

## A READER'S GUIDE

### Timeline of Key Events

- 1823 President James Monroe proclaims the Monroe Doctrine, which rejects European intervention and imperialism in the Americas.
- 1833 British occupation of the Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas).
- 1846–1848 U.S.-Mexican War: the United States invades and defeats Mexico.
- 1848 The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ends the U.S.-Mexican War; Mexico cedes half its territory to the United States.
- 1850 Clayton-Bulwer Treaty: an Anglo-American agreement for a projected isthmian canal.
- 1882 British occupation of Egypt.
- 1895 Venezuela–British Guyana border dispute: the United States supports Venezuela, invoking the Monroe Doctrine.
- 1895 The second Cuban insurrection against Spain begins.
- 1898 Spanish-American War: the United States defeats Spain at sea, invades Cuba, and seizes Cuba, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines.
- 1899–1902 U.S. military occupation of Cuba.
- 1901 The new Cuban Constitution incorporates the Platt Amendment, granting the United States the right to intervene in the island; Hay-Pauncefote Treaty: an Anglo-American agreement ceding the United States primary control of an isthmian canal, thus abrogating the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty of 1850.

- 1903 Panama, with U.S. connivance, revolts and secedes from Colombia. The United States acquires lease for the Guantánamo Bay base in Cuba.
- 1904 Construction of the Panama Canal begins; the Panama Canal Zone is established, under U.S. control.
- 1905 President Theodore Roosevelt declares the Roosevelt Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine, asserting a U.S. policing role, especially in the circum-Caribbean, which would preempt European interventions.
- 1906–1909 Second U.S. military intervention in Cuba.
- 1910 The Mexican Revolution begins.
- 1912 U.S. Marines are dispatched to Nicaragua.
- 1914 U.S. forces occupy the Mexican port of Veracruz; the Panama Canal opens.
- 1914–1918 World War I: U.S. trade with and investment in Latin America grow at the expense of Britain and Germany.
- 1915 U.S. intervention in Haiti: military occupation lasts until 1934.
- 1916 U.S. intervention in Dominican Republic: military occupation lasts until 1924; U.S. financial control lasts until 1941.
- 1916–1917 The Pershing or Punitive Expedition: U.S. forces invade northern Mexico in (futile) pursuit of Pancho Villa.
- 1917 The radical new Mexican Constitution is inaugurated; the United States enters World War I; the Russian Revolution takes place.
- 1924–1933 U.S. military intervention in Nicaragua: costly campaign against the forces of Sandino; the Nicaraguan National Guard is created.
- 1933 A revolt overthrows Cuban president Machado and establishes a fragile revolutionary regime, which the United States seeks to control and restrain; Fulgencia Batista rises to power; the Roca-Ruciman Pact between Britain and Argentina, designed to regulate and maintain bilateral economic relations, is signed.
- 1934 President Franklin Roosevelt declares the Good Neighbor Policy, renouncing intervention in Latin America; the United States abrogates the Platt Amendment; Batista installs a conservative administration in Cuba.
- 1938 President Lázaro Cárdenas expropriates British and American oil companies in Mexico.
- 1941 The United States enters World War II.

- 1944 The Bretton Woods Agreement makes the U.S. dollar the hegemonic (Western) world currency and establishes the principal international financial institutions: the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.
- 1945 Chapultepec Conference, Mexico, on postwar Latin American economic policy and relations.
- 1946 Juan Perón elected president of Argentina, despite opposition of U.S. Ambassador Spruille Braden.
- 1947 Rio Treaty (Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance).
- 1948 Organization of American States established.
- 1952 Bolivian Revolution.
- 1954 U.S.-backed and -inspired military coup against Guatemala's reformist President Jacobo Arbenz.
- 1958 Vice President Nixon is mobbed by hostile crowds in Caracas.
- 1959 The Cuban Revolution triumphs, and Castro ousts Batista; anti-American riots take place in Bolivia, provoked by a *Time* magazine article that questions Bolivian sovereignty.
- 1960 U.S.-Cuban relations deteriorate.
- 1961 President Kennedy inaugurates the Alliance for Progress; the Bay of Pigs (Playa Girón), a failed, U.S.-backed invasion of Cuba by anti-Castro Cubans, takes place.
- 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis.
- 1963 President Kennedy is assassinated; President Johnson downplays and discards the Alliance for Progress.
- 1964 A military coup overthrows President Goulart in Brazil; a military regime is established with U.S. endorsement.
- 1965 U.S. invasion of the Dominican Republic: first overt military intervention in Latin America since the inauguration of the Good Neighbor Policy in 1934.
- 1970 Salvador Allende elected president of Chile; the United States attempts to destabilize Allende's (Popular Unity) government.
- 1973 A military coup ousts President Allende in Chile, with U.S. connivance.
- 1979 Sandinistas topple the Somoza regime in Nicaragua.
- 1981–1990 United States supports Contra rebels against Sandinista government in Nicaragua.
- 1982 Mexican debt moratorium triggers Latin American debt crisis.

- 1983 U.S. invasion of Grenada.
- 1989 U.S. invasion of Panama: overthrow and capture of Manuel Noriega.
- 1994 The North American Free Trade Agreement takes effect, involving Mexico, the United States, and Canada; the United States intervenes in Haiti; the Zapatista uprising takes place in southern Mexico.
- 1998 Hugo Chávez is elected president of Venezuela.
- 2001 Argentina defaults on most of its foreign debt.
- 2002 Coup attempt against Chávez in Venezuela is unsuccessful; the trade unionist Luiz Inácio “Lula” da Silva is elected president of Brazil.
- 2005 Argentina resolves debt default on favorable terms when its offer to convert foreign bonds at reduced value is reluctantly accepted by international investors; coca-growers leader Evo Morales is elected president of Bolivia.
- 2006 Felipe Calderón is elected president of Mexico; Chávez is reelected in Venezuela; Lula is reelected in Brazil; Morales nationalizes Bolivia’s gas reserves.
- 2007 Cristina Kirchner is elected president of Argentina, succeeding her husband; Venezuelan voters reject a set of constitutional changes that would have augmented the powers of the presidency and mandated progressive social reforms.

### **Key Individuals**

- Allende, Salvador: reformist president of Chile (1970–73); killed during the military coup of 1973.
- Arbenz, Jacobo: reformist president of Guatemala (1951–54); ousted by U.S.-inspired coup.
- Battle y Ordóñez, José: reformist president of Uruguay (1903–7, 1911–15).
- Blaine, James G.: U.S. secretary of state (1881, 1891–92); advocate of Pan-Americanism and U.S. trade with Latin America.
- Brady, Nicholas: U.S. secretary of the treasury under George H. W. Bush (1988–93).
- Brzezinski, Zbigniew: National Security Advisor under President Carter.
- Bush, George W.: Republican president of the United States (2001–).
- Calderón, Felipe: National Action Party president of Mexico (2006–).
- Calles, Plutarco Elías: revolutionary president of Mexico (1924–28); *jefe máximo* (big boss) of the revolutionary state (1928–34).
- Carden, Lionel: British minister to Mexico (1913–14); supporter of Victoriano Huerta; hostile to the Mexican Revolution and to the United States.

Cárdenas, Lázaro: revolutionary president of Mexico (1934–40).

Carter, James (Jimmy): Democratic president of the United States (1977–81).

Chávez, Hugo: nationalist president of Venezuela (1999–).

Clinton, William J. (Bill): Democratic president of the United States (1993–2001).

Davis, Jefferson: president of the Confederacy during the U.S. Civil War.

Díaz, Adolfo: conservative president of Nicaragua (1911–17).

Eisenhower, Dwight D.: Republican president of the United States (1953–61).

Estrada Palma, Tomás: president of Cuba (1902–6).

Fox, Vicente: National Action Party president of Mexico (2000–2006).

Gaitán, Jorge Eliécer: populist Colombian Liberal, whose assassination in 1949 triggered the *Violencia*.

Haig, Alexander: national security advisor under President Reagan.

Hearst, William R.: U.S. press baron; pioneer of sensationalist mass-circulation newspapers; subject of the film *Citizen Kane*.

Huerta, Victoriano: president and military dictator of Mexico, who vainly resisted the Revolution (1913–14).

Johnson, Lyndon B.: Democratic president of the United States (1963–69).

Kemmerer, Edwin: the “Money Doctor”; Princeton academic who advised several Latin American governments (in Mexico, Guatemala, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, and Peru) on financial matters, notably the establishment of central banks, between 1917 and 1931.

Kirchner, Néstor: Peronist president of Argentina (2003–2007).

Kirkpatrick, Jeane: U.S. ambassador to the United Nations under Ronald Reagan, whose defense of Latin American authoritarian regimes as the lesser of two evils influenced U.S. policy in the 1980s.

Lula (Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva): Workers’ Party president of Brazil (2003–).

Madero, Francisco: leader of the 1910 revolution against Porfirio Díaz; president of Mexico (1911–13); ousted and killed in military coup.

Marcos, Subcomandante: principal spokesperson for the Zapatista National Liberation Army.

McCarthy, Joseph (Joe): Republican senator and anticommunist witch-hunter, late 1940s and early 1950s.

McKinley, William: Republican president of the United States (1897–1901).

Menem, Carlos: Peronist president of Argentina (1989–99).

Mossadegh, Mohammed: nationalist Iranian prime minister; overthrown by a military coup which enjoyed Anglo-American support (1953).

Nixon, Richard M.: Republican president of the United States (1969–74).

O’Neill, Paul: U.S. secretary of the treasury at the time of the Argentine financial crisis (2001–2).

Ortega, Daniel: Sandinista leader in Nicaragua; president of Nicaragua (1985–90, reelected 2006).

Patterson, Richard: U.S. ambassador to Guatemala (1949–53).

Perón, Juan Domingo: nationalist president of Argentina (1946–55, 1973–74).  
Reagan, Ronald: Republican president of the United States (1981–89).  
Remington, Frederic: U.S. artist and illustrator; covered the Spanish-American War in Cuba.  
Rockefeller, Nelson: coordinator of the Office of Inter-American Affairs (1941–44).  
Roosevelt, Franklin D.: Democratic president of the United States (1933–45); architect of the Good Neighbor Policy.  
Roosevelt, Theodore: Republican president of the United States (1901–9); author of the Roosevelt Corollary.  
Rubin, Robert: U.S. secretary of the treasury (1995–99); architect of President Clinton’s Mexican debt bailout (1995–96).  
Salinas de Gortari, Carlos: Institutional Revolutionary Party president of Mexico (1988–94); architect of the North American Free Trade Agreement.  
Sánchez de Losada, Gonzalo: president of Bolivia (1993–97, 2002–3); forced to resign (2003).  
Sandino, Augusto César: Nicaraguan Liberal and commander of the armed resistance to U.S. forces (1926–33); assassinated (1934).  
Somoza Debayle, Anastasio: president of Nicaragua (1967–79).  
Somoza Debayle, Luis: president of Nicaragua (1956–63).  
Somoza García, Anastasio: president of Nicaragua (1937–47, 1950–56).  
Stroessner, Alfredo: president of Paraguay (1954–89).  
Trujillo, Rafael: president of the Dominican Republic (1930–38, 1942–52).  
Wilson, Woodrow: Democratic president of the United States (1913–21).

### **Institutions, Events, and Places**

Abolition Act of 1807: law passed by the British parliament outlawing the British Atlantic slave trade.  
AFL-CIO: American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations, mainstream U.S. labor confederation.  
AID (USAID): U.S. Agency for International Development, created by President Kennedy in 1961.  
Alliance for Progress: U.S. program of aid and social development, promoted by President Kennedy, particularly to combat the Cuban Revolution; run down by President Johnson.  
APRA: Alianza Popular Revolucionaria Americana (American Popular Revolutionary Alliance), Peruvian political party and movement created under the leadership of Víctor Raúl Haya de la Torre in 1924, originally dedicated to nationalism, Pan-Americanism, and reform.  
Batllismo: Uruguayan movement and government headed by José Battle.  
Bay of Pigs (Playa Girón): site of abortive U.S.-backed invasion of Cuba by anti-Castro émigrés in April 1961.

caciques: leaders and elders of Indian communities in colonial Mexico (New Spain), with responsibilities for local government and taxation; after independence, the term was applied to political bosses in general.

Chapultepec Conference: conference on postwar Latin American economic policy and relations, convened in Mexico in February 1945, at which the U.S. desire for an open economy ran counter to Latin American preferences for protection and import-substitution industrialization.

CIA: Central Intelligence Agency, U.S. intelligence agency set up under President Truman in 1947.

Contras: Nicaraguan rebels against the Sandinista regime (1979–90), backed by the United States.

CTAL: Confederación de Trabajadores de América Latina (Latin American Workers Confederation), a leftist Pan-American confederation of national labor organizations, founded in Mexico in 1938.

Ex-Im bank: Export-Import Bank, U.S. bank set up in 1934 to promote U.S. overseas trade; its responsibilities were revised in 1945 and 1968.

EZLN: Ejército Zapatista de Liberación Nacional (Zapatista National Liberation Army), armed indigenous movement based in the Mexican state of Chiapas.

Gaitanismo: movement headed by Colombian Liberal and populist Jorge Eliécer Gaitán.

GATT: General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (1947, replaced by WTO, 1995).

Guantánamo Bay: Cuban military base leased to the United States in 1903 and still retained.

IBRD: International Bank of Reconstruction and Development (World Bank), set up as part of the Bretton Woods system in 1944 in order to promote growth within an open global economy.

IDB: Inter-American Development Bank, set up in 1959 to provide investment and promote development in Latin America.

IMF: International Monetary Fund, set up as part of the Bretton Woods system in 1944 in order to promote monetary stability within an open global economy.

IT&T: International Telephone and Telegraph Company, U.S. multinational with major assets in Chile, hence a bone of contention under President Allende.

kurakas: leaders and elders of Indian communities in colonial Andean America (Peru and Bolivia) with responsibilities for local government and taxation.

Maderismo: movement led by Francisco Madero, which initiated the Mexican Revolution of 1910.

McCarthyism: anticommunist movement headed by Republican senator Joseph McCarthy in the 1940s and 1950s.

Monroe Doctrine: 1823 doctrine proclaimed by U.S. President Monroe in opposition to European imperialism in the Americas.

- NAFTA: North American Free Trade Agreement (also Tratado de Libre Comercio, or TLC), 1994 free-trade agreement involving Mexico, Canada, and the United States.
- National Guard: military force established under U.S. auspices in Nicaragua in the 1920s, during U.S. occupation.
- NED: National Endowment for Democracy, nongovernmental agency set up by President Reagan in 1983, with the stated aim of promoting democracy and funded by the U.S. government.
- OIAA: Office of Inter-American Affairs, U.S. government agency (1941–44), headed by Nelson Rockefeller, responsible for wartime economic and political liaison with Latin America.
- ORIT: Organización Regional Interamericana de Trabajadores (Interamerican Regional Workers Organization), Pan-American labor confederation set up under U.S. auspices in 1951 in order to promote pro-American and anticommunist influence in Latin American labor movements.
- PCZ: Panama Canal Zone: strip of territory flanking the Panama Canal, controlled by the United States, 1904–79.
- Peronism: movement created and headed by Juan Perón in Argentina, represented by the Partido Justicialista.
- PJ: Partido Justicialista, party of the Peronists, Argentina.
- Platt Amendment: amendment named after Senator Orville Platt and imposed on Cuba as a prerequisite of U.S. withdrawal following the first intervention (1898–1902), granting the United States a right of intervention in the island; incorporated into the Cuban Constitution of 1901 and the U.S.-Cuban Permanent Treaty of 1903; abrogated in 1934.
- PNR, PRM, PRI: Partido Nacional Revolucionario (National Revolutionary Party, 1929–38), Partido de la Revolución Mexicana (Party of the Mexican Revolution, 1938–46), Partido Revolucionario Institucional (Institutional Revolutionary Party, 1946–), successive titles of the party of government which arose following the Mexican Revolution and which ruled until 2000.
- Pontiac's War: named for the Ottawa leader who led early attacks on the British post of Detroit in 1763; the extent of Indian unity and power stunned British officials, forcing a reconsideration of empire.
- Raj: the British imperial regime in India, from the eighteenth century through the twentieth.
- Reconquista: six-century process of reconquest of the Iberian Peninsula by Spanish and Portuguese Christian forces, which culminated in the defeat of the last Moslem state, Granada, in 1492.
- Roca-Runciman Agreement: 1933 bilateral agreement between Britain and Argentina relating to trade and investment.



Roosevelt Corollary (to the Monroe Doctrine): formulated by President Theodore Roosevelt, it asserted a U.S. policing role, especially in the circum-Caribbean, which would preempt European interventions.

Rural Guard: Cuban constabulary set up during the first U.S. occupation.

Sandinismo: movement led by Augusto César Sandino in 1920s Nicaragua; the name was assumed by anti-Somoza rebels in the 1960s, who finally triumphed in 1979.

Tequila Effect: the spreading withdrawal of investor confidence in Latin America following the Mexican financial crisis of 1995.

*Time* incident: anti-American riots in Bolivia in March 1959, provoked by *Time* magazine's report questioning Bolivia's right to exist.

UFCO: United Fruit Company, U.S. multinational with major interests in Colombia and Central America, notably Guatemala; target of the reformist Arbenz government.

UNO: Unión Nacional Opositora (National Opposition Union), center-right coalition, formed to contest the 1990 elections in Nicaragua, which defeated the Sandinistas, securing the election of Violeta Chamorro.

USIA: United States Information Agency (also known abroad as the U.S. Information Service, or USIS), U.S. agency, 1953–99, designed to promote U.S. culture and interests overseas.

WTO: World Trade Organization, replaced GATT in 1997.