



Chapter 4: Latin America






Learning Objectives

- Understand connections between population and environmental systems and resources
- Discuss impacts of European colonization on the population and economy of the region
- Examine role of Latin America in the contemporary global economy

Diversity Amid Globalization, 3rd ed.: Rowntree, Lewis, Price & Wyckoff





Key Concepts

Neotropical Diversity	Colombian Exchange
Deforestation	Syncretic Religions
Altitudinal Zonation	Machismo/Marianismo
El Niño	Treaty of Tordesillas
Urban Primacy	Regional Trade Blocks
Rural-to-Urban Migration	Indigenous Organizations
Land Tenure and Reform	Maquiladoras
Remittances	Dependency Theory
Transnationalism	Neoliberalism

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Setting the Boundaries

- ☉ From the Rio Grande to Tierra del Fuego
- ☉ Most of Central America and South America
- ☉ Shared Colonial History: Iberian Countries

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Latin America

Figure 4.1





Environmental Geography

- ☉ **Neotropical Diversity:** tropical ecosystems of the Americas that evolved in relative isolation and support diverse and unique flora and fauna

- Tropical Ecosystems of the Western Hemisphere



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Figure 4.2
Southern Venezuela

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Environmental Issues – Overview

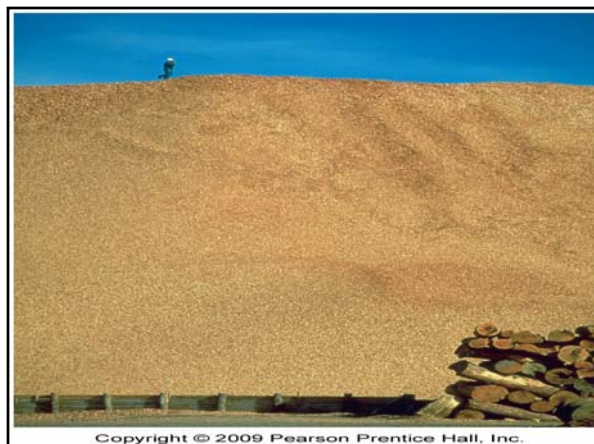
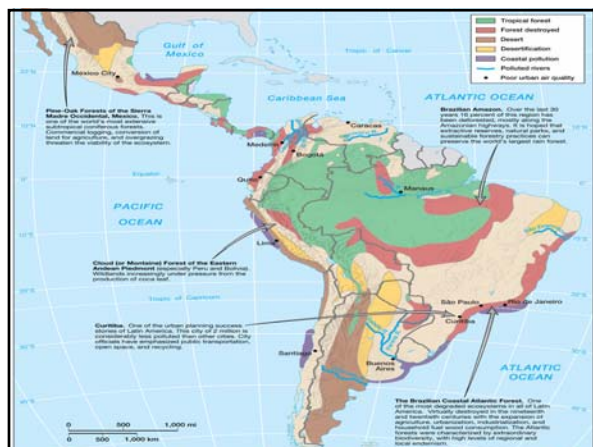
Figure 4.4



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Environmental Issues (cont'd)

Mexico City

What aspects of physical and human geography combine to produce air pollution in this city?

Figure 4.5

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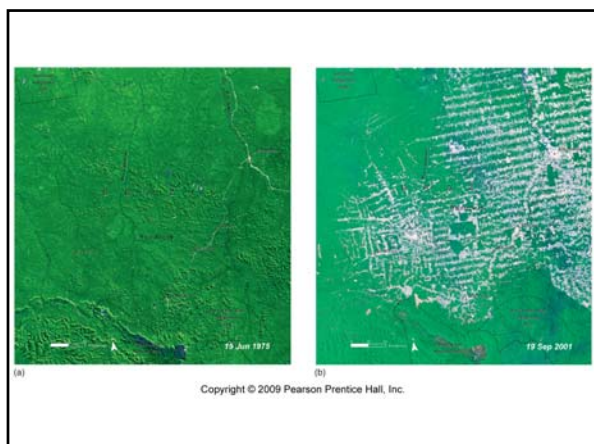
Environmental Issues (cont'd)

These satellite images were taken of Rondonia, Brazil in 1975 and 1992

What differences do you see between these two time periods?

Figure 4.7

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Environmental Issues (cont'd)

● Cochabamba, Bolivia

● How is this landscape related to changes in agricultural productivity?

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Physical Setting - Topography

Figure 4.3



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Topography – Western Mountains and Eastern Shields

- The Andes
- Uplands of Mexico and Central America
- The Shields
 - Large upland areas of exposed crystalline rock
 - Brazilian and Patagonian Shields

Figure 4.9



Figure 4.12

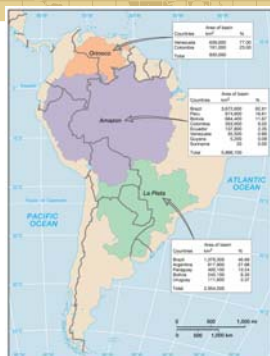
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Topography – River Basins and Lowlands

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Climate

Figure 4.15



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Altitudinal Zonation

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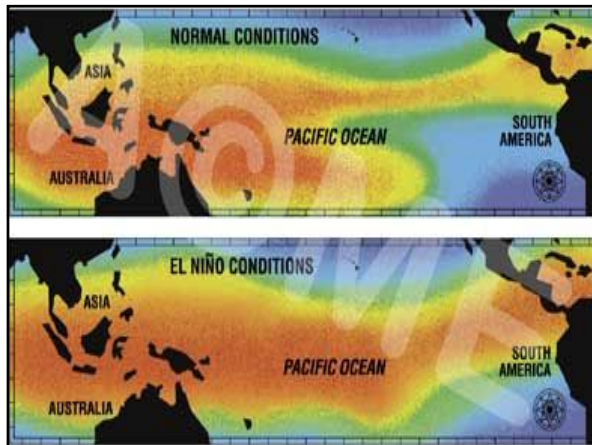


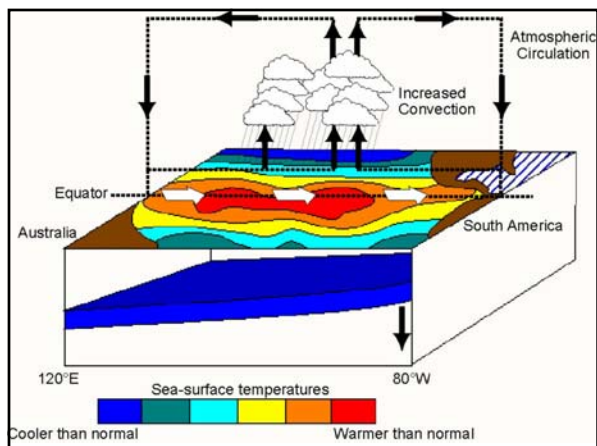
El Niño

- Periodically, the flourishing fish populations commonly found off the west coast of Peru South America are replaced by the sight of dead fish littering the water and beaches.
- Unusual weather conditions occur around the globe as jet streams, storm tracks and monsoons are shifted.
- Such disarray is caused by a warm current of water that appears every three to seven years in the eastern Pacific Ocean called **El Niño**.

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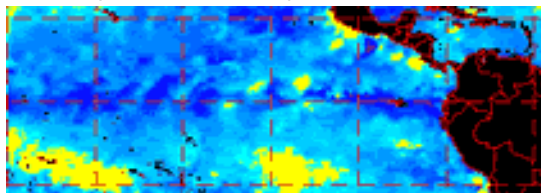






La Niña

- La Niña is characterized by unusually cold ocean temperatures in the equatorial Pacific, as compared to El Niño, which is characterized by unusually warm ocean temperatures in the equatorial Pacific





Population and Settlement

- Urban Primacy
- Megalopolis



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Demographic Indicators – Urban Population

Country	Population (millions, 2005)	Population density and urban ratio	Rate of Natural Increase	TFR ^a	Percent GDP	Percent HD	Percent Urban
Argentina	37.9	35	1.1	2.4	28	9	99
Bolivia	8.6	31	1.8	2.8	26	9	83
Brazil	191.1	84	1.3	2.2	30	6	91
Chile	16.0	58	1.2	2.4	29	7	97
Colombia	40.1	103	1.7	2.8	32	8	71
Costa Rica	4.2	214	1.4	2.1	30	6	59
Ecuador	13.4	122	2.1	3.0	36	5	91
El Salvador	6.7	426	2.0	3.0	36	5	98
Guatemala	12.7	305	2.8	4.4	44	4	79
Honduras	7.0	162	2.8	4.1	43	4	47
Mexico	106.2	140	2.1	2.8	29	9	70
Nicaragua	5.4	112	2.7	3.8	43	3	58
Panama	3.2	359	1.8	2.7	31	6	93
Paraguay	6.0	38	2.8	3.8	38	8	64
Peru	27.9	86	1.7	2.8	34	9	72
Uruguay	3.4	150	0.8	2.2	24	13	93
Venezuela	26.2	74	1.8	2.8	34	4	87

^a Total fertility rate.
^b Percent of population younger than 15 years of age.
 Source: Population Reference Bureau, World Population Data Sheet, 2006.

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Note variation in % Urban across the region

Contrasting Settlement Landscapes in Latin America

Peruvian Andes - Village



Figure 1.25a

Venezuela – Spanish
Colonial Town



Figure 1.25b

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Urban Form

Reflects colonial origins and contemporary growth

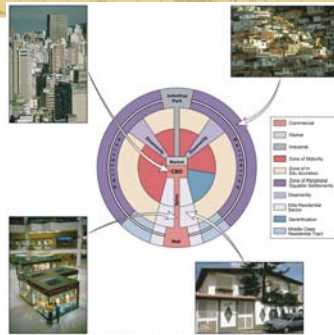


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“City of God”: Squatter Settlements in Latin America



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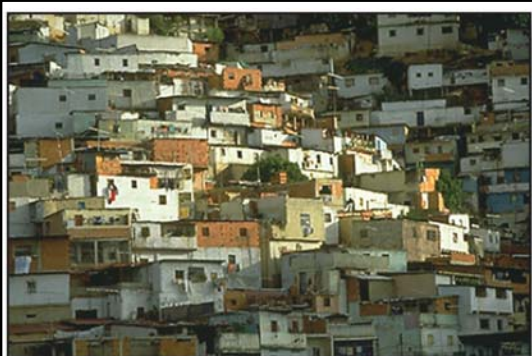
Figure 4.3.2 – Rio de Janeiro



Figure 4.19 – Lima, Peru

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Rural Settlement

- ☐ Latifundia
- ☐ Minifundia
- ☐ Agrarian Reform
- ☐ Agricultural Frontiers



Figure 4.21 - How does this photo relate to the images of Rondonia, Brazil?

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Population Growth and Movements

- ☐ Rapid growth: 1960s and 1970s
- ☐ Flows within and outside of Latin America



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Population Movements (cont'd)

- ☐ Rural-to-Urban Migration
- ☐ European Migration
- ☐ Asian Migration



Figure 4.22



Figure 4.23

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Latin American Immigration



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- Transnationalism
 - Social and economic links between home and host countries
 - Outcome of globalization
- Remittances (Figure 4.39 at left)
 - Monies sent home
 - Important flow of capital into region



Cultural Diversity - Historic



Figure 4.25 – Machu Picchu

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- Demographic Collapse and Indigenous Populations
- Colombian Exchange



Cultural Diversity - Contemporary

- Complex ethnic patterns
 - Persistence of indigenous language
 - Syncretic religions
 - Machismo* and *Marianismo*
- Interactions between European, African and Indigenous Populations

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Geopolitical Framework

- ✿ Treaty of Tordesillas
- ✿ Revolutionary Movements and Independence
- ✿ Persistent Border Conflicts
- ✿ Trends Toward Democracy



Figure 4.29

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Regional Organizations

- Supranational: Trade Blocks
- Subnational: Ethnicity/Ideology



Figure 4.32

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Insurgencies and Drug Trafficking



Figure 4.33



Figure 4.34

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Development Strategies

Informal Sector in Peru High Tech in Costa Rica



Figure 4.36



Figure 4.35

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Development Strategies (cont'd)

Primary Export Dependency



Figure 4.37

Oil Production



Figure 4.38

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Maquiladora Cities – Contrasts in Wealth and Poverty

Figure 4.6.1



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Figure 4.6.2a



Figure 4.6.2b

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Latin America in the Global Economy

- **Dependency Theory:** this theory says expansion of European capitalism created Latin America's condition of underdevelopment (1960s); these countries are vulnerable to changes in the global market; trade within Latin America provides another path to development
- **Neoliberal Policies:** *neoliberal policies* stress privatization, export production, direct foreign investment, and few restrictions on imports; Chile has seen good growth using this strategy
- **Dollarization:** the process by which a country adopts, either in whole or in part, the U.S. dollar as its official currency; Panama adopted this policy in 1904, Ecuador in 2000

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Social Development

Table 4.3 Social Indicators and Status of Women

Country	Life Expectancy at Birth		Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)		Female Literacy Rate (%)		Female Labor Force Participation (% of total, 2002)
	Male	Female	2000	2002	Male	Female	
Argentina	75	78	20	19	9	9	54.4
Bolivia	62	65	122	75	7	10	38.0
Brazil	68	73	60	57	10	12	38.5
Chile	73	76	18	12	6	6	54.0
Colombia	69	75	38	33	6	8	38.1
Costa Rica	75	80	17	11	4	4	30.8
Ecuador	69	73	57	29	6	10	28.7
El Salvador	67	73	60	39	18	23	37.3
Guatemala	63	68	82	49	20	26	30.1
Honduras	62	69	81	42	20	20	31.8
Mexico	71	77	44	29	7	11	53.8
Nicaragua	67	71	66	41	22	23	36.6
Panama	73	77	34	25	7	8	30.7
Paraguay	69	73	37	30	7	10	30.4
Peru	68	73	80	39	9	10	31.9
Venezuela	71	76	24	15	3	3	42.2
Venezuela	71	77	22	22	6	7	35.4

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