

Why did the US get involved in Latin America in the first place?

How have the people of Latin America responded to the US presents?

# THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE US IN LATIN AMERICA



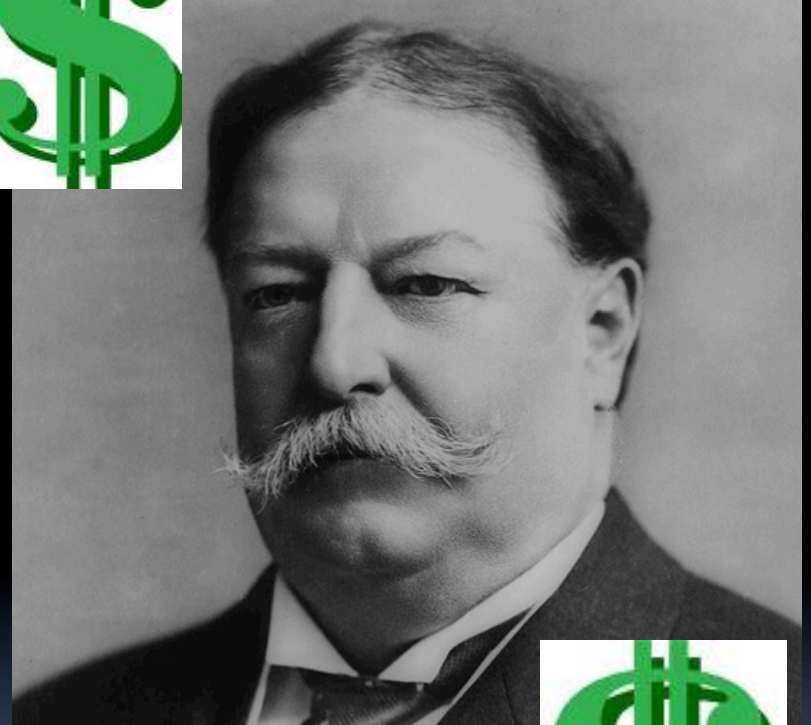
# Why did the US become interested in Latin America during the Cold War?

- Three major reasons:
  1. **Economic** = wanted to dominate trade with L.A. countries
  2. **Political** = wanted America-style democracies in L.A.
  3. **Security** = Wanted the Western Hemisphere to be US-dominated



# What is “dollar diplomacy”?

- “Dollar Diplomacy” was a term used to describe American efforts in Latin America
  - 1903 - present
  - Name coined by President William H. Taft in 1913
- AIM = To promote American interests through money loans



# How did the US enforce its desires over Latin America?

- Monroe Doctrine (1823):
  1. No more European colonization in the New World
  2. An attempt to colonize = a threat to the US
  3. US will stay out of European affairs
- Roosevelt Corollary (1904)
  - US has the right to intervene in Latin America whenever it wants





## Intervening in Latin America

- Many poor Latin Americans in the 1950's & 1960's viewed Communism as a solution to their problems.
- Therefore, the U.S. created several programs aimed at helping Latin America countries resist an alliance with the USSR.

1982



*Alliance for Progress* – Latin American nations embraced democracy in return for U.S. aid (schools, hospitals, farming, and sanitation services)



- *Peace Corps* – American volunteers work in developing nations for 2 years, promoting American goodwill.





- *Organization of American States* – the U.S. promoted economic and military alliances through loans and aid

*Cuba is the only nation in the Americas that is not a member of the OAS.*





# Intervention:

- The U.S. supported dictatorships in many Latin American countries because they were anti-communist.
- Tens of thousands of people died in failed revolts or brutal crackdowns due to this.



# Case Study #1 = Cuba



- In 1895, Cuba revolted against Spanish rule
  - Spanish-American War (1898)
  - US controlled Cuba's economy (sugar)
- 1959 – Fidel Castro
  - Kicks out US companies
  - US trade embargo on Cuba since 1960

# The Spanish Sugar Industry (1500's - 1898)





# The Spanish-American War (1898)

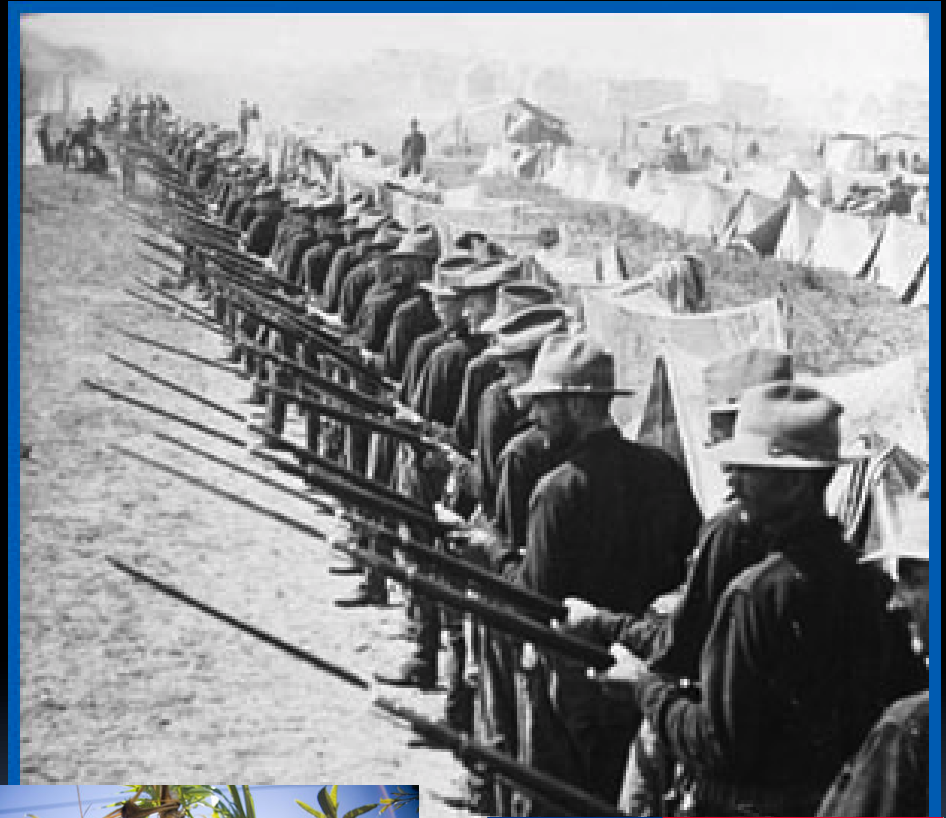




# American “occupation” of Cuba (1898 - 1959)



American troops remained in Cuba long after the war with Spain ended, much to the resent of the Cuban people





Castro's  
victorious  
entrance  
into Havana  
where he  
assumed  
power as  
the  
country's  
new  
president in  
1959

# Castro in the Soviet Union, 1961



# Cuban Missile Crisis, 1962





# Che Guevara (1928-1967)



# Case Study #2 - Guatemala



- United Fruit Company owned land in Guatemala
- Election of Jacobo Guzman (1951)
  - Promised reforms / remove US companies
  - Accused of being a "Marxist" by the US / UFC
- CIA-led coup toppled Guzman from power (1954)
  - Installed a military dictatorship (1954 – 1996)

# The US United Fruit Company



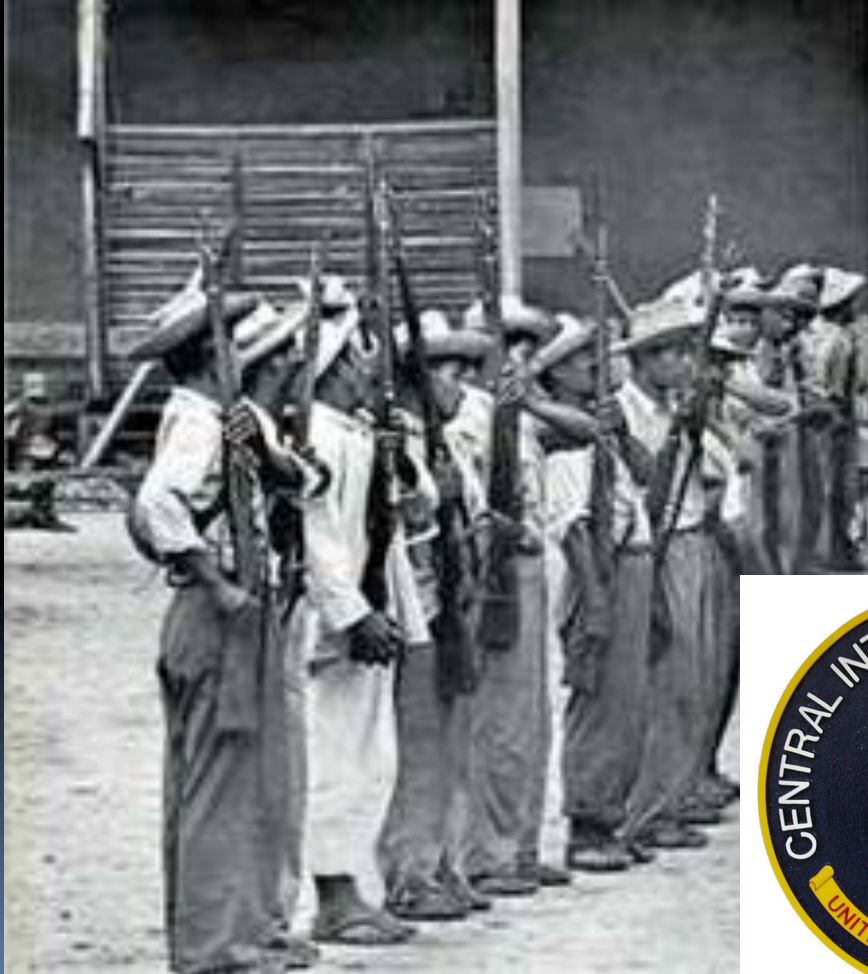


“We Want Our Fruit..”





# CIA trained “revolutionaries”



# Case Study #3 - Nicaragua



- US supported an anti-Communist dictator since 1933
- In 1979, the dictatorship is overthrown by Sandinistas, a Communist group
  - US funds an anti-Communist group (Contras)
  - Sold weapons to other countries to pay for it (Iraq / Iran)
  - Iran - Contra Scandal (1985-87)
- Encouraged a bloody civil war in which thousands died (1980 – 1994)

# The Sandinistas



Oscar Navarrete



# The Contras







**Among other tactics, the CIA also arranged for the US military to plant mines in Nicaraguan harbors to prevent shipments of arms and supplies to the Sandinistas. Such actions caused international criticism.**





American officials reported that CIA planes were being used to smuggle cocaine into the US with the proceeds going to the Contras.

**Though this was illegal, nothing was done to stop it.**







Regan gave authority to National Security Advisor Oliver North to funnel money from the sale of weapons to Iran to the Contras in Nicaragua.

North used a phony organization to collect the money and then pass it to the Contras.





# The Iran-Contra Affair



The Contras



# What did Reagan know?

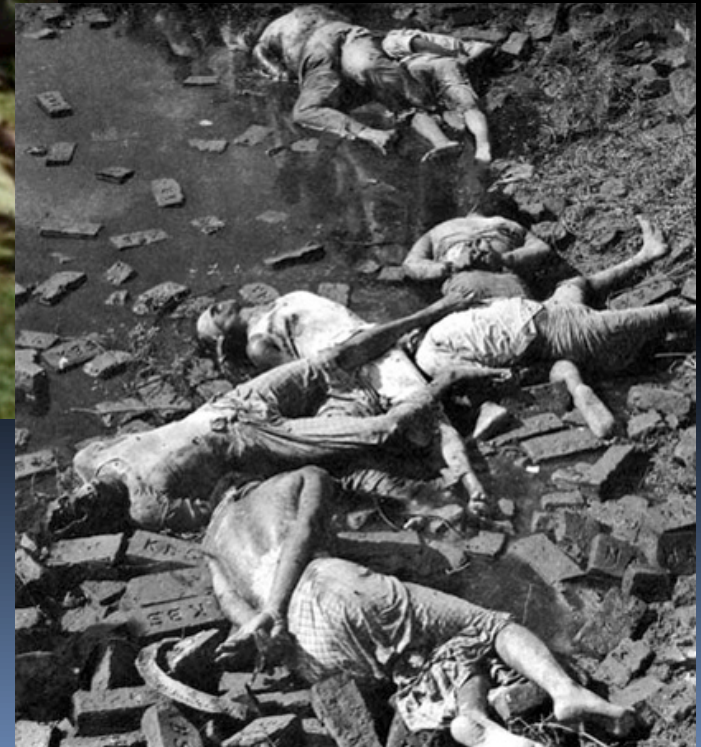


Lt. Col. Oliver North, testifying  
before Congress on the Iran-  
Contra Scandal





# Civilian Dead In the Nicaragua Civil War (1981-1990)





# Grave Markers of those Killed, 1995



# How is Latin American / US relations effected today?



- Not great...

1. Hugo Chavez

- Dictator of Venezuela
- Called the US “the great Satan”

2. Raul Castro

- ♣ “President” of Cuba
- Is the embargo over yet?

3. Evo Morales

- ♣ President of Bolivia
- Legalization of the “coca” (cocaine) trade