Key Events
As you read this chapter, look for the key events in the history of Latin American nations.
- Many Latin American nations have experienced severe economic problems, and their governments have been led by military dictators.
- Successful Marxist revolutions in Cuba and Nicaragua fed fears in the United States about the spread of communism in the Americas.

The Impact Today
The events that occurred during this time period still impact our lives today.
- Latin American influence in the United States can be seen in art, music, literature, and foods.
- Rapid and unplanned industrial development in some Latin American countries has led to heightened concern about the environment.

Sugarloaf Mountain overlooks Rio de Janeiro, one of Brazil’s most populous cities.

HISTORY

Chapter Overview

Visit the Glencoe World History—Modern Times Web site at wh.mt.glencoe.com and click on Chapter 22—Chapter Overview to preview chapter information.

1967 Ché Guevara dies in Bolivia

1970

1980

1990 Violeta Barrios de Chamorro elected president of Nicaragua

2000 Brazilians elect Lula president

2002

1989 United States invades Panama

2000 Vicente Fox becomes president of Mexico

Arrest of Panamanian leader Manuel Noriega
The Castro Brothers

On January 1, 1959, Fidel Castro and his revolutionary forces overthrew the Cuban dictator, Fulgencio Batista.

In the years before the revolution, Castro had promised a return to the constitution, land reform, and improved health and welfare services. Many Cubans were overjoyed at his victory. “We were walking on a cloud,” one Cuban said.

At first, Castro’s government did become a source of hope for many Cubans. He confiscated land and redistributed it among poor farmers. He set up health clinics and made education a priority for everyone. Castro did not follow through on his promise of political freedom, however. When elections were held, people were able to vote only from a list of approved candidates. Political dissent was not allowed.

Soon after the revolution, many well-to-do Cubans who had lost their property migrated to the United States, often settling in Florida. Since then, Cubans of all classes have often tried to emigrate to find a better life and greater freedom.

Castro’s efforts to establish a functioning centralized economy failed, despite help from Cuba’s main ally, the Soviet Union. That help ended in 1989 when the Soviet Communist Party fell from power. Cuban conditions worsened and the high hopes of the Cuban revolution were left unfulfilled.

Why It Matters

Since 1945, the nations of Latin America have followed different paths of change. In some countries military dictators have maintained political stability and initiated economic changes. A few nations, like Cuba, have used Marxist revolutions to create a new political, economic, and social order. Many Latin American nations have struggled to build democratic systems, especially since the late 1980s. The Cold War has also had an impact on Latin America.

History and You As you read this chapter, document the struggle between democracy and dictatorship in the Latin American states. Make a chart or diagram comparing the different states, their leadership, and reasons why the regimes were able to gain power.
One Latin American observer discussed the United States’s invasion of Panama in 1989 in the following words:

““The first official [U.S.] reason for the invasion of Panama was ‘to protect American lives there.’ This pretext was not credible, for the cry of ‘wolf! wolf!’ has been used before in Latin America. . . . The danger to American lives is a hundred times greater every day and night in Washington, D.C., ‘the murder capital of the United States,’ and in other American cities to which President Bush has hardly applied his policy of protecting North American lives and waging war against drugs (he prefers to wage that war on foreign battlefields).”

—Latin American Civilization: History and Society, 1492 to the Present, Benjamin Keen, 1996

U.S. intervention in Latin American affairs has been a general trend in Latin American history since 1945.

Economic and Political Developments

Since the nineteenth century, Latin Americans had exported raw materials while buying manufactured goods from industrialized countries. As a result of the Great Depression, however, exports fell, and the revenues that had been used to buy manufactured goods declined. In response, many Latin American countries developed industries to produce goods that were formerly imported.
By the 1960s, however, Latin American countries were still experiencing economic problems. They were dependent on the United States, Europe, and Japan, especially for the advanced technology needed for modern industries. Also, many Latin American countries had failed to find markets abroad to sell their manufactured products. These economic failures led to instability and reliance on military regimes. In the 1960s, repressive military regimes in Chile, Brazil, and Argentina abolished political parties and returned to export-import economies financed by foreigners. These regimes also encouraged multinational corporations (companies with divisions in more than two countries) to come to Latin America. This made these Latin American countries even more dependent on industrialized nations.

In the 1970s, Latin American nations grew more dependent as they attempted to maintain their weak economies by borrowing money. Between 1970 and 1982, debt to foreigners grew from $27 billion to $315.3 billion. By 1982, a number of Latin American economies had begun to crumble. Wages fell, and unemployment and inflation skyrocketed.

To get new loans, Latin American governments were now forced to make basic reforms. During this process, however, many people came to believe that...
The government had taken control of too many industries. Trying to industrialize too quickly had led to the decline of the economy in the countryside as well. Many hoped that encouraging peasants to grow food for home consumption rather than export would stop the flow of people from the countryside to the cities. At the same time, they believed that more people would now be able to buy the products from Latin American industries.

With the debt crisis in the 1980s came a movement toward democracy. Some military leaders were unwilling to deal with the monstrous debt problems. At the same time, many people realized that military power without popular consent could not maintain a strong state. By the mid-1990s, several democratic regimes had been established.

The movement toward democracy was the most noticeable trend of the 1980s and the early 1990s in Latin America. This revival of democracy was fragile. In 1992, President Alberto Fujimori returned Peru to an authoritarian system.
**Latin American Society**

Latin America’s economic problems were made worse by dramatic growth in population. By the mid-1980s, the population in Latin America had grown from about 165 million people in 1950 to 400 million.

With the increase in population came a rapid rise in the size of cities. By 2000, 50 cities in Latin America and the Caribbean had more than one million people. Slums and shantytowns were found in many cities.

The gap between the poor and the rich remained enormous in Latin America. Landholding and urban elites owned huge estates and businesses, while peasants and the urban poor struggled just to survive.

The traditional role of homemaker continues for women, who have also moved into new jobs. In addition to farm labor, women have found jobs in industry, and as teachers, professors, doctors, and lawyers.

The international drug trade brought crime and corruption to some Latin American countries, undermining their stability. Bolivia, Peru, and Colombia were especially big producers of cocaine and marijuana.

**Reading Check** Evaluating Describe the effect(s) of Latin America’s dramatic increase in population.

**Connections Around the World**

As women around the world organized movements to change the conditions of their lives, an international women’s movement emerged. Especially in the 1970s, much attention was paid to a series of international conferences on women’s issues. Between 1975 and 1985, the United Nations celebrated the Decade for Women by holding conferences in such cities as Mexico City, Copenhagen, and Nairobi.

The conferences made clear how women in both industrialized and developing nations were organizing to make people aware of women’s issues. They also made clear the differences between women from Western and non-Western countries.

Women from Western countries spoke about political, economic, cultural, and sexual rights. In contrast, women from developing countries in Latin America, Africa, and Asia focused on bringing an end to the violence, hunger, and disease that haunt their lives.

At the International Women’s Year Tribunal in Mexico in 1974, sponsored by the United Nations, Dimitila Barrios de Chungara, a miner’s wife from Bolivia, expressed her lack of patience with professional women at the conference. She said, “So, I went up and spoke. I made them see that they don’t live in our world. I made them see that in Bolivia human rights aren’t respected. . . . Women like us, housewives, who get organized to better our people well, they [the Bolivian police] beat us up and persecute us.”

**Comparing Cultures**

Women from industrialized and developing nations focus on very different issues.

1. Which concerns of women are most important?
2. Do you think women’s conferences are needed? What purposes might conferences serve other than raising issues?
Latin American Culture

Writers and artists have played important roles in Latin American society. They have been given a public status granted to very few writers and artists in other countries. In Latin America, writers and artists are seen as people who can express the hopes of the people. One celebrated Latin American writer is the Chilean poet Gabriela Mistral.

In literature, Latin Americans developed a unique form of expression called magic realism. Magic realism brings together realistic events with dreamlike or fantastic backgrounds.

Perhaps the foremost example of magic realism is One Hundred Years of Solitude, a novel by Gabriel García Márquez. In this story of the fictional town of Macondo, the point of view slips back and forth between fact and fantasy. Villagers are not surprised when a local priest rises into the air and floats. However, when these villagers are introduced to magnets, telescopes, and magnifying glasses, they are dumbfounded by what they see as magic. According to García Márquez, fantasy and fact depend on one’s point of view.

García Márquez, a Colombian, was the most famous of the Latin American novelists. He was a former journalist who took up writing when he became angered by the negative reviews Latin American authors were receiving. He was awarded the Nobel Prize for literature in 1982.

Economic Challenges

Latin American art and architecture were strongly influenced by international styles after World War II. In painting, abstract styles were especially important. Perhaps the most notable example of modern architecture can be seen in Brasília, the capital city of Brazil, built in the 1950s and 1960s. Latin America’s greatest modern architect, Oscar Niemeyer, designed some of the major buildings in Brasília.

Checking for Understanding

1. Define multinational corporation, magic realism.
2. Identify Organization of American States (OAS), Gabriel García Márquez, Oscar Niemeyer.
3. Locate Chile, Brazil, Bolivia, Peru, Colombia.
4. Explain how the Great Depression hurt Latin American economies. Have these economies recovered from the problems caused by the Great Depression?
5. List two well-known Latin American writers. Why are writers and artists held in such high regard in Latin America?

Critical Thinking

6. Analyze Why did the rapid rate of population growth in many Latin American countries cause problems for their political and economic systems?
7. Organizing Information Draw a chart like the one below to list economic challenges in Latin America since 1945. On your chart, use dates and names of countries from the text to make each entry as specific as possible.

Analyzing Visuals

8. Examine the photograph of a Latin American mother with her children shown on page 686 of the text. How does this photograph reflect the concerns faced by many Latin American women?

Reading Check

Identifying What novel is the foremost example of magic realism?

Writing About History

9. Descriptive Writing A uniquely Latin American literary form is magic realism, which combines realistic events with elements of magic and fantasy. Research further the elements of magic realism and then write a short story about a real or imagined event, using that style.
Mexico, Cuba, and Central America

Main Ideas
- Mexico and Central America faced political and economic crises after World War II.
- The United States feared the spread of communism in Central America countries, which led to active American involvement in the region.

Key Terms
privatization, trade embargo, contra

People to Identify
Vicente Fox, Fidel Castro, Manuel Noriega

Places to Locate
Havana, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Panama

Preview Questions
1. What problems did Mexico and the nations of Central America face after 1945?
2. What were the chief features and impact of the Cuban Revolution?

Reading Strategy
Categorizing Information Use a table like the one below to identify the political and economic challenges faced by El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Panama after 1945.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>El Salvador</th>
<th>Nicaragua</th>
<th>Panama</th>
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Nancy Donovan, a Catholic missionary in Nicaragua, described her encounter with the military forces known as the contras:

"It is not easy to live in a war zone. The least of it was my being kidnapped by contras early this year. The hard part is seeing people die and consoling families. . . . In those eight hours I was held, as I walked in a column of 60 or so men and a few women—all in uniform—I could hear shooting and realized that people I knew were being killed. Earlier I had seen bodies brought back to town, some burned, some cut to pieces."

—Latin American Civilization: History and Society, 1492 to the Present, Benjamin Keen, 1996

Financed by the United States, the contras were trying to overthrow the Sandinista rulers of Nicaragua in one of several bloody wars fought in Central America.

The Mexican Way
The Mexican Revolution at the beginning of the twentieth century created a political order that remained stable for many years. The official political party of the Mexican Revolution—the Institutional Revolutionary Party, or PRI—came to dominate Mexico. Every six years, leaders of the PRI chose the party’s presidential candidate, who was then elected by the people.
During the 1950s and 1960s, steady economic growth led to real gains in wages for more and more people in Mexico. At the end of the 1960s, however, students began to protest Mexico’s one-party government system. On October 2, 1968, university students gathered in Mexico City to protest government policies. Police forces opened fire and killed hundreds. Leaders of the PRI grew concerned about the need for change in the system.

The next two presidents, Luis Echeverria and Jose Lopez Portillo, made political reforms and opened the door to the emergence of new political parties. Greater freedom of debate in the press and universities was allowed. Economic problems, however, would soon reappear.

In the late 1970s, vast new reserves of oil were discovered in Mexico. The sale of oil abroad increased dramatically, and the government became more dependent on oil revenues. When world oil prices dropped in the mid-1980s, Mexico was no longer able to make payments on its foreign debt. The government was forced to adopt new economic policies. One of these policies was privatization, the sale of government-owned companies to private firms.

The debt crisis and rising unemployment increased dissatisfaction with the government. Support for the PRI dropped, and in 2000, Vicente Fox defeated the PRI candidate for the presidency.

Reading Check Evaluating How was Mexico’s economy affected by its oil industry?

The Cuban Revolution

As you will learn, the Bay of Pigs invasion was an attempt by the United States to move forcefully against Fidel Castro and the threat of communism that he represented.

In the 1950s, a strong opposition movement arose in Cuba. Led by Fidel Castro, the movement aimed to overthrow the government of the dictator Fulgencio Batista, who had controlled Cuba since 1934. Castro’s army used guerrilla warfare against Batista’s regime. As the rebels gained more support, the regime collapsed. Castro’s revolutionaries seized Havana on January 3, 1959. Many Cubans who disagreed with Castro fled to the United States.

Relations between Cuba and the United States quickly deteriorated when the Castro regime began to receive aid from the Soviet Union. Arms from Eastern Europe also began to arrive in Cuba. In October 1960, the United States declared a trade embargo, prohibiting trade with Cuba, and just three months later, on January 3, 1961, broke all diplomatic relations with Cuba.

Soon after that, in April 1961, the American president, John F. Kennedy, supported an attempt to overthrow Castro’s government. When the invasion at the Bay of Pigs failed, the Soviets were encouraged to make an even greater commitment to Cuba. In December 1961, Castro declared himself a Marxist, drawing ever closer to the Soviet Union. The Soviets began placing nuclear missiles in Cuba in 1962, an act that led to a showdown with the United States (see Chapter 20).

The Cuban missile crisis caused Castro to realize that the Soviet Union had been unreliable. If the revolutionary movement in Cuba was to survive, the Cubans would have to start a social revolution in the rest of Latin America. They would do this by starting guerrilla wars and encouraging peasants to overthrow the old regimes. Ernesto Che Guevara, an Argentinian and an ally of Castro, led such a war in
Bolivia but was killed by the Bolivian army in the fall of 1967. The Cuban strategy failed.

Nevertheless, in Cuba, Castro’s Marxist regime continued, but with mixed results. The Cuban people did secure some social gains. The regime provided free medical services for all citizens, and illiteracy was nearly eliminated.

The Cuban economy continued to rely on the production and sale of sugar. Economic problems forced the Castro regime to depend on Soviet aid and the purchase of Cuban sugar by Soviet bloc countries. After the collapse of these Communist regimes in 1989, Cuba lost their support. Economic conditions in Cuba have steadily declined. Nevertheless, Castro has managed to remain in power.

Reading Check Describing How was Castro’s Cuba affected by the collapse of Communist governments in Eastern Europe?

**Upheaval in Central America**

Central America includes seven countries: Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador, Panama, Belize, and Guatemala. Economically, Central America has depended on the export of bananas, coffee, and cotton. Prices for these products have varied over time, however, creating economic crises. In addition, an enormous gulf between a wealthy elite and poor peasants has created a climate of instability.

Fear in the United States of the spread of communism often led to American support for repressive regimes in the area. American involvement was especially evident in El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Panama.

**El Salvador** After World War II, the wealthy elite and the military controlled the government in El Salvador. The rise of an urban middle class led to some hopes for a more democratic government. The army, however, refused to accept the results of free elections that were held in 1972.

In the late 1970s and the 1980s, El Salvador was rocked by a bitter civil war. Marxist-led, leftist guerrillas and right-wing groups battled one another. During the presidency of Ronald Reagan, the United States provided weapons and training to the Salvadoran army to defeat the guerrillas.

In 1984, a moderate, José Duarte, was elected president. However, the elections failed to stop the savage killing. By the early 1990s, the civil war had led to the deaths of at least 75,000 people. Finally, in 1992, a peace settlement brought the war to an end.

**Nicaragua** In Nicaragua, the Somoza family seized control of the government in 1937 and kept control for the next 42 years. Over most of this period, the Somoza...
regime had the support of the United States. The Somozas enriched themselves at the nation’s expense and used murder and torture to silence opposition.

By 1979, the United States, under President Jimmy Carter, had grown unwilling to support the corrupt regime. In that same year, Marxist guerrilla forces known as the Sandinista National Liberation Front won a number of military victories against government forces and gained virtual control of the country.

The Sandinistas inherited a poverty-stricken nation. Soon, a group opposed to the Sandinistas’ policies, called the contras, began to try to overthrow the new government. The Reagan and Bush administrations in the United States, worried by the Sandinistas’ alignment with the Soviet Union, supported the contras.

The war waged by the contras undermined support for the Sandinistas. In 1990, the Sandinistas agreed to free elections, and they lost to a coalition headed by Violeta Barrios de Chamorro. They lost again in 2001 but remained one of the strongest parties in Nicaragua.

**Panama** Panama became a nation in 1903, when it broke away from Colombia with help from the United States. In return for this aid, the United States was able to build the Panama Canal and gained influence over the government and economy of Panama. A wealthy oligarchy ruled, with American support.

After 1968, military leaders of Panama’s National Guard were in control. One of these, Manuel Noriega, became so involved in the drug trade that President George Bush sent U.S. troops to Panama in 1989. Noriega was later sent to prison in the United States for drug trafficking.

A major issue for Panamanians was finally settled in 1999 when the canal was returned to Panama. The terms for its return were set in a 1977 treaty with the United States.

**Reading Check** Summarizing What factors led to conflicts in Central America from the 1970s to the 1990s?
Student Revolt in Mexico

A GROWING CONFLICT BETWEEN THE government and university students in Mexico came to a violent climax on October 2, 1968, just before the Olympic Games were to begin in Mexico City. The official government report said that Mexican authorities were fired upon, and they returned the gunfire. This excerpt is taken from an account of the events by the student National Strike Council.

"After an hour and a half of a peaceful meeting attended by 10,000 people and witnessed by scores of domestic and foreign reporters, a helicopter gave the army the signal to attack by dropping flares into the crowd. Simultaneously, the plaza was surrounded and attacked by members of the army and police forces.

The local papers have given the following information, confirmed by firsthand witnesses, about the attack:

1. Numerous secret policemen had infiltrated the meeting in order to attack it from within, with orders to kill. They were known to each other by the use of a white handkerchief tied around their right hands. . . .

2. High-caliber weapons and expansion bullets were used. Seven hours after the massacre began, tanks cleaned up the residential buildings of Nonoalco-Tlatelolco with short cannon blasts and machine-gun fire.

3. On the morning of October 3, the apartments of supposedly guilty individuals were still being searched, without a search warrant.

4. Doctors in the emergency wards of the city hospitals were under extreme pressure, being forced to forego attention to the victims until they had been interrogated and placed under guard. . . .

5. The results of this brutal military operation include hundreds of dead (including women and children), thousands of wounded, an unwarranted search of all the apartments in the area, and thousands of violent arrests. . . . It should be added that members of the National Strike Council who were captured were stripped and herded into a small archaeological excavation at Tlatelolco, converted for the moment into a dungeon. Some of them were put up against a wall and shot.

All this has occurred only ten days before the start of the Olympics. The repression is expected to become even greater after the Games. . . . We are not against the Olympic Games. Welcome to Mexico."

—Account of the Clash Between the Government and Students in Mexico, October 2, 1968

Analyzing Primary Sources

1. What was the reason for the military attack on the students?
2. Why do you think the government reacted with such violence?
3. Do you think the government handled the situation well? Why or why not?
Main Ideas
• South American nations have experienced economic, social, and political problems.
• Democracy has advanced in South America since the late 1980s.

Key Terms
cooperative, Shining Path

People to Identify
Juan Perón, Salvador Allende, Augusto Pinochet, Juan Velasco Alvarado

Places to Locate
Argentina, Falkland Islands

Preview Questions
1. What obstacles does the new democratic government in Brazil face?
2. What factors have been the greatest causes of South American instability?

Reading Strategy
Categorizing Information Use a table like the one below to describe the factors leading to the change from military rule to civilian rule in Argentina, Brazil, and Chile.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Argentina</th>
<th>Brazil</th>
<th>Chile</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1946</td>
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<td>2001</td>
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</table>

Voices from the Past

In 1974, a group of Brazilian Catholic priests talked about an economic miracle that had taken place in Brazil:

"Beginning in 1968, Brazil’s gross domestic product grew at an annual rate of about 10 [percent]. . . . The consequences of this ‘miracle’ were the impoverishment of the Brazilian people. Between 1960 and 1970 the 20 [percent] of the population with the highest income increased its share of the national income from 54.5 [percent] to 64.1 [percent], while the remaining 80 [percent] saw its share reduced from 45.5 [percent] to 36.8 [percent]. . . . In the same period the 1 [percent] of the population that represents the richest group increased its share of the national income from 11.7 [percent] to 17 [percent]."

—Latin American Civilization: History and Society, 1492 to the Present, Benjamin Keen, 1996

The countries of South America shared in the economic, political, and social problems that plagued Latin America after 1945. Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, and Peru provide examples of these problems.

Argentina

Argentina is Latin America’s second largest country. For years, it had been ruled by a powerful oligarchy whose wealth was based on growing wheat and
raising cattle. Support from the army was crucial to the continuing power of the oligarchy.

In 1943, in the midst of World War II, a group of army officers overthrew the oligarchy. The new military regime was unsure of how to deal with the working classes until one of its members, Juan Perón, devised a new strategy.

Using his position as labor secretary in the military government, Perón sought to win over the workers, known as the descamisados (the shirtless ones). He encouraged them to join labor unions. He also increased job benefits, as well as the number of paid holidays and vacations.

In 1944, Perón became vice president of the military government and made sure that people knew he was responsible for the better conditions for workers. As Perón grew more popular, however, other army officers began to fear his power, and they arrested him. An uprising by workers forced the officers to back down.

Perón was elected president of Argentina in 1946. His chief support came from labor and the urban middle class, and to please them, he followed a policy of increased industrialization. At the same time, he sought to free Argentina from foreign investors. The government bought the railways and took over the banking, insurance, shipping, and communications industries.

Perón’s regime was authoritarian. He created Fascist gangs modeled after Hitler’s Brownshirts. The gangs used violent means to terrify Perón’s opponents.

Fearing Perón’s power, the military overthrew the Argentinian leader in September 1955. Perón went into exile in Spain. Overwhelmed by problems, however, military leaders later allowed Perón to return. He was reelected as president in 1973 but died a year later.

In 1976, the military once again took over power. The new regime tolerated no opposition. Perhaps 36,000 people were killed.

At the same time, economic problems plagued the nation. To divert people’s attention, the military regime invaded the Falkland Islands, off the coast of Argentina, in April 1982. Great Britain, which had controlled the islands since the nineteenth century, sent ships and troops and took the islands back. The loss discredited the military and opened the door to civilian rule in Argentina.

In 1983, Raúl Alfonsín was elected president and worked to restore democratic practices. The Perónist Carlos Saúl Menem won the presidential elections of 1989. This peaceful transfer of power gave rise to the hope that Argentina was moving on a democratic path.

People In History

Eva Perón 1919–1952—Argentine first lady

Eva Perón, known as Evita to her followers, was the first lady of Argentina from 1946 to 1952. Raised in poverty, Eva dreamed of being an actress. At 15, she moved to Buenos Aires, Argentina’s largest city, where she eventually gained fame as a radio performer.

Eva met Juan Perón in 1944 and became his wife a year later. She was an important force in her husband’s rise to power. Together, they courted the working-class poor with promises of higher wages and better working conditions. As first lady, Eva Perón formed a charitable organization that built hospitals, schools, and orphanages. She campaigned for women’s rights. The masses adored her. To this day, monuments and street names in Argentina keep her memory alive. The American musical and movie Evita are based on her life.

Brazil

Like other Latin American countries, Brazil experienced severe economic problems following World War II. When democratically elected governments proved unable to solve these problems, the military stepped in and seized control in 1964.

The armed forces remained in direct control of the country for the next 20 years. The military set a new economic direction, reducing government interference in the economy and stressing free market forces. Beginning in 1968, the new policies seemed to be working. Brazil experienced an “economic miracle” as its economy grew spectacularly.

Ordinary Brazilians benefited little from this economic growth. Furthermore, rapid development led to an inflation rate of 100 percent a year. Over-
whelmed, the generals retreated and opened the door to a return to democracy in 1985.

The new democratic government faced enormous obstacles: massive foreign debt and an inflation rate of 800 percent in 1987. In the 1990s, democratic presidents restored some stability to the economy, but the gap between rich and poor remained wide. Dissatisfaction with this gap helped elect Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, in 2002. Lula was Brazil’s first left-wing president in four decades.

**Reading Check** Evaluating What factors led to the return to democracy in Brazil in 1985?

**Chile**

In elections held in 1970, **Salvador Allende** (ah•YEHN•day), a Marxist, became president of Chile. Allende tried to create a socialist society by constitutional means. He increased the wages of industrial workers and nationalized the largest domestic and foreign-owned corporations.

Allende’s policies were not popular with everyone. Nationalization of the copper industry, Chile’s major source of export income, angered the copper companies’ American owners, as well as the American government. Wealthy landholders were angry when radical workers began to take control of their estates and the government did nothing to stop these takeovers.

In March 1973, new elections increased the number of Allende’s supporters in the Chilean congress. Afraid of Allende’s growing strength, the Chilean army, under the direction of General **Augusto Pinochet** (PEE•noh•CHEEHT), moved to overthrow the government. In September 1973, military forces seized the presidential palace, resulting in Allende’s death. The military then set up a dictatorship.

The Pinochet regime was one of the most brutal in Chile’s history. Thousands of opponents were imprisoned. Thousands more were tortured and murdered. The regime also outlawed all political parties and did away with the congress. While some estates and industries were returned to their owners, the copper industries remained in government hands.

The regime’s horrible abuses of human rights led to growing unrest in the mid-1980s. In 1989, free presidential elections led to the defeat of Pinochet, and Chile moved toward a more democratic system.

**Reading Check** Explaining Why did the armed forces of Chile overthrow the government of Salvador Allende in 1973?

**Peru**

The history of Peru has been marked by instability. Peru’s dependence on the sale abroad of its products has led to extreme ups and downs in the economy. With these ups and downs have come many government changes. A large, poor, and landless peasant population has created an additional source of unrest.

A military takeover in 1968 led to some change. General **Juan Velasco Alvarado** sought to help the peasants. His government seized almost 75 percent of the nation’s large landed estates and put ownership of the land into the hands of peasant cooperatives (farm organizations owned by and operated for the peasants’ benefit). The government also nationalized many foreign-owned companies and held food prices at low levels to help urban workers.

Economic problems continued, however, and Peruvian military leaders removed General Alvarado from power in 1975. Five years later, unable to cope with Peru’s economic problems, the military returned Peru to civilian rule.

New problems made the task of the civilian government even more difficult. A radical Communist guerrilla group based in rural areas, known as **Shining Path**, killed mayors, missionaries, priests, and peasants. The goal of Shining Path was to smash all authority and create a classless society.
In 1990, Peruvians chose Alberto Fujimori as president. Fujimori, the son of a Japanese immigrant, promised reforms. Two years later, he suspended the constitution and congress, became a dictator, and began a campaign against Shining Path guerrillas. Corruption led to his ouster from power in 2000. In June 2001, Alejandro Toledo became the first freely elected president of Native American descent.

**Identifying** How did General Juan Velasco Alvarado earn the support of many Peruvian peasants?

**Colombia**

Colombia has long had a democratic political system, but a conservative elite led by the owners of coffee plantations has dominated the government.

After World War II, Marxist guerrilla groups began to organize Colombian peasants. The government responded violently. More than two hundred thousand peasants had been killed by the mid-1960s. Violence continued in the 1980s and 1990s.

Peasants who lived in poverty turned to a new cash crop—coca leaves, used to make cocaine. The drug trade increased, and so, too, did the number of drug lords. Cartels (groups of drug businesses) used bribes and violence to dominate the market. Colombia became the major supplier of the international drug market. Violence has increased as rebel guerrillas made deals with the drug cartels to oppose the government.

The government used an aerial eradication program to try and wipe out cocaine fields, but without much success. The United States funded the antidrug program, and in 2003 sent special forces troops to support it.

The Colombian economy remained weak because of high unemployment and because of the civil war. A new president elected in 2002, Alvaro Uribe, promised to crack down hard on rebel groups.

**Explaining** Why have some Colombian peasants turned to the production of coca leaves?

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**SECTION 3 ASSESSMENT**

**Checking for Understanding**

1. Define cooperative, Shining Path.
2. Identify Juan Perón, Salvador Allende, Augusto Pinochet, Juan Velasco Alvarado.
3. Locate Argentina, Falkland Islands.
4. Explain why the Argentine military invaded the Falkland Islands. What was the impact of this invasion on the government of Argentina?
5. List the obstacles Brazil’s new democratic government faced in 1985. How did economic conditions help this democratic government come to power?

**Critical Thinking**

6. **Analyze** Why is it often easier for the military to seize power in a nation than it is for the military to rule that nation effectively? Which countries discussed in this chapter seem to support this theory?

7. **Organizing Information** Use a chart like the one below to show how democracy has advanced in South America since the late 1980s.

**Analyzing Visuals**

8. **Examine** the photograph of a Brazilian city shown on page 693 of your text. How does this photograph reflect the problems created by the Brazilian “economic miracle”?

**Writing About History**

9. **Informative Writing** Pretend you are an American journalist sent to Argentina to cover Perón’s presidency. Write an article based on your interviews with the workers and government officials. Include the pros and cons of living under the Perón regime.
Developing a Database

Why Learn This Skill?
Do you have an address book with your friends’ names; addresses; and phone, fax, pager, and cell numbers? Do you have to cross out information when numbers change? When you have a party, do you address all the invitations by hand? If your address book were stored in a computer, you could find a name instantly. You could update your address book easily and use the computer to print out invitations and envelopes.

When you collect information in a computer file, the file is called an electronic database. The database can contain any kind of information: lists detailing your CD collection; notes for a research paper; your daily expenses. Using an electronic database can help you locate information quickly and organize and manage it, no matter how large the file.

Learning the Skill
An electronic database is a collection of facts that is stored in a file on the computer. Although you can build your own database, there is special software—called a database management system (DBMS)—that makes it easy to add, delete, change, or update information. Some popular commercial DBMS programs allow you to create address books, note cards, financial reports, family trees, and many other types of records.

A database can be organized and reorganized in any way that is useful to you.

- The DBMS software program will usually give clear instructions about entering and arranging your information.
- The information in a database is organized into different fields. For example, in an address book, one field might be your friends’ names and another could be their addresses.
- When you retrieve information, the computer will search through the files and display the information on the screen. Often it can be organized and displayed in a variety of ways, depending on what you want.

Practicing the Skill
Fidel Castro is one of the Latin American leaders discussed in this chapter. Follow these steps to build a database of the political events that have taken place during his years as Cuba’s leader.

1. Determine what facts you want to include in your database.
2. Follow the instructions in the DBMS that you are using to set up fields.
3. Determine how you want to organize the facts in the database—chronologically by the date of the event, or alphabetically by the name of the event.
4. Follow the instructions in your computer program to place the information in order of importance.

Applying the Skill
Research and build a database that organizes information about current political events in Latin American countries. Explain to a partner why the database is organized the way it is and how it might be used in this class.
Using Key Terms
1. Corporations with headquarters in several countries are called __________.
2. The anti-Communist forces that fought the Sandinistas in Nicaragua were called __________.
3. A style of literature that combines elements of the real world with imaginary events is called __________.
4. Selling government-owned companies to individuals or to corporations is called __________.
5. The refusal to import or export goods to or from another country is a __________.
6. The Communist guerrilla movement in Peru is called the __________.
7. Farms owned and operated by groups of peasants are called __________.

Reviewing Key Facts
8. **History** What is the purpose of the Organization of American States?
9. **Economics** What did Fidel Castro do in 1960 that probably contributed to the decision of the United States to sponsor an invasion of Cuba at the Bay of Pigs in 1961?
10. **Culture** Who is considered the most famous of the Latin American novelists?

Critical Thinking
17. **Compare and Contrast** Compare the policies of the United States toward Latin American countries to those of the Soviet Union toward countries in Eastern Europe.
18. **Drawing Inferences** Analyze why the United States used its military power to arrest Manuel Noriega after ignoring many other dishonest and corrupt leaders in Latin America.

Writing About History
19. **Expository Writing** Analyze how Cuba’s revolution affected the United States and the Soviet Union. Explain the background and context of the revolution. How were these events particular to the time period?

Chapter Summary
Several Latin American countries have moved from conflict to cooperation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Conflict</th>
<th>Revolution</th>
<th>Change</th>
<th>Cooperation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cuba</td>
<td>Corruption and canceled elections create unrest.</td>
<td>Castro ousts Batista.</td>
<td>Castro improves social welfare system but suspends elections.</td>
<td>Castro allows limited foreign investment, improving relations with Canada and other countries.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicaragua</td>
<td>Repressive Somoza regime owns a quarter of the country’s land.</td>
<td>Social movement led by Sandinistas overthrows Somoza in 1979.</td>
<td>Sandinistas initiate social reforms but are hampered by contras.</td>
<td>Sandinista regime agrees to hold free elections in 1990; Chamorro is elected president.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>PRI dominates.</td>
<td>University students protest government policies.</td>
<td>PRI allows new political parties and more freedoms.</td>
<td>Mexico elects non-PRI candidate as president.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td>Economy is poor.</td>
<td>Argentine military overthrows Perón.</td>
<td>Economy recovers; many citizens lose lives to death squads.</td>
<td>Democracy is gradually restored after Falkland Islands disaster.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>El Salvador</td>
<td>Elites control most wealth and land.</td>
<td>Leftist guerrillas and right-wing groups battle.</td>
<td>U.N.-sponsored peace agreement ends civil war in 1992.</td>
<td>Economy grows; ties with neighbors are renewed.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Self-Check Quiz
Visit the Glencoe World History—Modern Times Web site at wh.mt.glencoe.com and click on Chapter 22—Self-Check Quiz to prepare for the Chapter Test.

Analyzing Sources
Read the following excerpt from Nancy Donovan, a Catholic missionary in Nicaragua:

“It is not easy to live in a war zone. The least of it was my being kidnapped by contras early this year. The hardest part is seeing people die and consoling families. . . . In those eight hours I was held, as I walked in a column of 60 or so men and a few women—all in uniform—I could hear shooting and realized that people I knew were being killed. Earlier I had seen bodies brought back to town, some burned, some cut to pieces.”

20. Why did the United States finance the contras?
21. What role do you think the United States should play in Central America? Should the United States have supported rebels capable of the type of warfare described in this passage?

Applying Technology Skills
22. Create a Database Research the major political events in South America since 1945. Include the following information in your database:
   • Year
   • Country
   • Event

Making Decisions
23. Identify one of the challenges faced by the countries of Latin America today. Create a poster that illustrates the issue you have selected. Include a clear statement of the issue, information you have gathered about the background of the challenge, and key individuals or countries involved with the issue. Identify options, predict consequences, and offer possible solutions.

Analyzing Maps and Charts
Using the map above, answer the following questions:
24. Which South American country has the largest geographic area? Which countries have the largest populations?

25. How do the populations of Central American countries compare to the populations of other Latin American countries?
26. Which South American countries are landlocked? Between what degrees of latitude and longitude are they located?

Standardized Test Practice
Directions: Choose the best answer to the following question.

Why are Latin American countries economically important to the United States?
A American banks need countries such as Brazil and Mexico to default on their loans.
B Latin American countries are popular destinations for American tourists.
C Latin American countries are colonies of European nations.
D America imports raw goods such as oil, coffee, and copper from Mexico, El Salvador, Colombia, and Chile.

Test-Taking Tip: Read test questions carefully because every word is important. This question asks why Latin America is economically important. Therefore, you can eliminate any answer choices that do not offer explanations about their economic importance.