

# **U.S.-Latin American Relations**

## **I. Basic U.S. Goals**

## **II. 19th-century Relations**

## **III. The Roosevelt Corollary (1904-29)**

## **IV. The Good Neighbor Policy (1929-45)**

## **V. The Cold War (1946-88)**

## **VI. A Complex Agenda (1989-present)**

## **VII. A Latin American View of the U.S.**

### **I. Basic U.S. Goals**

- A. exclude foreign influence
- B. stability

### **II. 19th-century Relations**

- A. Monroe Doctrine (12/2/1823):**
  - no new colonies
    - stop the U.K. & others from recolonizing fragile republics
- B. Territorial Expansion:**
  - **1846-48 U.S.-MEXICAN WAR**
    - U.S. gains half of Mexico
  - **1853 GADSDEN PURCHASE** from Mexico
  - **1898 10-wk SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR**
    - U.S. gains Guam, the Philippines, Puerto Rico & (temporarily) Cuba

### **III. Roosevelt Corollary (1904-29)**

- U.S. as regional police power:
  - prolonged military intervention in
    - Cuba
    - Mexico
    - Dominican Republic
    - Nicaragua
    - Honduras

### **IV. The Good Neighbor Policy (1929-45)**

- U.S. reduces intervention
- U.S. agrees to principle of non-intervention BUT w/ shaky definition

## **V. The Cold War (1946-88)**

- **A. Cold War neglect (1946-60)**
  - US forges RIO TREATY (1947) & OAS (1948), but turns attention to Europe
    - exception: Guatemala & Arbenz in 1954
    - 1/1/59 Cuban Revolution attracts U.S. attention back to region
- **B. Alliance for Progress (1961-68)**
  - “Marshall Plan for the Americas” does not meet aid or development targets with one exception:
    - military aid*
- **C. More Cold War Neglect (1969-76)**
  - exception: Allende’s Chile in the 1970s
- **D. Human Rights & Democracy (1977-80)**
  - aid tied to human rights performance
- **E. Cold War Heats Up (1981-1988)**
  - AID to EL SALVADOR & to NICARAGUAN CONTRAS
    - Jeanne Kirkpatrick on “authoritarianism v. totalitarianism”
      - dictatorship seen as lesser evil than communism
  - 1983 INVASION of GRENADA
  - 1983 CARIBBEAN BASIN INITIATIVE

## **VI. A Complex Agenda (1989- )**

- **A. Security**
    - still important, but redefined
  - **B. Trade**
    - NAFTA, EAI, FTAA, CAFTA
  - **C. Democracy**
    - NOTE: the burden of the past
  - **D. “New” Issues & Old Methods**
    - drug-trafficking
    - immigration
    - environmental policy
- aid tied to support for U.S. position

## **VII. A Latin American View of the U.S.**

- A. long list of grievances due to U.S. action/inaction
- B. asymmetric interdependence
- C. principles of self-determination & non-intervention as tools to constrain U.S.
  - (e.g. debate in Pan-American movement)
- D. U.S. “hard bargaining” may seem rational &/or desirable, but it plays very poorly in Latin America
- E. A Continuum of U.S. Intervention
  - **DIRECT MILITARY INTERVENTION:**
    - Colombia; Cuba; Dominican Republic; El Salvador; Guatemala; Haiti; Honduras; Mexico; Nicaragua; Panama
  - **AID to CERTAIN POLITICAL PARTIES:**
    - Argentina; Chile; Ecuador; Venezuela
  - **MILITARY AID to MILITARY GOV'TS:**
    - Bolivia; Brazil; Paraguay; Peru; Uruguay
  - **NONE of the ABOVE:**
    - Costa Rica

## **VIII. The Bottom Line**

- A. No one-size-fits-all approach**
- B. U.S. hard bargaining may seem rational &/or desirable but**
  - it plays very poorly in Latin America
  - resentment, over time, can make cooperation harder to achieve