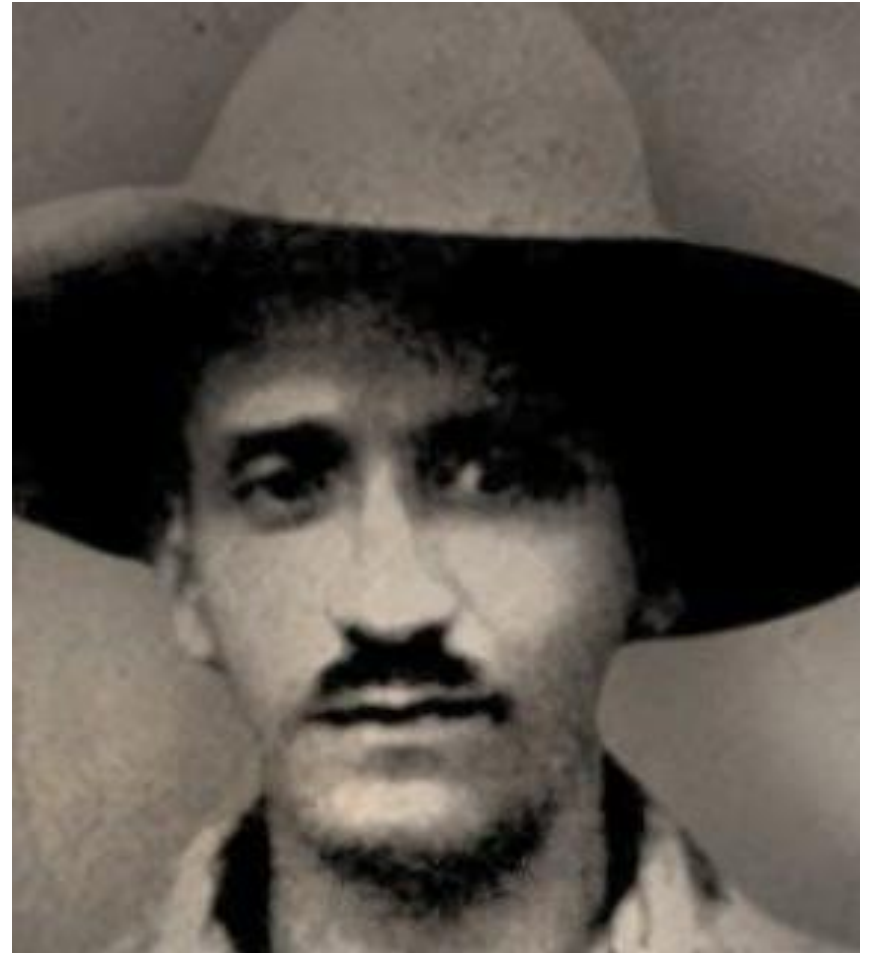


# Central America

- “Banana Republic” from US point of view
- emphasis on one crop: coffee or bananas
- Little industrialization, small middle class
- Rural oligarchy + military rule
- US intervention (military or \$) to support anti communist leaders powerful force = massive civilian deaths and civil wars

# Cold War beginnings

- El Salvador and Farabundo Marti— founder of the Central American Communist Party
- 1893-1932
- peasant rebellion 1932, killed 30,000 indigenous
- Legacy: 1980s leftist movement named for him: Farabundo Marti Liberation Front (FMLN)





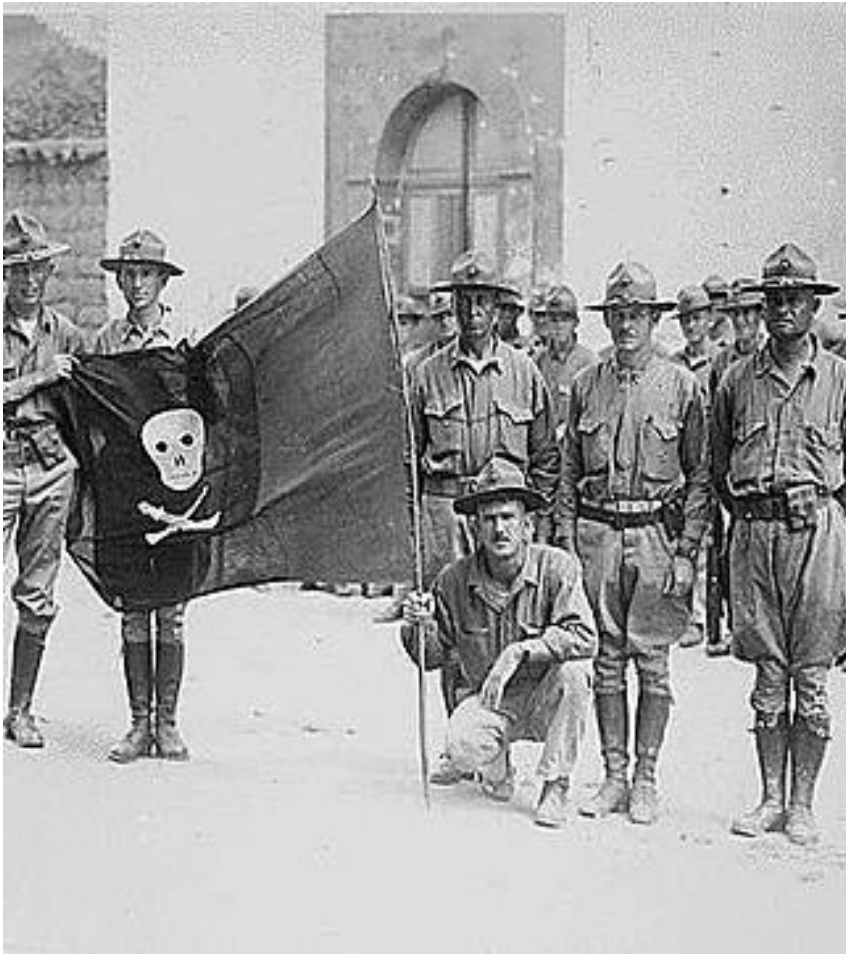
# Nicaragua

- Nicaragua and Augusto Sandino
- 1895-1934
- Rebelled against US occupation of Nicaragua
- Bandit to US—hero in Latin America
- US withdrew 1933



National Guard Assassinates him – headed by Anastasio Somoza

# US Marines Capture Sandino Flag



# Anastasio Somoza Garcia



- US supported his family dynasty until the FSLN [sandino liberation front] has a socialist revolution in 1979

# US intervention in Guatemala, 1954

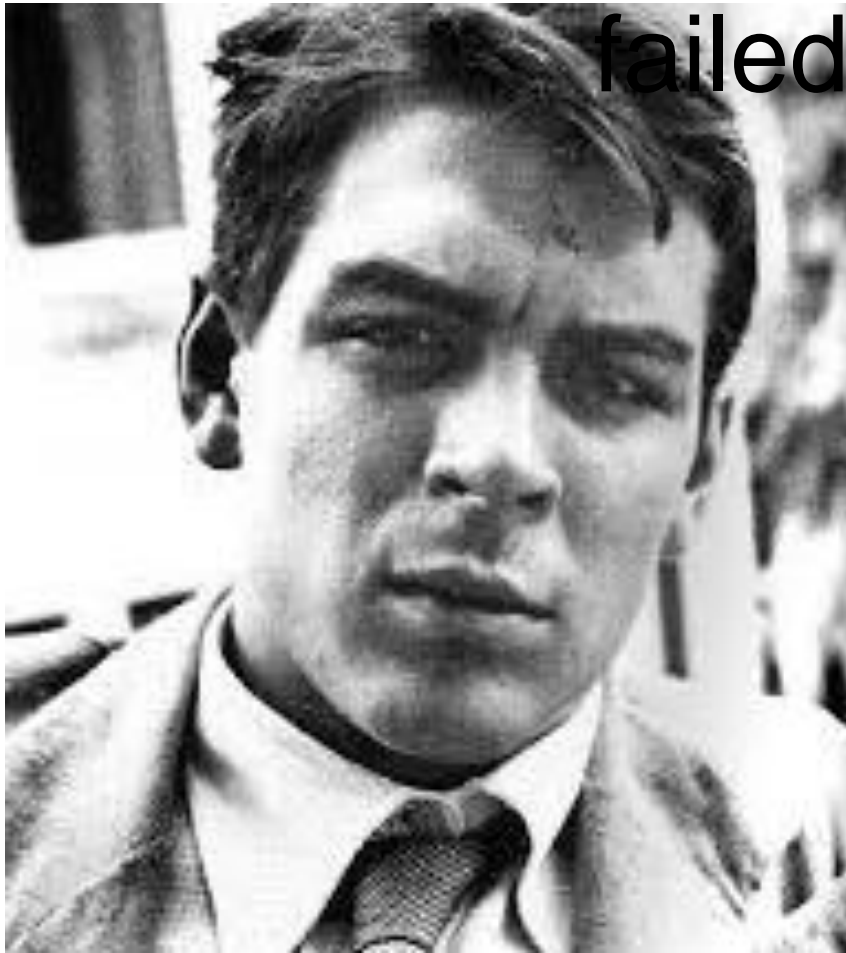


- “Decade of Spring” 1944–54 under Juan José Arevalo and Jacobo Arbenz, leftist reformist presidents
- Jacobo Arbenz--Redistributes unused (fallow) lands of US Fruit Company -- even pays the Co. for these lands but it brings him into conflict with the US Fruit Co
- Dulles brothers were on the board of USFC now renamed as Chiquita
  - John Foster Dulles, Secretary of State--legal counsel to USFC
  - Allen Dulles, Head of CIA on board of directors of USFC
- CIA- backed insurgents overthrow Arbenz in 1954





Ernesto “Che” Guevara (1927-1967) radicalized: Bullet over the



# Guatemalan Civil War

- 1960-96
  - over 200,000 killed
  - After the peace accord, the state's security apparatus—death squads, intelligence units, police officers, military counter-insurgency forces—did not disappear but, mutated into criminal organizations



# El Salvador, Civil War 1980-1992



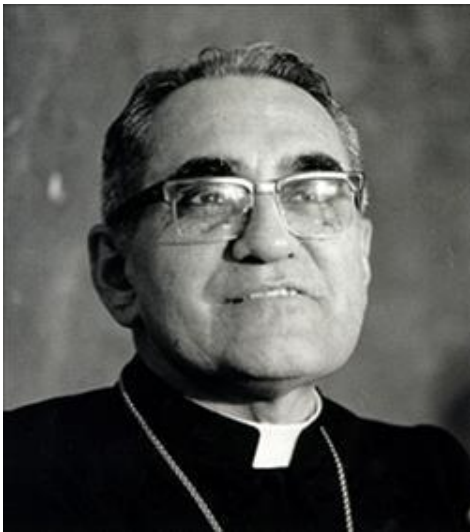
- Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN)
- Smallest country in CA
- Ruled by military alliance with landowners and commercial business owners since 1930s
- US supported military leaders against leftist opposition

# War against peasants

- Army kills 12,000 in 1980
- 75,000 are killed during the civil war overall

# Archbishop (Saint) Oscar Romero

- “be a patriot, kill a priest” anti-communist slogan



# Honduras

- Similar pattern: US investment in 1890s
- One crop economy whose wealth ended up in the US
- US owned most of the arable land
- 1980s—US military trained contras in Honduras

# 2009 coup

- Against reformist President Manuel Zelaya
- Outcome supported by the US under Obama
- Strong military presence
- Some of the highest murder rates in the world

# Legacy of US involvement

- Insecurity in the region
- Underdevelopment
- Alliance between the US and Central American business, military, and political elites
- Cold War—militarized society

# Migration

- In DC, one of five immigrants is from Central America.
- In 2009, 2.9 million CA immigrants in US, mainly from El Salvador and Guatemala

# Mara Salvatrucha

- MS 13
- Mara = gang
- Salva=Salvadoran
- Trucha=wise or clever one –
- also “trucha” / trout fish fighting to survive upstream



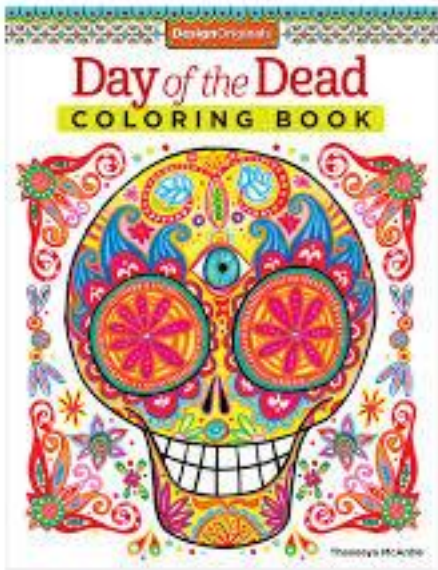
# MS 13

- Originated in LA
- Refugees from war were displaced
- Many reached out for support
- Military and guerrilla alike
- developed military and economic structure

# Instituto Cervantes, June 2015

- 41 million native Spanish speakers in the US
- plus 11.6 million who are bilingual, (mainly the children of Spanish-speaking immigrants.)
- US is second to Mexico with the number of Spanish speakers we have
- Colombia (48 million)
- Spain (46 million) and second only to Mexico (121 million).

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