World History 1450 to Present B

**Unit 6: Latin America Since 1945**

**Unit Summary:** Ideas transformed Latin America in the period after 1945. During this time, the world became more interconnected than before. Ideas and developments in technology and politics accelerated this connectivity. Societies incorporated these new ideas. This caused them to develop and interact across greater distances quicker. This led to new forms of conflict and the rapid expansion of belief systems.

The Allies and the Axis countries ended WWII in 1945. The war left Latin American economies unstable. This led to political instability, too. This included many countries trying to create a democracy and failing. It also included military dictators rising in the region—such as in Argentina, Chile, and Brazil.

The Cold War also helped cause political instability and authoritarian leaders. During this time, the USSR and the U.S. competed for global influence. Sometimes, due to this competition, each country supported political regimes and funded proxy conflicts. For example, the U.S. supported Argentina’s military dictatorship. And the USSR supported Cuba’s communist government—the latter led to the Cuban Missile Crisis.

People in Latin America have faced other struggles. Groups have committed mass atrocities, such as the genocide in Guatemala. Latin Americans have also tackled challenges around industrialization, drug cartels, population growth, and the Green Revolution.

**Unit Timeline:** This timeline provides *some* events included in this unit’s learning. The goal is to assist understanding chronologically.

* 1492-1898 – Cuba was part of Spanish Empire
* 1663 – Jamacia held restricted elections
* 1822 - Brazil gained independence from Portugal
* 1869 – Costa Rica was a democracy and wrote constitution
* 1890-1930s – Communist ideas spread through Latin America
* 1910-1920 – Mexican Revolution
* 1914-1979 – Panama Canal was controlled by the U.S.
* 1917 – Russia became a communist nation
* 1917-1919 – brief dictatorship in Costa Rica
* 1930-1961 – Rafael Trujillo ruled the Dominican Republic
* 1931-1954 - Guatemala was a dictatorship
* 1937 – Anastasio Somoza became president of Nicaragua
* 1938 – Mexico created a national company, PEMEX
* 1940-1968 – The Partido Revolucionario Institucional (PRI) held control in Mexico
* 1940-1970 – Mexican Miracle
* 1944 – Jamacia granted full adult suffrage
* 1944-1952 – Cuba governed democratically and had economic boom
* 1945 – World War ll ended
* 1945-1991 – Cold War
* 1946-1955, 1973-1974 – Juan Perón was dictator of Argentina
* 1948 – civil war in Costa Rica
* 1949 – new Costa Rica constitution
* 1950s- United Fruit Company administrators decided they would not follow new labor laws set by the Guatemalan government.
* 1950-1954 - average lifespan of a person living in Latin America increased by 20 years
* 1952 – Bastita overthrew the government
* 1951 – Jacobo Arbenz became president of Guatemala
* 1951-1975 - approximately 60,000 Japanese relocated to Brazil
* 1954 - Junta – the military regime that took power by force in Argentina in 1976
* 1956 – Gereral Anastasio Somoza was assassinated
* 1959 – Batista was overthrown by Fidel Castro; Cuban Revolution
* 1959 - Galapagos Islands became Ecuador’s first national park
* 1959-2008 – Castro was the leader of Cuba
* 1960 - Venezuela became one of the founding members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).
* 1960s-1980s - organizations in Colombia and Mexico produced and sold more illegal drugs than organizations in other countries
* 1961 – Kennedy ordered the Bay of Pigs Invasion and U.S. ended diplomatic ties with Cuba
* 1962 – Jamacia gained independence and adopted parliamentary system
* 1962 – Cuban Missile Crisis
* 1962 – U.S. put an embargo on Cuba
* 1964 – Brazilian Revolution
* 1966 - Strikes by copper miners in Chile
* 1967-1979 - Anastasio Somoza Debayle was elected president of Nicaragua
* 1968 – Tlatelolco Massacre
* 1970-1980 - Venezuela’s population increased 40 percent because of immigration
* 1972 - Earth Summit conference in Rio de Janeiro
* 1972-1974 – global food shortage
* 1973-1990 – Augusto Pinochet dictator of Chile
* 1973 – opposition groups trained by the U.S. overthrew Allende
* 1974 - Juan Perón died
* 1975 – Ecuador opened its second national park Cotopaxi
* 1976 –Cuba ratified a new constitution securing the Communist Party
* 1976 – earthquake in Guatemala
* 1976-1979 – Chile had economic boom
* 1976-1983 – Dirty War
* 1977 – Neutrality Treaty
* 1979-1984 – Sandinistas ruled Nicaraguan
* 1979 – Somoza Debayle was removed from office and the Sandinistas gained control of Nicaragua.
* 1982 - Junta – the military regime that took power by force in Argentina in 1976
* 1984 - Daniel Ortega, a high-ranking member of the Sandinistas was elected president of Nicaragua
* 1985 – earthquake in Mexico
* 1985 – Brazil elected Fernando Henrique Cardoso as president
* 1989 – Alberto Fujimori became president of Peru
* 1990 - alliance between Nicaragua and the Soviet Union faded
* 1990 - Brazil developed its first extractive reserve
* 1991 – Soviet Union dissolved
* 1992 - Menchú received the Nobel Peace prize for her fight for indigenous rights
* 1992 - United Nation’s (UN) Conference on Environment and Development
* 1994 – Luis Donaldo Colosio ran for president and was assassinated
* 1996 - Guatemalan Civil War ended
* 1998 - Hugo Chavez was elected president of Venezuela
* 1999 – Control of the Panama Canal moved to Panama
* 2000 – Peru started holding democratic elections
* 2000 – PRI lost the presidential election to Vicente Fox
* 2000 - Andean glaciers have shrunk by about three feet each year since 2000
* 2006-2022 – Ortega president of Nicaragua
* 2011 - Global Commission on Drug Policy created
* 2015 - Colombian government stopped using chemical herbicide
* 2017-2018 – Latin exports grew, but reversed in 2019

**Lesson 2 – Political Instability**

**Objective 1:** Describe ways that economic instability has led to the rise of military dictatorships in Latin America since 1945.

**Essential Question:** How has economic instability lead to the rise of military dictatorships in Latin America since 1945?

**Big Ideas**: In the 19th century, some parts of Latin America were ruled by dictators. They were called caudillos. This continued in the 20th century, with many countries in Latin America ruled under dictatorships. Many of these dictatorships involved the military. They involved them either through individual dictators or military juntas.

Examples of individual dictators are: François Duvalier of Haiti and Alfredo Stroessner of Paraguay.

Examples of leaders of military juntas include: Humberto Castello Branco of Brazil and Juan Velasco Alvarado of Peru.

One reason military dictatorships arose in Latin America was economic instability.

**Objective 2:** Describe attempts at democracy that have been made in Latin America since 1945.

**Essential Question:** How can we describe attempts at democracy that have been made in Latin America and the Caribbean since 1945?

**Big Ideas:** Democracy has a long and perilous history in Latin America. This history began when much of the region liberated itself from Spanish and Portuguese colonial control, more than two hundred years ago. This trend continued after 1945, and has continued into the present day.

A poll conducted in 2018 found that less than half of Latin Americans favor democracy. This is not surprising, given the history of the region and the challenges attempts at democracy in Latin America have faced. Structural inequity and racism have been present since Spanish and Portuguese colonization. This still holds sway. Much of the region’s wealth and power is held by a small group of elites. This societal structure has often sabotaged attempts at democracy and fueled political instability.

For example, in the late 1970s, 17 out of 20 Latin American countries were ruled by dictators. The region has moved toward democracy in recent years. But, countries in the region have, at times, been unstable and created political systems that took on aspects of democracy but are not truly democratic.

One notable exception is Costa Rica. Costa Rica has a flourishing democracy. They have held regular elections since 1949. As one of the first countries in the British Empire to offer universal suffrage, Jamaica in the Caribbean is another example of a successful democracy.

**Objective 3:** Describe the role of the PRI in Mexico and the causes and effects of its leadership since 1945.

**Essential Question:** What were the impacts of how the PRI gained and maintained power in Mexico?

**Big Ideas:** The Mexican PRI, or Institutional Revolutionary Party, was the central governing party of Mexico for seven decades. During its height, it led Mexico through an economic boom that lasted three decades. However, this wealth was unevenly distributed. Few political freedoms were granted to its citizens. By 1968, a massacre of student protestors led Mexicans to become more involved and aware of the PRI and its corruption. In the coming decades, the PRI would lose its popularity. By the year 2000, a non-PRI candidate would win the presidential election for the first time in over 70 years.

**Objective 4:** Analyze arguments about the factors that have led to political instability in Latin American countries since 1945, using historical information.

**Essential Question:** What were the factors that have led to political instability in Latin American countries since 1945?

**Big Ideas:** Latin America has fought for democracy for many years, including in the period from 1945 to the present.

The factors leading to political instability in Latin America include:

* high levels inequality
* economic challenges
* malfunctioning political institutions

Scholars broadly agree that these factors have negatively affected the region, but disagree on how these issues can be solved.

This being said, people have achieved political stability in Latin America since 1945. For example, Costa Rica has a long history of political stability. It is a fully functioning democracy. Costa Rica has free and fair democratic elections and a strong precedent of freedom of expression. A rarity, Costa Rica possesses no armed forces. These were abolished in 1948 after a civil war. Despite political instability occurring throughout the larger region, Costa Rica has remained a stable and peaceful country for many decades.

Another example of a political stability in the region is Uruguay. Uruguay suffered under a military dictatorship until the mid 1980s. Since then, the country has become one of the region's most stable and free democracies.

**Keywords**:

* **communism** – a political ideal based on the theories of Karl Marx believing in public ownership of property and that wages be based more on need than skill
* **capitalism** – an economic system in which businesses are privately owned and the business owner seeks to make a profit from the business
* **socialism** – a political ideology that advocates the working class be in control of wealth
* **junta** – a military or political group that uses violence to gain political leadership
* **democracy** – a form of government in which the people of the nation are of the ultimate authority, either by electing representatives or deciding on governance directly
* **Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI)** – Partido Revolucionario Institucional (PRI) was a political party that held control of Mexico for over 70 years, created by a class of military elites after the Mexican Revolution. The party maintained near-absolute power over Mexico for several decades
* **Democratic Current** – a wing of the PRI of Mexico, or the Institutional Revolutionary Party, which emerged in the 1980s pushing for a more democratic government

**Quick Check**

Question 1: Describe ways that economic instability led to the rise of military dictatorships in Latin America.

* Economic growth came because all Latin American dictators were against a free market economy based in capitalism.
* Only dictators create economic reforms, and these turn a country toward economic stability.
* The combination of capitalism and communism embraced by all Latin American dictators promised growth.
* **Sometimes the promise of economic growth and the benefits that come with it help bring dictatorships into power.**

Question 2: Describe similarities between Pinochet’s government in Chile and Fujimori’s government in Peru.

* **Both used human rights abuses to maintain power.**
* Both governments were an extension of Cuba’s influence.
* Both used communism to maintain power.
* Both followed the example of Allende’s government.

Question 3: Which of the following describes the political effect of the Mexican PRI’s Tlatelolco Massacre?

* **It increased interest in politics.**
* It decreased voter turnout in future elections.
* It increased the popularity of the PRI.
* It ousted the PRI from power.

Question 4: What was the effect of the Mexican Miracle on the PRI?

* It helped the PRI end government corruption.
* It led to the creation of other parties to challenge them.
* **It helped them maintain their prominent role in politics.**
* It helped the PRI gain popularity with the middle class.

Question 5: Analyze the argument that high levels of inequality have led to political instability in Latin America.

* **An elite social group with its roots in the power of the Spanish, Portuguese, and French colonial elite still controls much of the region's resources and money. This causes institutions to look after the needs of this elite group, rather than all of a country’s population.**
* In the middle of the twentieth century, Cuba appeared to be doing quite well. It was growing economically and socially. By the 1950s, however, it was no longer doing so well.
* Throughout the twentieth century, economic growth was focused on institutions, such as plantations, that do not supply a lot of well-paid employment. The region has fewer well-paid jobs available than other regions.
* Over time, Latin America’s communist economic and social policies have cooled. For example, many Latin Americans are now able to own private businesses, which was not allowed in the past.

**Lesson 3 – Latin America & The Cold War**

**Objective 1:** Identify how countries in Latin America became involved in the Cold War.

**Essential Question:** Why did Latin American countries become involved in the Cold War?

**Big Ideas**: The Cold War was an ongoing political conflict between the U.S. and the Soviet Union. The Cold War went from 1945 - 1991. As an ally with one world power or another, many Latin American countries found themselves involved in the Cold War.

Two countries sided with each power as an ally.

1. Cuba became a communist country after 1945. It sided with the Soviet Union.
2. Nicaragua was supported by the U.S.. The Somoza family dictatorship declared itself as anticommunist and became an ally of the U.S.

**Objective 2:** Describe Cuba’s role in the Cuban Missile Crisis.

**Essential Question:** What role did Cuba have during the Cuban Missile Crisis?

**Big Ideas:** The Cuban Missile Crisis is one of the most major events of the Cold War. It is thought to be the closest the world came to nuclear warfare.

The Soviet Union and the U.S. argued over the deployment of nuclear weapons on the island nation of Cuba.

The story of the Cuban Missile Crisis often focuses on the U.S., the Soviet Union, and their leaders, President Kennedy and Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev. This understanding of the Cold War is an example of a Eurocentric view. This means that the framing of history is focused on the European, White, and Western experience, and it excludes the experiences of others.

Cuba was not an unwilling participant in the event. After the Bay of Pigs invasion, Castro turned to the Soviet Union for protection from a future invasion. Cuba was an active participant in this negotiation. They did not have Soviet influence forced upon them.

This perspective places the event in a different lens. Had Cuba not asked for Soviet protection, there would not have been a crisis in the first place. It also reframes the Cuban Missile Crisis away from Soviet intervention in the Caribbean to one that emphasizes Cuban reactions to American aggression.

Another feature of this involvement is that Cuba had the missiles. While the Soviets had placed them in the country, during the crisis itself Cuba had complete control. Had Castro decided to prohibit their removal, the Soviets would have been forced to continue defending the country, or to invade and retrieve the weaponry. This account is important because it shows the power that Cuba had during the conflict. They were not puppets of a larger Cold War competition.

After the crisis was ended, the embargo against Cuba continued while direct Soviet involvement ended. This view is key for reevaluating the Cold War. This is because it demonstrates the importance of Cuba itself and how its relations with the U.S. were independent of those with the Soviet Union.

**Objective 3:** Summarize the causes and effects of the arms race and proxy wars in Latin America.

**Essential Question:** How did the Cold War affect Latin America?

**Big Ideas:** During the Cold War, the U.S. and the Soviet Union competed for influence across the world. Latin America was one area the two nations competed over. As a result of political and military connections, Latin America experienced proxy wars. They also experienced the risk of nuclear warfare across the region. These events served as turning points during the Cold War. They helped to define both the U.S. and Soviet Union’s relations with the region.

Latin America was also involved in the Cold War.

* Some nations, like Guatemala, had their governments overthrown. This was because they did not align with the interests of the U.S., even if they were not explicitly communist.
* Cuba, on the other hand, had a communist revolution.

In the 1960s, nuclear weapons were deployed on the island. The world came close to nuclear war as the Soviet Union and U.S. clashed over the presence of weapons there. In other nations, military aid was in support of or in opposition to revolutionary activities. Nicaragua is one example.

**Objective 4:** Identify the role the Panama Canal has played in world trade and politics since 1945.

**Essential Question:** What role has the Panama Canal played in world trade and politics since 1945?

**Big Ideas:**

The Panama Canal:

* Is a canal in the country of Panama, in Central America.
* Connects the Pacific and Atlantic oceans along a narrow strip of land that is about 40 miles long.
* Was finished in 1914.
* Its construction was significant for trade and politics.
* Made the journey between the two oceans is a lot shorter. Without this canal, ships would have to journey thousands of miles more.

**Keywords**:

* **Cuban Missile Crisis** – a stand-off between the U.S. and the Soviet Union in October 1962, which was the result of tensions over Cuba and the Soviet Union’s efforts to put nuclear weapons on the island of Cuba
* **embargo** – an official ban of trade with a country usually for political reasons
* **Bay of Pigs Invasion** – a failed U.S. supported invasion of Cuba by Cuban exiles in 1961
* **domino theory –** a U.S. policy by President Eisenhower stating if one nation in Southeast Asia falls to communism
* **mutually assured destruction** – the theory of mutual warfare that proposed that as soon as one country used a nuclear weapon, the other would do so as well. Therefore, it was in each country’s own interest to not use nuclear weapons
* **Iran-Contra Affair** – a complicated web of illegal activities, mostly done in secret, in which American officials tried to sell weapons to release hostages in Lebanon while also using the funds from the sales to help support the contras in Central America in the 1980s
* **Neutrality Treaty** – a treaty between the U.S. and Panama signed in 1977 that guarantees the neutrality of the Panama Canal
* **salutary neglect** – the unofficial policy in the seventeenth century that allowed the American colonies to have their own form of government as long as they remained profitable and loyal to the British

**Quick Check**

Question 1: Which statement **best** identifies how Cuba became involved in the Cold War?

* The victory of the contras set the stage for Cuba to become involved in the Cold War.
* U.S. support of the contras set the stage for conflict between the U.S. and the Soviet Union.
* **The victory of Fidel Castro in the revolution set the stage for conflict between the U.S. and the Soviet Union.**
* U.S. support of the Sandinistas set the stage for conflict between the U.S. and the Soviet Union.

Question 2: Which statement **best** describes the role of Cuba during the Cuban Missile Crisis?

* **Cuba sought protection from the Soviet Union and allowed the placement of missiles in Cuban territory after the failed Bay of Pigs invasion.**
* Cuba built a series of nuclear weapons that threatened the U.S., leading to Soviet intervention.
* Cuba was a minor player during the Cuban Missile Crisis and was forced to accept weapons by the Soviet Union.
* Cuba negotiated a settlement between the Soviet Union and the U.S. to end the embargo and remove the missiles.

Question 3: What ideology did Cuba and the Soviet Union share during the Cold War?

* Capitalism.
* mutually assured destruction.
* **Communism.**
* Eurocentrism.

Question 4: Which of the following statements **best** summarizes the U.S. interaction with Latin America during the Cold War?

* **The U.S. prevented the spread of communism, even if the result was repressive governments and civil war.**
* The U.S. chose not to interact with Latin America, instead focusing on Africa and Asia.
* The Soviet Union prevented widespread actions by the U.S. in Latin America.
* The U.S. successfully promoted democratic governments throughout the region.

Question 5: Identify the role that the Panama Canal has played in world politics since 1945.

* The canal has shaped world politics. For example, the canal and the land around it is still a U.S. colony.
* The canal has shaped world politics. For example, the Hay–Bunau-Varilla Treaty ensures that anyone can use the canal, without discrimination.
* **The canal has shaped world politics. For example, some argue that its presence helped make the U.S. a global superpower**
* The canal has shaped world politics. For example, its construction helped make Panama a member of the U.S. military

**Lesson 4 – Influence of Communism**

**Objective 1:** Explain the reasons and events that caused some Latin American governments to change to communism after 1945.

**Essential Question:** Why did some Latin American governments turn to communism?

**Big Ideas**: After 1945, some Latin American countries leaned toward communism.

There were reasons and events that led to this decision:

1. One was a divided, two-class social structure.
2. Another was exploitation by Western powers.
3. Third was authoritative and corrupt leaders.

Communism, also called Marxism, first came to Latin American countries in the late 1890s. Between 1890 - 1930s, communist ideas spread fast in the region.

The region was a prime spot for Marxism for many reasons. Some of these included:

* authoritative and corrupt leaders.
* a class-based society.
* lack of economic growth.
* an increase of exploitative capitalist investment by Western powers.
* an increase of European immigrants who supported socialism and communism.
* a strong communist presence in Latin American literature and art in the 1920s and 1930s.

These played a big role in why some Latin American countries turned to communism after 1945.

**Objective 2:** Compare the success of nationalized industries with private companies in Latin America since 1945.

**Essential Question:** How successful were nationalized industries compared to private companies in Latin America post WWII?

**Big Ideas:** Latin America came out of WWII ready to rebuild and join the global economy. They were dependent on their exports of raw materials to grow their economic outlook. But, new leaders came to power in post-WW II ready to make big changes. Some turned to nationalizing industries. Others promoted private investment.

Economically, Latin American nations were based on import-export industries. They exported raw materials found or grown locally. They imported manufactured goods from other countries.

Their main exports were raw materials like:

* bananas,
* coffee
* cotton

The wealth from selling raw materials was in the hands of a few elites. Thus, there was a great divide between the rich and poor.

To try and build the economy, many Latin American nations decided to diversify their economy. They wanted to add new products and build industries to manufacture goods in Latin America. This would keep them from having to buy them abroad.

This strategy was called import substitution industrialization (ISI). The hope was that Latin American countries would trade more with each other. It was in place up to the 1960s in Argentina, Mexico, and Brazil.

Governments in smaller nations were wary of promoting ISI due, in part, to their small populations. They wanted to stay focused on their core raw materials.

**Objective 3:** Discover how conflicts between capitalism and communism have led to military action in Latin America since 1945.

**Essential Question:** How have conflicts between capitalism and communism led to military action in Latin America since 1945?

**Big Ideas:** WWII ended in 1945, bringing massive change worldwide. 40 to 60 million people died in the war. Many countries in Europe and Asia faced devastation. Industry halted because of damage to roads, bridges, and factories. People fled their homes looking for safety and opportunity.

Post-WWII meetings fueled a growing tension between the U.S. and the Soviet Union. They set the stage for the Cold War.

Neither country wanted a direct military conflict. The threat of nuclear ruin kept both countries in check. The Cold War was fueled by propaganda campaigns, secret operations, and an arms race. It caused regional conflicts, rebellions, and revolutions in other countries.

**Keywords**:

* **embargo** – an official ban of trade with a country, usually for political reasons
* **protectorate** – a country that is controlled by, but not governed by, another country
* **import substitution industrialization (ISI)** – an economic approach where a country focuses its efforts on manufacturing products that they had previously imported
* **multinational corporation** – a company whose reach goes beyond that of a national border
* **Cold War** – a war of ideologies between the U.S. and its allies and the Soviet Union and its allies
* **satellite state** – an independent nation that is politically, economically, or militarily influenced by a foreign nation

**Quick Check**

Question 1: Use the historical source to answer the question. “Workers and farmers, this is the socialist and democratic revolution of the humble, with the humble and for the humble.” Which of the following **best** explains why Cuba became a communist government after 1945?

* due to a lack of economic development and the brutal dictatorship of President Jacobo Arbenz
* because the U.S. overthrew the Cuban government
* **due to a lack of economic development and the brutal dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista**
* because it redistributed land owned by the United Fruit Company

Question 2: Compare Mexico’s and Argentina’s economic success post-World War II.

* They both relied on foreign private companies to build wealth.
* They both created national oil industries that still survive today.
* **They both nationalized industries that were economic problems.**
* They both had governments and economic successes that were destroyed by the United Fruit Company.

Question 3: How is Guatemala’s economic experience post-World War II different from Mexico’s?

* Mexico staged a coup to remove an ineffective leader.
* **Guatemala sold its land to a foreign company to develop.**
* Guatemala increased production of oil more than Mexico.
* Guatemala had rapid inflation, while Mexico did not.

Question 4: Which statement  articulates the way the U.S. and the Soviet Union intervened in satellite states and spheres of influence during the Cold War?

* **providing economic support**
* providing new roads and infrastructure
* providing health care
* promoting education

Question 5: Which of the following statements **best** explains Castro’s rise to power in Cuba?

* Menchú supported Castro.
* Neruda wrote a poem encouraging people to vote for Castro.
* The U.S. helped Castro and his military overthrow the capitalist government.
* **Che Guevara helped Castro build a military force.**

**Lesson 5 – The Fight for Human Rights**

**Objective 1:** Explain how people fought to gain human rights in Latin America since 1945.

**Essential Question:** How have people fought for human rights since 1945 in Latin America?

**Big Ideas**: After 1945, Latin American countries began to fight for human rights. In many regions of Latin America, government officials were corrupt. The people of Latin America sought to reform the actions of these corrupt officials.

This corruption was more common in Argentina and Nicaragua. To gain human rights, people in these countries prosecuted corrupt leaders. They also participated in peaceful protests. These protests were to address inhumane treatment by corrupt governments. As a result, government leaders and supporters made laws to protect people’s human rights.

In Perón’s early years as president, he placed Evita in charge of labor relations. During this time, Argentina made strides in human rights.

Some ways human rights improved included the following:

* granting women the right to vote.
* supporting labor unions.
* implementing programs for low-income and impoverished Argentinians.

Although these rights were a positive change for Argentina, Perón imprisoned political opponents. He took away freedom of the press. As a result, he was forced out of office.

In 1955, the military took over Argentina’s government. This caused instability for several years. The instability led to many human rights violations. There were violations like terrorism and government attacks on peaceful protestors. In 1973, Juan Perón was reelected as president.

**Objective 2:** Describe the role of the military in Argentina, Guatemala, and Nicaragua since 1945.

**Essential Question:** How did U.S. intervention shape Latin American politics in the decades after WWII?

**Big Ideas:** The military has played a big role in the history of many countries in Latin America. This includes Argentina, Guatemala, and Nicaragua.

Often, a military protects its country’s citizens. But in Argentina, Guatemala, and Nicaragua, the military has overthrown many democratically elected governments. These militaries have also taken away citizens’ rights. They have conducted mass killings in each country since 1945.

The military has had both political and social impacts in all three countries since 1945.

The military impacted Argentina politically and socially in many ways since 1945:

* There have been four military takeovers of the government.
* The military government called the Junta was responsible for the Dirty War.
* The Junta banned freedom of speech, closed congress, and trade unions.

The military impacted Guatemala politically and socially in many ways since 1945:

* With the help of the U.S., Colonel Carlos Castillo Armas overthrew the democratically elected government of Jacobo Arbenz.
* Military leaders were responsible for the deaths of thousands of Indigenous peoples.
* The military was responsible for the deaths of 50,000 political opponents in the 1970s.

**Objective 3:** Examine the history and genocide that occurred during the civil war in Guatemala.

**Essential Question:** What lessons can be learned from the genocide in Guatemala?

**Big Ideas:** In the early 1900s, the U.S. owners of the United Fruit Company controlled most of the banana production in Central America. The company built railroads and port facilities to more easily distribute bananas.

Many workers and farmers resented the role of foreign companies. In Guatemala, the tension would lead to civil war. The brutal Guatemalan Civil War would last for over 36 years.

In 1954, Colonel Carlos Castillo Armas rose to power. His government severely restricted the rights of the poor farmers. Under his leadership, the military brutally attacked and killed those who stood up to his policies. Armas was killed in 1957. But the Guatemalan military kept rulling the country.

With the military in power, rebels and the military started fighting a civil war in 1960. The rebel group included former military officers. They were known as the Armed Rebel Forces (FAR). The Guatemalan Worker’s Party (PGT) supported them.

In 1966, people elected Julio Cesar Mendez Montenegro to power. Guatemalans hoped for a better future. This hope was due to Mendez being a lawyer and professor. This hope was short-lived. Mendez let the military arrest members of the PGT. The people the government arrested disappeared. Their bodies were never found.

The government created death squads. These squads spread terror. People were afraid to speak out against the government. Those who did were beaten, killed, or disappeared.

During the early 1970s, a group called the National Front Against Violence brought together church groups, labor groups, political groups, and students to fight for human rights. The government tried to cover up its atrocities. It did this by trying to lessen the extreme poverty and wealth inequality in the country.

**Objective 4:** Analyze the key factors that led to the return to democracy in Brazil, Argentina, and Chile in the 1980s.

**Essential Question:** What factors led to the return to democracy in Brazil, Argentina, and Chile in the 1980s?

**Big Ideas:** Democracy is defined as government by the people. Most democratic governments create indirect democracies, or republics. Here, citizens elect representatives who make laws for them. Democracies are works in progress. Democratic governments can only be successful when people enjoy:

* education
* literacy,
* economic freedom.

A belief in the fair and equal treatment of all citizens is key.

After the Cold War, Latin American people looked to democracy to solve their government issues. The Organization of American States (OAS) is one way that countries of the Americas advocated for democracy.

The OAS works under four main pillars:

1. democracy
2. human rights
3. security
4. development.

It works to support each member state.

After winning independence from Spain and Portugal in the 1800s, Latin American states were left with many problems:

* Their economies were dependent on a single cash crop.
* They had large gaps between rich and poor people.
* They had powerful militaries.
* The people living in these states wanted to gain more individual rights.

**Keywords**:

* **Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo** – an organization begun in Argentina during the Dirty War of the 1970s with a goal of making the world see the corruption of the Argentinian government—exposing, in particular, the fact that many Argentinians were being taken away and never seen again, supposedly because they had done things against the authoritarian government
* **Dirty War –** when military dictators of Argentina got rid of any people they suspected of being their opponents during the years of 1976 to 1983
* **Sandinistas** – a political group in Nicaragua that overthrew the Somoza dictatorship in the late 1970s
* **United Fruit Company** – now known as Chiquita, the United Fruit Company was an American-owned company operating in Guatemala
* **Organization of American States (OAS)** – an organization formed to promote social, cultural, economic, and military cooperation in the Western hemisphere

**Quick Check**

Question 1: Which statement **best** explains how Latin Americans have fought for human rights since 1945?

* **Latin Americans fought for human rights by protesting, speaking out against the government, and forming political action groups.**
* Latin Americans fought for human rights by protesting, speaking out against the government, and limiting free speech.
* Latin Americans fought for human rights by censoring the media, speaking out against the government, and forming political action groups.
* Latin Americans fought for human rights by protesting, jailing political opponents, and forming political action groups.

Question 2: Which statement **best** describes the political impact of the military in Argentina, Guatemala, and Nicaragua since 1945?

* The U.S. supported the military of every leader in each country.
* Military-backed governments supported freedom of speech in each country.
* **The military took over the government in each country.**
* The military participated in the Dirty War in each country.

Question 3: Which of the following **best** discusses the Guatemalan genocide?

* **the killing of approximately 200,000 Indigenous people during the Guatemalan Civil War.**
* the killing of approximately 200 Indigenous people during the Guatemalan Civil War.
* the destruction of banana trees during the Guatemalan Civil War.
* the killing of 23,000 Indigenous people during the Guatemalan Civil War.

Question 4: What country was the United Fruit Company based in?

* Guatemala.
* **the U.S.**
* Ethiopia.
* Spain.

Question 5: Which of the following statements analyses the force behind the return of democracy in Argentina, Brazil, and Chile?

* **frustration with violations of civil rights.**
* military dictators holding presidential elections.
* military leaders providing freedom of speech.
* a small income gap between rich and poor people.

**Lesson 6 – Natural Resources and Industrialization**

**Objective 1:** Explain the significance of Latin American countries exporting raw materials to the rest of the world since 1945.

**Essential Question:** How do one region’s resources affect the world?

**Big Ideas**: For centuries, Latin America’s raw materials have been exported to other countries. Once, foreign nations held monopolies on these raw materials. There was a time when European nations thought they could control Latin America’s wealth and keep it for themselves.

By the twentieth century, those days were gone. But foreign influence stayed. In the second half of the twentieth century, Latin American leaders worked to keep and maintain the upper hand when it came to their countries’ own resources. These leaders fought to control their own raw materials. They looked to profit from them. This fight would take many forms, with mixed results.

From Central America to the islands of the Caribbean to the tip of South America, Latin America is a resource-rich region in:

Agricultural products like:

* sugar
* coffee
* bananas

Natural resources like:

* oil
* copper
* tin
* silver

Having so many resources is helpful when demand for these goods is high. When demand is low, countries that rely on exporting these goods face problems.

During the Great Depression in the 1930s, some Latin American nations suffered when foreign markets for their materials closed. Colombian coffee producers struggled when overseas buyers reduced their coffee buying. The same was true for Argentina, known for exporting grains and meat.

These countries had long relied on exporting one or two raw materials. They tended to import products their country needed. They focused on exporting raw materials for profit.

**Objective 2:** Describe the challenges to industrialization that many Latin American countries have faced since 1945.

**Essential Question:** Why is industrialization hard to achieve?

**Big Ideas:** After WWII, many Latin American nations began efforts to industrialize their economies. For a long time, most Latin American countries had focused on exporting raw materials. They had not been as invested in industry. Industry would allow them to manufacture goods as well.

As Latin American nations worked to industrialize, they began to use specific strategies that they hoped would help their economies do well. To industrialize well, Latin American nations needed resources, like funding.

In the decades that followed, some countries found success and some did not. In some cases, external forces — such as global markets — had big impacts on industrialization.

**Objective 3:** Analyze the short- and long-term effects from the loss of natural resources, as well as attempts in Latin America’s attempts to preserve its environment since 1945.

**Essential Question:** Why do the loss of natural resources and the efforts to conserve them matter?

**Big Ideas:** Latin America is a region that has long been valued for its natural resources. Some of the natural resources include agricultural products, such as:

* fruit
* coffee
* oil

Since 1945, natural resources have played big role in shaping Latin America’s economy. In addition to the raw materials that get sent to other parts of the world, natural resources have also been affected by industrialization efforts.

Creating spaces for new industries has sometimes meant cutting down large forested areas. Population growth also places new demand on natural resources. This is because more food must be grown. More land must also be used for living space.

Some industries have also left their mark on the region, polluting the ecosystem, damaging it, and affecting peoples’ lives.

Since the late 20th century, several approaches have been used to preserve Latin America’s environment. Latin American countries have made commitments at various times to protect their lands and resources. Some of these attempts have seen success, while others have faced challenges.

**Objective 4:** Explain some of the successes and failures of the Green Revolution and how it impacted social and economic issues in Latin America.

**Essential Question:** What were some successes and pitfalls of the Green Revolution in Latin America?

**Big Ideas:** In the 1960s the world’s population grew. This increased the need for food production to avert a large-scale hunger crisis. One key figure that helped implement the changes needed, was Norman Borlaug. He came up with the idea of the Green Revolution.

The Green Revolution was an effort to increase the world’s food output. The goal was for it to lead to less hunger. The revolution focused on high-yield crops. Crops such as wheat, rice, and corn. These three grains account for much of the staple diets around the world.

The goal was to implement these higher yield crops in Latin American countries, Africa, India, and other parts of Asia. This push led to great strides in food production. It also came with a lot of unforeseen failures.

These failures would eventually lead to the program being handed over to various governments to implement.

The increased crop yield:

* increased hunger in some areas.
* increased the economic gaps in the farming industry.
* caused unexpected environmental damage.
* changed the social landscape of many small farming communities.

**Keywords**:

* **import substitution industrialization (ISI) –** an economic approach where a country focuses its efforts on manufacturing products that it had previously imported
* **International Monetary Fund (IMF) –** an international financial institution that works to promote global economic cooperation and financial security
* **Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) –** a multinational organization made up of oil-producing countries, with the goal of setting oil production standards, prices, and policies
* **tariff –** a tax imposed by a nation on goods imported from another nation
* **Green Revolution** – based on agricultural research that led to the development of high-yield crop varieties; the effort was highly successful in Mexico and the Indian subcontinent

**Quick Check**

Question 1: Which of the following **best** explains why Latin American countries tried import substitution industrialization (ISI) after World War II?

* **They wanted to make their economies less reliant on income from exports.**
* They wanted to eliminate the government’s role in the economy.
* They no longer wanted to trade with the U.S. or other countries.
* They hoped to create factories in other countries to produce goods.

Question 2: Why did Venezuela help form OPEC, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries?

* This was part of Venezuela’s import substitution industrialization policy.
* Venezuela wanted to make sure other countries did not produce oil.
* Other oil-producing countries forced it to join or lose money.
* **Venezuela wanted to protect its role in the oil industry.**

Question 3: Which of the following describes a key factor that affected Latin American efforts to industrialize after World War II?

* International banks were reluctant to give loans to Latin American businesses because they were not growing by the early 1970s.
* Latin American countries did not know how to build industries in their own countries because they had never done this.
* Latin American countries only tried to sell to other Latin American countries, which made the entire region financially unstable.
* **Latin American countries had systems to protect their own industries, but could lose profits because of costs other countries placed on their goods.**

Question 4: Which of the following analyzes why Brazil saw important successes in conservation from the 1990s to the early 2000s?

* Brazil’s foreign debt was forgiven, so it did not have to worry about growing the economy.
* **Brazil responded to external pressures and changed policies to limit deforestation.**
* The Brazilian government eliminated many jobs in its environmental sector.
* Brazilians decided to prevent international companies from logging in the Amazon.

Question 5: Which statement **best** explains the economic successes brought about by the Green Revolution?

* **The Green Revolution helped some farmers and companies profit from the sale of crops, farm machinery, and farming chemicals needed to grow new seeds.**
* The Green Revolution helped lower taxes in some countries.
* The Green Revolution helped to create a profit for some countries while helping small-scale farmers grow their farms.
* The Green Revolution allowed small-scale farmers to profit from their crop sales.

**Lesson 7 – Population Growth and Immigration**

**Objective 1:** Explain the problems rapid population growth has caused in Latin America since 1945.

**Essential Question:** How does population growth affect different regions of the world?

**Big Ideas**: People tend to celebrate the arrival of new lives. But what happens when a country or a region faces a population boom?

After WWII, Latin Americans faced this situation.

During the second half of the twentieth century, the population of most Latin American countries grew fast. They faced more people in their communities than ever before. As a result, Latin Americans faced new problems.

The postwar population boom caused the following challenges:

* The gap between the wealthy and less wealthy grew larger.
* More people needed jobs.
* Families needed housing.
* More people needed to use government services. These services included schools, health care, and transportation.

These challenges were not spread equally across Latin America. Much of Latin America’s population is focused in six countries. This means that some countries had more challenges. About 80% of Latin America’s population lives in Mexico, Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Peru, and Venezuela.

Population growth increased poverty across Latin America. By 2005, 41% of Latin Americans lived in poverty. In part, the increase in poverty relates to the challenges governments faced in addressing rapid population growth.

**Objective 2:** Describe the social and environmental impacts that increasing immigration has had on Latin America since 1945.

**Essential Question:** How does immigration affect society and the environment of a place?

**Big Ideas:** High birth rates and low death rates drove Latin America’s post-1945 population boom. Population growth came from other factors too.

1. Some people came from other parts of the world to settle in Latin American countries.
2. Intraregional migration played a big role in shaping Latin American population patterns.

The arrival of new people into Latin American countries affected society and the environment.

Some Latin American governments saw the Japanese as immigrants who could make positive impacts on the local environment. In 1953 the Bolivian government created a decade-long program to bring immigrants from the Japanese Ryukyu Islands. The Bolivian government sought these immigrants for their farming skills.

Farmers who immigrated to São Paulo, Brazil, also made big environmental impacts. Their ability to work with the soil and grow crops made a huge difference for people in that part of Brazil.

By 1958, Japanese farmers in the São Paulo area were producing most of the:

* tea
* potatoes
* tomatoes

These Japanese farmers produced:

* Nearly half of all peanuts.
* More than a third of all eggs.
* Lots of cotton and bananas.

Socially, many rural Japanese immigrants stayed separate from other Brazilians. Many settled in Japanese communities. They kept speaking Japanese and living as they had in Japan. In urban areas, many Japanese did blend into the community.

In the 1960s and 1970s, the children of Japanese Brazilian immigrants sometimes tried to integrate themselves by becoming part of new political movements. In Brazil today, Japanese immigrants and their descendants are integral to all areas of society.

**Objective 3:** Explain political and economic push factors that have influenced Latin American emigration since 1945.

**Essential Question:** What factors push someone out of their home country?

**Big Ideas:** Latin America is a vast region that has 19 countries. It spans North America and South America. It also includes the Caribbean.

Many Latin American nations are classified as developing countries. A developing country does not have a strong economy. Developing countries are trying to become more advanced economically and socially. Citizens of these countries may want to emigrate to find better opportunities.

People are willing to start a new life in a new country because things have become bad in their home country. The situations they face are pushing them out of a location. These are called push factors.

Examples of push factors could be:

* War.
* Famine.
* Drought.
* Lack of job opportunities.
* Low wages.
* Religious persecution.

Push factors can be found all over the world. Many people are leaving Latin America to find better opportunities and to escape poverty.

**Keywords**:

* **infrastructure** – the basic systems, such as road and building construction, that are necessary for a society to function effectively
* **hydroelectricity –** the electric power converted from the energy of moving water
* **intraregional migration –** the movement of people within a singular region
* **pull factor –** a positive factor that prompts migration to a location
* **push factor** – a negative factor that prompts migration away from a location

**Quick Check**

Question 1: Which of the following **most** accurately examines the causes of rapid population growth in Latin America since 1945?

* Countries did not have enough money to invest in education and other resources for all their citizens.
* More people died and fewer people were born, causing new challenges for different governments trying to support their people.
* Authoritarian governments tried to take advantage of income inequalities and made population growth worse.
* **More people were born and fewer people died, which expanded the population and created new pressures on countries’ infrastructures.**

Question 2: Which of the following describes a social impact of immigration growth on Latin America since 1945?

* **Immigrants have become integral to all areas of society in countries such as Brazil.**
* New immigrants led revolutions that changed the government.
* Immigrants were mostly isolated and not accepted into new countries.
* Immigrants were the cause of civil wars and violence in Latin America.

Question 3: How did Paraguay’s land reform process in the 1970s affect immigrants?

* Less land was available because of a new focus on building hydroelectric power plants.
* This process created opportunities for anyone to acquire new land, including immigrants.
* Paraguayans shared land with new immigrants because they thought it would benefit all.
* **Most land went to people with political connections, and immigrants had a harder time finding land.**

Question 4: Which statement **best** explains why someone would be pushed out of their country?

* People come to a country for economic opportunities.
* People leave a country due to religious freedom.
* People come to a country for better educational opportunities.
* **People leave a country due to poverty and political instability.**

Question 5: Which country worked with the United Nations to try to end political corruption?

* **Guatemala.**
* Mexico.
* Venezuela.
* Brazil.

**Lesson 8 – Latin American Economics**

**Objective 1:** Describe the impact multinational corporations have had on Latin American economies and people since 1945.

**Essential Question:** Who benefits from multinational corporations in a region?

**Big Ideas**: After European colonization began in Latin America, many businesses sought to profit off the region. Large trade companies, such as the Royal African Company, were early types of multinational corporations. With outposts on multiple continents, these businesses traded goods and enslaved people.

The fewer types and smaller scale of trade these companies engaged in were much different from multinational corporations of today. But their founders set up these businesses in similar ways. These businesses sought profit above all else.

Multinational corporations form because businesses hope to make more money in other countries. One way to do that is to extend business operations into specific countries. That allows cost cutting. It can be easier to get materials needed to make products. Having offices in other countries can also reduce the money companies have to pay for workers or taxes.

In the years after WW II, multinational corporations expanded in Latin America. Their presence had mixed impacts.

The region became a destination for expanding investment from many industries. New technologies in shipping and production made it easier to send goods across the world.

Size and geography gave multinational corporations many benefits to offer to people. Creating business operations in more than one country means that jobs are available to people in those countries. This can help support local economies. These corporations also offer different ways to connect regions. One result of multinational corporations being present in Latin America is that these businesses connect Latin America to the rest of the world in new ways.

But, these corporations exist for profit. When profits lessen or costs become too high, or when local governments decide they no longer wish to welcome these companies, problems can emerge. Both these circumstances developed in Latin America after 1945.

**Objective 2:** Articulate how Latin American drug cartels since 1945 have both contributed to the global economy and created conflict within and among countries. Also address an alternative to drug trafficking.

**Essential Question:** How did Latin American drug cartels gain control of Latin American economies, and what can be done to decrease their impact on Latin American people?

**Big Ideas:** News sources in 2022 bombard people with stories about the distribution of illegal drugs. Illegal drug trafficking began in Latin America in the late 19th century. As a reaction, countries began a long “war on drugs.” It has had a great cost, both fiscally and in human lives.

Groups in Colombia and Mexico play big roles in the production and distribution of cocaine, heroin, and marijuana along with methamphetamine (METH).

Drug Trafficking Organizations (DTOs) have huge markets in the U.S. and other countries. Due to the highly addictive effects of some illegal drugs, business is booming.

Latin American countries can find alternative ways to prosper by using the help and guidance of organizations like:

* The United Nations.
* The Organization of American States (OAS).
* The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). One youth program that the UNODC sponsors encourages young people to teach their communities about setting goals and using prevention methods.

**Objective 3:** Analyze how the economies of Latin American countries have changed over time since 1945.

**Essential Question:** How have the economies of Latin America changed over time since 1945?

**Big Ideas:** After WW II, Latin American countries faced many challenges.

1. The economy of Latin America continued to grow slowly.
2. Latin American people demanded change.

Military dictators seized power and activists staged revolutions, but these were limited solutions.

The 1960s opened the door to trade agreements. Countries created the Latin American Free Trade Association to eliminate trade barriers and promote Latin American products. Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, and Nicaragua founded the Central American Common Market to do the same. Costa Rica joined the group in 1962. During this time, Brazil exported of automobiles and auto parts. In the late 1960s, Colombia became a leader in production of fresh cut flowers and illegal drugs.

In the last two decades of the 20th century, countries in Latin America grew a bit. Some Latin American governments created land reforms to change and improve their economic systems.

In 2022, governments are in this process. They are breaking up portions of land and giving land to poor farmers. The goal is to help them build their own farms.

One major challenge Latin Americans are tackling is deforestation. Companies have been clearing trees in the rainforest. This is destroying the environment. People use products from the rainforest every day. These include food and medicine.

One solution the debt-for-nature-swap. This helps Latin American countries pay off the debt they owe to other countries. Environmental organizations pay off part of a country’s debt for a conservation project. For rainforests, they pay off the debt for protection of a certain part of the rain forest. By using this solution, people fight rainforest deforestation.

**Keywords**:

* **multinational corporation** – a company whose reach goes beyond a national border
* **Drug Trafficking Organizations (DTOs) –** a group of organizations with the purpose of producing and distributing illegal drugs
* **Global Commission on Drug Policy –** an organization created in 2011 to inspire a better policy for dealing globally with the issue of illegal drugs
* **Nongovernmental Organizations (NGOs) –** an organization that operates independently from and sometimes in coordination with governments to assist with humanitarian crises
* **Organization of American States (OAS)** – an organization formed to promote social, cultural, economic, and military cooperation in the Western hemisphere
* **United Nations –** an organization made up of countries around the world; created after World War II to maintain international peace and help countries work together
* **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) –** the office of the United Nations that was developed to help deal with drug crimes and find alternative solutions to drug control
* **Latin American Free Trade Association –** an organization dedicated to furthering economic integration in Latin American comprised of eleven nations; replaced by the Latin America Integration Association (ALADI) in 1980

**Quick Check**

Question 1: Which of the following describes a multinational corporation?

* a company that manufactures and sells goods only in Venezuela.
* a company that has manufacturing plants in Brazil and sends products to sell in the U.S.
* a company that has manufacturing plants in Chile and sends products to Venezuela and Brazil.
* **a company that has manufacturing plants in both Brazil and the U.S.**

Question 2: Which of the following **best** articulates the role drug trafficking plays in the economy of Latin America?

* **Drug trafficking provides huge profits for the organizations that produce and sell drugs.**
* Drug trafficking benefits everyone in Latin America.
* Drug trafficking is not important to the economy of Latin America.
* Drug trafficking benefits children by providing education.

Question 3: When did drug cartels rise to power in Latin America?

* 1960s.
* early 1900s.
* 1980s.
* **1970s.**

Question 4: Which of the following answers reveals one way the economy of Latin America changed after 1945?

* using new stone walls to flatten hills for planting.
* **changing from cash crops to minerals.**
* changing from the mit’a system to cash crops.
* using chinampas instead of regular farming.

Question 5: What product was mined off the islands of the Peruvian coast to be used in European fertilizer?

* Beef.
* **Guano.**
* Coffee.
* The barbed wire fence.