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
Key Concepts

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

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

Figure 4.4

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

Pine-Oak Forests of the Sierra Madre Occidental, Mexico. This is one of the world's most extensive subtropical coniferous forests. Commercial logging, conversion of land for agriculture, and overgrazing threaten the viability of the ecosystem.

Brazilian Amazon. Over the last 30 years 16 percent of this region has been deforested, mostly along the Amazonian highways. It is hoped that extractive reserves, natural parks, and sustainable forestry practices can preserve the world's largest rain forest.

Cloud (or Montane) Forest of the Eastern Andean Piedmont (especially Peru and Bolivia). Wildlands increasingly under pressure from the production of coca leaf.

Curitiba. One of the urban planning success stories of Latin America. This city of 2 million is considerably less polluted than other cities. City officials have emphasized public transportation, open space, and recycling.

The Brazilian Coastal Atlantic Forest. One of the most degraded ecosystems in all of Latin America. Virtually destroyed in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries with the expansion of agriculture, urbanization, industrialization, and household fuel wood consumption. The Atlantic forests were characterized by extraordinary biodiversity, with high levels of regional and local endemism.
Environmental Issues (cont’d)

Mexico City

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

Figure 4.5
Environmental Issues (cont’d)

Figure 4.7

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

What differences do you see between these two time periods?
Environmental Issues (cont’d)

- Cochabamba, Bolivia

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

Figure 4.8
Physical Setting - Topography

Figure 4.3
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
Topography – River Basins and Lowlands

Figure 4.13
Climate

Figure 4.15

Diversity Amid Globalization, 3rd ed.: Rowntree, Lewis, Price & Wyckoff
A TROPICAL AND HUMID CLIMATES
- Af Tropical wet climate
- Aw Tropical savanna climate

B DRY CLIMATES
- BWh Tropical and subtropical desert
- BWk Midlatitude desert
- BSh Tropical and subtropical steppe
- BSk Midlatitude steppe

C MILD MIDLATITUDE CLIMATES
- Cfa Humid subtropical, without dry season, hot summers
- Cfb Marine west coast, without dry season, warm to cool summers
- CsM Mediterranean summer—dry

E POLAR CLIMATES
- ET Tundra

H HIGHLAND
- H Complex mountain climates
Altitudinal Zonation

Figure 4.16

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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.
**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

Figure 4.17

Diversity Amid Globalization, 3rd ed.: Rowntree, Lewis, Price & Wyckoff
### Demographic Indicators – Urban Population

#### Table 4.1: Demographic Indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Population (Millions, 2004)</th>
<th>Population Density, per square mile</th>
<th>Rate of Natural Increase</th>
<th>TFR&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>Percent &lt; 15&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>Percent &gt; 65</th>
<th>Percent Urban</th>
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<sup>a</sup> Total fertility rate

<sup>b</sup> Percent of population younger than 15 years of age


Note variation in % Urban across the region.
Contrasting Settlement Landscapes in Latin America

Peruvian Andes - Village

Venezuela – Spanish Colonial Town

Figure 1.25a

Figure 1.25b
Urban Form

Reflects colonial origins and contemporary growth

Figure 4.18
“City of God”: Squatter Settlements in Latin America

Figure 4.3.2 – Rio de Janeiro

Figure 4.19 – Lima, Peru
Rural Settlement

- Latifundia
- Minifundia
- Agrarian Reform
- Agricultural Frontiers

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

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

Figure 4.20
Population Movements (cont’d)

❖ Rural-to-Urban Migration

❖ European Migration

❖ Asian Migration

Figure 4.22

Figure 4.23
Latin American Immigration

- **Transnationalism**
  - Social and economic links between home and host countries
  - Outcome of globalization

- **Remittances**
  - Monies sent home
  - Important flow of capital into region

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

- Demographic Collapse and Indigenous Populations
- Colombian Exchange

Figure 4.25 – Machu Picchu
Cultural Diversity - Contemporary

- Complex ethnic patterns
- Persistence of indigenous language
- Syncretic religions
- *Machismo* and *Marianismo*

Interactions between European, African and Indigenous Populations
Geopolitical Framework

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

Figure 4.29
Regional Organizations

- Supranational: Trade Blocks

- Subnational: Ethnicity/Ideology

Figure 4.32
Insurgencies and Drug Trafficking

Figure 4.33

Figure 4.34
Development Strategies

Informal Sector in Peru

High Tech in Costa Rica

Figure 4.36

Figure 4.35
Development Strategies (cont’d)

Primary Export Dependency

Oil Production

Figure 4.37

Figure 4.38
Maquiladora Cities – Contrasts in Wealth and Poverty

Figure 4.6.1

Figure 4.6.2a

Figure 4.6.2b
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.
## Social Development

### Table 4.3: Social Indicators and Status of Women

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Life Expectancy at Birth (Male)</th>
<th>Life Expectancy at Birth (Female)</th>
<th>Under Age 5 Mortality (per 1,000) 1990</th>
<th>Under Age 5 Mortality (per 1,000) 2002</th>
<th>Percent Illiteracy (Ages 15 and over) Male</th>
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<th>Female Labor Force Participation (% of total, 2002)</th>
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