

# UNIT 11

# 20th & 21st Century Events

Correlates with SS6H1 a-b

## CHAPTER 24

### HOW EUROPE RESHAPED LATIN AMERICA

#### The Colonizing Nations

Before Europeans arrived, the Maya, Aztec, and Inca civilizations ruled different parts of today's Central and South America. These **indigenous** civilizations had developed distinct cultures with unique languages and religions.


Starting in the 1500s, Europeans conquered these native civilizations. Spain took over much of Central and South America. Portugal established strong colonies in the area that would become Brazil.

Over time, the Europeans and indigenous peoples stopped resisting one another. Numerous foods and technologies were brought from Europe to the Americas in a process we today call the **Columbian Exchange** (after Christopher Columbus). Europeans and the indigenous people began marrying and having children.

Spain and Portugal reshaped Latin America into a distinct **cultural region**, with a blend of several different races and ethnicities. Take a closer look at two important features of the Latin American cultural region.

#### Language

Language is one of the key characteristics that defines Latin America as a cultural region. Because most countries in Central and South America were conquered by Spain, Spanish is the most common language today. Because Brazil was conquered by Portugal, most Brazilians today speak a dialect of Portuguese. Indigenous languages are still spoken today by small segments of the populations in Latin America.



#### Vocabulary

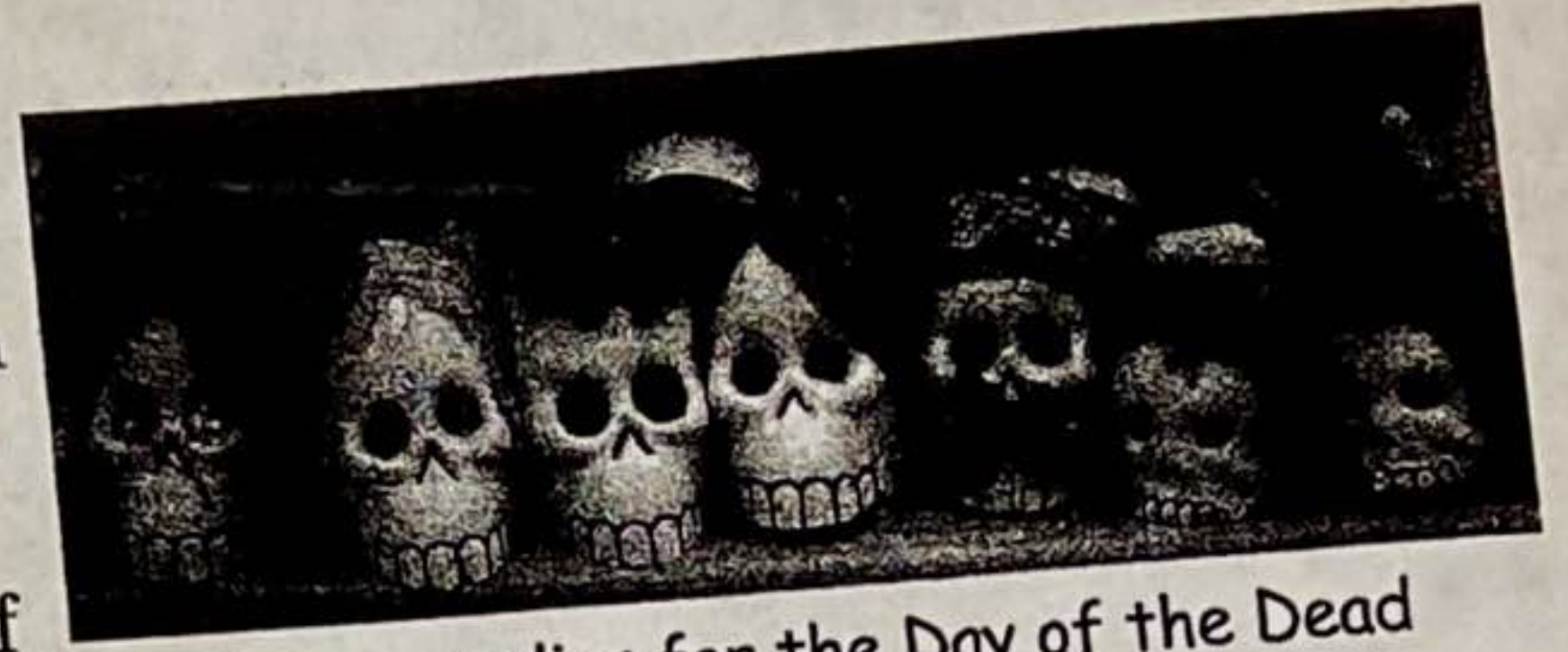
**indigenous:** living or growing in a particular region or environment

Main Languages of Latin America



## Religion

In the 1500s and 1600s, Roman Catholicism was the leading religion of both Spain and Portugal. The colonists brought the Catholic religion to Latin America with them and taught it to the indigenous peoples. As a result, Catholicism is the main religion of Latin America today. Over 90 percent of the people say they are Catholics! The values and outlooks of Catholicism influence every aspect of life in Latin America.



Sugar candies for the Day of the Dead

Source: Tomascastelazo

Just as different races blended in Latin America, so too did religions. Over time, religious celebrations, customs, and holidays in Latin America became a mixture of Catholic and Native American beliefs. One example is the Day of the Dead, a holiday celebrated in Mexico today. On that day, people come together to pray for family members and friends who died and celebrate their spiritual journey. Aztecs observed a similar day before the Spaniards arrived. Over time, the Aztec tradition was then blended with the Catholics' All Souls Day.



### Rapid Recall

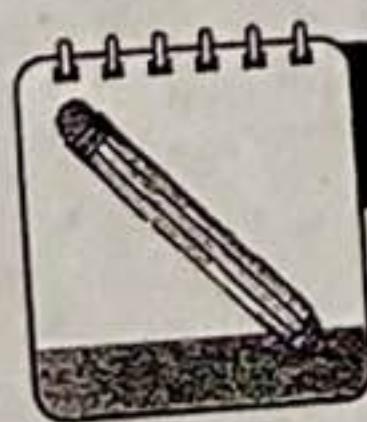
L6-8RH2

Circle the correct answers.

- How is Spain's influence on language and religion still seen in Latin American countries today?
  - A. No Native American customs and languages have survived.
  - B. The king of Spain is head of the church in most of these countries.
  - C. Most people in these countries are Roman Catholic.
  - D. Most people in these countries can write Spanish but not speak it.
- Which Latin American country's language and culture is greatly influenced by Portugal?

**Brazil    Panama    Argentina    Chile**

- The religion and languages throughout much of Latin America are similar because the people were
  - A. from the same indigenous group.
  - B. from the same country in Asia.
  - C. colonized by the same countries.
  - D. one independent nation.




### Cause and Effect

Complete the table.

Cause	Effect
Spain conquered much of Latin America.	Latin America is a unique blend of cultures.
Spain and Portugal observe the Catholic religion.	Indigenous languages are not widely spoken.

# The Lasting Influence of Slavery

Africans also helped shape the development of Latin America. Starting in the late 1400s and continuing for nearly 300 years, European countries created plantations and mines in North America, the Caribbean, Central America, and South America. The Europeans quickly found out they needed more labor to help grow their sugar cane and tobacco, and to dig up gold and silver.



## Vocabulary

**cash crop:** a crop grown to raise money by selling it, rather than to feed local people or to be used for trade

In Latin America, the Spaniards and Portuguese at first tried to enslave the indigenous peoples. But the American Indians had no immunity to European diseases. Many became sick and died from sickness or overwork. The Europeans' businesses suffered. So, the Europeans decided to start importing slaves from West Africa. Because Europe and Africa had been trading for many centuries, West Africans already shared immunity to many diseases.

The slave trade became a **triangle trade** arrangement between Europe, Africa, and the Americas. In triangle trade among three parties, each participant is able to obtain what it wants by selling or trading what one of the other two parties wants. The diagram shows how triangle trade worked with slaves in the Americas.

## Triangle Trade Routes



In South America, plantation economies prospered thanks to African slave labor. Brazil imported more slaves than any country in the world! Portuguese settlers used their labor to grow and sell sugarcane, their main source of income. In the Caribbean islands, known as the West Indies, Spanish colonists imported African slaves to work on their massive sugar plantations. Then France, the Netherlands, and England claimed the Caribbean islands, started plantations, and began importing slaves, too.

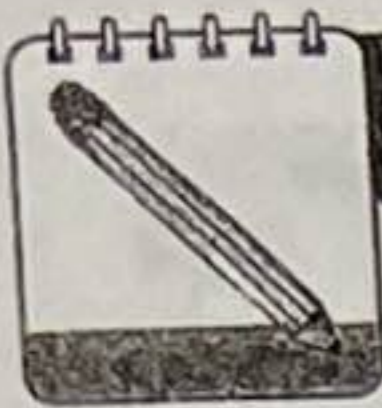


## Data Analysis

L6-8RH2; L6-8RH4

Use the chart to match goods with legs of the Triangle Trade Routes. Write EA for Europe to Africa, AA for Africa to Americas, and AE for the Americas to Europe.

- |                  |                 |                 |               |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 1. ___ Furniture | 3. ___ Slaves   | 5. ___ Molasses | 7. ___ Cotton |
| 2. ___ Sugar     | 4. ___ Textiles | 6. ___ Rice     | 8. ___ Rum    |



## Quick Review

Answer the questions.

- The African slave trade grew because European nations wanted the captured Africans
  - to work in the new factories.
  - to replace the labor of the serfs.
  - to work on plantations in their colonies.
  - to increase the number of soldiers in their armies.
- One impact of the African slave trade was \_\_\_\_\_
  - blending of ethnic groups in Latin America
  - more opportunities for Africans to own land
  - less shipping between continents
  - arrival of the French and English languages in Latin America

## Africans in Latin Culture

Over the centuries after slavery ended, the former African slaves also helped create a unique cultural region in Latin America. They stayed in Latin American countries to live as free men. Europeans and descendants of slaves began marrying and had children.

As the indigenous peoples had, the former Africans began speaking Spanish in most of Latin America and Portuguese in Brazil. In parts of the Caribbean, West African elements had a lasting impact in the form of blended Creole languages that developed.

African religious traditions became mixed with Roman Catholic practices into unique religions in Latin America. Examples are the **Voodoo** religions that started in Haiti and the **Santeria** religion of Cuba.

## A Vocal Minority

Today, nearly half of Brazil's population is of African ancestry. Around 11 million citizens of Colombia have African roots. But in most other Latin American countries, descendants of slaves are small minorities. It is hard to exercise their individual and political rights! People of African descent have started to organize, protest against discrimination, and push for improved rights and living conditions in Latin America.



## Charts & Graphs

Examine the charts and answer the questions.

Country	Population of Blacks and Mulattoes
Argentina	0.0%
Brazil	45.3%
Chile	0.0%
Cuba	62.0%
Dominican Republic	82.7%

Country	Population of Blacks and Mulattoes
Ecuador	10.0%
Honduras	1.7%
Panama	32.0%
Uruguay	4.0%
Venezuela	41.5%

- The percentage of black and mulatto population tends to **be the same / vary widely** in Latin American countries.
- People of African descent would likely have the most political power in \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
- People of African descent would likely have the least political power in \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

# CHAPTER 25 LATIN AMERICA

## ISSUES FOR MODERN LATIN AMERICA

### The Cuban Revolution, and Afterward

Starting in the 1800s, independence movements sprang up around Latin America. The former colonies in Latin America wanted to break from European rule for many reasons. The European governments had given them little say in how their countries were run. Colonists wanted to make their own political and economic decisions.

In the Spanish-American War of 1898, Cuba gained independence from Spain. Then Cuba stayed under U.S. control for a few years. The United States helped establish a new government and set up a military base on Guantánamo Bay, which is still operating today. Then for 50 years, Cuba went through a series of political leaders. Some were elected and some took over as dictators. Even though the country of Cuba was very wealthy, most of the people were extremely poor. Most Cubans were constantly angry with their government.

In the late 1950s, a young lawyer named **Fidel Castro** led a group of rebels against the corrupt Cuban government of dictator **Fulgencio Batista**. In the **Cuban Revolution**, the rebels eventually defeated Batista's army and took over the government early in 1959. They set up a Communist government and immediately pushed through reforms in the government and the courts.



Fulgencio Batista



Fidel Castro



#### True or False

Write T for True and F for false. Correct any false statements to make them true.

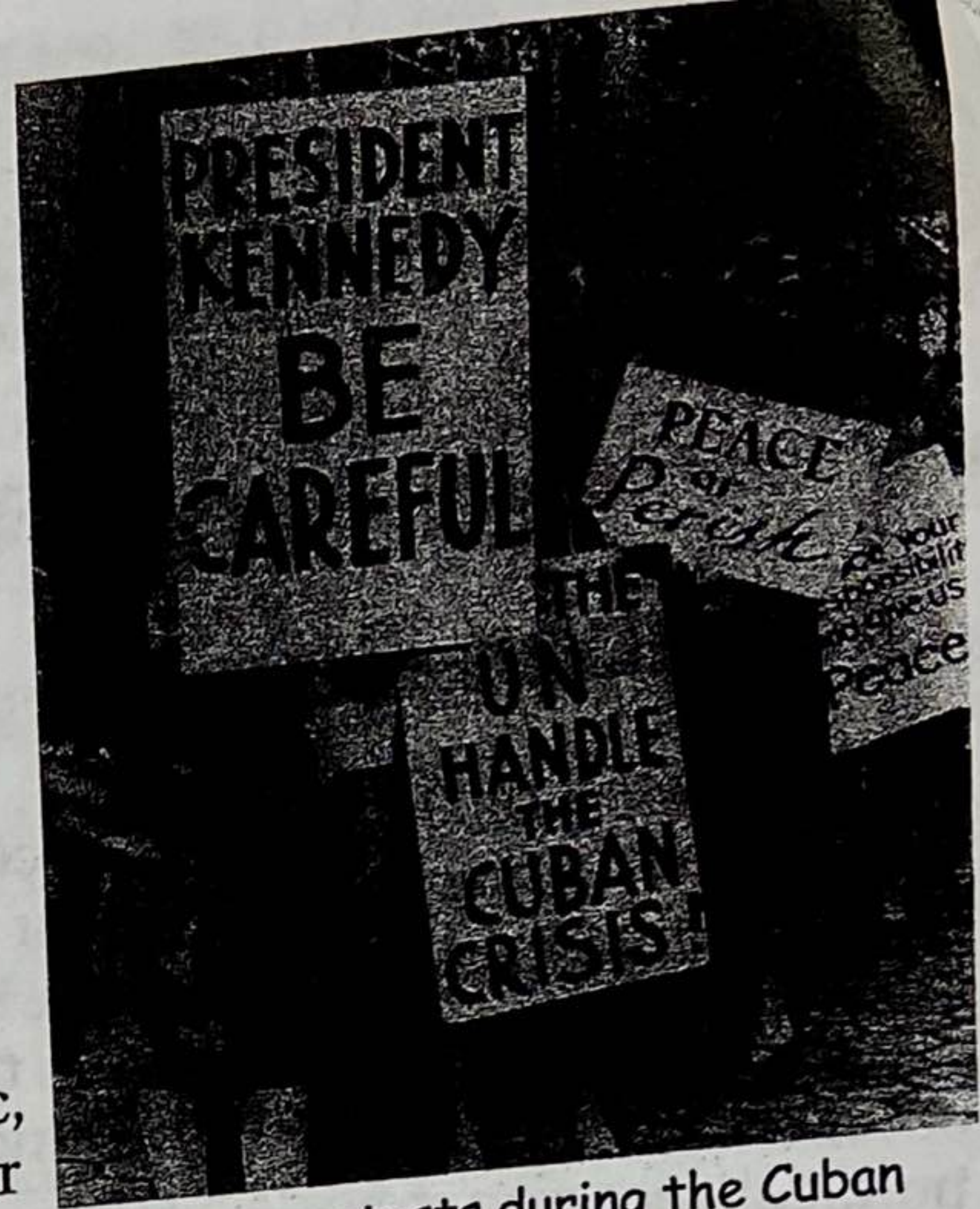
- \_\_\_ 1. Latin American revolutions started because the people wanted to control plantations and silver mines.
- \_\_\_ 2. Latin American populations revolted against European rule.
- \_\_\_ 3. Cuba escaped from Spanish rule in 1898.
- \_\_\_ 4. In the first few decades after independence, Cubans were usually unhappy with their political leaders.
- \_\_\_ 5. Fulgencio Batista led the 1959 revolution against the government of Fidel Castro.
- \_\_\_ 6. The Cuban government set up in 1959 was a parliamentary democracy.

# How Castro Used His Power

Fidel Castro came to power during the **Cold War**. This was a period of conflict between two superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union. Castro decided to ally Cuba with the Soviet Union. He began to trade weapons, as well as food and goods, with the Soviets. This led to strained relations between the United States and Cuba. In 1962, a major incident erupted when the Soviets put missiles on Cuba that could have reached the United States. The Soviets removed the missiles, but not before fear spread across the world of a possible war!

Castro's regime controlled all of the government, economic, and education activity on Cuba. The government took over businesses—even those owned by the United States—and media on the island. Laws were passed limiting citizens' freedoms of speech, the press, assembly, and religion. While poor people supported Castro's policies because their healthcare and education improved, people who had been successful felt like he stole from them.

Many Cubans who complained or protested against Castro were killed or put in prison. Hundreds of thousands of them fled Cuba for the United States, where a large Cuban-American population thrives in Florida today.



Peace protests during the Cuban Missile Crisis



## Cause and Effect

Complete the chart.

Cause	Effect
Cuba began trading with the Soviet Union.	Fears about a war sprang up around the world.
The Cuban government improved healthcare and education programs.	Successful Cubans became angry.
Many Cubans fled the island over Castro's policies.	

L6-8RH5



## Fact or Opinion

Write F for Fact and O for opinion.

- \_\_\_ 1. "The only reason for the Soviets to put missiles on Cuba is to start a war with the United States!"
- \_\_\_ 2. "I have less freedom to speak my mind since the Castro government took over."
- \_\_\_ 3. "Our children go to a better school since Fidel Castro took power."
- \_\_\_ 4. "The Castro government had no right to take our family's store. One day, this government will fall."
- \_\_\_ 5. "The Castro government has its faults, but it is better than the Bautista government."

L6-8RH8

# U.S.-Cuba Hostilities Gradually Fade

The United States cut off all diplomatic relations with Cuba in 1961. For more than 40 years, the two countries had a poor relationship. Cuban-Americans insisted the United States should not recognize Cuba as long as Castro was in power.



President Obama visits Cuba

Source: Pete Souza

Gradually, things began to change. In 1991, Castro lost an important ally and trading partner when the Soviet Union broke apart. Then food shortages became a real problem. In the United States, public opinion began to move in favor of a normal relationship in hopes it would help Cuba recover.

In 2008, Raúl Castro, Fidel's brother, took over the Cuban government when Fidel became too ill to lead. The United States restored full diplomatic relations with Cuba in 2014 and began allowing travel to the island, although a U.S. trade embargo remained. In 2016, President Barack Obama became the first American president to visit Cuba since 1928. Later that year, Fidel Castro died.

L6-8RH6;  
L6-8WHST7



## Point of View

Form a small group with classmates. Take the position either that the United States should or should not remove its trade embargo on Cuba. Consider that question from the point of view of how much Cuban citizens would benefit. Research your topic and debate another group of classmates.

L6-8RH2; L6-8RH6



## Point of View

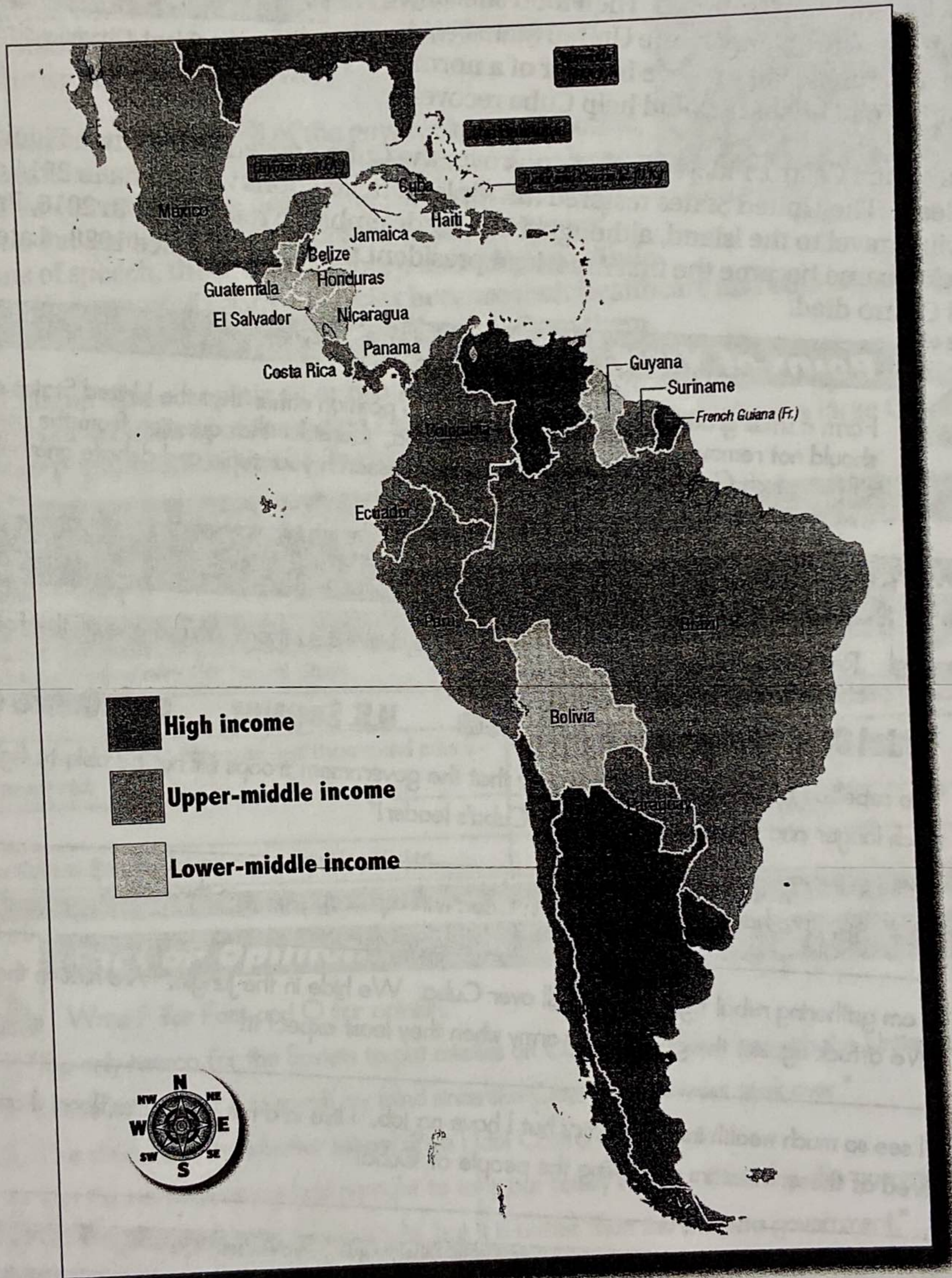
Read the quotes below and decide who may have said them. Write one of the following choices under each quote.

**Fidel Castro**      **Fulgencio Batista**      **U.S. Senator**      **poor Cuban citizen**

1. "The rebellion is getting stronger! I worry that the government troops will not be able to fight them off much longer and I will be overthrown as Cuba's leader!"  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. "We hope that having a military base in Cuba will help keep peace in the region."  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. "I am gathering rebel fighters from all over Cuba. We hide in the jungle. We hide in the mountains. We attack against the government army when they least expect it!"  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. "I see so much wealth in this country but I have no job. I live in a hut with a dirt floor. I am sick and tired of these dictators controlling the people of Cuba!"  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Poverty in Latin America

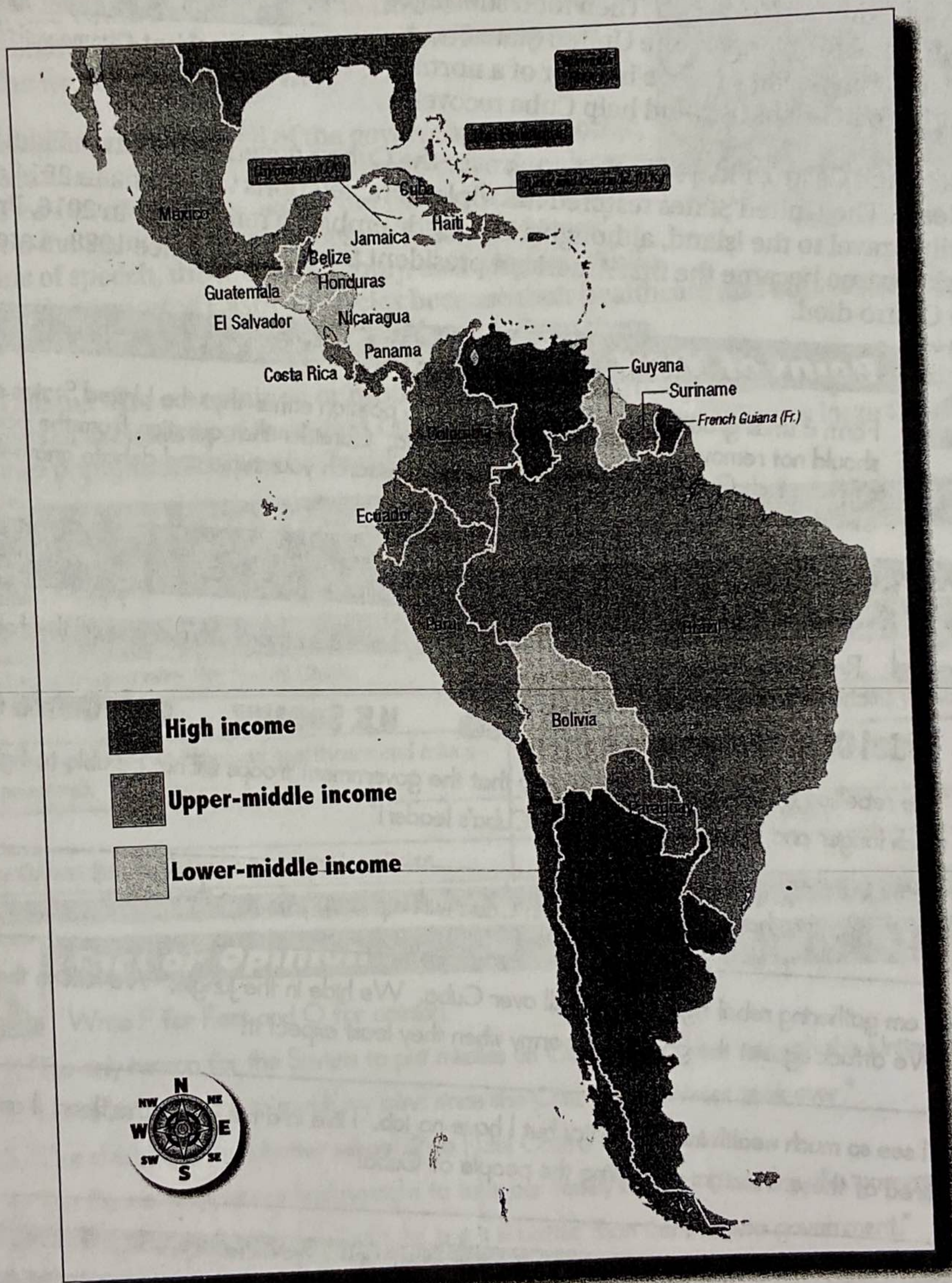
Poverty is a common thread connecting some of Latin America's worst problems. For a long time, the region has struggled with unequal distribution of wealth. Many Latin American countries have a small social class of rich people and a much larger social class of peasants who are extremely poor. The poverty problem is made worse by unstable governments, by spending too much on the military and too little on human services, and population growth that exceeds a country's food resources.





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# The War on Drugs

The United States has struggled for many years to stop abuse by its citizens of illegal drugs like cocaine. Eventually, the U.S. government started going after the *suppliers* of drugs rather than the *users*. It was called the **War on Drugs**.

In the 1980s, nearly all of the world's cocaine was grown in Peru, Bolivia, and Colombia. Many small farmers in those countries had started illegally growing coca plants (the source of cocaine) as a way out of poverty. The U.S. and Latin American governments began sending planes to spray chemicals on coca plants and going after growers in other ways.



Drugs confiscated by the U.S. military

However, abuse of cocaine in the United States did not stop. The policing efforts just pushed coca farming farther north, into northern Colombia and Mexico. Meanwhile, a new problem emerged for Latin Americans. The illegal drug trade was taken over by major **cartels**, which used brutal violence against growers, police, and each other. Tens of thousands of people were murdered or disappeared due to drug-related violence in Colombia and Mexico since the late 1980s!

Since drug abuse in America has shifted to other kinds of drugs and not gone away, the War on Drugs is not seen as a success. It also created new threats to Latin America's poor citizens.



## Vocabulary

**cartel:** a combination of people who want to drive away competition in their business



## Quick Review

L6-8RH2

Answer the questions.

1. Poverty in Latin America is made worse by an unequal distribution of \_\_\_\_\_. This particularly hurts the large social class of \_\_\_\_\_ in Latin America.
2. Mexico has made gains against its poverty problem by investing in \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The United States' War on Drugs at first targeted the \_\_\_\_\_ of illegal drugs, but then it shifted to the \_\_\_\_\_ of drugs.
4. Many small farmers in Latin America started growing plants that produce \_\_\_\_\_ as a way out of poverty.
5. Drug-related violence against Latin peoples by the drug \_\_\_\_\_ became a major problem.



## Critical Thinking

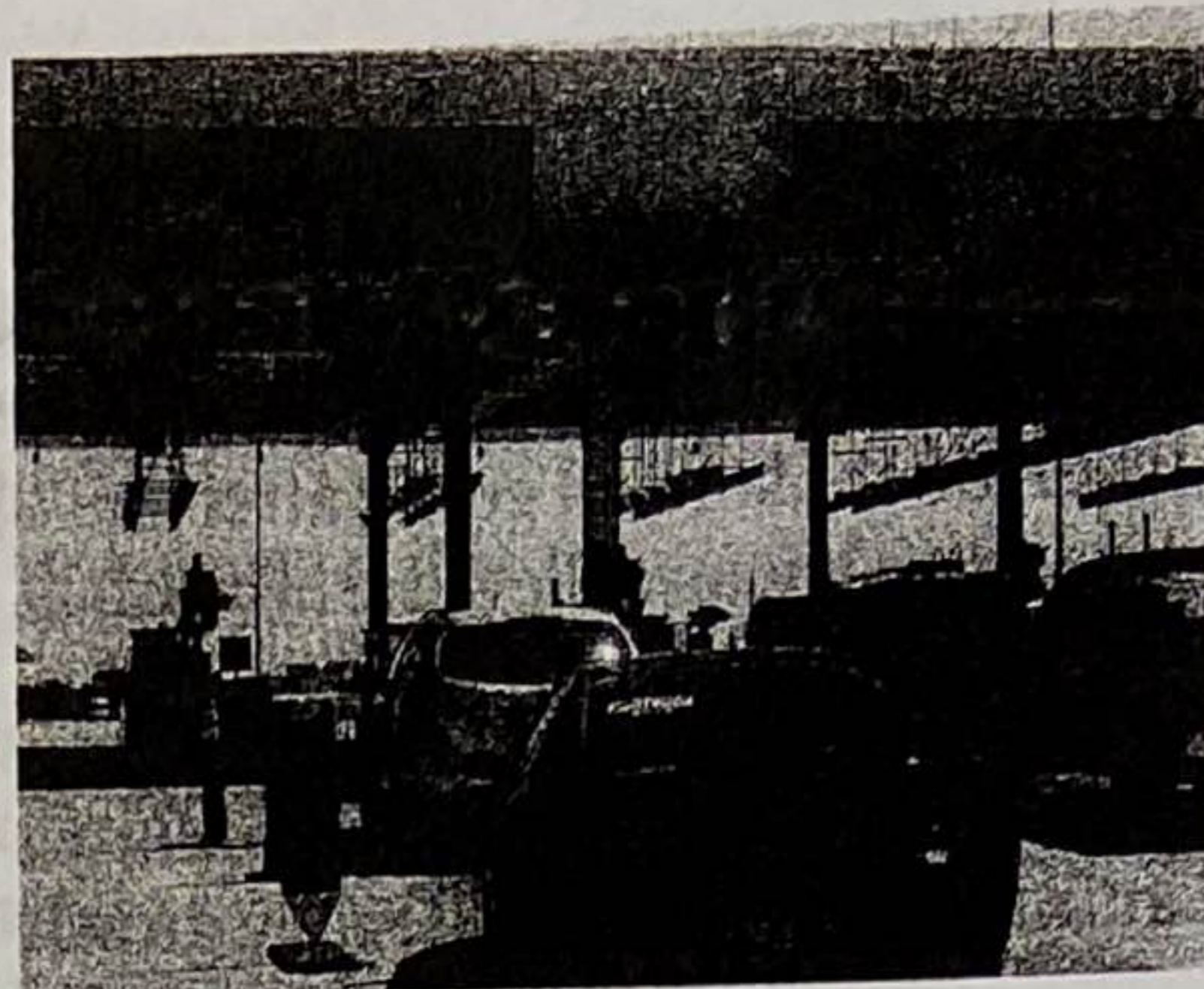
L6-8WHST1  
L6-8WHST7

Think about why the U.S. government might have decided to fight drug abuse by focusing on the producers of drugs instead of the users. Write a one-page paper listing and explaining some possible reasons.

# Coming to America

These are the key events in the modern history of migration from Latin American countries to the United States in search of economic opportunity:

- ➔ In the 1880s, Mexican laborers crossed the border to help build railroads and work in mines. Mexicans came to America for work in increasing numbers throughout the early 1900s.
- ➔ In 1917 Congress passed a law granting U.S. citizenship to residents of Puerto Rico (which America governed as a territory). Large numbers of Puerto Ricans came to the mainland United States to live.
- ➔ After World War II, the U.S. Bracero Program let Mexican guest workers enter the country and provide badly needed farm labor.
- ➔ After the Castro-led revolution in Cuba, Cubans started fleeing for America—and continued for two decades.
- ➔ Starting in the 1970s, political upheaval in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua led hundreds of thousands more people to emigrate to the United States.
- ➔ Lack of work at home attracted great numbers of people from Mexico and Central America to seek jobs in the United States.



A border patrol station in Texas

Source: Billy Hathorn

This trend led to huge controversies in the United States. Many Latin Americans crossed the border without proper immigration documentation. They arrived here illegally, though children born in the United States to immigrants automatically become citizens. Policing of the southern border by the agency now called U.S. Customs and Border Protection has varied from strong to weak since the 1960s, depending on political attitudes. Many U.S. citizens have demanded a stronger border with Mexico and want more deportations of illegal immigrants. Other Americans argue for a more compassionate approach and say the country benefits from the Latin Americans' labor.

Either way, migration has made it more difficult for Latin American countries to grow out of poverty. Skilled workers have left, and Latin economies need to create more jobs to bring them back.

## Latin American Presence in United States

Latin American Country	Immigrant Population Living In U.S.
Mexico	11,714,500
El Salvador	1,352,015
Guatemala	928,000
Colombia	707,000
Honduras	599,000

Latin American Country	Immigrant Population Living In U.S.
Peru	449,000
Ecuador	424,000
Brazil	336,000
Guyana	273,000
Nicaragua	256,000