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February 12, 1990, Monday, Late Edition - Final

SECTION: Section A; Page 8, Column 3; Foreign Desk

LENGTH: 677 words

HEADLINE: Collor Receptive to Criticism Of Brazil's Policy in Amazon

BYLINE: By JAMES BROOKE, Special to The New York Times

DATELINE: RIO DE JANEIRO, Feb. 11

BODY:

Facing foreign criticism of Brazil's treatment of the Amazon region and the Indians living in its rain forest, Brazil's President-elect has been surprisingly conciliatory.

In Britain, Italy and West Germany, Fernando Collor de Mello encountered small demonstrations last week protesting Brazil's environmental policies. In each country, the President-elect made room in his schedule to meet with environmentalists.

''He assured me that he is very concerned with the question and that he is open to new ideas,'' Mario Signorino, president of the Friends of the Earth organization in Italy, told reporters after a hastily scheduled meeting with the Brazilian leader in Rome.

Mr. Collor is to be inaugurated March 15 for a five-year term as president of Brazil, which encompasses about two-thirds of the Amazon region.

Criticism From Prince Charles

The most startling criticism of Brazil came from Prince Charles last Tuesday, two days before Mr. Collor was to arrive in London.

''We are literally the last generation which can save the rain forest from total destruction,'' the Prince warned in a lecture at the Royal Botanic Gardens. He said the Yanomami Indians of Brazil ''are driven into extinction by measles, venereal disease or mercury poisoning following the illegal invasion of their lands by gold prospectors.''

The next day, Mr. Collor scheduled an appointment with the Prince and assured a Brazilian reporter the conflict in the northeast Amazon should be settled ''within the recognition of the right that the Yanomami Indians have to their lands.''

Recognizing the power of environmental lobbies, Mr. Collor met with cabinet-level officials in Britain, France and West Germany and repeatedly broached environmental issues with the nine heads of state he met on his world tour.

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''This is a head of state who is solidly committed to giving environmental protection its due importance,'' Jurgen Warnke, West Germany's Minister of Economic Cooperation, said after meeting the Brazilian.

In the election campaign last year, Mr. Collor largely rejected foreign criticism as interference.

Steps to Allay Fears

On the tour, Mr. Collor took a series of steps to allay fears. He announced his Government would introduce environmental protection into the curriculum of Brazil's public school system.

Saying ''we have nothing to hide,'' the Brazilian invited experts and officials to attend the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, which is to be held in Brasilia in 1992.

Mr. Collor, a former businessman, appealed to President Bush and to other leaders of developed countries to give Brazil access to anti-pollution equipment and technology without charging royalties. ''Developed countries, should offer the scientific knowledge accumulated over the years in fighting pollution,'' Mr. Collor told the Rio daily newspaper O Globo last week.

Foreign Sources of Funding

To channel world environmental concern into concrete gain for Brazil, Mr. Collor's transition team advocates tapping three foreign sources of funding for environmental projects: ''ecological'' tourism, nongovernmental organizations and ''debt for nature'' swaps.

In a debt-for-nature swap, a foreign group would buy Brazilian Government debt on the secondary market and then retire it on the condition that fixed amounts in cruzados, the Brazilian currency, be channeled to environmental projects.

Mr. Collor's 19-day tour is to end with his return here on Tuesday.

''With these overseas talks, Collor is going to have to toughen up,'' Brazil's highest ranking environmental official, Fernando Cesar Mesquita, said today in the Rio newspaper Jornal do Brasil. A frequent critic of Mr. Collor's environmental stance, Mr. Mesquita is president of the Brazilian Institute of Environment and of Renewable Natural Resources.

''I think it is good that Collor felt close up the pressure of Europe on the Indians and the Amazon,'' a high-ranking Brazilian diplomat said last week. ''People in Brasilia always think we are exaggerating.''

SUBJECT: FOREIGN AID

NAME: BROOKE, JAMES; COLLOR DE MELLO, FERNANDO; BUSH, GEORGE (PRES)

GEOGRAPHIC: AMAZON JUNGLE

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February 13, 1990, Tuesday

SECTION: INTERNATIONAL; Pg. 10

LENGTH: 399 words

HEADLINE: Brazil's leader will invite critic Prince to ecology talks

BYLINE: By Clare Hargreaves, Foreign Staff

BODY:

BRAZIL'S President -elect, Senhor Fernando Collor de Mello, is to invite the Prince of Wales to attend a United Nations conference on the environment which Brazil will host in 1992, Brazilian sources said yesterday. Senhor Collor has promised to make protection of the environment a priority of his new government.

He discussed the conference with the Prince during a one-day visit to London last week, and will extend the invitation officially after taking office on March 15.

A spokeswoman at Buckingham Palace was not aware of the invitation or whether the Prince would accept, but the Brazilian sources said he had appeared enthusiastic during his 40-minute meeting with Senhor Collor on Thursday.

They added that Senhor Collor had also invited Mrs Thatcher to attend the conference and to visit Brazil this year as well as part of a tour of Latin America.

The Brazilian leader's visit came two days after Prince Charles made a controversial speech accusing Brazil of "continuing a dreadful pattern of collective genocide" against its 9,000 Yanomami Indians, whose territories have been invaded by 45,000 wildcat gold prospectors.

But, despite the emotive language of the Kew Gardens speech last Tuesday, Brazilian sources said Senhor Collor viewed it as "very reasonable".

They said he was impressed by the fact that it suggested developed nations bore as much responsibility for the environment as developing ones. He was also impressed by the Prince's knowledge of environmental affairs and the Yanomami Indians.

In a speech to British businessmen last week, Senhor Collor said he would make environment a priority of the new government and promised to set up an Environment Secretariat answerable directly to the President.

The sources said he also proposed to introduce the teaching of ecology in schools; compulsory demarcation of Indian reserves, and tough measures to enforce existing environmental legislation forbidding the burning and irrational devastation of the rain forests.

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But Senhor Collor, whose country is saddled with a £69 billion foreign debt and high inflation, told British bankers and politicians last week that such actions would require cash from Western nations. "Let us not forget that there is no worse pollution than poverty. Human rights and environmental concerns are meaningless in the absence of a global development strategy," he said.

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April 14, 1990, Saturday

LENGTH: 356 words

HEADLINE: BRAZIL: NEW ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY TO BE PRESENTED NEXT WEEK

DATELINE: RIO DE JANEIRO, April 14

BODY:

Brazil will present its new environmental program at the International Conference on Scientific and Economic Research in Washington April 17, reports here say.

Environment Secretary Jose Lutzemberger and Science and Technology Secretary Jose Goldemberg will represent Brazil at the meeting where delegations from 19 countries will discuss various environmental issues related to climatic changes.

Lutzemberger, a well known environmentalist, had accepted the challenge to "shift to the other side" by joining the government of President Fernando Collor de Mello.

There had been tension between Washington and the previous government of President Jose Sarney because of the massive destruction of the Amazon region in Brazil.

The coming meeting, to be inaugurated by U.S. President George Bush, is therefore very important since it could bring an end to external pressures on Brazil.

The Collor government hopes Lutzemberger's international prestige would help neutralize criticisms, and that his presence would be seen as a sign of a shift in the country's environmental policy.

Environmentalists have strongly criticized Brazil's agricultural practices, which include the excessive use of toxic products and the destruction of Amazon jungles and other ecosystems.

Lutzemberger proposes the conversion of foreign debt into resources for environmental projects. The Sarney administration had rejected similar proposals in the past, believing they could threaten national sovereignty.

The Brazilian official said he would meet with U.S. authorities and non-governmental organizations to raise funds to be used especially for programs to protect the Amazon region.

Goldemberg, who also surprised many when he joined Collor's government because of his leftist past, will reveal plans to overcome another external conflict.

He intends to gradually eliminate protectionism in the Brazilian computer market, which was the main cause of trade problems with the United States.

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Through this decision and other trade initiatives, the Brazilian government hopes to attract investments and technology from industrialized countries.

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The Independent

April 22, 1990, Sunday

SECTION: FOREIGN NEWS PAGE; Page 16

LENGTH: 527 words

HEADLINE: The professor who wants to save the world; On Earth Day, Brazil's new environment chief tells Richard House in Brasilia of his radical approach

BYLINE: By RICHARD HOUSE

BODY:

IT IS NOT so rare these days for a lobbyist and outsider to cross the divide and become a government minister, but never in such a case can the stakes have been higher than they are for Jose Lutzenberger.

For years a thorn in the side of Brazilian governments with his attacks on their environmental policy, Dr Lutzenburger now directs that policy. As environment secretary in the government of Brazil's new President, Fernando Collor de Mello, he finds himself in charge of saving the world's greatest rain forests.

Last week, he was leading the Brazilian delegation at the global warming conference in Washington, where he issued an aggressive challenge to the established notion that economic growth is essential to progress. Dr Lutzenberger and Jose Goldemberg, Brazil's science and technology secretary, are credited with helping sway President Bush away from the idea that too little is known about global warming to spend money fighting on it now. As a result, an international agreement on carbon buildup is expected to be signed at the 1992 UN Environment Conference in Brazil.

But high office has not made a diplomat of Jose Lutzenberger. One of his first acts as environment secretary was to ask the World Bank to hold fire on a $ 220m conservation loan for the Amazonian state of Rondonia, pending proper consultation with local people - not an act calculated to endear him to the Rondonia authorities.

Amazonia is at the heart of Dr Lutzenberger's near-mystical doctrine of a sentient global being - the Gaia Theory, developed by the British scientist James Lovelock. At its simplest, Gaia - Mother Earth in Greek - suggests that the Earth's life-forms are part of a great living being that regulates its own stability.

The rain forests are ''gigantic air conditioning units for the global climate'', capable of counteracting warming effects caused by human-produced carbon. By cutting down forests, man is upsetting the self-balancing of Gaia.

''The prevailing attitude is that we just need a few technical fixes such as controlling pollution,'' Dr Lutzenberger says. ''This is not so: either we change our philosophies or we really will finish off life on this planet.''

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He adds: ''Modern industrial society is a suicidal process. We insist on continuous growth, like a snowball, yet we measure progress just by adding up the flow of money. Nobody deducts the loss of the mountain or the forest that was the livelihood of the Indians and rubber tappers who lived there.''

The appointment of Dr Lutzenberger, who founded Brazil's first environmental group in the early 1970s, was hailed by ecologists as a sign of the sincerity of Mr Collor's promises to save Amazonia. But it is proving risky.

He has already denounced two Collor campaign pledges: to complete a road through the Amazon to the Pacific and to continue the military occupation of Amazonia's ''empty'' frontier regions. The team that prepared Mr Collor's ecological manifesto has resigned in protest, but Dr Lutzenberger responds: ''Mr Collor said he'd chosen me because I was totally independent and indomitable. The minute I feel I'm wasting my time, I'll just go.''

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April 23, 1990, Monday

SECTION: THE WORLD; Pg. 4

LENGTH: 527 words

HEADLINE: Brazil's Budget Saps Environmental Groups

BYLINE: Julia Michaels, Special to The Christian Science Monitor

DATELINE: SAO PAULO, BRAZIL

BODY:

THE telephone at Fundacao S.O.S. Mata Atlantica, one of Brazil's environmental groups, rang unanswered last week.

The switchboard operator and most of the headquarters' 23 employees were on paid leave. The directors didn't have time to answer the phone.

Instead, they were out trying to try to save their projects and programs - and Brazil's environment.

S.O.S. Mata Atlantica is just one of about 200 Brazilian nongovernmental environmental groups that were struck a severe blow by President Fernando Collor de Mello's March 16 anti-inflation plan.

''There will be a slowdown and this could disorganize foundations on the action level. If they (foundations) can't reorganize, it will seriously harm the environment because the government does very little to deal with the problems,'' says Clayton Ferreira Lino, director of science and protected areas at S.O.S. Mata Atlantica.

Aimed at Brazil's chronic inflation, which topped 80 percent in March, Mr. Collor's plan put a squeeze on liquidity and government spending. It froze much of most people's savings and investments, including those of groups like S.O.S. It suspended tax breaks for corporate gifts to environmental and cultural causes.

One of the plan's first effects was a drop in the value of the dollar. Strapped individuals and companies were forced to cut unnecessary - and even necessary - spending.

''We'll have to fire almost a third of our employees, and we may have to go on a half-day work schedule,'' Mr. Lino says.

''The problem is the morale effect,'' says Nikolaus von Behr, public affairs director for Funatura, a Brasilia-based foundation that depends heavily on corporate giving. Fifteen of Funatura's 18 projects have come to a halt. Projects funded by foreign institutions are in the best situation, but even these will have to adjust because US dollars are suddenly worth little more than half of what they bought before the plan.

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This is the problem in the case of a three-year project to develop an alternative to Amazon clearing, funded by the Ford Foundation and the Conservation Foundation.

Funatura and other groups have already asked international foundations, including the Nature Conservancy, Conservation International, and the World Wildlife Fund, for emergency monies.

According to Funatura, foreign groups give Brazilian nongovernmental organizations a total of $1 million annually.

But environmentalists are just one of hundreds of interest groups lobbying Brasilia to help them out of financial trouble. The issue, says federal deputy Fabio Feldmann, who is reputed to be the only environmentalist in Congress, ''has taken back seat to discussion and negotiation of the plan itself.''

Still, Brazil's new president committed himself in his inauguration speech to doing more for nature.

And the new government is reportedly negotiating the sale of ''ecological bonds'' in the international financial community, to fund a large Amazon reforestation project.

''We hope that Jose Lutzemberger (the new environment secretary) will be sensitive and use his influence on Fernando Collor to get us out of this situation,'' says Mr. von Behr.

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The Associated Press

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April 13, 1990, Friday, PM cycle

SECTION: International News

LENGTH: 800 words

HEADLINE: Ecologists Applaud Choice for New Environment Minister

BYLINE: By PETER MUELLO, Associated Press Writer

DATELINE: RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil

KEYWORD: Saving the Amazon

BODY:

Defenders of nature say the appointment of Jose Lutzenberger, a noted ecologist, as Brazil's environment minister could signal an end to wanton destruction of the Amazon rain forest.

The choice of Lutzenberger, 63, was seen as a victory for conservationists, who claim the government has done little to stop slash-and-burn devastation of the Amazon. He was named by President Fernando Collor de Mello, who took office March 15.

By 1988, ranchers and farmers had destroyed about 8 percent of the rain forest in the 2 million square miles of Amazon wilderness, said U.S. researcher Philip Fearnside of the National Institute of Research in the Amazon.

Carbon dioxide produced by the burning is believed to add to the "greenhouse effect" warming the Earth's surface.

"Lutzenberger is the right man in the right place; nobody else has his credibility," Johan Dalgas Frisch, head of the Wildlife Preservation Association in Sao Paulo, said in an interview.

Antonio Carlos de Oliveira of the ecology group Oikos said: "He is superimportant, a legend. We all have the greatest respect and admiration for him."

Lutzenberger seeks radical changes in Brazil's environmental policy. He favors solar, wind and other natural forms of energy over the huge hydroelectric complexes of recent decades.

A Rio newspaper made the wry comment that Lutzenberger was so radical about protecting nature that he even opposed lawn mowers.

The new environment minister told The Associated Press: "We have to question the fundamental doctrines of modern industrial society, which is geared to the needs of the powerful. We're not saying give up technology, but go a different

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way."

In his first week on the job, Lutzenberger spoke out against the controversial Northern Rim project, which would create army posts to guard Brazil's vast jungle border.

He also promised to review a decision that allowed gold miners to settle on land claimed by the primitive Yanomami Indians.

Prospectors have invaded Yanomami land in the remote western Amazon state of Roraima, devastating the forest and bringing disease and death to the Indians.

After consulting with Lutzenberger and visiting the area, Collor ordered the dynamiting of clandestine air strips on tribal land and said the Northern Rim project would be redirected toward protecting the environment.

"We must remove the prospectors, but we also must give them decent living conditions," Lutzenberger said. "They are not there because they're bad or want to destroy."

Lutzenberger, a descendant of German immigrants, is an agronomist with a degree from the University of Louisiana. In the 1970s, he resigned as a chemical company executive to join the ecology movement and helped found Brazil's first environmental protection group.

Later, Lutzenberger established an environmental consulting firm.

He pushed for tougher laws on pesticide control and for installation of anti-pollution filters at a cellulose plant in his native Rio Grande do Sul state, in southern Brazil.

Lutzenberger was among the first to sound the alarm about the Amazon.

"This problem concerns all of humanity," he told reporters shortly after becoming environment secretary.

"It concerns the continuation of life on this planet. This requires not just plans for preservation, protection or parks. It requires fundamentally rethinking our economic programs."

He appealed for help from industrialized countries.

"We must establish now an intensive and continuing dialogue between the governments of the First World and the Third World on how we can collaborate to save the last jungles," Lutzenberger told the journalists.

One way, he said, is to write off part of Brazil's $$114 billion foreign debt against programs to preserve the Amazon.

Brazil has rejected such "debt for nature" swaps on grounds they violate national sovereignty. Of that, Lutzenberger said:

"The idea is to find ways to reduce the debt in exchange for the preservation of Amazonia by our government. There is not the slightest intention to 'internationalize' the Amazon."

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A key test of his strength is likely to be a proposed highway from the western Amazon through Peru to the Pacific.

Lutzenberger opposes the highway, but Peru and governors of Brazil's Amazonian states say it is vital to economic development in the region. Most of the governors supported Collor for president.

"The important thing to watch is how much power he has. Let's see what happens when he conflicts with the highway lobby," Fearnside, the U.S. researcher, said in a telephone interview from Manaus, in the Amazon jungle 3,000 miles northwest of Rio.

Some fear Lutzenberger's well-known temper and firm convictions could work against him.

"If he's very radical, Collor will be pressured to get rid of him," Frisch said.

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MANAUS

Founded in 1669 as Sao Jose Fort, a jungle outpost on the banks of the Negro River near where it joins the Amazon, Manaus began acquiring the trappings of civilization in the 1870's as rubber, its primary export, grew in importance on the world market. The rubber boom lasted until 1912, and then collapsed when it could no longer compete with Malaysian plantation rubber, the trees of which had grown from seeds taken out of Brazil in 1876 by English merchant Henry Wickham.

During the boom years, Manaus became a bustling city designed along European lines, with attractive parks, wide avenues, public squares, and even British-style bandstands. There was a large waterworks, an efficient trash collection and disposal system, trams for transportation, and electric lights.

The influx of the wealth allowed the city's rubber barons (who never numbered more than 100) to import whatever they wanted from Europe. The customs house and lighthouse were shipped stone by stone, from Liverpool. Marble from Italy graced many of the rubber barons' mansions. Cultural institutions, such as a large public library, several theaters and museums, and a botanical garden further graced the scene. The jewel, however, was the world-famous 700-seat Teatro Amazonas, or Opera House. Completed in 1910 at a cost of $2 million (equivalent to about $40 million today), the wood used in its construction came from the nearby rain forest, but all other building materials were shipped from Europe.

When the boom collapsed, the luxury quickly faded and the city slipped into relative insignificance. Its importance was revived in 1967 with the establishment of the city as a Free Trade Zone. Not the same as a Duty Free Port, legislation allows industry to import components for assembly in the factories they establish in the area. Today, the Zone is a center for assembly of computers, calculators, TV sets, videos, sound systems, watches, jewelry and motorcycles. Coca Cola is rumored to be planning to establish a plant for manufacture of its secret syrup here, the only one to be outside the U.S.

Largely because of the industries within the Free Zone, the over one-million inhabitants of Manaus enjoy the lowest unemployment rate in the country. However, wages for unskilled and semi-skilled labor are low, and basic living conditions for much of the population remain precarious. The city has recently gained high-rise hotels and offices, and some of the grand old buildings are still maintained, but most buildings are simple structures. Transportation to other cities is usually by river or air, as road links to the south are submerged several months a year.

THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF AMAZON RESEARCH (INPA)

The National Institute of Amazon Research was created in 1952 and began operations in 1954 to promote and carry out basic scientific research and technological development relating the natural environment to the socio-economic-cultural systems of the Amazon Region.

Today INPA has some 1000 people, nearly 300 of which are scientists, while the remainder are technicians and support staff. In 1985 the main campus of INPA, covering 23 hectares in Manaus, was inaugurated, consolidating and modernizing a variety of facilities that had grown in diverse locations.

Special laboratories on that campus include wood products, fish culture, mineral technology, quality control of charcoal, structural testing of wood, and glass (for making laboratory equipment). There is also a herbarium and a food technology center. The library has over 266,000 references. There are over 148,000 catalogued botanical specimens, 200,000 fish specimens, 250,000 insect specimens, and a collection of regional woods with some 10,000 registered specimens.

In addition to the main campus, there are two small branch campuses in the states of Acre and Roraima and a research station in Rondonia. Field research sites include one which is administered jointly with the Smithsonian Institution to study minimum critical size of forest for sustaining a given level of biodiversity.

Formerly a special institute of the National Research Council (roughly equivalent to the National Science Foundation), INPA began reporting directly to the Ministry of Science and Technology in 1987 (today a Secretariat). It has suffered badly from the economic problems of the country, and today scarcely has sufficient money to pay the low salaries of its employees, let alone expenses for field research. The Secretariat of Science and Technology has placed priority on finding a way to make the Institute a viable research center once again.

THE AMAZON BASIN

Nearly one-half of Brazil, some 1,380,722 square miles (3,576,070 square kilometers) is part of the Amazon Basin ecosystem of rain forest, swamp, and rivers. The Basin has a steady climate of high humidity (over 80%) and ample rainfall, together with an evenly high temperature of 87-94 degrees Fahrenheit.

The River

Of the twenty largest rivers in the world, ten run through the Amazon Basin, with the entire system containing 18% of the world's surface fresh water supply. The most famous, and the second longest river in the world, is the Amazon itself, which begins in the Peruvian Andes and flows first north and then east for 4,087 miles to the Atlantic Ocean. For 1,962 miles it passes through Brazil to its mouth, where the river spreads across 180 miles, flowing around the island of Marajo, which is larger than Switzerland.

The force of the river as it enters the sea causes tidal waves twelve feet high and mingles the fresh water of the river with the salt water of the Atlantic to a distance of 200 miles offshore. The Amazon is navigable upstream by seagoing ships for over 2,000 miles, and by small boats for hundreds of miles beyond that.

The Amazon cannot be compared with a North American river because, downstream from Iquitos, Peru, there is not one single riverbed, but several parallel channels separated by long islands. The actual shoreline is constantly shifting according to seasonal changes in water level. In Manaus, at the confluence of the Rio Negro and Rio Solimoes, the water level varies as much as 39 feet during the year, with low water in November and high water in June and July.

Most of the 5 million inhabitants of the Brazilian Amazon live directly on the banks of the rivers or not far away. Even huts built on parts of the river not normally flooded are built on stilts to give protection against the sporadic extreme high water levels. Because entire islands and riverbanks can be obliterated during flooding, villages are sometimes wiped out and must be re-established, often several miles distant from their last site.

The Forest

The forest contains over 2000 species of trees, with many thousands more of other plant life, many as yet undiscovered. Experts distinguish between three to five stories, the top being formed by the tips of the highest trees, which reach a height of some 200 feet. Although tall, they do not have thick

trunks nor do they have many branches. Lower stories are formed by medium-sized trees whose closed and interleaved foliage make up the jungle canopy and then an understory. Lower down are smaller specimens, such as tree ferns, and at the very bottom is undergrowth, but rarely is there grass or moss.

Amazon forest areas are also classified by their location with regard to the river. In the Igapo forest, which includes many palm species, the trees actually grow in the water. The Varzea forest is on the flood plain, an area which has the richest woil from the annual flooding of the river. Finally, there is "terra firme" forest, which covers the most land area.

While luxuriant in appearance, all this vegetation grows on a thin and vulnerable layer of humus. The roots are, by volume, three-quarters embedded in a shallow layer that only extends some 20 inches downward. This shallow penetration accounts for the buttressed roots of many of the taller trees. Ninety percent of the organic material of the forest is at or above ground level.

Clearing the forest causes loss of most of the nutrients above ground level. It also affects the water cycle. At least 50% of the precipitation in the Basin is formed of water that has evaporated from the forest. Sea-borne humidity accounts for a small proportion of the rain.

The forest is a source of extractive crops, including rubber, Brazil nuts, fruits, wild vegetables, and medicinal herbs. At the turn of the century, rubber was responsible for a major boom in the region. Although there are an estimated 300 million wild rubber trees in the Basin today, with a production of some 25,000 tons annually, this source was eclipsed in importance by plantations in Malaysia begun some 70 years ago by seedlings taken out of Brazil.

The Fauna

The Basin is home to some 700 species of mammals, 1800 varieties of birds (including many varieties of parrots), and 1500 species of fish and other aquatic creatures (including the famous pink dolphins and manatees). Every story of the forest has species of insects, and scientists believe hundreds of them have not yet been catalogued. Reptiles abound, and spiders come in an infinite variety, as do bats.

Some of the more interesting and well-known varieties of birds are, in addition to pparrots, toucans and hummingbirds. Among the mammals, the monkeys, there are species such as the pygmy marmoset which is only 6 inches high and weighs 100 grams. Fish provide amazing variety from the predatory 250 lb. arapaima to the South American lungfish and multiple types of piranha.

FEDERAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM

In response to national and international concern about environment problems in Brazil, especially about deforestation in the Amazon region, President Sarney re-organized that sector within his government in January 1989 by combining the Secretariat of Environment (a regulatory body), the Brazilian Institute for Forestry Development (similar to a combination of the U.S. Forest Service and National Park Service), the Secretariat for Rubber Production, and the Secretariat for Fisheries into one organization: the Brazilian Institute for Environment and Renewable Natural Resources (IBAMA). He appointed Fernando Cesar Mesquita, a journalist by training, as President of the new organization.

Mesquita brought with him not only an expert knowledge of the media and a personal love for the natural environment, but tremendous energy and considerable administrative skill. He also had the direct ear of the President. In one year he galvanized the federal environment sector to perform far beyond what it had ever done before, especially in the areas of public education and enforcement.

President Collor continued IBAMA with some modification. He separated policy-making function from program execution, creating SEMAM (the Secretariat for Environment) as the policy head and leaving IBAMA as the executive body. The Secretary for Environment is Dr. Jose Antonio Lutzenberger, an environmental activist for twenty years. He gained West Germany's National Award for Preservation of Nature in 1981 and Sweden's Right Livelihood Award in 1988. An uncompromising lobbyist for environmental causes, he is highly respected for his technical skill in alternatives to existing agricultural practices. He is particularly valuable to President Collor as an "Ambassador" for environmental affairs internationally.

IBAMA is headed by Tania Munhoz, a career officer in the environmental sector. She was only confirmed in her position in mid-June, and the Institute is now trying to recover some lost momentum.

Other important players in the environment sector are the Ministry of External Relations (MRE) and the Secretariat of Science and Technology. MRE is chairing the interministerial committee planning for the 1992 United Nations Conference on Development and Environment. Science and Technology has important research institutes in the sector and works with SEMAM on projects such as ecological zoning and global warming.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES IN BRAZIL

INTRODUCTION

Brazil is larger than the continental United States and the fifth largest country in the world. Its population of 145 million is the sixth largest in the world. Its economy ranks ninth in the non-communist world, tenth overall.

Ecologically, Brazil is both rich and diverse. It contains 30 percent of the world's tropical forests and the world's largest wetland. It has more species of primates, spiders, amphibians, flowering plants, and psittacine birds (such as parrots and macaws) than any other country. In numbers, it has more terrestrial vertebrate animals than any other country. Brazil also has more endangered and threatened species than any other country and the deforestation of the Amazon has caught the attention of the world.

As a developing country, Brazil feels it must exploit its rich natural resources to support its people. Burdened with a rapidly growing population and with both external and internal debt, the government feels it is necessary to make immediate economic gains.

Brazil would like to achieve sustainable development with protection of the environment through better utilization of natural resources. Adequate development models for doing this are, however, lacking, and the government currently knows of no way to achieve this goal other than to spend more resources than it has. Brazil has a good body of environmental protection law and a number of national parks and reserves, and it remains open to suggestions and assistance which can be implemented within a Brazilian framework.

Brazil also has sophisticated science capability for basic research. Its Institute of Amazon Research (INPA), created in 1951, has accumulated a large body of data on the Amazon region. The Agricultural Research Institutes (EMBRAPA) scattered around the country have developed information and technology on alternative uses of the natural resources for production. The National Institute of Space Research (INPE) uses sophisticated remote sensing techniques to determine deforestation rates within Brazil.

Brazil has been active on environmental issues within an international context. It has ratified the Montreal Protocol on Ozone and has participated in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change from its inception. It will be the host of the Second World Conference on the Environment in 1992 (the first having been in Sweden in 1972).

ECOLOGICAL REGIONS

The Legal Amazon covers 4,906,784.4 square kilometers, and is barely beginning to be understood. The Legal Amazon is a politically defined area encompassing 58 percent of the national territory and including the states of Para, Amazonas, Acre, Amapa, Rondonia, Roraima and Tocantins plus parts of Maranhao and Mato Grosso, extending well south of the tropical forest area. The Amazon River basin has 18 percent of the world's fresh water supply as well as 30 percent of the world's tropical forests. Over 90 percent of the forest is still intact and contains thousands of species of flora, the majority believed to be not yet classified. The forest affects the hydrological cycle of the South American continent. As a source of heat, it affects the seasonal climate of North America as well.

The Cerrado is the plains area covering some 28 percent of the central region of Brazil, including the capital city of Brasilia. It is a varied habitat ranging from open grassland to forested riverbank. Its soils, with the addition of fertilizer, are suitable for agriculture, and the flat plains lend themselves to mechanized agricultural techniques.

The Pantanal region is where Brazil, Bolivia and Paraguay meet. Seasonally flooded by the Paraguay River, its 50 million acres are home to the largest concentration of fauna in the Americas, including large populations of caimans and capybaras, tens of thousands of aquatic birds, and several species of primates, cats, armadillos, and other animals. The area is currently threatened by poaching and by toxins in the water from mining and agriculture.

The Atlantic Forest region covers a corridor along the Atlantic coast from Rio Grande do Norte to Sao Paulo. Only five percent of the original forest cover remains, and this is highly endangered and could disappear within the next few years. Within the limited forest cover dwell 14 species and subspecies of monkeys, 13 of which are found nowhere else on earth. The area is now Brazil's industrial center and also includes agricultural land. The urban industrial centers have complex air and water quality problems on a scale familiar to the industrialized world.

The Caatinga, or dry forest, is in the interior of northeastern Brazil and is the poorest and most sparsely vegetated region of the country.

MAJOR THREATS TO THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

DEFORESTATION

The most publicized threat to the Amazon region has been the annual burnings, a traditional agricultural technique of clearing land in a way which returns some of the vegetable nutrients to the soil in the form of ash. By 1975, only 0.58 percent of the Legal Amazon had had dense forest destroyed. By 1978 the percent increased to 1.57. Official figures released in April 1989 by the Institute of Space Research (INPE) indicated that 5.12 percent had been destroyed. The peak burning year was 1987 when 204,000 square kilometers went up in flames, but sixty percent of that is estimated to have been either cerrado or pasture land and not virgin forest. The lack of differentiation between land being burned and forest being destroyed led to overestimates of deforestation in World Bank projections published in 1988 (indicating 12 percent deforestation by that year). Area burned in 1988 was 120,700 square kilometers, down some 40 percent from 1987. 1989 was lower still as the result of the publicity attendant upon the burnings, government denial of some 5000 requests to deforest land, and an unusually prolonged rainy season which has prevented the drying of the vegetation. The leap in deforestation rate between 1978 and 1988 was considered alarming by a Senate Commission of Inquiry in early 1989.

Loggers extract some 267 million cubic meters of wood per year, but only 64 million cubic meters annually are being replanted. Recent issuance of regulations which will prohibit logging of virgin forest after 1995 is an attempt to enforce reforestation and sustained commercial logging practices.

HYDROELECTRIC PROJECTS

The numerous rivers of the Amazon Basin would seem to make the area a paradise for hydroelectric power. In 1987 the parastatal electric company Electrobras developed a thirty year plan called "Plano 2010", projecting Brazil's energy needs and infrastructure to meet those needs through the year 2010, which envisages a total of as many as 80 hydroelectric plants in the Amazon region, a projection which has already been scaled down markedly.

Contrary to popular belief, the Basin is not an ideal location for hydroelectric plants, primarily because it is flat. Dams create only shallow reservoirs, flooding huge areas to generate relatively small amounts of electricity. Observers cite the example of Balbina, located near Manaus, which flooded 256,000 hectares to generate 250 megawatts of energy at a cost of US$4.08 per kilowatt. (In comparison, the Tucurui Dam near Belem, with a deeper reservoir, flooded approximately the same area but produces 4000 megawatts at a cost of US$2.05 per kilowatt.)

To compound the damage, the Balbina area was flooded without first deforesting the area. The decaying forest under the lake produces so much sulfuric gas that the water will be unsuitable for pisciculture for the next ten years and also threatens the wildlife around its borders. In addition, it is highly corrosive for the turbines. The polluted water is a breeding ground for vector born diseases. Research undertaken to address these same problems at Samuel (near Porto Velho), the most recent dam to come on line, has provided some answers, including harvesting the underwater forest with special equipment to reduce the pollution level and gain commercial value from the wood, and treating the water passing through the turbines with oxygen to reduce corrosion.

MINING

Almost 80 percent of the gold mining in Brazil is done by an estimated 500,000 independent prospectors working in or near potentially gold-rich waterways. Erosion and siltation from the dredging and/or processing of ore have become so serious that some rivers, such as the Tapajos, are little more than moving mud, and all former aquatic life has been destroyed.

Each kilo of gold is estimated to consume 1.7 kilos of mercury during processing. The country imports approximately 100 tons of mercury annually, virtually all of which is washed into the rivers and waterways of the Amazon region and the Pantanal, contaminating flora and fauna and affecting the population which depends on these water and food sources.

The President of IBAMA recently indicated he believed damage from uncontrolled mining was the single most serious environmental problem in Brazil today. In addition to the physical damage, invasions by prospectors into Indian lands and national forests have created violent conflicts over land

rights and introduced diseases into the Indian communities (most notably malaria) which did not exist there before. The most serious problems are in the states of Rondonia and Roraima where invasions are of such proportions that they are virtually uncontrollable.

WHAT DRIVES THE DEVASTATION

POPULATION GROWTH

During the 1950's Brazil's population grew at a rate of 3.3 percent annually. That growth rate has now been reduced to 2.25 percent. However, those born in the 1960's are now entering the workforce, demanding the creation of 1.7 million new jobs each year. The creation of that many jobs requires the economy to expand at a rate of some 5 or 6 percent annually.

The Brazilian population is a migrant one with 40 percent living in some place other than where they were born. The primary migration has been rural to urban and northeast to south and southeast. Sao Paulo receives over 600,000 immigrants per year while Rio receives over 200,000. 90 percent of the population now lives on 35 percent of the land area, concentrated in the south and southeast, with the northeast still overpopulated for its rural subsistence economy and a source of continuing out-migration.

INDUSTRIALIZATION

Like many developing countries, Brazil has responded to the demand for economic development by industrializing. In 1950 the industrial sector accounted for just 22 percent of GCP. By 1980 it was 38 percent. Growing with industry has been a companion modern service sector, including trade, transportation and finance. Together, these two sectors accounted for 85 percent of GDP and employed 45 percent of nonagricultural workers in 1980.

The building and paving of major highways linking all parts of the country has been a primary factor encouraging migration flows from the south and center of the country to the Amazon region. Deforestation patterns clearly radiate out from these roads and studies at the Institute of Amazon Research (INPA) have shown geometric growth rates in deforestation during the six years immediately following the paving of the Brazilia - Belem and Cuiaba - Porto Velho roads, with deforestation then levelling off.

While Brazil has been more creative than most countries in the energy sector -- developing alternative fuels such as cane-produced alcohol, expanding oil exploration and production, and exploring nuclear energy options -- the electricity sector has been planned with heavy emphasis on hydroelectric power. 1987 consumption was 180 billion kw per hour and was projected to grow at a rate of 6.3 percent annually through 2010, with a concomitant need for new hydroelectric power plants.

FISCAL INCENTIVES

In spite of the high rate of industrialization, Brazil's major urban centers have not been able to adequately absorb the rapid population growth. In partial response, the government established tax and other credits to encourage people to move into the sparsely populated center west (cerrado) and Amazon regions. When roads were built into these areas, ease of access plus fiscal incentives attracted thousands.

Tax incentives and income protection objectives also encourage businessmen to invest heavily in agrobusiness in the south and southeast. They buy land from small holders who then move into the cerrado or Amazon region. In the Amazon region, most of the land is not suitable for the annual crops raised by southern smallholders, and it is quickly exhausted. The large landholders then come in and buy out the smallholders, establishing cattle ranches on the land, while the smallholders move on to clear new land. Laws requiring clearing of land to demonstrate ownership encouraged landholders to deforest, especially during the peak burning season of 1987 when there was uncertainty about the direction agrarian reform legislation would take in the new Constitution.

EXTERNAL DEBT

By the mid-1980's, Brazil placed great emphasis on increasing its trade surplus as a means of servicing the country's external debt. This policy helped drive industrialization and agro-business in the south and southeast, one of the factors in the new migration from the south to center west and the Amazon.

ENVIRONMENTAL MEASURES

as of January 1990--

LAW

Brazil's new Constitution contains a chapter requiring the federal government to protect and preserve the environment for the common use and essential health and quality of life of current and future generations. Behind that chapter is a comprehensive body of law, including the Forestry Code, the Protection of Fauna Law, the Fish Code, the National Plan of Coastal Management, and a series of decrees, regulations and instructions.

NATIONAL PARKS AND RESERVES

Brazil currently has 32 national parks, 18 biological reserves, and 20 ecological stations, totalling 14 million hectares. Such protected areas comprise 1.8 percent of the nation's land area. Many Brazilian environmentalists believe this is too small and the areas themselves are inadequately protected because of lack of personnel and financial resources.

ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCIES

Until January 1989 the Brazilian federal government had two main environmental protection agencies: the Special Secretariat for the Environment (SEMA) and the Brazilian Forest Development Institute (IBDF). SEMA's mandate covered the full range of urban and rural environmental issues while IBDF was responsible for maintaining and properly using Brazil's forest resources. The two agencies were attached to different ministries, and they found it difficult to coordinate their activities. SEMA had an annual budget of US$20 million in 1988 and a staff of 300. It delegated most of its enforcement role to state secretariats of environment. IBDF had a budget of US$14.5 million and a staff of 3500. In 1988 IBDF had 350 forest guards in the Amazon region, a ratio of one for every 15,000 square kilometers. In January 1989 SEMA and IBDF were dissolved, along with the Fishery and Rubber Secretariats, and their responsibilities and budgets folded into the Brazilian Institute of Environment and Renewable Natural Resources (IBAMA). IBAMA only had its structure and budget approved at the end of January 1990. During this organizational period, the IBAMA President had two priorities: raising consciousness of the Brazilian population on environmental issues, and

applying more rigorous enforcement of existing legislation and rules. He has been effective in spite of the limited resources of the organization, largely because he has had a direct channel to the President which allowed him some independence from his administrative authority, the Ministry of Interior, and because of his skillful use of the media.

The proposed organization for the incoming government is a National Secretariat for the Environment to be attached to the Presidency and responsible for policy, with IBAMA a separate organization primarily responsible for enforcement.

There has been a growing Brazilian NGO movement in the environmental arena, with numbers of foundations and associations burgeoning since the mid-80's and doubling within the last year. They now number over 1000 (9 are foundations), and they have become increasingly vocal and political in orientation.

In order to better respond to the growing international concern in environmental issues in Brazil, the Ministry of External Relations created a Department of Human Rights and Environment in February 1989.

"OUR NATURE" PROGRAM

In October 1988 President Sarney announced a new national environmental protection program called "Our Nature". This program called for the establishment of six working groups, coordinated by the Advisory Secretariat for National Defense (SADEN), to study the problems of and give possible solutions for protection of forest cover, research, environmental education, interests of indigenous people and traditional forest communities, and pollution caused by independent miners. The conclusions and recommendations of the study groups formed the basis of a series of Presidential decrees and proposals for law announced by President Sarney in early April. Several of the decrees created new national parks and reserves, others suspended fiscal incentives in the Atlantic Forest and Amazon regions, and others set guidelines for control of toxic substances such as mercury used in gold mining.

Proposals for law included the creation of a Superior Council for Environment, modification of the Forestry Code, systems for regulating agrotoxins, and creation of a national fund for the environment (costs for the first two years were estimated to be 350 million new cruzados, in January 1989 currency). These proposals were considered by Congress; most were modified and passed before Congress recessed at the end of June 1989.

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America Nov. 18, 1989

"democratic" presidency is called into question. Honduras is saddled with the problem of the Nicaraguan contras that we put there. El Salvador's civil war, which has already taken 70,000 lives, continues. Nicaragua's elections, scheduled for Feb. 25, are made doubtful, among other reasons, because we have not cooperated in disbanding the contras whom we created. Panama, no comment. In Colombia, the judicial infrastructure has been neutered by a mafia feeding on our own drug addiction. Peru is in a state of virtual civil war, with the country's midsection in the hands of the anarchic Sendero Luminoso. Inflation in Brazil and Argentina, potentially the most powerful nations in South America, has been such that no political force—except an ugly one whose face we will not want to contemplate—will be able to cope with it. Four years ago the Argentinian austral was worth slightly more than our dollar; now one dollar buys more than 700 australes.

The purpose of this sad recital is not to offer specific recommendations. That will require, not a letter, but years of work. That basically is our plea: Sir, you need to expend as much of your considerable smarts and energy on Latin America as on Europe. It is the right and the intelligent thing to do.

Yours respectfully,
Concerned Editors

TURNING BACK THE CLOCK IN BRAZIL

The very image of what the church stands for on the eve of the 21st century, we guess, will not be determined in North America so much as in a nation like Brazil, in size and population the world's largest Catholic country (cf. AM., 10/28/89). In the early 1960's, that meant "Catholic" in name only. At that time, two-thirds of the university students surveyed in Rio de Janeiro identified themselves as unbelievers and viewed the church as "on the side of injustice." In 1978, after a decade in which many priests and bishops risked (and lost) their lives defending human rights, another poll found a stunning change: three-fourths of the students declared themselves believers and favorable to the church. Hotshots who previously would have become Brazilian Carl Icahns or Ted Turners are now entering seminaries. Question: Will the Vatican's current long-term policy toward Brazil jeopardize this promising transformation?

Since he took office, Pope John Paul II has replaced progressives with conservatives in nine out of Brazil's 36 archdioceses, with only three progressive bishops appointed during this time. That these appointments are beginning to take their toll is perhaps best illustrated in Recife, in desperately poor northeastern Brazil, where the new Archbishop, José Cardoso Sobrinho, is moving swiftly to dismantle the human rights work of his charismatic predecessor, Dom Hélder Câmara. In August, Archbishop Cardoso dismissed the regional pastoral commission, and since then he has threatened to suspend "activist" clergy associated with peasant movements and called in the military police to disperse peasant protestors. Now, with Vatican heft behind him, he is closing a regional seminary and a theological institute (involving some 500 seminarians and other students, about half of them lay people), both with close ties to Christian base communities and rural grass-roots movements. At their October meeting, the region's bishops voted to support the closings—though the London Tablet reporter claims that, in part, this vote happened because progressive bishops either did not attend or left in disgust before the meeting concluded.

Protestors and the press, Archbishop Cardoso asserts, slander him as "the enemy of the poor and in favor of the rich classes." He denies it (and we believe him); he simply wants priests and lay catechists out of politics. Agreed, without an episcopal connection, the "popular church" is all too easily coopted and loses its independent, critical edge—as we have seen in Nicaragua. But Brazil has been different. There, for the last two decades, bishops have sponsored 150,000 base communities as sanctuary for a threatened democratic remnant; and bishops have been the sole protectors of the landless poor against the depredations of big landholders and the military. In the context of Brazil's acute land conflict, it is hard to avoid the judgment that the Archbishop Cardosos and their Vatican patrons are politically naive, oblivious that their stress on the "spiritual" signals to the police and landowners that they can now have at the landless movement with impunity.

Secure in our prosperity and protected by liberal political institutions, we North Americans may be inclined to think that disputes over proper seminary education, the appointment of bishops and liberation theology are arcane stuff with no immediate practical import. In Brazil, on the contrary, this is the kind of thing that exposes people to death squads—and that may yet bury a church that was returning from the dead.

World Press Review Sept. 1989

A Tale of Two Forests

Hope for the Amazon, while China 'de-greens'

The Economist

Drive into São Paulo from the airport, and one of the first signs you see says, "Save the Amazon." Brazil's attitude toward its vast ecological treasure trove to the north is showing the first faint signs of change, though there is far to go before the country develops—and, more important, enforces—a sensible policy on what to do with the Amazon.

The international uproar over the destruction of the rain forests, which has reached peak volume in the past year, caught the government by surprise. Its reaction was hostile, fed by an old fear that the rest of the world would love to get its hands on this last great tract of underpopulated but inhabitable land. Since then, several half-hopeful things have happened.

A broadly sensible policy for the Amazon, called Nossa Natureza (Our Nature), has been drawn up by a group with support from Brazil's armed forces and put under the control of one of the generals in President José Sarney's cabinet. It is, however, badly underfinanced. To carry out the Amazon program, four environmental-protection bodies have been rolled into one, called IBAMA, and put under the supervision of Fernando Cesar Mesquita, one of President Sarney's close friends. IBAMA, too, has insufficient cash for the job. An offer from Britain, however, to help with research and conservation work, and to help pay for setting up a new biological reserve, was accepted by the government in July. The World Bank is now negotiating a loan of $100-150 million, which it hopes to sign early next year, to strengthen IBAMA and improve forest management.

Although the government's economic difficulties have meant too little cash available for environmental protection, they have also forced cuts in public works such as roads and dams, which bring deforestation in their wake. The electricity industry, which many months ago had projects for dams that would have displaced 500,000 people, has been redoing its sums to give more weight to social and environmental factors. As a result, most of its projects have been discarded for the time being.

From the newsmagazine "The Economist" of London.

It is still easier to find reasons for gloom than for hope. The forces pushing people north to the Amazon are as powerful as ever. The mechanization of farming in the south of the country, sometimes paid for by foreign aid, drives people from the land: Soya farming, for instance, displaces 11 people for every job it creates. Small farmers who have sold their land in the south tend to buy new land in the Amazon. And giddy inflation (heading above 1,000 percent this year) feeds land speculation.

The areas of forest zoned for protection have greatly increased in recent years. But enforcement is pitifully weak. In the state of Rondônia, 60 men from the federal police and 80 from the military police, poorly equipped, guard an area almost as large as West Germany. The organization charged with protecting the indigenous people is mainly corrupt and inefficient. Some Indians say that the most effective single measure the government could take would be to let them police their own land.

The growing realization that the Amazon is almost as rich in minerals as in wildlife constitutes a new threat to the forest. The 1982 discovery of gold in Mato Grosso touched off a gold rush in that state. In the past two years, prospectors have been pouring into the state of Roraima in the north. These *garimpeiros* (prospectors) roam the forest like medieval brigands, in gangs of 50 or 100, armed to the teeth, killing Indians who get in their way and polluting the rivers with the mercury they use to pan for gold. They are regarded as romantic heroes: Boa Vista's town square is dominated by a sentimental statue of a *garimpeiro* panning for gold.

Farther south, the discovery of the world's largest iron-ore deposits, at Grand Carajás, has spawned an even more damaging development. The Carajás mine itself has been sensitively managed, but more than half of the land along the railway built to take ore to the sea has been logged or cleared. Worse, umpteen pig-iron plants are planned or in operation, using charcoal as fuel, which also depletes the forest. An unpublished study for the World Bank argues that, if all 34 planned projects are set up, they will destroy 580 square miles a year, using up all of the region's forests within 70 years.

(Continued)

In spite of the speed of deforestation—the gloomiest estimates reckon that an area the size of France has already gone—a vast amount of rain forest remains. Brazil's technical institutes are full of people doing world-class work to discover what the forest contains and how it can most sensibly be used. They get virtually no help from companies, even those that make money from their discoveries. The director of the Museu Goeldi Herbarium in Belém points out that a West German pharmaceutical company has for more than 20 years been using a wild plant from the Amazon to make a product to treat glaucoma. Yet the company has not put a penny into research into the cultivation of the plant, which is now close to extinction.

Finding ways to exploit the Amazon in its present state is clearly the best way to give people a financial interest in preserving it. The potential of the forest is only beginning to be understood. ■

Can't See China's Forests—or Its Trees

newscientist

By KATHARINE FORESTIER

Failure to halt the destruction of China's environment was one of the many grievances that fueled dissatisfaction with the 40 years of communist rule. Environmentalists have been painting a grim picture of China, warning that the country is losing its natural resources at an alarming speed.

He Bochuan, a professor who teaches the philosophy of science at Zhongshan University, Guangdong, is one of the most outspoken critics of the management of China's environment and economy. Many government officials dismiss his catalog of disasters, listed in his recent book, *China in the Valley*. But most researchers in institutes agree with his conclusions. In recent months, the official press has reported many examples of environmental degeneration, and the country's leaders have promised action to reverse this trend. Some people say that the government's new concern for the environment, as shown in the media, is simply a ploy to deflect attention from political issues. Since the military crackdown in June, campaigns to protect the environment are likely to become more difficult to mount. The irony, says He, is that the environmental crisis may be far more serious than the political problems.

From the weekly "New Scientist" of London.

According to official figures, forests now cover 12 percent of China, compared with 12.7 percent when the communists came to power in 1949. But He believes that forests actually cover only between 10.5 and 11 percent of the country and that by the year 2000, the area will have dropped to 8.3 percent. He says that, in comparison, forests in Japan cover 66 percent of the land; in the Soviet Union, 35 percent; in the U.S., 33 percent; in West Germany, 29 percent; in France, 26 percent; and in India, 26 percent.

Fire is one of the biggest causes of deforestation: China has the worst forest fires in the world. In 25 years, the country has lost 21.2 million acres of forests due to fire—equivalent to one-third of saplings planted and surviving in that period, according to estimates by He and confirmed by other forestry experts. The worst fire was in 1987. In the Da Xing Anling region in north China, 2.5 million acres of forest were destroyed.

The *People's Daily* reported that the annual consumption of 10.6 billion cubic feet of timber for fuel, building, and paper far exceeded growth of 7 billion cubic feet. If this rate of consumption continues, the paper warned, state timber enterprises will have nothing to log by the end of the century.

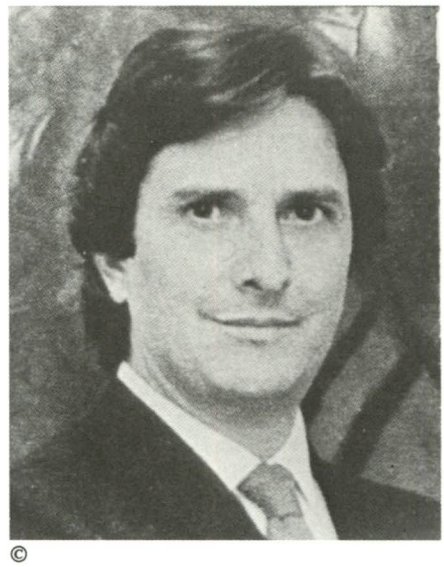
To reverse this trend, the ministry urged the country's leaders to reiterate the policy that everyone between the ages of 11 and 65 plant between three and five trees a year. Forestry officials say that through its afforestation drive, China gains more wooded areas than it loses. They state that 65 percent of the new trees planted each year survive. But professors from one forestry research institute say that half of the annual afforestation figures are bogus, and that of the other half, only 40 percent of trees planted survive. According to He, over the past 25 years only 10 percent of young trees have survived.

Deforestation has had an inevitable impact on wildlife. Qin Jien Hua, director of the wildlife management department in the forestry ministry, says that in 1962, 60 species were threatened with extinction. That number has now risen to 300—and includes the giant panda. The government has set up 400 natural reserves covering 2 percent of the total area of China and passed a new wildlife protection law. But Qin says this has not been enough.

Increasing soil erosion is the other consequence of deforestation. More than 5.6 billion tons of soil are lost each year. One-sixth of the total area of China is now affected. As soil is eroded, rising levels of silt in the rivers increase the risk of floods. Last year floods killed 6,000 people, left 4 million homeless, and inundated 28 million acres of land. Half of China's provinces were affected. ■

Dec '90
Brazil visit file

Fernando COLLOR de Mello **BRAZIL**
(Phonetic: KOHlor)


©

President-Elect

Addressed as: Mr. Collor

Young (40), charismatic Fernando Collor de Mello, who will take office on 15 March, will be Brazil's first directly elected president in 29 years. Virtually unknown at the onset of last year's presidential campaign, the conservative former (1986 – May 1989) Governor of Alagoas, a small state in Brazil's underdeveloped northeast, has portrayed himself as a tough leader who intends to reform his country's corrupt central government. Collor is popular among some segments in his home state for his attacks on "maharajas"—civil servants who receive astronomical salaries for little or no work. In his campaign strategy he targeted the common man and stressed a broad vision of a better, more honest government for Brazil.

Collor has declared that he is a firm believer in free enterprise and acknowledges the need for a more open economy in order to compete internationally. He advocates the privatization of many state enterprises and says he will work to reduce inflation by cutting the budget deficit. He also wants to renegotiate Brazil's external debt on terms that will allow for adequate economic growth.

Collor was born on 12 August 1949 into a wealthy Alagoas family and spent his formative years in Rio de Janeiro. He is the son of a former senator and governor and the grandson of a former federal deputy and Cabinet minister. Collor studied economics and journalism at the University of Brasilia and at the Federal University of Alagoas, while helping to run his family's large communications network. He entered politics in 1979, when the military government appointed him mayor of Maceio, the capital of Alagoas. He served as a federal deputy from 1982 to 1986 under the banner of the Democratic Social Party; he then switched to the Brazilian Democratic Movement Party and was elected Governor of Alagoas. He later broke with that party over the length of President Jose Sarney's term. After a brief affiliation with the Youth Party, Collor founded the National Reconstruction Party and entered the presidential race in May 1989.

Collor has received favorable coverage in the Brazilian press for his recent travels; since mid-January 1990 he has visited three neighboring South American countries, followed by a three-week global tour of the United States, the Soviet Union, Japan, and several west European countries. Recognized for his facility with languages, he speaks some English, French, Spanish, and Italian. Collor was twice national karate champion of Brazil and says he relieves stress by running, swimming, and practicing karate. He is married to the former Rosane Malta and has two sons—Arnon Affonso and Joaquim Pedro—from his previous marriage to Rio de Janeiro socialite Lilibeth Monteiro.

1 March 1990



Introduction to the American Nations

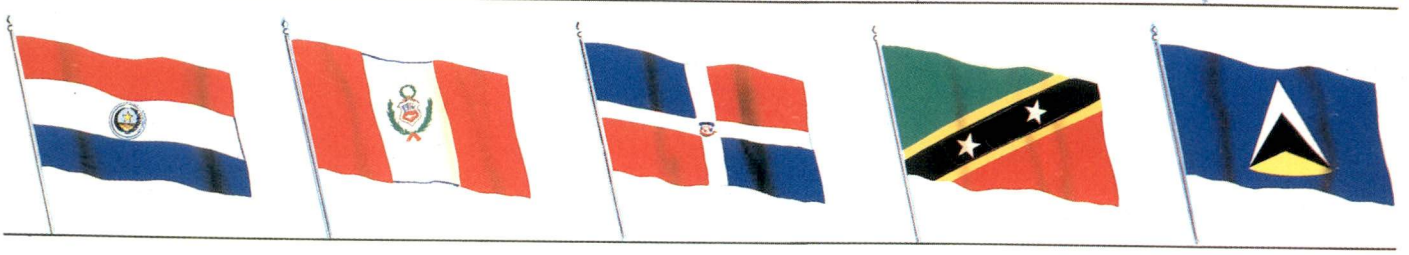














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INTRODUCTION TO THE AMERICAN NATIONS

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FOREWORD

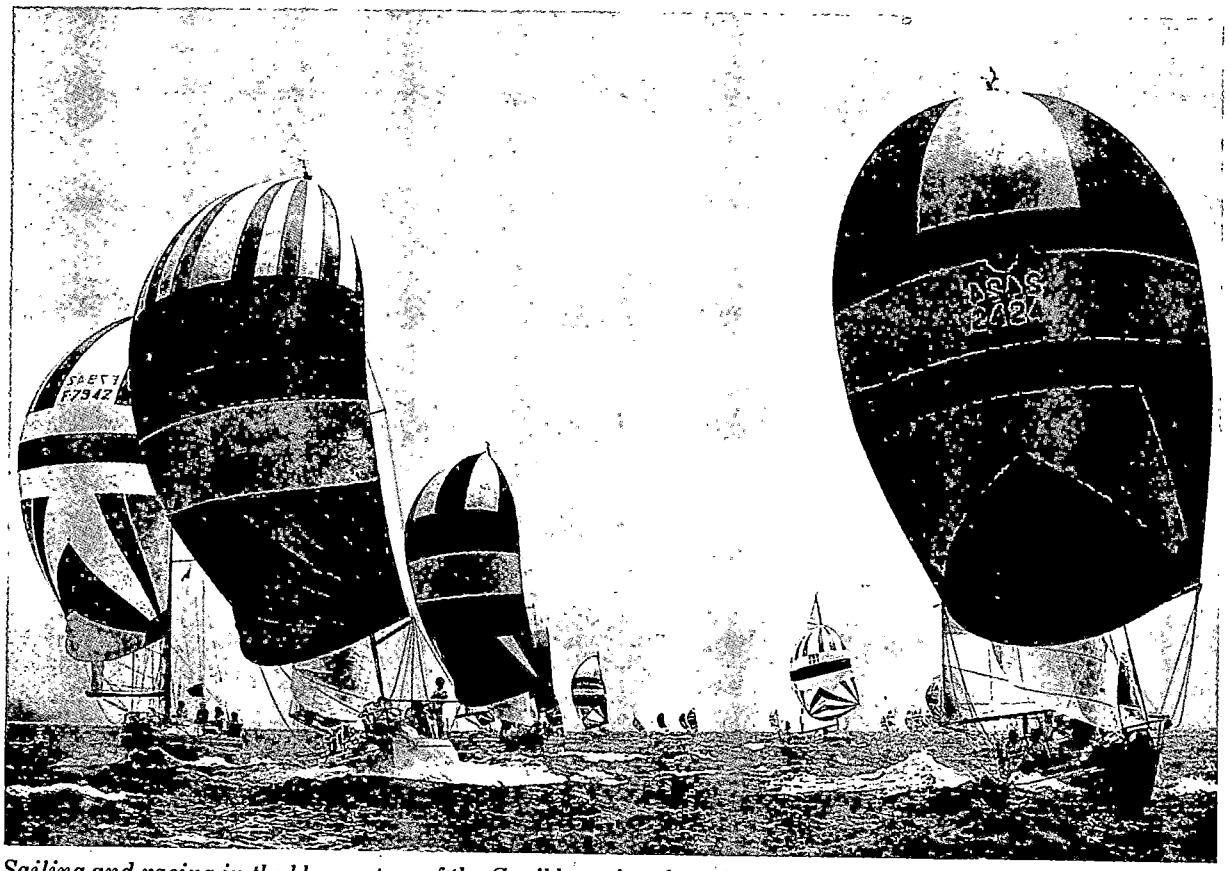
This publication, as its name indicates, introduces to the reader the American nations that form the Organization of American States. Although the present Government of Cuba is excluded from participation in the Organization, the country itself still remains a member and is, therefore, included in this booklet.

This family of nations is united not only geographically, but also in principles and purposes. It marches toward a better future through social, economic, and cultural development, which constitutes the true basis for the spiritual unity of the Hemisphere.

Each nation is described separately in alphabetical order, beginning with a general description of the country and continuing with information and data on the principal historical, social, cultural and economic aspects.

The booklet clearly points up the solidarity that exists among the member nations, despite the different characteristics of each individual country. It is directed mainly to the general public and to centers of primary and secondary education and, therefore, does not pretend to be an in-depth study of each country or to give detailed information on the history, geography, culture, and economy of a country. Obviously, many important names and events cannot be included. The main purpose of this publication is to awaken an interest on the part of the general public in the countries of the Hemisphere, and to develop through this interest a better understanding of the family of nations that form the regional Organization.

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA



Sailing and racing in the blue waters of the Caribbean is a favorite sport in Antigua and Barbuda

Area: 171 square miles
Population: 76,000
Capital: St. John
Currency: East Caribbean dollar
Language: English
Independence Day: November 1

Antigua and Barbuda—a country formed by two islands and an islet, Redonda—lies outside of the Leeward Islands chain. It was discovered by Christopher Columbus in his second voyage to the New World in 1493, and named by him after the Virgin of Santa María de la Antigua in the Cathedral of Seville, Spain.

GEOGRAPHY. It is probable that the islands of Antigua and Barbuda formed one body of land at one time, some 10,000 years B.C., when the sea level was 250 ft. lower than it is today. Antigua, a land of deeply indented shores lined by reefs, has many natural harbors, on one of which is situated St. John, the capital of the country. The island consists mainly of a lowland plateau with its highest hill, Boggy Peak, rising to 1,330 ft. in the southwest. In the north and east the land is undulating in certain areas. Antigua is divided into six parishes: St. John in the northwest, St. George in the north and center, St. Mary in the southern side, St. Peter in the northeast, St. Phillip in the east, and St. Paul extending from the center to the east. Barbuda, 25 miles north of Antigua, is surrounded by coral reefs, making it ideal for those who enjoy scuba diving and the multicolor fish that abound in those waters. The dependency of Redonda, about 35 miles west of Antigua, is an extremely rocky islet encompassed by sheer cliffs. Its only inhabitants are goats, large crabs, lizards and many seabirds. The territory of Antigua is 108 square miles, followed by Barbuda with 62 square miles, and Redonda which totals less than one square mile. The temperature of the country is agreeable. Even on the hottest days in August when it reaches near 90° F. the constant sea

breezes make the heat bearable. It never gets colder than 70° F. in the winter months of January and February. The most pleasant time of the year is from November to May.

CULTURE. Ninety per cent of the people of Antigua and Barbuda are black, descendants of slaves brought from the West Coast of Africa; the rest of the population is caucasian of British and European origin, and a small percentage of Lebanese and Syrians. This mixture of races and nationalities has developed interesting cultural patterns and individual characteristics. Carnival, held at the beginning of August, is the liveliest of all, but other forms of expression have been maintained and developed over the years. The Little Theatre Group formed in 1969 extended the base of theatrical productions from European drama to Caribbean plays. Calypso is unique for its cleverly written lyrics, combining rhythm with wit. Poetry and short stories have become other forms of expressing the feelings of the people. Music and rhythm are the natural heritage of the country and are performed through the popular oil drums as well as through the traditional piano and organ. The performances of the Contemporary Dance Theatre have delighted audiences. Paintings by untrained artists are becoming more popular each day for their primitive values.

St. John in the parish of the same name is the capital of the country and its most important cultural and commercial center. The variety of merchandise in the shops in this city is truly remarkable and the prices on crystal, china, perfumes, and liquor are probably lower than in duty-free shops in most other countries. There are several luxury hotels, guest houses and apartments, and good restaurants offering international cuisine. Night life diversions include casinos, nightclubs and discotheques. Sports enthusiasts may enjoy golf, tennis, deep sea fishing, and sailing. Cricket is the main national sport. The country is famous for its international one-week sailing regatta. Antigua and Barbuda offers many historic sites, including Admiral Nelson's House, now a museum. English Harbour, embracing Nelson's dockyard, was the base used by the English Fleet during the Napoleonic Wars. Nearby is Clarence House, a fine Georgian House built for the Duke of Clarence before he became King William IV. In the capital there is St. John's Cathedral, built to an unusual architectural design during the 1840's; it has two baroque towers, and the interior is encased in pinewood. Parham Church, built in 1840 in the Italian style, has a reputation as the finest church in the Commonwealth Caribbean.

The country has a total of 37 public schools; nine of which are secondary schools. Higher education is provided through scholarships and fellowships to study abroad, mainly at the University of the West Indies, which also has a branch in Antigua and Barbuda offering higher education and adult education courses.

HISTORY. Although Christopher Columbus discovered Antigua and Barbuda, the Spaniards never colonized the country. They found there were not enough natural springs for water and were faced with raids from the Carib Indians who roamed the islands of the area. The French also made several attempts at settlement but failed. Finally, the British colonized the island in 1632. Since, the English retained possession except for a brief period in 1667 when it was captured by the French. However, in 1667 it was declared a British possession under the terms of the Treaty of Breda. The country remained in British hands until 1967 when it became an Associated State. In 1958 the Federation of the West Indies was formed and Antigua became a member and remained one until its dissolution in 1962. Antigua and Barbuda became fully independent on November 1, 1981, and joined the Organization of American States in that same year.

GOVERNMENT. The form of Government is based on the British Parliamentary system. There is a Governor General named by the Queen of England. Responsibility for executive government lies with the Prime Minister. Parliament consists of a Senate and an elected House of Representatives.

ECONOMY. The first crop grown on the island was tobacco, but sugar took over and in the second half of the 17th century the African slave trade began when heavy labor was required for the sugar trade. The economy was dominated by the sugar and cotton industry for 300 years until 1960 when efforts were made to diversify it. Tourism was introduced then and it now contributes about 60 per cent of the GNP, if taken into account associated services and the multiplier effect of money circulating throughout the economy. The target of the Government's five-year plan drafted in 1980 is to achieve by 1984 a more balanced economy with tourism remaining as the most important factor. Two years after the publication of the plan the country can already point to a remarkable degree of success in achieving its aspirations, as projects such as the following have been launched or completed: Livestock development, hotel training, food processing, small business training, oil refinery, conventional and wind-powered electricity generation, energy conservation, water distribution, school construction and hospital improvement.

Antigua and Barbuda was one of the three countries that brought a Caribbean Free Trade Area (CARIFTA) into being in 1965, which was later converted into a Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM).

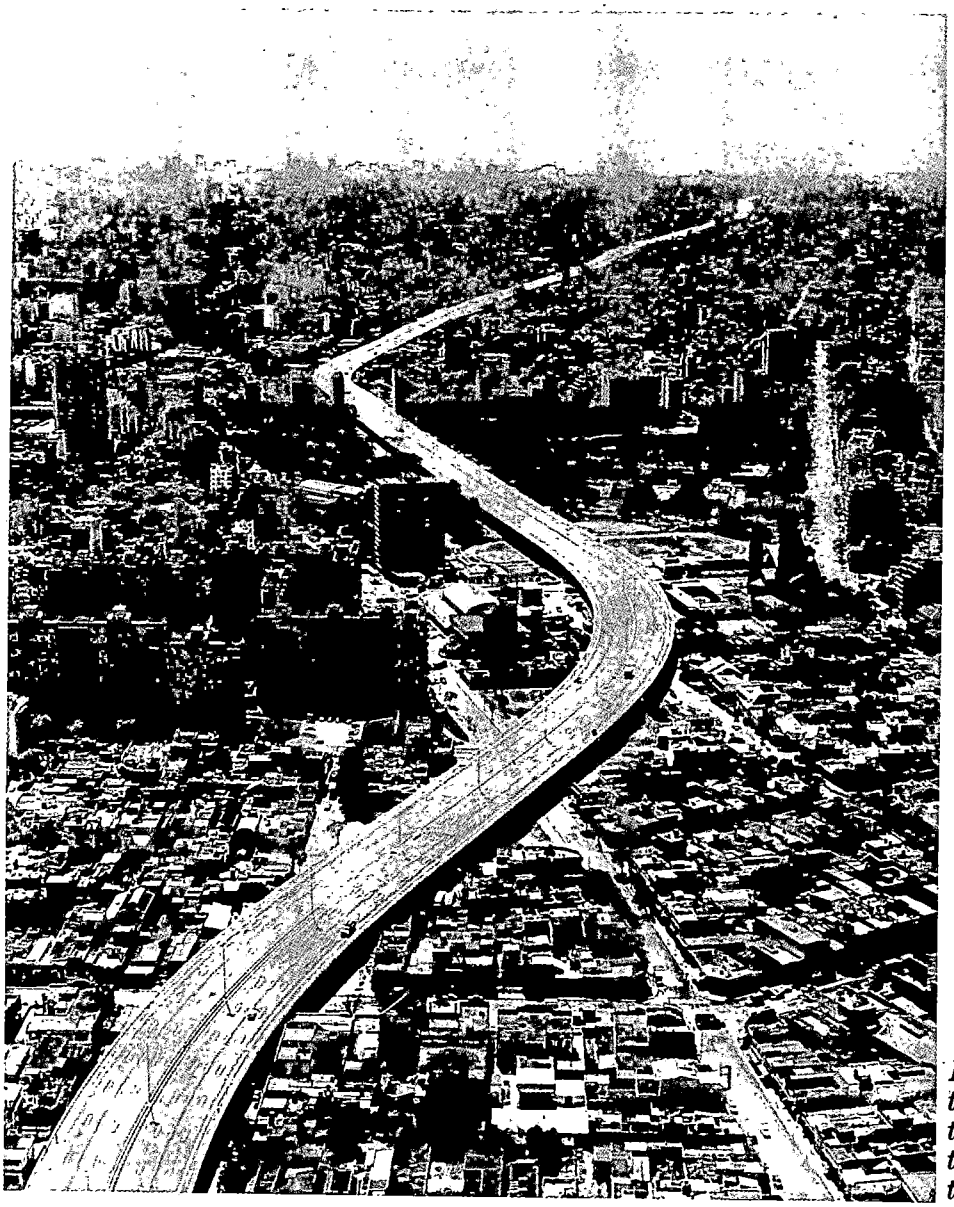
The principal agricultural product is cotton which has export potential. Food crops are cultivated for domestic consumption. Antiguan pineapples deserve special mention. The famous Antigua Black is among the sweetest variety of pineapple in the world, and the Government believes that a lucrative export market is likely to develop. The main exports are rum and wine, while the country imports apparel, foodstuffs, timber, among other items.

The country's oil refinery produces 17,000 barrels a day of refined oil products.

Several airlines link the country to Europe, the United States, Canada, and other Caribbean and Latin American countries. Communications are very good as are the roads that link the manufacturing areas to the International Airport. Several shipping companies call at Antigua's deep water harbor. Cruise ships are given priority over freight vessels during the peak winter season; the great popularity of Antigua for cruise ship visitors lies in the excellence of the shop facilities in St. John.

FLAG. It is composed of three triangles, the middle one is black, blue, and white with a golden sun on the black portion. The triangles on the sides are red.

ARGENTINA



Highway that runs from the Port of Buenos Aires to the principal routes that connect the capital to the interior

Area: 1,504,509 square miles (including continental and Antartic areas)
Population: 28,085,000 (1981)
Capital: Buenos Aires
Currency: Peso
Language: Spanish
Independence Day: July 9
National hero: José de San Martín

Argentina, incorrectly named "Land of Silver" by the early settlers, is a country of tremendous agricultural, mineral, and forest resources. It has many uranium, petroleum, and gas reserves, and a great variety of fish abound in the coastal waters. Argentina is world-famous for its beef and wheat, its wealth of spectacular beauty found in the Andean lake region, and its magnificent capital Buenos Aires.

GEOGRAPHY. Climate is generally temperate, with wide variations in temperature from the jungles of the Chaco to the glaciers of Tierra del Fuego, Antartica, the islands of the south Atlantic, the Malvinas islands, and the islands of South Georgia and South Sandwich. The sub-tropical northeast comprises the Chaco plains, whose dense quebracho forests are the world's major source of tannin used in leather-tanning, and the fertile Mesopotamia region. Iguassú Falls, with its 275 separate cataracts, is located in the northeast corner of Misiones Territory, an area noted for its production of *yerba mate.*

The pampa, heart of Argentina, lies south of the Chaco. This great plain is divided roughly into five zones of production: dairy, fruit, and truck farming around Buenos Aires; the livestock zone extending from Mesopotamia to Bahia Blanca; the corn and flax-producing area around

Rosario; the alfalfa zone in the west and south; and the famous "wheat crescent" which extends some 600 miles.

The mountainous Andean region includes Mt. Aconcagua, the Hemisphere's loftiest peak; warm, luxuriant valleys, great salt plains, and barren tablelands. Vineyards, olives, and citrus fruits are cultivated in the sunny valleys framed by the snow-capped Andes.

South of the Colorado River lies the arid, windswept plateau of Patagonia. In the lowlands which separate the plateau from the Andean foothills, one finds beautiful lakes surrounded by heavily-wooded national parks. Patagonia is devoted primarily to sheep-raising and wool production. Argentina's most important petroleum field is located at Comodoro Rivadavia on Patagonia's north-eastern coast.

Tierra del Fuego, an island south of the Strait of Magellan, is shared by Chile and Argentina. Ushuaia, capital of Argentina's portion, is the southernmost seat of organized government on the globe.

CULTURE. The people, culture, and institutions are a blend of the Old World and the New, merged in a uniquely Argentine pattern. The tide of European immigration, which started in the 1850's, has produced a population that is approximately 97 per cent European in origin. This mixture of nationalities, mostly Italian and Spanish, but also French, German, British, Irish, Polish, Arab, and Jewish, with Argentines of Spanish descent has produced an open-minded dynamic, and progressive people. Freedom of religion is guaranteed by the Constitution. Over eighty per cent of the population is Catholic.

Argentina's unique, colorful *gaucho* slowly faded into oblivion during the nineteenth century, with the transformation of the pampa into large farms, called *estancias*, and fenced-in farmlands. The distinctive songs, dances, and way of life of these nomadic horsemen are preserved in the Argentine folk music of the provinces, which contains both Spanish and Indian influences. The tango is the traditional dance.

The influence of Spanish culture is still seen in the colonial cities of the northwest: in *Córdoba*, with its tradition of culture and learning; in *Tucumán*, the "garden of the republic;" historic *Salta*; and beautiful *Mendoza* in the heart of the wine-making country. These cities contain fine examples of colonial art and architecture.

Over ten million people live in the metropolitan area of *Buenos Aires*, making this city the fifth among the largest in the world. Buenos Aires is also one of the major seaports of the world. Government, politics, business, finance, trade unions, and sports are centered in Buenos Aires, which is also a major cultural center for literature and the arts, especially painting, music, and ceramic art. It is a leading publishing center of the Spanish-speaking world, with well over 100 publishing houses. Modern *Rosario*, with its shipping facilities and surrounding industries, ranks second to Buenos Aires; it is, together with Córdoba, the country's fastest growing industrial center.

Argentina has one of the highest rates of literacy in the Hemisphere with only about 13 per cent of adult population registered as illiterate.

Four Argentines have obtained Nobel Prizes: The Nobel Prize of Peace was obtained by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Carlos Saavedra Lamas in 1936, and by Adolfo Pérez Esquivel in 1980; the Nobel Prize of Medicine went to Bernardo Houssay in 1947; and Luis Federico Leloir obtained the Nobel Prize of Chemistry in 1970.

EARLY HISTORY. In 1516 Juan Díaz de Solis, searching for a passage to the "western sea," anchored in the great mouth of the Atlantic, later named Rio de la Plata, and claimed the territory for the Spanish Crown. Tales of fabulous wealth attracted other conquerors and adventurers, but it was not until 1580 that Juan de Garay succeeded in permanently establishing the city of Buenos Aires, originally founded by Pedro de Mendoza in 1536.

On May 25, 1810, the people demanded self-government, forced the viceroy to resign, and created a patriotic council called the "first Junta." After winning freedom for Argentina, the liberator José de San Martín carried the struggle for freedom over the Andes into Chile and Peru. On July 9, 1816, the Congress of Tucumán proclaimed the national Declaration of Independence. In 1853 the Congress of Santa Fe adopted the Federal Constitution, which unified the country and marked the beginning of the modern republican period. This Constitution, with amendments, is in effect today.

GOVERNMENT. The Constitution provides for three branches of government: legislative, executive, and judicial. The bicameral Congress consists of the Senate and Chamber of Deputies. The president and vice president are elected for a six-year term by an absolute majority of votes cast by the Board of Electors, whose members are chosen by direct vote in the provinces and federal capital. The judicial branch consists of the Supreme Court and lower courts.

ECONOMY. Agriculture accounts for 70 per cent of Argentina's export earnings and is the basis of a thriving agroindustry. Leading exports include beef, wheat and other grains, and wool. Argentina's rich soils and varied climate allow the production of almost every sort of commodity, both those native to the tropics and those of the temperate zones. Argentina is the second beef producer in the world and the fourth wine producer.

Manufacturing generates some 36 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP) and employs the majority of the labor force. Automobiles, ships, railroads, textiles, chemicals, tractors, other agricultural machinery, and siderurgy make up the principal heavy industries. While Argentina must import a few manufactures such as aircraft and some types of chemicals, the country is self-sufficient in most consumer goods.

Massive plans for the decided increase of hydroelectric capacity are under way, along with intensive petroleum exploration. Argentina is also the regional leader in nuclear technology and counts with a good supply of uranium.

The road system in the country is excellent. There are 30,000 miles of highways and 100,000 miles of other paved roads.

FLAG. The Argentine flag consists of three horizontal stripes of equal width; the middle one is white with a golden sun in the center, and the other two are light blue.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS



Bustling Bay Street in Nassau is a mecca for bargain-hunting visitors

Area: 5,384 square miles
Population: 254,000 (1981)
Capital: Nassau
Currency: Bahamas dollar
Language: English
Independence Day: July 10

The archipelago of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, gateway to the New World, was the first land discovered by Christopher Columbus on October 12, 1492, when he set foot in San Salvador, one of the islands of the country. Not only does this land play an important part in history, but it is also blessed with beauty and a climate which can hardly be equalled in the rest of the Hemisphere. Part of the islands are located above the Tropic of Cancer and thus enjoy a subtropical weather and vegetation. Tropical palms and pines seen in more arid lands intermingle with the white sandy beaches and blue-green waters.

GEOGRAPHY. The Commonwealth of the Bahamas is formed by around 3,000 islands, small cays, and rocks 69 miles off the Florida coast extending toward the island of Hispaniola. The archipelago is bounded to the east and west by the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf Stream. The island of *New Providence* in the center of the archipelago is 180 miles from Miami. With an area 21 miles long and seven wide, while not the largest it is the most populated island, and where the capital, *Nassau*, is located. A deep water harbor surrounds the capital. Growing in importance is *Grand Bahama* island, 145 miles northwest of Nassau. The

largest is *Andros* island, 20 miles west of New Providence, with an area of 2,300 square miles.

The temperature ranges from 72° F in the winter to 85° F in the summer, with variations in the islands depending on their northern and southern locations.

CULTURE. The Taine culture of the gentle Arawak indians was the first to take roots in the islands. After the arrival of the Spaniards the inhabitants were transplanted to Cuba and other Spanish possessions to work in the mines. In a short time they were extinct and the islands were uninhabited for many years. The English influence began in the middle of the seventeenth century when a group of British and Bermudian refugees settled in one of the islands which they called *Eleuthera*, meaning freedom. The African slaves arrived in the eighteenth century. Today the blacks represent about 90 per cent of the population, the rest is of European and mixed origins.

The dominant cultural patterns of the country are British. From way back English education, English language, English tradition of individual freedom have left their mark in the people of the Bahamas. The letters and the arts, therefore, are works of individuals who were educated primarily under British rule. However, the African influences together with other nationalities and races have given this country a unique flavor. In this land music, singing, and dancing are essential ingredientes of the popular culture, and have a religious and social significance.

The capital, Nassau, is also the cultural and commercial center of the country. This city has a mixture of colonial and modern buildings surrounded by lanes of flamboyant trees. The architectural details of the nineteenth century, such as falousies, framework decorations, verandahs, and shingled roofs, can still be seen in some houses, but are gradually disappearing, together with the skilled craftsmen. They are being replaced by less expensive styles of building. However, around Rawson Square on Bay Street which is the focal point of town, there are many interesting places to see. The houses of Parliament are located here and so is a large straw market offering the visitors many varied goods made by the vendors. In this part of the city there is a statue of Queen Victoria and the Queen's Staircase which leads to Fort Fincadle and to a magnificent view of the island from the top. Sports may be enjoyed in Nassau and throughout the island of New Providence where there are five 18-hole championship golf courses, as well as tennis courts and sailing and fishing facilities.

Nightclubs, shops, casinos, and restaurants offering national and international cuisine are found in Nassau and in Freeport, Grand Bahama. Luxury hotels throughout the islands have their own casinos and nightclubs.

Paradise Island, just across from Nassau is a dream resort. It connects to New Providence through a bridge and a toll gate. The luxury hotels there command glorious views of the ocean. The Versailles Gardens and a 14th century Augustian Cloister are sites one should not miss.

The Government provides free education which is compulsory between ages 5 and 14. Primary and secondary education are provided by the Government and private centers. The College of the Bahamas offers an associate degree of arts in any of its seven academic divisions. Several college courses are offered in cooperation with universities in the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, and the University of the West Indies.

HISTORY. The Discovery of the New World by Christopher Columbus began on October 12, 1492, with the discovery of San Salvador, one of the islands of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas. However, the Spaniards did not colonize the land. The first to establish settlement were the "Eleutherian Adventurers," who landed in what is now known as Governor's Harbour on the island. Governments created by such groups continued until 1717 when the island became a British colony. It remained British, except for a short period when it was ruled by the Spaniards. But in 1783 the Treaty of Versailles ceded the land irrevocably to the British Crown. During the American War of Independence thousands of loyalists and their slaves were drawn to the islands by grants of Crown land. From then on, other than economic and social changes brought about by the abolition of the slaves in 1838, the history of the Colony was rather uneventful. The independence of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas was obtained on July 10, 1973, and the country became a member of the Organization of American States (OAS) in March 1982.

GOVERNMENT. Responsibility of the government rests on the Governor General appointed by the Queen of England, a Senate composed of members appointed by the Governor, a House of Representatives elected by popular vote, a Prime Minister appointed by the Governor, and a Cabinet of Ministers responsible to the Legislature for the general direction and control of government.

ECONOMY. The mainstay of the economy of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas is tourism which accounts for 77 per cent of the GNP. Accommodations for visitors include excellent hotels, guest houses, country clubs. Many restaurants offer different cuisines. There are also many resort developments. More than three quarters of the labor force is in the service sector.

Agricultural policy is directed to achieving self-sufficiency in staple food crops and to encouraging growth of export crops. The Government is devoted to increasing the use of modern production techniques for fruit, vegetables, and meat products. The main export products are oil, rum, fruits. Imports include foodstuffs, live animals, and manufactured goods.

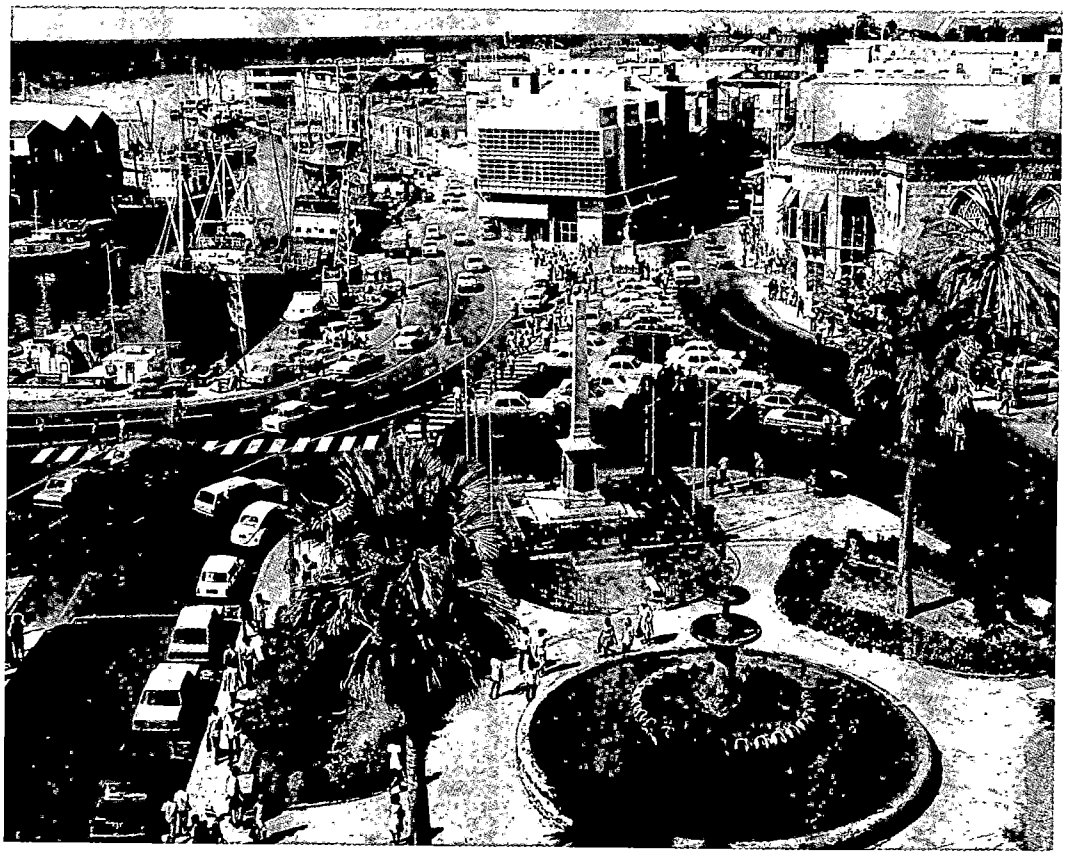
Livestock consists mainly of poultry, goats and swine. Since the surface of the island is small, cattle is a problem to maintain. Fish abound in many varieties, but with the increase in population and of visitors to the island it is mainly consumed domestically.

Other than tourism, there is no other major industry. Petroleum refining and pharmaceutical production is done mainly for the export market.

Communications are good. There is a road system of about 600 miles in New Providence and a total of 850 in the other islands. Steamships communicate with the United States. the United Kingdom, and South America. The airline service is very good, internationally and locally, with airports in several islands including the International Airport of Nassau. All types of telecommunications services are provided by The Bahamas Telecommunications Corporation.

FLAG. Consists of three horizontal stripes: two blue, and one yellow in the center, superimposed by a black triangle next to the staff.

BARBADOS



Trafalgar Square, Bridgetown

Area: 200 square miles
Population: 247,000 (1981)
Capital: Bridgetown
Currency: Barbados dollar
Language: English
Independence Day: November 30

Beautiful Barbados, traditionally known as "Little England in the tropics," is the most easterly of the Windward Islands, which form the southern arc of Caribbean islands, known also as the Lesser Antilles. Although a tiny island—about two and one-half times the size of the District of Columbia—Barbados has an impressive historic and cultural background. It is unique among the islands of the West Indies because it never came under Spanish or French rule, having remained strictly British from the time of its colonization in 1627 until it became a sovereign nation on November 30, 1966.

GEOGRAPHY. Barbados, which possibly derived its name from its "bearded" fig trees, is situated in the Atlantic Ocean; its western coastline is bathed by the waters of the Caribbean Sea. This pear-shaped island of approximately 200 square miles—about 21 miles long and 14 miles wide—is 2,100 air miles from New York City and 200 miles from Trinidad. The island's terrain is largely a flat, rolling lime-stone surface with three main topographical divisions: the rugged region in the northeast, known as the Scotland District, which reaches its highest point at Mount Hillaby (1,115 feet above sea level), an upland plateau which descends to an 80-foot escarpment west and south of the Scotland District; and beyond, the third and largest region, consisting of a lowland plateau which extends to the coast and all around the island except for the rocky northeast coastline.

The island is provided with a pure water supply from limestone beds and natural springs. Owing to the porous nature of the soil, there are no rivers. Although Barbados has no natural harbor—Carlisle Bay being an open road-

stead with a protected inner harbor—there is a deep-water harbor directly west of Bridgetown, which accommodates ships of up to 30,000 tons.

The calm, clear sea and silver sands of the West Coast are matched in beauty by the beaches of pink coral sand on the southeastern shore, which is encircled by coral reefs extending nearly three miles out to sea. Barbados' famous flying fish are a unique attraction on the beaches; and after nightfall, one hears the piping or whistling of tiny tree frogs. The climate of Barbados is salubrious and fairly uniform, with a dry season from January to June and a rainy season from June to December. Temperatures range between 75° to 85° F, with August the hottest month and February, the coolest.

CULTURE. The contemporary cultural pattern is a harmonious blend of British and African traditions and folkways implanted in the seventeenth century. By 1628 Barbados was a thriving colony with a mixed population of Europeans and African slaves. They traded in tobacco and cotton. The introduction of sugar production under the plantation system led to the importation of increasing numbers of African slaves. By 1666 the population comprised some 50,000 slaves and roughly 8,000 persons of the white race. Despite the rise of sugar production, which required additional slave labor, slavery was abolished in 1834, and the planters received substantial compensation from the British Government. This social and economic heritage accounts for the present composition of the population. People of African descent constitute about 89 per cent of the total inhabitants; those of mixed race (mainly African and British), about seven per cent; and those of European descent (mainly British) about four per cent.

Bridgetown is the capital and largest city. Situated on Carlisle Bay, the capital centers around Trafalgar Square, and among its interesting landmarks are the statue of Lord Nelson, Government House, the residence once occupied by George Washington, and the Public Buildings. Quaint streets, Georgian-type architecture, and typical West Indian homes combine to give the capital individuality and charm.

Barbados is justly proud of the high degree of harmony prevailing in its society; its literacy rate of 98 per cent of the population—one of the highest in the world; and its comprehensive, free educational system, to which is allocated about 21 per cent of the annual national budget.

The Bajans, as the natives call themselves, are friendly, hospitable and resourceful. A deepseated spirit of independence and love of learning are traditional.

Today, the national school system offers universal free education in primary and secondary government schools. The government pays the tuition fees of all Barbadians who study at the local campus of the University of the West Indies. The National Historical Trust preserves monuments of the past and the Barbados Museum is one of the finest in the West Indies. It combines a collection of relics from the early Arawak and Carib Indian inhabitants with exhibits of the work of modern Barbadian painters and sculptors.

HISTORY. Until the sixteenth century there were settlements of Arawak Indians in Barbados, but they had all disappeared before the first known landing of British ships in 1625. During the next three years, two settlements were established by rival British companies. Sir William Courteen founded Jamestown, so-named in honour of King James I and later re-named Holetown. The second settlement, St. Michael Town, founded by the Earl of Carlisle, is now Bridgetown. From the beginning, Barbadians claimed the rights and privileges of Englishmen living overseas, and a governor, council, and assembly were established in 1627 to govern the colony. Since 1639, when the first Barbadian Parliament met, there has been a continuous system of representative government. "The Charter of Barbados" of 1652, setting forth the rights and privileges of the inhabitants has been incorporated in the preamble of the new Constitution. Barbados was one of the British West Indian islands that formed a federation in 1958, but this collapsed in 1962.

By a gradual process of evolution. Barbados became a sovereign nation on November 30, 1966, and a member of the British Commonwealth.

GOVERNMENT. The national government is a parliamentary democracy, headed by a Governor-General named by the British Crown. The Prime Minister is the leader of the political party holding the majority of seats in the House of Assembly, the lower house. The functions of government are exercised by the Prime Minister and the Cabinet of Ministers. The Senate, or upper house, is composed of 21 members named by the Governor General on the advice of the major political parties. The House of Assembly, or lower house, consists of 27 members elected by the people.

As to its international relations, Barbados became a member of the United Nations in December 1966, and took its place as the twenty-third member of the Organization of American States on November 15, 1967.

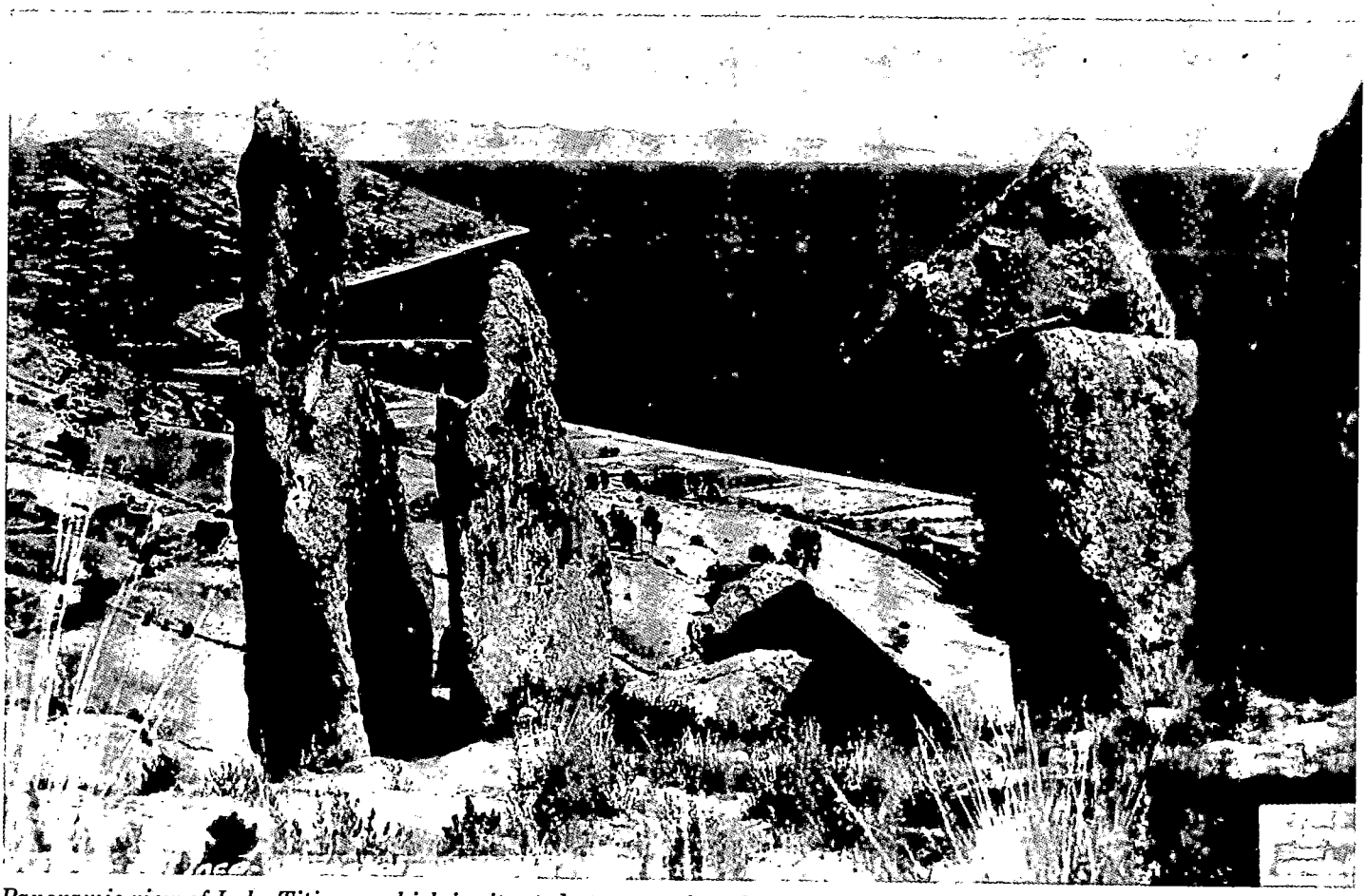
ECONOMY. The Barbadian economy is mostly dependent on sugar and tourism for foreign exchange. Agriculture and fishing are the largest productive sectors, with sugar and its byproducts, molasses and rum, accounting for the greatest percentage of total exports. Widely grown commodities for the domestic market are yams, sweet potatoes, beans, poultry, and milk, among others. The lucrative fishing industry is undergoing further upgrading and expansion.

Agroindustry is the principal manufacturing activity and encompasses food processing, beverages, tobacco, and textiles. Electrical component assembly, chemicals, and the refining of a small amount of petroleum also contribute to the economy.

Because of its many attractive resorts and scenic beauty, tourism is Barbados' second major income earner. Tourist accomodations range from luxury hotels to more modest guest houses and cottages. The island's first class paved roads and many secondary roads make sightseeing easy and pleasurable.

FLAG. Barbados flag has three equal vertical bars; the outer bars are ultramarine blue and the center one is gold with a broken trident in black.

BOLIVIA



Panoramic view of Lake Titicaca which is situated at 12,500 feet above sea level

Area: 424,200 square miles
Population: 5,755,000 (1981)
Capital: Sucre
Seat of Government: La Paz
Currency: peso boliviano
Language: Spanish
Independence Day: August 6
National heroes: Simón Bolívar, Antonio José de Sucre

Bolivia, located in the middle of the Continent of South America, is a vast land of soaring mountains, great rivers, and dense jungles. Immensely rich in natural resources. Bolivia is one of the largest tin-producing countries in the world.

GEOGRAPHY. Bolivia, which has no outlet of its own to the sea as a result of the Pacific War against Chile in 1879, is divided into four unique regions. Between the two forked ranges of the Andean lies the *altiplano*, running 515 miles from north to south, and 75 miles in width from east to west, at elevations averaging 12,000 feet. *La Paz*, lying just below the rim of the altiplano, is the world's highest capital. The altiplano itself is cold, dry, and windswept, the soil adequate only for growing a few native crops. Around Lake Titicaca and the Rio Desaguadero, the earth is more fertile, moist and appropriate for farming and cattle-raising.

In the many *valles*, or valleys, indenting the eastern slopes of the Andes all kinds of fruits and local produce are cultivated, although some are at elevations of 5,000 to 8,000 feet. The climate of the region is benign and temperate throughout the year despite its position between the Equator and the Tropic of Capricorn. However, rainfall is sparse and droughts often occur. Principal cities of the valles are *Sucre, Cochabamba, Tarija, Tupiza* and *Sorata.*

An intermediate region, 1,600 to 5,000 feet high, is

known as the *yungas*. At this height the climate is sufficiently warm to grow semi-tropical and tropical crops.

The *llanos* or great plains of Bolivia extend from the slopes of the Eastern Range to the frontiers with Peru, Brazil, and Paraguay at altitudes varying between 650 to 3,000 feet. This area includes the departments of Pando, Beni, Santa Cruz, and part of La Paz.

At the northeast of the country on the frontier with Peru, the Department of Pando is seamed with navigable waterways, which with their tributaries, drain into the great Amazon River. Here rubber, cacao, almonds, fine woods, and all sorts of tropical produce are grown.

The Andean peaks of Illampú, Illimani, and Sajama exceed 20,000 feet above sea level and are among the highest mountains in the Western Hemisphere; the world's highest navigable body of water, Lake Titicaca, lies partly in Bolivia and partly in Peru at 12,500 feet above sea level.

CULTURE. The racial background of Bolivia's population is made up primarily of three groups: those of Spanish descent, Indians, and mestizos (Spanish and Indian ancestry). The large majority of the present-day Indians belong to two groups: the Quechuas and the Aymarás.

Indian art of the Tiahuanaco period has been found in the Lake Titicaca region, giving evidence of a long and advanced pre-Inca civilization. Colonial architecture is a fusion of Spanish form and Indian design. Modern art reflects Indo-Hispanic influence. Colonial literature was concerned mainly with chronicles and scientific and religious treatises. National literature took on definite forms in the nineteenth century. Bolivian music is regional gay in the valleys, melancholic in the highlands.

In a rugged Andean canyon more than two-and-a-quarter miles above sea level lies *La Paz*, the seat of the national government. *Sucre*, the city in which the Supreme Court holds its sessions, is the official capital of the republic; however, La Paz is the seat of the executive and legislative branches of the government and commercial, industrial, and transportation center of the country.

The impressive stone ruins of the ancient Indian city of Tiahuanaco are famous. Scenic *Copacabana*, on the eastern shore of Lake Titicaca, abounds in Inca and pre-Inca ruins and is noted for its church. *Sorata*, lying in the shadow of the imposing mountain Illampú, is a favorite resort for skiing and boating. *Cochabamba*, second city of the republic, is the center of the eastern region, the most productive agricultural section of the country. At *Potosí* in 1545 Diego Huallpa, an Indian, accidentally discovered what was to become the richest silver mine in the world. In 1546 a Royal Decree gave title to the lands to Captain Juan de Villarroel, founder of the city of Potosí. *Oruro*, another city that owes its existence to the discovery of mines, was founded in 1606 by Don Manuel Castro de Padilla. *Santa Cruz* is in the middle of the tropical zone and only 1,045 feet above sea level. The growth and progress of Santa Cruz have been phenomenal. *Tarija* was founded in southeast Bolivia on the banks of the sparkling Guadalquivir River. Capital of the Department of Beni is *Trinidad*, on the banks of the deep-flowing waters of the Mamoré River. This city is at the center of a region that is crossed by many of the country's navigable rivers on their long journey to the Amazon Basin. *Cobija*, the capital of Pando Department, is the newest of Department capitals and the only one not founded by the Spanish.

EARLY HISTORY. Before the Spanish conquest Bolivia was part of the Inca Empire. The Spanish conqueror Francisco Pizarro sent exploring parties from Peru to Bolivia in the 1530's. Pedro de Anzures founded La Plata, called "the city of four names" because it was later re-named Charcas, Chuquisaca, and finally Sucre in honor of its liberator. Discovery of silver at Potosí greatly enhanced the importance of Bolivian territory in the eyes of the Spaniards. In 1559 the present Bolivia was incorporated in the viceroyalty of Peru as the Audiencia of Charcas and was called Upper Peru; it became part of the viceroyalty of the Rio de la Plata in 1776. Uprisings against Spanish authority began in the early eighteenth century. Upper Peru became the first Spanish colony in America to proclaim its right to independence on May 25, 1809, when the patriots of Chuquisaca deposed the president of the Royal Audiencia. This was followed on July 16 by a similar revolt by the patriots of La Paz, led by Pedro Domingo Murillo, who created a junta or governing council. The revolt failed and Murillo was executed.

In January of 1825 a formal declaration of independence was proclaimed. General Sucre liberated the colony from Spanish rule and Simón Bolívar wrote the Constitution of the new republic, which was named for him. General Sucre became president in December 1826.

GOVERNMENT. The Bolivian Constitution provides for a democratic, representative, unitary republic, with a government made up of three branches: legislative, executive, and judicial. Executive power is exercised by the president, elected by direct vote for a four-year term, together with the ministers of state. Legislative power is vested in the National Congress, consisting of the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate. Judicial power is in the hands of the Supreme Court.

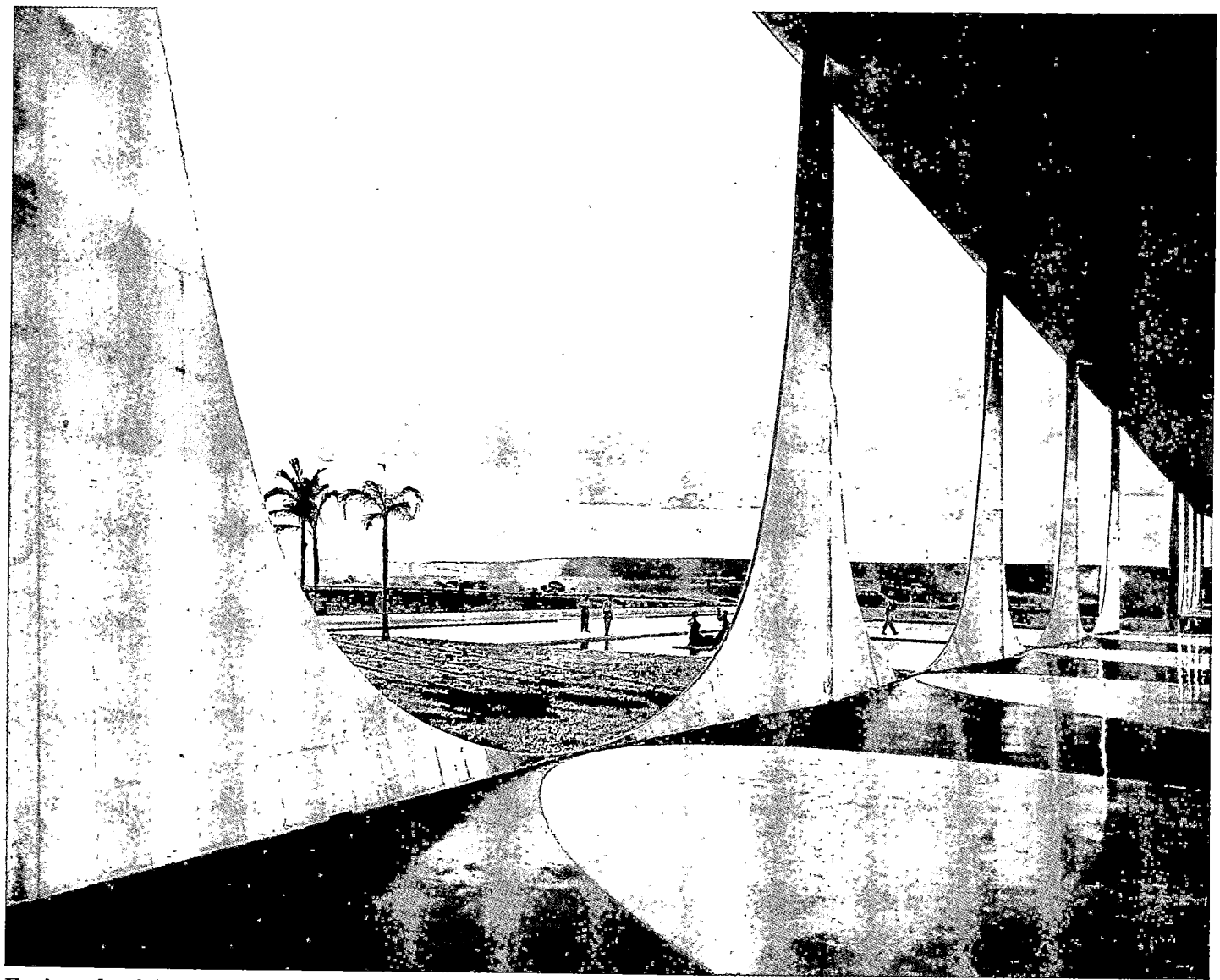
ECONOMY. Bolivia's mining sector generates most of its foreign exchange, although agriculture takes precedence as a contributor to GDP (17 per cent for mining versus 25 per cent for agriculture). Major exports are tin, tungsten, antimony, zinc, bismuth, silver, and gold. Petroleum extraction has declined from its highs of 1974 because of the gradual depletion of known oil-bearing deposits and lack of investment in further exploration. Natural gas, however, has maintained a good level of productivity, and Bolivia exports the fuel to Argentina and Brazil. Lately, the discovery of new crude oil reserves is improving prospects for raising the output of both petroleum and gas.

With the exception of coffee, agricultural products are primarily destined for domestic consumption. Principal crops are cotton, sugar, coffee, corn, potatoes, and rice.

Food processing, beverages, and tobacco count for some two thirds of industrial output. Textiles, leather goods, cement, and glass are also produced on a lesser scale. Export of manufactured goods is minimal.

FLAG. The Bolivian flag consists of three horizontal stripes. The upper stripe is red, the center one yellow, and the lower one green.

BRAZIL



Esplanade of the Alvorada Palace, Brasilia

Area: 3,265,000 square miles
Population: 121,547,000 (1981)
Capital: Brasília
Currency: cruzeiro
Language: Portuguese
Independence Day: September 7
National hero: José Bonifacio de Andrada e Silva

Brazil is often called the "land of the future" because of its dynamic people, growing industry, and varied resources. With its vast forest and mineral wealth, large iron deposits, and hydroelectric potential, Brazilian industry is forging ahead. Brazil's twenty-three states, Federal District, and territories make up the largest republic in Latin America.

GEOGRAPHY. Climate in Brazil varies from tropical in the north to temperate in the south. The sparsely settled basin of the Amazon River, which explorer Francisco de Orellana named Amazonas in honor of a tribe of white women warriors he claimed to have discovered there, is hot and humid. Here one finds virgin forests abounding in valuable hardwoods and exhuberant flora and fauna. Large scale exploitation of the northern region's mineral resources (manganese, iron, bauxite, copper, cassiterite and lead) began in 1980 and cattle raising (particularly buffalo) began in 1979. States of the half-wooded, half-desert expanse of uplands in the northeast are warm but dry. Cotton, cacao, sugar cane, and coffee are raised here

and *carnaúba* wax is harvested from a variety of palm particularly suited to drought conditions. The southern and coastal regions are cooler, having moderate but adequate rainfall. Here one finds the most fertile and productive lands, coffee *fazendas*, cotton, fruits, livestock, and the principal mining and manufacturing centers.

CULTURE. A land of colorful contrasts, Brazil's people and cities reflect a diverse background. The population is made up of all the basic stocks into which the human race is divided—Indian, Caucasian, African, and Asiatic. Brazilians are proud of the fact that they have no segregation or discrimination against minorities.

Ultra-modern *Brasilia*, capital of the nation, is the showcase of the Brazil of today and tomorrow. Strategically located on the Central Plateau, and having grown more than any other Brazilian capital city during the past 10 years, (8.13 per cent a year), it is the center of the developing hinterland. *Salvador*, first capital of colonial Brazil, is noted for its fine port, majestic churches, and fabulous carnival celebration in which African folklore still plays a colorful part. *Recife*, is Brazil's third largest city and hub of the northeast. Among historic landmarks are forts and buildings constructed by early Dutch settlers. São Paulo, one of the fastest-growing cities on the globe, is South America's major industrial center.

In the meat-packing and wine-producing state of *Rio Grande do Sul* one finds descendents of immigrants from Portugal, Bavaria, Tuscany. The cosmopolitan former capital, *Rio de Janeiro*, blends the beauties of nature and man. Its many attractions include Copacabana Beach, Sugar Loaf Mountain, and Corcovado Peak.

HISTORY. Brazil was discovered in 1500 by the Portuguese navigator Pedro Alvares Cabral, who claimed the territory for King Manoel of Portugal. Cabral called the region Vera Cruz, a name eventually changed to Brazil after a dyewood, pau-brasil, found and exported by the early settlers. Brazil's first movement for independence (1789) was led by idealistic Joaquim José da Silva Xavier, better known by the nickname of *"Tiradentes"*.

In 1815, Brazil was declared part of a united kingdom under the Portuguese monarch King João VI, whose son Dom Pedro was named regent of Brazil in 1821. Dom Pedro declared Brazilian independence with the "Grito do Ypiranga" (Independence or Death) on September 7, 1822. After being proclaimed constitutional emperor of Brazil, Pedro I chose as his prime minister the great statesman José Bonifacio de Andrada e Silva, who is honored by Brazilians as "Patriarch of Independence" and national hero. The rise of the republican spirit during the next 50 years resulted in the total abolition of African slavery in 1888 and the end of the monarchy. Brazil was proclaimed a federal republic without violence or bloodshed, in November 1889. The Constitution of 1969 or first amendment to the Constitution of 1967, as it is officially called, is now in force.

GOVERNMENT. Brazil's Constitution provides for the separation of power among three branches of government: legislative, executive, and judicial. The president of the republic is elected for a six-year term and may not succeed himself. The legislative power is vested in the National Congress composed of two houses: the Federal Senate and the Chamber of Deputies. The judicial power consists of a Federal Supreme Court, and Federal Court of Appeals, and military, electoral, and labor tribunals. In 1960 the seat of the federal government was moved from Rio de Janeiro to Brasilia. The purpose of this change was to speed development of the country's vast interior.

ECONOMY. After many years of concentration on building a powerful industrial infrastructure, Brazil is again giving priority attention to agriculture. Major crops are coffee, corn, rice, meat, dairy products, soybeans, cocoa, sugar, and citric fruits. Of these, Brazil exports coffee, sugar, cocoa, soybeans, and fruit concentrates, which generate 45 per cent of total export earnings. Brazil is number one in the world in coffee, and orange production; it is second to the United States in soybean production, second to the Soviet Union in sugar production, and second to Ghana in cocoa production.

Manufacturing accounts for almost 29 per cent of GDP. Heavy industry —iron, steel, metalworking, chemicals, oil refining and petrochemicals— is growing by leaps and bounds. In the secondary industrial sector the largest relative increases in real output have been in machinery and tools, electronic and communications equipment, pulp and paper, chemicals and plastic products. Brazil became the world's tenth largest automobile manufacturer in 1978. Also, the industrial sector is responsible for over 50 per cent of exports, ranging from airplanes, automobiles and heavy machinery, to shoes, furniture and housewares. In recent years the service sector has markedly increased its participation in export earnings, mainly in the fields of civil engineering and telecommunications. Both industry and services find promising markets in the developing world.

Pressed by volatile international oil markets, and its huge fossil fuel bill, Brazil has stepped up development of new oil fields, through its state-owned enterprise PETROBRAS, and risk contracts with foreign firms, increasing domestic production from 17 per cent of total consumption in 1976 to nearly 40 per cent in 1982. As part of its energy program, Brazil is not only involved in regional development of major hydroelectric projects and in the expansion of its nuclear capacity, but is also a leader in the development of renewable sources of energy, as demonstrated by its alcohol fuel program, the largest of its kind in the world.

FLAG. The national flag consists of a green rectangle on which a yellow diamond is centered, containing a blue sphere with 23 stars representing the Southern Cross, the states, and the Federal District. Across the sphere is a white band bearing the words "Ordem e Progresso' (Order and Progress).

CHILE



St. Lucia Hill, Santiago

Area: 292,200 square miles
Population: 11,128,000 (1981)
Capital: Santiago
Currency: peso
Language: Spanish
Independence Day: September 18
National hero: Bernardo O'Higgins

In addition to its unusual geographic features and spectacular scenery, Chile is known for notable achievements on the human scale: It was one of the first countries to found a public school system, to establish social security, to pass model labor laws, and undertake low-cost housing programs. By nature good-humored and hospitable, Chileans are justly proud of having one of the highest literacy rates in the Western Hemisphere.

GEOGRAPHY. Chile, lashed by waves, cut by rushing rivers, and studded with mountain peaks, extends almost 2,700 miles to the southernmost tip of South America. This narrow ribbon of land (nowhere more than 250 miles wide) lies imprisoned between the snow-capped Andean ranges and the Pacific. Under its northern Atacama Desert are the world's largest deposits of nitrate and copper. In this desert region are places in which no rain has ever been recorded. Antofagasta is the major port of this mining area.

Middle Chile, from Coquimbo to Concepción, contains the bulk of the population, the major cities, the largest and richest farms, and the industrial centers of the country. The Andean ranges, rich in gold, silver, copper, nickel, lead, manganese, and other minerals, reach heights exceeding 21,000 feet between Copiapó and Valparaíso.

The Central Valley, with its temperate climate, rapid-flowing rivers, and rich soil, is one of the world's most fertile agricultural regions; it also contains mineral and

forest resources. The chief crops are wheat, corn, lentils, and subtropical fruits. The valley's famous vineyards produce millions of gallons of wine, famed for its quality and flavor.

Patagonia, one of the world's finest sheep-raising regions extending southward to the Strait of Magellan, is a land of virgin forests, strong winds, snow-capped volcanic cones, sparkling lakes, glaciers, and fiords. The Chilean lake region is one of South America's most popular resort and tourist areas.

South of Puerto Montt, a maze of channels and islands makes coastal navigation dangerous. Steamers end their run at Punta Arenas, a busy modern port at the Strait of Magellan and Chile's southernmost city. As the center of a vast sheep-raising industry, Punta Arenas is the shipping port for wool and mutton; and more recently for crude oil and coal. South of the Strait of Magellan lies the island known as Tierra del Fuego shared by Chile and Argentina. The rugged island supports a huge population of sheep. Chile's islands possessions include Easter Island and the Juan Fernández Islands. Chilean territory extends into the frozen Antarctic, home of penguins, seals, and the famous blue whales.

CULTURE. Chile is a country of energetic people, the descendants of Araucanian Indians, Spanish settlers, and other European immigrants, who came in large numbers from all parts of Europe during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The mixture of these hardy elements produced a people noted for physical strength, endurance, resourcefulness, personal independence, and optimism. The present Indian population comprises two per cent or less of the total; Chile has virtually no blacks. Santiago, capital of the republic, is the political, economic, and artistic center of the nation. Its Spanish colonial heritage has been enriched by learned scholars, both native and foreign, who have molded a truly national culture. Chileans have contributed much to the field of literature and the arts. Gabriela Mistral, winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature, in 1945, and Pablo Neruda, awarded the same honor in 1971, are recognized as among the major poets of the Americas. Claudio Arrau is one of the world's outstanding pianists.

Busy *Valparaíso* is major port for exportation of the products of central Chile: *Viña del Mar*, renowned seaside resort, lies on the hills and in the curve of a beautiful bay. *Santiago, Concepción, Valparaíso,* and *Valdivia* are the main industrial centers.

EARLY HISTORY. Northern Chile formed part of the Inca Empire at the time of its conquest by Francisco Pizarro and his partner Diego de Almagro. The King of Spain named Almagro Captain-General of New Toledo, now northern Chile. In the civil war between Pizarro and Almagro over the dividing line of their colonial domains, both men lost their lives before the end of 1541. In this same year Pedro de Valdivia founded Santiago and laid the foundation of a new colony. Colonization was slow because of the fierce resistance of the freedom-loving Araucanians, led by Lautaro and Caupolicán. The latter is immortalized in *La Araucana,* written by Alonso de Ercilla, a Spaniard who recorded Chile's early history in one of the greatest epics of Spanish-American literature.

Chileans remained loyal to the Spanish Crown until 1810. By that time the revolutionary movement was gathering force throughout the Continent and on September 18, 1810, Chilean patriots established a self-governing junta (council). Under the leadership of Bernardo O'Higgins and José M. Carrera, a congress was convoked in Santiago on July 4, 1811, and the first republican constitution was adopted. Spanish royalist forces from Peru regained possession of the country, but Chile was liberated from Spanish rule in decisive battles won by the Army of the Andes, led by José de San Martín and O'Higgins in 1817-18. Chile began its history as an independent republic under the presidency of Bernardo O'Higgins, honored as the "Father of His Country" and national hero.

GOVERNMENT. Under the provisions of the Constitution of 1980, the Government of Chile is divided into three branches: the executive, the legislative, and the judicial.

ECONOMY. Economic emphasis in Chile has been on diversifying and strengthening industry. A variety of heavy and light industries include iron and steel, pulp and paper, copper products, chemicals and petrochemicals, metalworking, automobile assembly, electronics, food and beverages, and textiles and clothing.

Agriculture employs 28 per cent of Chile's labor force and is marked by a wide variety of crops, such as grains and all kinds of fruits and vegetables. Grapes are widely grown and are the basis of Chile's famous wine industry.

Chile is one of the ranking producers and exporters of copper and the main producer of natural nitrates. Other important minerals extracted are iron ore, molybdenum, and coal. Established petroleum deposits supply 40% of the internal needs, but great expectations are held for deposits believed to exist in the Strait of Magellan.

Fishing and the country's large forest reserves are assuming more and more economic importance. The cellulose and paper products industry is growing vigorously, and processed and unprocessed seafood is increasing its share of foreign exchange earnings.

In addition to iron ore and nitrates, major exports include forest products, fruits and vegetables, processed foods, and petrochemicals.

FLAG. The lower half of the Chilean flag is red and the upper half white, with a field of blue in the upper left corner, with a white star in the center.

COLOMBIA



One of the golden figures displayed in Bogotá's Museum of Gold

Area: 439,800 square miles
Population: 26,730,000 (1981)
Capital: Bogotá
Currency: peso
Language: Spanish
Independence Day: July 20
National hero: Francisco de Paula Santander

Colombia, the only country in the world that bears the name of the discoverer of America, abuts the Isthmus of Panama. Land of El Dorado and emeralds, Colombia is unique in that its shores are washed by the waters of two oceans, the Atlantic (Caribbean) and the Pacific.

GEOGRAPHY. Colombia is made up of coastal lowlands bordering both the Atlantic (Caribbean) and the Pacific; a mountainous west central region, crossed from north to south by three parallel ranges of the Andes, between which are highland valleys; and the *oriente*, or eastern region, which is divided into the plains or *llanos* of the north and the *selvas* or jungle-forest in the basins of the Orinoco and Amazon rivers. The climate ranges from hot and humid in the coastal plains, llanos, and selvas, to temperate and cold in the highlands. The Cauca Valley, noted for its climate and scenic beauty, is one of the country's principal agricultural areas.

CULTURE. Before the Spanish conquest, Colombia was inhabited by numerous Indian tribes. The principal ones were the Caribs, who lived in the lowlands bordering the Caribbean, and the Chibchas, who occupied the highland plateaus of the Andes. Remnants of the Chibcha, Quimbaya, and Calima cultures consist chiefly of jewelry, masks, and other metal objects. Outstanding examples are preserved in the Museum of Gold in the Bank of the Repub-

lic in Bogotá. This famous collection of hand-wrought gold and silver articles and ceramics gives evidence of a high degree of native craftsmanship. The population of Colombia is predominantly of European and Indian origin, with a small percentage of Blacks and pure Indians.

The venerable capital *Bogotá* in its majestic setting on the broad *sabana* (plateau) partially encircled by Andean ranges, represents the essence of Colombian tradition based on Spanish colonial culture. This "Athens of America," as it has been called, preserves its colonial landmarks and renowned institutions of learning side by side with its tall, modern buildings. *Medellín*, second city of the republic in size and first in economic importance, is an intellectual, industrial, and commercial center. Coffee produced in this region is noted for its flavor. *Cali*, in the luxuriant Cauca Valley, is Colombia's fastest growing city. The patrician city of *Popayán*, birth place of many eminent men contains priceless examples of colonial art and architecture.

Cartagena, strategically situated on a fine natural harbor, was one of the wealthiest centers of colonial trade and the object of repeated attacks by pirates who sailed the Spanish Main. *Bucaramanga* is the center of an important coffee and tobacco growing zone. Tropical cosmopolitan *Barranquilla* is an important shipping and transportation center at the mouth of the Magdalena River near the Caribbean. *Cúcuta*, birthplace of Colombia's national hero Francisco de Paula Santander, is the center of a large agricultural and livestock zone; the development of the Catatumbo oil fields has been a recent factor in its growth and prosperity. The port of *Santa Marta*, one of the oldest cities on the South American mainland, still preserves its distinctive colonial architecture. The export of bananas is the leading commercial activity. Colombia's principal seaport on the Pacific is *Buenaventura*. *Manizales*, *Pereira*, and *Armenia* are progressive industrial cities in western Colombia.

Colombia is outstanding because of the consistency with which is has maintained a high cultural level throughout its history, and for the unusually large number of cultured and professional men who have devoted themselves to public life. Colombian literature and writing are noted for their classic purity. Gabriel García Márquez was the winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1982. Colonial architecture closely resembles that of Spain, a distinctive local feature being the simplicity of exterior decoration. Colombia's popular music possesses a wealth of original themes and rhythms, influenced by the forms introduced by the Spaniards and by Black slaves.

EARLY HISTORY. Colombia was discovered by Alonso de Ojeda, who accompanied Columbus on his second voyage to the New World in 1500. Between 1500 and 1538 when Gonzalo Jiménez de Quesada founded Santa Fe de Bogotá, the territory was widely explored and the first permanent settlements were established. Quesada, the cultured magistrate and symbol of justice, was the greatest figure in the first 40 years of existence of New Granada, as the colony was called.

Despite conflicts with the Indians and frequent attacks on the coastal cities by French, English, and Dutch buccaneers, the colony grew and prospered and was elevated to the status of a viceroyalty in 1718. The movement for independence was nurtured by the great patriot and intellectual leader Antonio Nariño, who translated *The Rights of Man* into Spanish. Growing unrest against mounting taxes and the restrictions imposed by the Crown reached a climax with the *comunero* revolt in the town of Socorro in 1781. On July 20, 1810, the Creoles of Bogotá demanded self government and created the Supreme Junta (administrative council) of New Granada. Absolute independence from Spain was proclaimed on July 16, 1813. However, the Spaniards reconquered New Granada and reestablished the viceroyalty in 1817. In 1819 the great Venezuelan hero, Simón Bolívar, and General Francisco de Paula Santander led their armies over the Andes from Venezuela and won a decisive victory over the Spanish forces at Boyacá. Bolívar's dream of uniting New Granada with Venezuela in the Republic of Greater Colombia was consummated by the Congress of Angostura (December 1819). However, the confederation was dissolved in 1830, when Venezuela and Ecuador withdrew to establish themselves as sovereign nations.

In 1832 a new Colombian constitution established the federal form of government. General Santander, called the "Champion of Legality," was the first president, and he more than any other made Colombia a nation, charting its course toward democracy and sound, orderly government. The revolution of 1885 marked the end of the federal system.

GOVERNMENT. The Constitution of 1886 reorganized the nation as a unitary republic with three main branches: the executive, legislative, and judicial. This Constitution with subsequent amendments, is still in effect.

The president, head of the executive branch, is elected by popular vote for four years. The legislative power is exercised by a Congress consisting of two chambers, the Senate and the House of Representatives. Judicial power rests with the Supreme Court.

ECONOMY. Colombia has one of the most varied economies in the world due to its peculiar geographic configuration. Its economy, traditionally based on agriculture, cattle-raising, and mining, has been buttressed by rapid industrial growth. Within this category are food processing and textile-weaving. The latter employs the most ancient and, at the same time, the most modern techniques in Latin-America and is an important item of export. Colombia's petroleum industry is among the foremost on the Continent and its coal reserves are among the largest in the Hemisphere. Also a great producer of coffee, Colombia is second only to Brazil. Seventy per cent of the nation's income is derived from export of coffee beans. Other agricultural products are bananas, cacao, cotton, sugar cane, tobacco, fruits, and many types of vegetables and grain. The Paz del Rio Steel mills process all iron and steel. From Colombia come 95 per cent of all the emeralds in the world. Other minerals mined are gold, silver, copper, platinum, mercury, manganese, coal, iron, nickel, and salt.

FLAG. The national flag consists of three horizontal stripes—yellow, blue, and red, the upper half of the flag being yellow.

COSTA RICA



Monument to the national hero, Juan Rafael Mora, in San José

Area: 19,700 square miles
Population: 2,271,000 (1981)
Capital: San José
Currency: colón
Language: Spanish
Independence Day: September 15
National hero: Juan Rafael Mora

Costa Rica is outstanding for its long-established system of public education and its orderly, democratic tradition.

GEOGRAPHY. Costa Rica's three volcanic ranges give climatic variety to a country lying completely in the tropics. Hot, rainy lowlands along the Caribbean are ideal for the cultivation of bananas and cacao. Coffee is grown in the cooler uplands and dairy farming is also an important occupation. The temperate central plateau, with its coffee plantations, picturesque villages, and age-old forests, is the heart of the nation; it contains the majority of the population and produces the best agricultural crops. The soil is unusually rich because of volcanic ash deposited over the centuries. Irazú is the highest and most active of Costa Rica's eleven volcanoes. Of the other ten Arenal and Poás are still active; the latter's crater at its summit is said to be the largest in the world—more than a mile in diameter. In March of 1963 Irazú, after lying almost dormant for many years began to erupt and showered the central valley with tons of volcanic ash for nearly two years.

CULTURE. Costa Rica has a homogeneous population. Of the total, about 48 per cent of the people are descended from Spaniards, Italians, Germans, or other Europeans, and 47 per cent have some Indian blood. Only two per cent are pure Indian, and three per cent black. On the central plateau, the majority of farmers operate their own small farms; but on the Pacific side there are large properties and tenant workers. The farmer, a respected member of Costa Rica's thriving middle class, adds a dash of color to the provincial scene by decorating his oxcart with gay, geometrical designs.

Costa Rica's advanced system of public education accounts for its very low rate of illiteracy—one of the lowest in the Hemisphere. Presently there are four public universities, with around 90,000 enrollment. The National Institute of Learning for vocational manpower training has been functioning for several years, and the Institute of Technology is located in Cartago. The Inter-American Institute for Coöperation on Agriculture, a specialized organization of the OAS, with headquarters in San José, makes a significant contribution to agricultural development in Latin America through research, training, and technical assistance.

The native Indians who inhabited the country before the Spaniards came were excellent craftsmen, noted for their gold and jade ornaments, pottery, and stone sculpture. The Chorotegas excelled in exquisite pottery and carved jade, which showed a Mayan influence. The Borucas, who inhabited the southwest, produced an unusual brown textile, woven so that the designs appeared on one side only.

Costa Rica's peaceful and democratic way of life is exemplified by its literature. A leading type of writing is the realistic "costumbrismo," which describes the folkways and customs of the people. In music and dance the blending of Indian and Spanish elements finds full expression. Culture in general is magnificently represented in an abundance of painting and sculpture, theatrical performances, and the concerts of the National Symphony Orchestra.

The Costa Rican capital, *San José*, with its varied Spanish colonial and modern architecture, is the center of business, political, and cultural life. The city is situated on a plateau abounding in streams, rocky gorges, waterfalls, pine groves, and rolling hills. San José has grown outward, not upward, because of the possibility of earthquakes. One of its most outstanding attractions is the National Theater, reputed to be one of the most beautiful in Central America. On the grassy *sabana* (plain) outside of the city are sports fields and the National Stadium. *Alajuela*, second city of the republic and center of a sugar and coffe-growing district, is not far from San José; the International Airport "Juan Santamaría" is situated on its outskirts.

Cartago, the first capital, is Costa Rica's oldest Spanish colonial city. *Heredia*, called the "city of flowers," is the center of the principal coffee-growing province and an important cattle center. Here too is found the National University. Settled by Andalusians, its southern Spanish atmosphere is hightened by red-tiled roofs, iron grillwork at the windows, beautiful patios, and white adobe walls. The busy Caribbean port of *Puerto Limón* is situated on the site of an Indian village on Carîarí Bay, where Columbus anchored on his fourth and last voyage to the New World. The important Pacific seaport of *Puntarenas* is also a popular seaside resort.

EARLY HISTORY. When Columbus discovered Costa Rica in 1502, he sent his brother Bartolomé to explore the region. The Indians, friendly at first, stubbornly resisted later invasions by the Spaniards. It was not until 1564 that Juan Vásquez de Coronado founded Cartago, the first permanent settlement. Coronado, who advanced the conquest of the region by peaceful means, brought with him colonists of Basque origin and introduced cattle, horses, and swine. He established some of the earliest cattle ranches in the New World. After Coronado's death, Costa Rica was ruled from Guatemala City by the Spanish Captaincy-General.

On September 15, 1821, the independence of Spain's Central American colonies was proclaimed at Guatemala City. In 1823, the five Central American provinces united to form the federation of Central America, which endured around 15 years and was dissolved after much internal strife that culminated in the death of one of Central America's famous heroes, General Francisco Morazán. Years later Costa Rica was compelled to resort to armed force when an audacious North American adventurer, William Walker, attempted to take over the country. Walker was defeated by troops led by the national hero, Rafael Mora, then President of the Republic.

GOVERNMENT. The current Constitution came into being in 1949, replacing the one promulgated in 1871. Its first article declares that "Costa Rica is a free and independent democratic republic." Legislative power is vested in a Legislative Assembly, consisting of only one house. The president is elected directly by the people for a term of four years. Judicial power resides in the Supreme Court.

ECONOMY. Traditionally agriculture is the main economic activity in Costa Rica. In the 1980s, however, industry and tourism have been the principal contributors to GNP because of a series of droughts that affected farm and livestock productivity.

Principal agricultural products are coffee, bananas, cocoa, sugar, and beef, all of which are exported as well as consumed domestically.

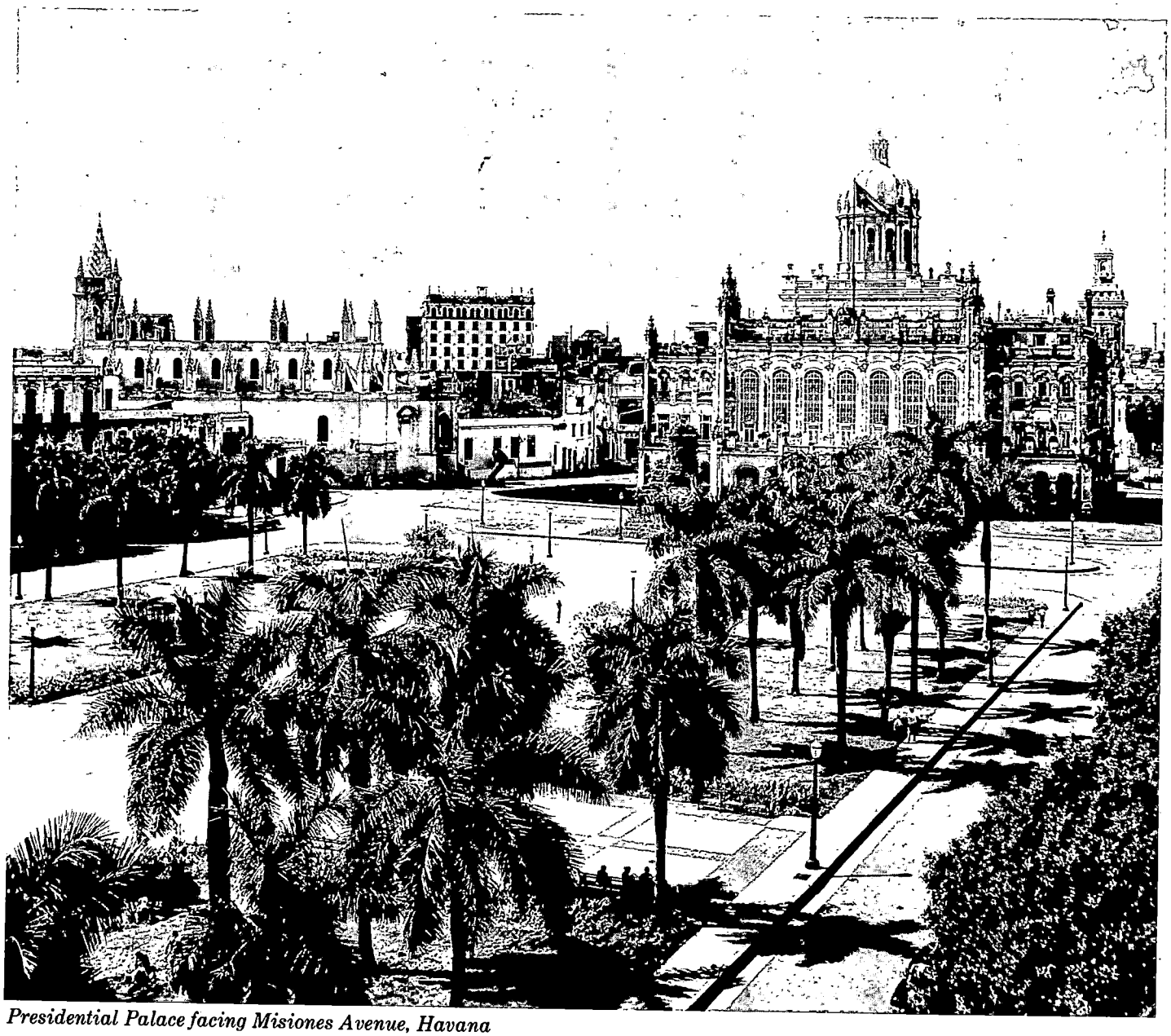
The dynamism of industry, trade, and investment largely offset the stagnation in agriculture. Costa Rica manufactures and exports fertilizers, paints, pharmaceuticals, furniture, and refrigerators.

The scenery, charm, and hospitality of Costa Rica accounts for a rising tide of tourism. The industry is benefiting from an infusion of investment and improved promotional know-how.

The country has over 15,000 miles of roads and highways, including a section of the Pan American Highway. Various routes and railways connect the ports of the Atlantic and Pacific. There is an ample supply of hydroelectric power.

FLAG. The Costa Rican flag consists of five horizontal stripes; the center one of red is the widest; the next two are white, and the outside ones are blue.

CUBA



Presidential Palace facing Misiones Avenue, Havana

Area: 44,200 square miles
Population: 9,833,000 (1980)
Capital: Havana
Currency: Peso
Language: Spanish
Independence Day: May 20
National hero: José Martí

GEOGRAPHY. Cuba, "the pearl of the Antilles," has a wealth of scenic beauty, historical treasures, agricultural products, and mineral deposits. Located just inside the tropical zone, Cuba is the largest island of the West Indies.

Lying at the entrance to the Gulf of Mexico, this long, narrow land consists of three principal mountain ranges: the Sierra de los Organos, the Macizo Central, and the Sierra Maestra. More than half of the land area consists of coastal lowlands and rolling green valleys. The most rugged mountains lie in the southeastern part of the island, the Oriente. Deep pouch-shaped bays along the irregular coastline make excellent natural harbors. Numerous keys and islets dot the coast, the largest being the beautiful Isle of Pines, famous for its fruits.

CULTURE. Cuba has a population composed of persons of Spanish descent, mulattoes, and some blacks. The country's contributions to literature are considerable. Among its more representative writers, José Martí is pre-eminent. Two great musical traditions—European and African—exist. They have developed both independently and as a modern mixture.

The Cuban capital, *Havana*, is the largest city and chief port; it is a cosmopolitan blend of native, ancient, and modern traditions. Havana's notable landmarks include its harborside forts: impressive Morro Castle, the fortress of La Punta, and ancient La Fuerza.

Pinar del Rio Province, in the western part of the country, is a region of mountains, canyons, and beautiful fertile valleys, such as the Valley of Viñales. The famous Vuelta Abajo region produces some of the best tobacco in the world.

Located in an extensive agricultural region is *Camagüey*, known as the city of churches. It is the capital of the province of the same name, which is outstanding for extensive cattle-raising, as well as for valuable hardwood forests, important mineral deposits, and tropical fruits. *Matanzas*, in the beautiful, palm-dotted Yumurí Valley on Cuba's north coast, is an important sugar-trading and shipping center. Close by are the Bellamar Caves and the Hermitage of Monserrate. To the northeast is the popular Varadero Beach.

Santa Clara is an important railroad junction in the center of the island. Cuba's thriving port of *Cienfuegos*, is situated on the magnificent 20-miles-long Bay of Jagua. The city is known for its distilleries, and soap, candle, tobacco, brick, tile, and soft drink industries. Farther east is unspoiled *Sancti Spiritus*, with its air of antiquity and many old colonial buildings. Overlooking the Caribbean coast is the museum city *Trinidad*, one of the first settlements on the island and port of departure for Cortés when he set out to conquer Mexico.

In the mountainous Province of Oriente—a region of great mineral wealth, vast untouched forests of rare woods, and many sugar mills—is *Las Tunas*, scene of a famous battle of the Second War of Independence in 1895. The ancient village of *Gibara*, where Columbus first set foot on Cuban soil, is also in this area. Colorful, mellow *Santiago*, second city of the republic, is a historical place located in a sea-and-mountain setting. Nearby Yara and Baire were two of the chief points at which the patriots raised the standard of Cuban freedom. To the east lie the hills of El Caney and San Juan, sites of historic battles.

EARLY HISTORY. Cuba was discovered by Columbus in 1492 and colonized by Diego Velázquez. By 1515 he had established seven settlements, including Santiago, which served as the capital until 1556. Cuba prospered as a crossroads of trade, thus attracting the attention of pirates who made repeated attacks on the island during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. In 1762, when Spain was at war with Great Britain, a British force attacked Havana and took it by force. Havana was held by the British until July 1763, when the island was returned to Spain in exchange for Florida. Numerous rebel outbreaks preceded the so-called "Ten Years War," which started in 1868 when Carlos Manuel de Céspedes, with a group of patriots, issued the proclamation of independence known as the "Grito de Yara." As a result of this long war, a great part of the island's wealth was destroyed.

The second and definitive war of independence, begun in 1895, was largely engineered by José Martí, who revived the Cubans' nationalistic feelings. The final conflict began in the town of Baire, with the "Grito de Baire," under the military command of Máximo Gómez and with the cooperation of such valiant generals as Antonio Maceo, Calixto García, and others. With the death of Martí that year, the Cubans were more dedicated than ever to winning their liberty. In 1898 war broke out between the United States and Spain; it lasted 100 days and resulted in the final liberation of Cuba. The Republic of Cuba was established on May 20, 1902, with Tomás Estrada Palma as President.

*GOVERNMENT.** The Constitution in force is that of 1976 that declares the country to be "a socialist state". The supreme power is the Asamblea Nacional del Poder Popular (the National Assembly of People's Power). The Assembly also exercises the legislative power and names the Council of State. The President of the Council is the head of Government. The Judicial power rests on the Tribunal Supremo Popular (Popular Supreme Court).

ECONOMY. Cuba is essentially an agricultural country. Its economy is based on the sugar industry, in spite of its great mineral resources of nickel, copper, and manganese. Cuba also grows some of the finest tobacco in the world. Stock-raising and related processing industries are also of importance. Among the many fruits grown in the country, pineapples and bananas are of excellent quality. The thriving citrus industry is a large volume producer of concentrated orange juice. Principal exports are sugar, tobacco, nickel oxide and sulfide, fish, rum, and fruits.

FLAG. The Cuban flag consists of three horizontal blue stripes separated by two white stripes; on the side next to the flagstaff is an equilateral triangle in red with a white star in its center.

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*The Cuban Government was excluded from participation in the OAS in January 1962. The country remains a member.

COMMONWEALTH OF DOMINICA



This beautiful lily is representative of the rare flora and fauna that abound in the Commonwealth of Dominica. Courtesy of the Caribbean Tourism Association

Area: 300 square miles
Population: 81,000 (1979)
Capital: Roseau
Currency: Eastern Caribbean dollar
Language: English
Independence Day: November 3

The Commonwealth of Dominica, a sun-splashed island, is one of the newest, and smallest of the 31 nation members of the OAS. Roughly oblong in shape, the Commonwealth of Dominica is located between Guadeloupe and Martinique and is 90 minutes by air from Venezuela.

GEOGRAPHY. This country is the largest of the island group known as the Windward Islands in the Lesser Antilles. With an area of 300 square miles, it is 29 miles long and 16 miles wide. The rugged but beautiful terrain is dominated by a central mountain range that runs from one end of the island to the other, with lateral salients descending from each side. Toward the north the main peak is Morne aux Diable, which is separated from the central part by a valley. Over the center of the country loom Morne Diablotin (4,747 ft.), Morne Couronne, and Morne Trois Pitons.

Flowing west along the central mountains' valley is the Roseau River, so named by the French for the thick reeds, or *roseau*, that cover its banks. To the west at the mouth of the river lies the island's most populous city, Roseau.

At the lower end of the island the peaks of Morne Anglais and Morne Plat Pays are divided by two river valleys through which a road links Soufrière in the west to Grand Bay.

The volcanic origin of the island is evident from the many thermal and numerous other springs. The Boiling Lake Geyser is an interesting phenomenon.

Rainfall is variable throughout the country. The mountains receive much more rain than the coast. June to October is normally the true rainy season. Daytime temperatures range between 75° F. and 90° F.

CULTURE. The Commonwealth of Dominica was once inhabited by the peaceful Arawak Indians, who were later exterminated by the fierce Caribs. In the 18th and early 19th centuries the island changed hands several times as Great Britain and France engaged in a tug-of-war over its possession. Meanwhile, Africans were imported to work the plantations. When the island reverted conclusively to British hands, the warlike Caribs were consigned to a reservation in the interior. There, today, they represent the last surviving remnant of a tribe that once inhabited all the islands of the Caribbean. Of the some 2,500 residents of the reservation few, if any, can be considered "pure" Caribs, having given refuge to and freely intermingled with the runaway slaves that long ago fled their white masters.

The country's present population is overwhelmingly black and, while English is the official language, many of the people speak a local patois akin to French—a reminder of the many years of French occupation.

The island's general standard of public health is excellent. Literacy is a relatively high 80 per cent. Clear, sparkling springs, emanating from the country's 365 rivers, provide pure drinking water. Postal and telephone systems are reliable.

Since its beaches are negligible, Dominica relies for tourism on the attraction of its lush, tropical vegetation, stunning mountains, and picturesque rivers. It calls itself "the land of the three Rs": rivers, rainbows, and romance. And, in spite of the dearth of beaches, Dominica offers many types of water sports. Further, the rich variety of flora and 135 species of native birds constitute an irresistible lure to naturalists and bird watchers. Roughly nine per cent of the island is reserved for the development of national parks. Inter-island hops to and from Guadeloupe and Martinique and other nearby islands provide a popular and inexpensive change of pace.

Roseau, the country's capital city, is the chief port and administrative and commercial center. It is also the site of the most important schools and the Princess Margaret General Hospital.

Interesting buildings in the town are the Roman Catholic Cathedral of the Assumption, the House of the Bishop of Roseau, Government House, and the Fort Young Hotel, which was built into the old French Fort. On the outskirts of Roseau, the island's pride, her botanical gardens, occupy 44 acres containing native and exotic trees and plants and colorful flowering shrubs.

Portsmouth, the town second in importance, lies on Prince Rupert Bay in the northwest. It is the outlet for crops from the interior and the main point of access to the most beautiful part of the island.

HISTORY. Because of its rugged terrain the Commonwealth of Dominica was one of the last of the Windward Islands explored, although it was discovered by Christopher Columbus in 1493 on a Sunday (Domingo), hence its name.

Time after time in the 17th century the island changed hands between France and England. Even after the Treaty of Paris in 1793 gave over possession to England, French forces in 1805 invaded Dominica and burned Roseau. the British ransomed the island for 12,000 pounds, and the French departed this troubled speck of the Caribbean for the last time.

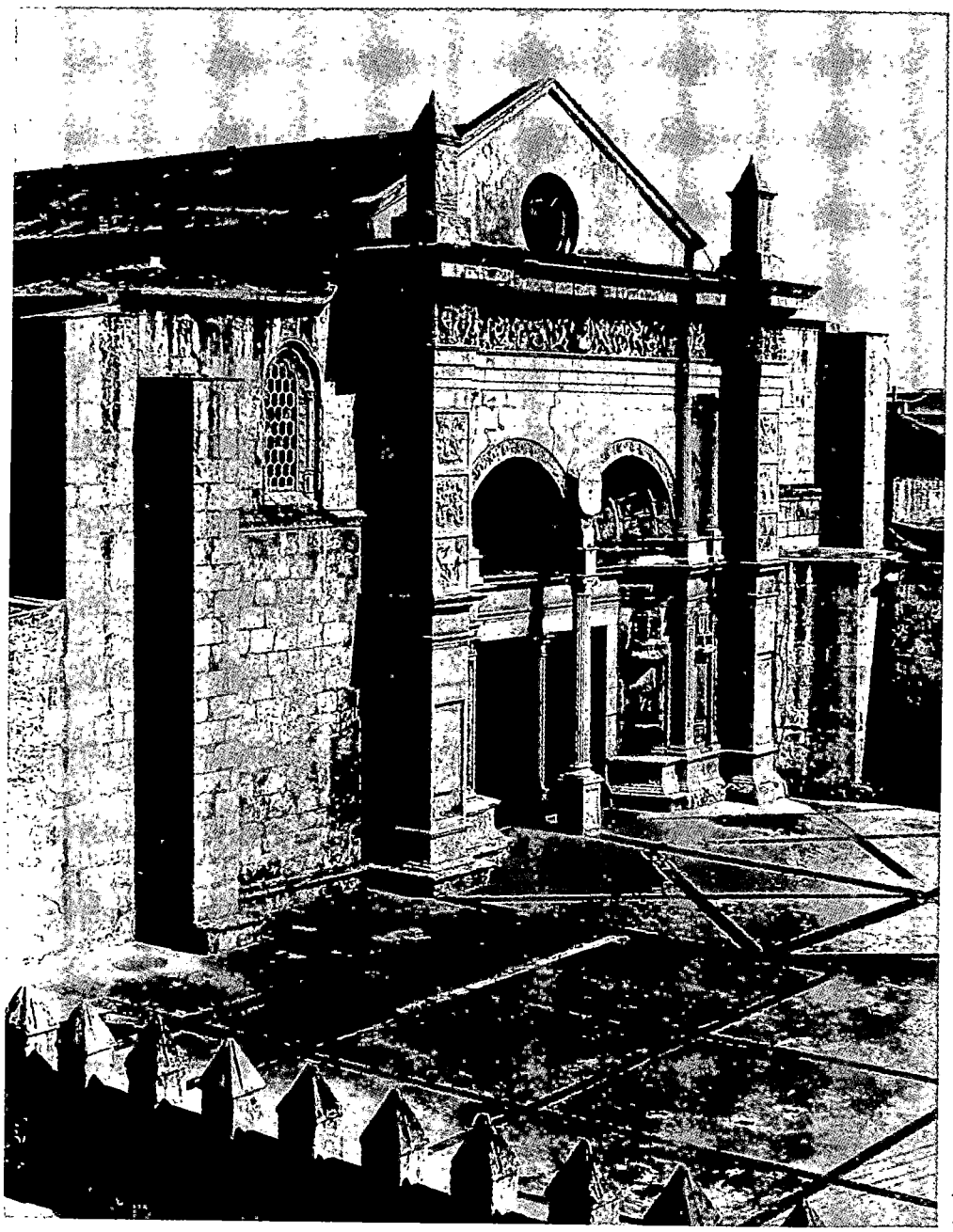
Still under the aegis of the British Crown, the Commonwealth of Dominica joined the short-lived Federation of the West Indies in 1958 and remained a member until its dissolution in 1962. It then became an Associated State of the United Kingdom in 1967, a status that brought the island self-government, but left the U.K. responsible for defense and foreign affairs. On November 3, 1978, at exactly 12:01 a.m., the country became a fully independent nation and a member of the British Commonwealth.

GOVERNMENT. The Commonwealth of Dominica is governed under a parliamentary system, headed by a Prime Minister, assisted by Cabinet ministers. Local government is conducted by individual town and village councils.

ECONOMY. Dominica is mainly an agricultural nation with industrial activity directed toward food processing and consumer goods. Main crops are bananas; citrus fruit, in particular, limes; and coconuts. Food processing consists of fruit and fruit juice canning; extraction of lime juice, bay oils, and vanilla; meat processing; and production of copra from coconuts. Consumer industries include the manufacture and refining of crude and edible oils, wine-making, and the production of various articles of apparel.

FLAG. A circular emblem of red bearing a Siseron Parrot (*Amazon Imperialis*) standing on a twig, the bird encircled by ten lime-green stars. The emblem is superimposed on three vertical and three horizontal stripes of yellow, white and black, forming a triple-colored cross against a general background of forest green.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC



Cathedral of Santa María, America's first cathedral, Santo Domingo

Area: 18,700 square miles
Population: 5,648,000 (1981)
Capital: Santo Domingo
Currency: peso
Language: Spanish
Independence Day: February 27
National hero: Juan Pablo Duarte

The Dominican Republic, discovered by Columbus in 1492, is the oldest and yet one of the most modern of the Caribbean nations. It was the cradle of Spanish-American civilization and the point of departure for explorers, conquerors, and colonizers in the early sixteenth century.

GEOGRAPHY. The Dominican Republic occupies the eastern two thirds of the island of Hispaniola, which it

shares with Haiti. Four almost parallel mountain ranges, covered with thick vegetation, cross the country from east to west. The largest is the Cordillera Central, which divides the republic into almost equal parts. The highest peak in the West Indies, Pico Duarte (10,206 feet), is in this range. In the north is the Cordillera Septentrional and in the south are the Sierra Neiba and the Sierra de Bahoruco.

The Valley of the Cibao, between the Cordillera Central and the Cordillera Septentrional, is the largest and most important valley. The Vega Real (Royal Plain), often called the "Garden of the Antilles," is the island's granary, producing fruits, vegetables, and sugar cane; its grassy savannas afford excellent pasturage. The capital and principal ports are located on the southern coast. The humid eastern section of this region contains large forests and savannas. Many small islands dot the Dominican coast.

CULTURE. The Dominican Republic early became a crossroads for migrations of people from South and Central America and Europe. Cultural life was enriched by this intercourse. The National Museum contains one of the best pre-Columbian archaeological collections in the Antilles, in addition to paintings which date from colonial times to the present day. Dominican music is a composite of Indian, Spanish, and African elements. The popular *merengue* is the national dance.

The Dominican capital, *Santo Domingo de Guzmán*, was founded in 1496 by Bartolomé Colón, Columbus' brother. There is a striking contrast between its Old World charm and its modernistic steel and concrete structures of the present century. The cathedral of Santa María is the oldest in America. The fortress-like castle of Columbus' son Diego, Alcázar de Colón, stands among beautiful gardens on a hill overlooking the Caribbean. The capital also contains the first seat of higher learning in the New World, the University of Santo Domingo, founded in 1538. Outstanding among the capital's modern buildings is the National Palace, built of native pink stone. Luxurious modern hotels overlook the blue Caribbean

The republic's second city and leading center in the Cibao Plain is Santiago. This city, situated on a high bluff on the Yaque del Norte River, was founded in 1500. Today, Santiago is one of the republic's most modern cities. The Dominican Republic has many seaports including La Romana, San Pedro de Macoris, Sánchez, Puerto Plata, and Monte Cristi.

EARLY HISTORY. The history of Santo Domingo began with Columbus' second voyage to Hispaniola in 1493. His fleet of 17 ships brought more than a thousand colonists and basic necessities for building the first permanent settlement. In 1496 Columbus sailed back to Spain, leaving his brother Bartolomé Colón as governor of the colony. Upon his return, Columbus found the colony torn by civil strife. Francisco de Bobadilla, sent by the Spanish Crown to restore order, imprisoned Columbus, his brother, and son Diego, and sent them to Spain. It was Governor Nicolás de Ovando who restored peace to the colony and promoted its development in many ways. He was succeeded by Diego Colón. Santo Domingo flourished until the latter part of the sixteenth century. Its *Audiencia Real* (royal tribunal) had jurisdiction over all the Antilles.

Meanwhile, French power grew in the western part of the island. In 1795, by the Treaty of Basel, Spain ceded the eastern part of the island to France. After the Haitian General Toussaint Louverture gained absolute control of the French colony of Saint-Domingue (Haiti), he invaded Spanish Santo Domingo and united the whole island under his rule. In 1809 the Dominicans rose in revolt and reestablished Spanish rule. In 1821 the Dominicans expelled the Spanish governor and sought briefly to join Gran Colombia; but this did not materialize.

The Haitians under President Boyer invaded Santo Domingo, annexed the territory, and ruled it for 22 years. On February 27, 1844, the Dominicans, led by Juan Pablo Duarte, Francisco del Rosario Sánchez, Ramón Matias Mella, and others, revolted and proclaimed independence. Political instability and unrest paved the way for a restoration of Spanish rule, and in 1860 Spain annexed the country at the request of General Santana; but poor administration resulted in the War of Restoration and the defeat of the Spanish forces. Thus, the country once more gained its independence in 1865.

GOVERNMENT. Under the Constitution the government is divided into three branches: legislative, executive, and judicial. Congress is composed of the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies.

ECONOMY. Agriculture generates approximately 67 per cent of export earnings and employs half of the labor force. Cropland is devoted to the production of sugar cane, coffee, plantains, rice, peanuts, and cocoa, in quantitative order. Rising international prices encouraged increased emphasis on the cultivation of coffee and cocoa. Income from the export of coffee beans more than doubled in recent years.

A dynamic manufacturing sector contributed about 18.5 per cent to GNP in 1982. Many new plants, catering mainly to the domestic consumer, began operations in the 1970's. This was the result of the Government's policy of generous fiscal support and easy credit aimed at reducing imports to counteract reduction in the import capacity caused mainly by the oil price increases. Principal industries are sugar refining, food processing, tobacco, alcoholic and soft beverages, and chemicals.

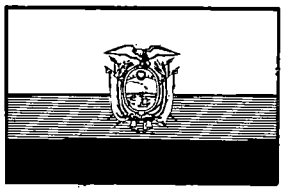
Value added by the mining sector increased primarily on the strength of gold and silver mining.

Tourism development broke records in the 1970's with the opening of several hotels and the total number of visitors rose to new highs. The tourism industry accounts for more than 10 per cent of export earnings.

The Dominican Republic exports coffee and cocoa beans, sugar, bauxite, feronickel, and doré (raw ore containing a mixture of gold and silver). Major imports are various types of machinery and equipment, chemicals, vehicles and parts, wheat, and rice.

FLAG. The Dominican flag is divided into four sections separated by a white cross. The upper left section is dark blue; the lower left is red. On the right side of the cross the colors are reversed. The coat of arms appears in the center of the cross.

ECUADOR





Colonial house. In the background the magnificent Cathedral of Latacunga, Cotopaxi Province

Area: 104,506 square miles
Population: 8,025,000 (1982)
Capital: Quito
Currency: sucre
Language: Spanish
Independence Day: August 10
National hero: Eugenio Espejo

Ecuador, crossed by the Equator for which it is named, is a country of impressive contrasts. The Andean cities with their background of high, snow-capped volcanoes, contrast with the coastal cities in their setting of tropical forests. Sheep and cattle thrive in the highlands; while the fertile lowlands produce cacao, rice, coffee, bananas and other tropical fruit, balsa wood, and kapok. Ecuador's treasures of colonial art, found mostly in the churches of Quito, are its most precious heritage.

GEOGRAPHY. The three regions of Ecuador differ widely in topography and climate. Along the Pacific coast are hot humid lowlands containing rice fields and sugar cane plantations, and the Guayas River, route of ocean-going ships from the Pacific to Guayaquil, the country's major port. The Oriente, a steaming jungle, extends from the eastern foothills of the Andes into the Upper Amazon Basin. Two parallel ranges of the Andes traverse the country from north to south, with cross ranges forming fertile valleys. Dominating the highlands are 22 lofty peaks ranging from 14,000 to more than 20,000 feet in altitude. Cotopaxi is one of the highest active volcanoes in the world, and Mt. Chimborazo rises almost four miles above sea level. Ecuador also possesses the Colón Archipelago or Galápagos Islands, crossed by the Equator some 600 miles west of the mainland. These islands, noted for their rare flora and fauna and their volcanic characteristics, have attracted many noted scientists, including Charles Darwin; their giant tortoises are famous.

CULTURE. The Ecuadorean population is composed primarily of the descendents of the Spanish conquerors

and of various Indian tribes such as the Caras, Incas, Cañaris, and Punaes, with a sprinkling of blacks in some coastal sections. Many Indians who live in the highlands still preserve their native customs. The eastern forests are inhabited by various Indian tribes, among them the Jívaros, Záparos, Shuaras y Aucas. The unique Colorados (red ones), who dye their bodies and hair a vivid red, live in the western part of Pichincha Province.

Ecuadorean culture of the colonial period shows a strong religious influence. Quito's churches are famous for their exquisitely wrought wood and stone sculpture as well as elaborately carved altars, many of which are covered with gold leaf. Ecuador has many outstanding examples of colonial architecture. The Casa de la Cultura Ecuatoriana guides many of the country's artistic and intellectual activities today. Ecuador has produced many excellent writers and painters both in the colonial and republican eras. Both folk and formal music reflect the European and native traditions.

Ancient, fascinating *Quito*, capital of Ecuador, is located almost on the Equator at more than 9,000 feet of altitude. It lies on the slopes of a deep valley at the foot of the volcano Pichincha. In the battle of Pichincha, General Antonio José de Sucre defeated the Spanish royalists to gain Ecuador's freedom. During the colonial period it became a leading center of the arts, which flourished in the monasteries founded by the Spaniards. The old part of the city contains ancient colonial churches and buildings in contrast with the modern structures that have transformed the northern sector of the city. Quito's population in 1982 had 858,733 inhabitants.

Progressive *Guayaquil* with a population of 1,175,276 inhabitants is the largest city and port and the commercial hub of the country. Its broad avenues bordered by buildings with arcades and balconies, its plazas and sidewalk cafes, and its market overflowing with tropical produce, give it a gay, bustling atmosphere. The agricultural and stockraising center, *Riobamba*, halfway between Guayaquil and Quito, produces textiles, dairy products, and various consumer goods. The "garden city" *Ambato* is a fruit-growing center with a temperate climate, luxuriant vegetation, and majestic Andean views. It is also the birthplace of Juan Montalvo, one of Latin America's greatest writers. *Otavalo* is famous for its authentic, colorful Indian fair and fine woolen goods. Gracious *Cuenca*, set in a beautiful Andean valley, is a center of hand-woven toquilla straw hats (mistakenly called "Panama" hats). *San Antonio de Ibarra* is outstanding for its handicrafts.

EARLY HISTORY. Ecuador, dominated at various periods by different Indian nations, was conquered by the Incas in the late fifteenth century. War between the two brothers Atahualpa and Huáscar, who inherited the Inca empire, weakened the country and facilitated its conquest by the Spaniards. In 1526 Francisco Pizarro landed on the coast of present-day Ecuador. By the end of 1533 the Spaniards had subjugated the land and executed Atahualpa, last of the Inca emperors. In 1534 Sebastián de Benalcázar established San Francisco de Quito on the site of Atahualpa's capital. Quito prospered and in 1563 became the seat of a Royal Audiencia, or governing council. In 1717 it was incorporated to the Viceroyalty of New Grenada, remaining thus until independence.

The spirit of revolt flared in a series of rebellions and a continuous state of turmoil, which finally took concrete form under the leadership of Eugenio Espejo, Ecuador's revered national hero. Although he was imprisoned by the Spanish authorities and died in 1785, his inspired political writings exerted a profound influence on leaders of the South American revolutionary movement in Ecuador, Venezuela, and Colombia. On August 10, 1809, the president of the Audiencia was deposed by the revolutionists, and a supreme governing council was set up. The Spanish royalists, however, aided by troops from other colonies, again seized power. Nevertheless, the efforts of the Ecuadorean patriots gained momentum. Following the final liberation of Venezuela from Spanish rule, General Simón Bolívar dispatched Antonio José de Sucre, his trusted young general and countryman, to Guayaquil, where Sucre gave strong support to the patriots in taking control of the port-city from the Spanish forces in 1821. Sucre then advanced on Quito in the Andes, where on May 24, 1822, the decisive victory on the slopes of Mt. Pichincha assured Ecuador's freedom from Spain. Bolívar, who arrived in Quito a few weeks later, united Ecuador with Colombia and Venezuela to form the Republic of Gran (Great) Colombia. Bolívar then proceeded to Guayaquil to meet General José de San Martín. The confederation was dissolved in 1830, when both Ecuador and Venezuela withdrew to form independent republics. Ecuador adopted a constitution on September 11, 1830.

GOVERNMENT. Ecuador is a democracy. Its government is divided into three branches: legislative, executive, and judicial.

ECONOMY. The Ecuadorian economy has traditionally depended upon the production and export of agricultural commodities. Since 1972, the petroleum sector has increased in importance and has enabled Ecuador to become more closely integrated into the world economy.

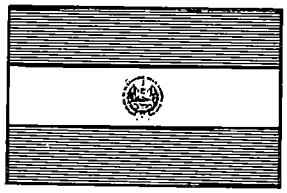
After the nation became a net oil exporter, in 1972-82, real GDP grew at an average annual rate of 8.0%. Most of this growth occurred in the oil and manufacturing sectors. For the period 1974-75, real GDP grew at lower annual rate because of a decline in domestic oil output due to disruptions in the Trans-Andean pipeline, and a slackening in world oil demand.

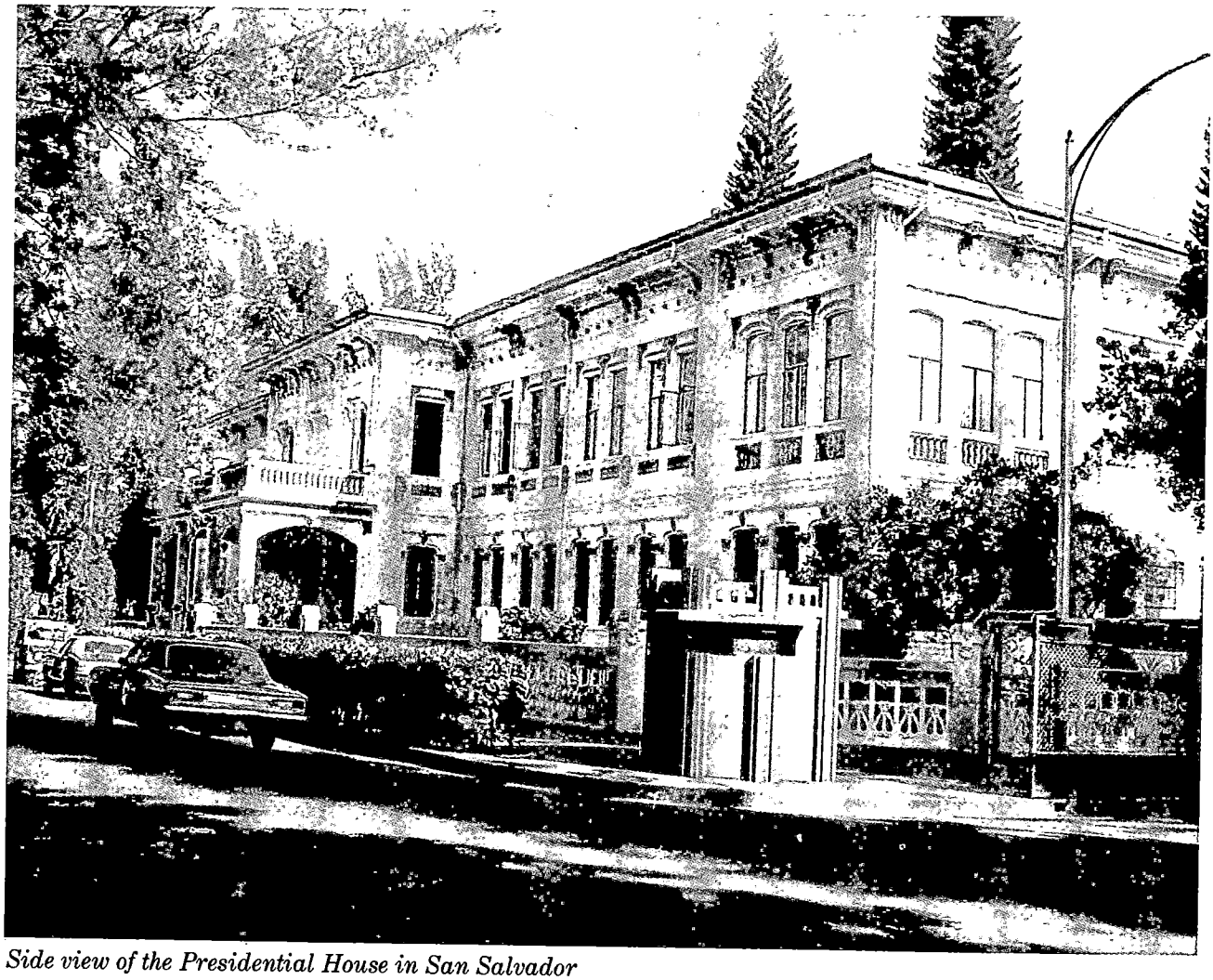
Manufacturing, which employs 25 per cent of the work force, has been growing substantially in the past. The most dynamic subsectors are textiles, soft drinks, tobacco, leather, and plastics.

Ecuador's principal exports are petroleum, bananas, coffee, cocoa and processed cocoa, seafood, especially shrimp. Principal imports are raw materials and capital goods directed to the industrial sector.

FLAG. The Ecuadorean flag consists of three horizontal stripes. The top stripe is yellow, the middle one blue, and the bottom one red. The coat of arms appears in the center against the yellow and blue stripes.

EL SALVADOR





Side view of the Presidential House in San Salvador

Area: 8,200 square miles
Population: 4,958,000 (1983)
Capital: San Salvador
Currency: colón
Language: Spanish
Independence Day: September 15
National hero: José Matías Delgado

El Salvador, smallest of the Central American republics, is the largest coffee exporter of them all and ranks eight among the world's coffee-producing nations. It is the only Central American country which has a frontage on one ocean only—the Pacific. One of its most interesting geographical features is the volcano Izalco, called the "Lighthouse of the Pacific" because the smoke and flames from its regular eruptions serve as a navigation beacon for ships at sea. El Salvador's famous Balsam Coast, located between the ports of Acajutla and La Libertad, takes its name from a special variety of balsam tree, which produces a valuable medicine and perfume base.

GEOGRAPHY. El Salvador, a land of mountains, hills, and upland plains, is crossed by two mountain ranges from west to east. A chain of 25 volcanic peaks parallels the seacoast. Between this range and the Pacific lies a narrow, flat strip of land which produces sugar cane and cotton. A semi-tropical plateau region, broken by numerous fertile river valleys, lies between the coastal range and the mountain chain along the northern border. Savannas of the Lempa Valley are used chiefly for grazing cattle. The land is elevated and hilly in the central and western portions of the plateau, but eastward it sinks gradually into tropical lowlands which produce cotton and henequen. Coffee plantations, the economic mainstay of El Salvador, are on the temperate mountain slopes of the upland area east of the

Lempa River, as well as in the western part of the country between San Salvador and the Guatemalan border.

In the volcanic desert near Ahuachapán small cracks in the ground emit steam and sulphuric vapors which wind and twist into weird and fantastic shapes: this phenomenon is presently being used as a source of energy. One of the largest Salvadorean lakes Ilopango, occupies an ancient volcanic crater. Lake Guija, which drains into the Lempa River, is of special interest to archaeologists because of the ancient ruins located on its shores and islands. Lake Coatepeque with its clear blue water is one of the main tourist attractions. Lake Suchitlán is the largest Salvadoran lake, situated at the hydroelectric dam Cerron Grande.

CULTURE. El Salvador can claim a share of one of the greatest pre-Hispanic civilizations, that of the Maya. Volcanic ash has preserved interesting relics of this past culture. One of the important Indian tribes that inhabited what is now El Salvador was the Pipil, whose culture indicates that they were probably related to the Toltecs and Aztecs of Mexico. The present-day population is of Spanish and Indian descent. A few of the Indians, notably the Panchos from Panchimalco and the Izalcos, proudly retain some of their old traditions and dress. The energetic Salvadoreans have a great love for the soil; consequently, a familiar pattern throughout the land is one of many small holdings intensively cultivated.

Spanish colonial architecture was almost entirely religious and of simple vigorous design. Structural characteristics developed as a result of earthquakes are the low roofs and solid, massive walls.

El Salvador's modern capital, *San Salvador*, situated in the Valle de las Hamacas (Valley of the Hammocks), is laid out in the form of a cross. In the belltower of the oldest Salvadorean church, La Merced, is the bell with which the republic's national hero, Father Delgado, announced his first effort to free his people. *Antiguo Cuscatlán*, on the outskirts of town, is a quiet village which in pre-Columbian days was the site of the Pipil capital. Nearby, at the San Andrés hacienda in the Department of Santa Ana, is a Maya ruin discovered the last decade. *Santa Tecla* is situated in an idyllic valley of large flourishing plantations. Above the town are the laboratories of the Coffee Growers' Association. *Santa Ana*, second to the capital as a business center lies in a beautiful valley. Its cathedral is one of El Salvador's finest. San Miguel, the third city of the country, situated in the east, is a major cotton producing center. Picturesque *San Vicente*, at the base of the 7,000-foot volcano of the same name, is an historic and colorful colonial town important today as commercial center of a sugar, cacao, and cereal-producing region. It has been the site of the national capital and of the national university for short periods. *Zacatecoluca*, center of a rich agricultural region, is the birth place of the Salvadorean patriot, José Simeón Cañas, who fought for and secured the freedom of the slaves in Central America 40 years before Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation. *Cojutepeque*, which has twice served as the national capital, is a large cotton and sugar-producing center. *Sonsonate* is engaged chiefly in cattle-raising and extracting balsam from the trees.

El Salvador has three important seaports. La Unión, La Libertad, and Acahutla, a modern port and a most popular seashore resort.

EARLY HISTORY. The Spanish conquistador Pedro de Alvarado arrived in El Salvador in 1524, defeated the Indians and in April 1525 founded the city of San Salvador de Cuzcatlán. In 1542 the colony was placed under the Captaincy-General of Guatemala, together with what are now the republics of Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and the Mexican states of Chiapas and Tabasco. The outstanding hero of the independence movement was Father José Matías Delgado, who in November 1811 led an unsuccessful revolt. A second unsuccessful attempt was made in 1814. In 1821 the Captaincy-General of Guatemala declared its independence from Spain. The Mexican Empire decided to annex the Central American provinces to Mexico. El Salvador opposed this attempt and struggled with the Mexican forces until the fall of Emperor Agustín Iturbide in 1823. El Salvador promulgated its own constitution on June 12, 1824, the first independent constitution adopted in Central America; and in November of the same year the constitution of the federation of Central America was promulgated. In 1834 the federation's capital was transferred to San Salvador and later on to Sonsonate. The federation soon collapsed. In 1841, El Salvador's national assembly formally proclaimed its separation from the federation.

GOVERNMENT. According to the Constitution of 1983 El Salvador is a democratic and representative republic; the government is divided into three branches: legislative, executive, and judicial; sole legislative power is vested in the one-chamber legislative Assembly; executive power is vested in the president, elected by direct popular vote for a five-year term; the judicial power is exercised by the Supreme Court.

ECONOMY. Agriculture is the backbone of the Salvadorean economy, employing more than half the labor force. Because of the density of population the land is intensively cultivated.

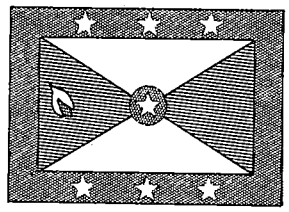
The principal crop and chief food of the people of El Salvador is corn, which is raised on a large scale. Sorghum, beans, rice, sugar cane, and fruits are raised mainly for domestic consumption. Henequen, or sisal, is used in the manufacture of bags for shipping produce and for making twine, ropes, and netting.

Industry generates 74 per cent of GDP and employs 12 per cent of the work force. The most rapidly growing subsectors are food processing, beverages, textiles, metal products, and machinery.

Principal exports are coffee (57,3 per cent of the value of all exports), cotton, shrimp, sugar, and nontraditional products exported principally to other Central American countries. Principal imports are heavy and intermediate equipment for the manufacturing sector and durable goods for the consumer.

FLAG. The Salvadorean flag consists of two horizontal blue stripes separated by a white one; in the center of the white band is the national coat of arms.

GRENADA





Grenada's beaches are a haven for sunseekers from the world over

Area: 120 square miles
Population: 111,000 (1980)
Capital: St. George's
Currency: Eastern Caribbean Dollar (EC$)
Language: English
Independence Day: February 7

Southernmost of the Windward Islands, Grenada is a jewel-like, tropical West Indian island, among the most beautiful in the world. "Welcome to the Isle of Spice" reads a sign at the airport, reminding visitors that this tiny country is second only to Indonesia as a producer of nutmeg. Grenada, less than 90 miles north of Venezuela and Trinidad, includes also the islands of Carriaçou and Petit Martinique. The land is mountainous, thickly-wooded, with many streams and mineral and natural springs.

GEOGRAPHY. The Windward Islands belong to the same relatively new volcanic range as that of the Leeward Islands. The volcanic chain terminates in Grenada. The main mountain mass in the center of the island consists of a number of ridges, some of which contain crater basins and one which has a large crater lake called Grand Etang. To the north and south of this lake rises Grenada's two highest peaks, Mt. St. Catherine and Mt. Sinai, both with an elevation of more than 2,500 feet above sea level. The rugged south coast of the island is deeply indented, and the west coast is far steeper than the east.

Grenada has a tropical marine climate and an average annual temperature of about 83° F. Yearly rainfall varies

from an average of approximately 40 inches at Point Saline in the southwest to about 150 inches at Lake Grand Etang in the mountainous center. The dry season lasts from January to May and the rainy season from June to December, with November the wettest month.

CULTURE. Life in the island is noteworthy for the congenial relations that exist among its people, 98 per cent of whom are black, of mixed ancestry, or East Indian, with a miniscule white minority. Of the native Amerindians and Caribs, there is now little trace, although as late as 1960 the census recorded nine Caribs, six of whom were males. The bulk of the present population are descendants of the Africans imported during the slave-trade years and, to a lesser degree, indentured laborers from the East Indies. Blacks own most of the land and property, including luxurious homes next door to those of wealthy winter residents.

For many years Grenadians spoke a patois largely of French origin and, although it is on the wane, the dialect can still be heard among the older people in some of the villages. English, the official and commercial language in general use, is spoken by the middle-class of Grenada with great precision and clarity. Primary education is provided in 59 schools, thirteen of which are maintained entirely by the government. The remaining 46 are under denominational control and receive grants-in-aid from public funds. There are 12 secondary schools: three government and nine grant-aided; two are for boys, three for girls, and seven are coeducational. A technical center serves the government schools.

St. George's, the capital and hub of commercial and intellectual life, is the most hilly city in the whole Caribbean. Except on the waterfront, one can scarcely walk a few feet without steeply climbing or descending. Located at the southwest of the island, it is Grenada's chief port. The highest point in the heart of the city is Fort George, a prominent tourist attraction, but there are two less centrally located forts, Fort Frederick and Fort William Henry, that are still higher. All three forts, according to a persistent legend, were once connected by tunnels, long since blocked up. In *Sauteurs*, a sizable town located on a steep cliff at the northern tip of the island, is *Leaper's Hill* where the Caribs made their last stand against the French. Passing through Woodford and Grand Roy, one reaches *Gouyave*, population 2,256, on the west coast. This is the main fishing point and a center of the nutmeg industry. *Grenville* is midway up the Atlantic coast. Visitors will enjoy relaxing and swimming off Grenada's beautiful beach, Grand Anse, on the southwest coast, where the island's principal hotels are clustered.

HISTORY. Discovered by Columbus on August 14, 1498, on his third voyage, the island now known as Grenada was given the name "Concepción." In 1609 English settlers tried to colonize it, but were discouraged by the fierce hostility of the Caribs. The French tried later and were successful for they did not hesitate to use harsh measures against the Caribs. In 1650 Du Parquet, Governor of Martinique, purchased the island from a French company and established a settlement at St. George's. Funding the venture did not pay, Du Parquet sold the island in 1657 to the Comte de Cerrillac, and in 1674 it was annexed to France. For a long time, like so many other Caribbean islands, Grenada was the object of a tug-of-war between the two great powers. Conquered by the British under Commodore Swanton in 1762, the island surrendered and was formally ceded to the British Crown by the Treaty of Paris on February 10, 1763. Sixteen years later, it was retaken by the French under Comte d'Estaing, only to be restored to Great Britain by the Treaty of Versailles in 1783. In 1795 it was the scene of a rebellion against the British rule, but in June 1796 Sir Ralph Abercromby suppressed the uprising. Grenada joined the Federation of the West Indies as an independent member on January 3, 1958, and so remained until the Federation was dissolved in 1962. A governor was appointed by the Crown for the self-governing and dependent state of Grenada, which like other islands, became "associated" with Great Britain. However, in February of 1974 the country was granted independence within the British Commonwealth.

GOVERNMENT. Grenada is a member of the Commonwealth of Nations. According to the Constitution the Governor General is named by the British Crown and the head of government is the Prime Minister.

On March 13, 1979, the Government of Sir Eric Gairy was overthrown in a coup-de-etat led by the New Jewel Movement. Maurice Bishop was named Prime Minister and a Peoples Revolutionary Government was formed.

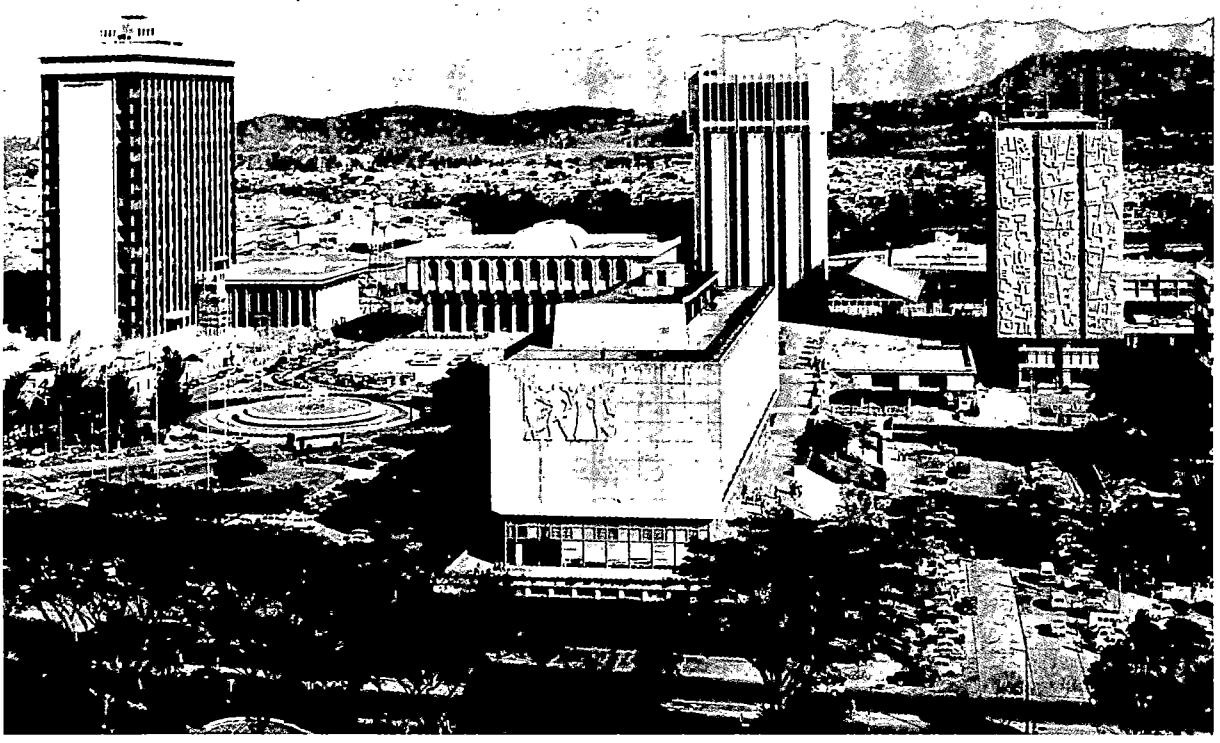
On October 19, 1983, elements of the Peoples Revolutionary Army staged a coup. Maurice Bishop and several other Cabinet members were killed in the uprising. The Governor General, Sir Paul Scoon, called on the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, Jamaica, Barbados and the United States to assist him in the restoration of law and order. On October 25, 1983, a combined force landed in Grenada and the Military Junta was put down.

In November 1983 Sir Paul Scoon named an Advisory Council to assist him in the administration of the State until new general elections were held.

ECONOMY. Agriculture is the island's chief source of income, providing employment for between five or six thousand adult workers. Crop diversification has buttressed the Grenadian economy for over two centuries. Two other important features of local agriculture are the great number of small holdings devoted to farming and the intercultivation or mixing of crops in the field. Main agricultural products are cocoa, nutmeg mace, bananas, sugar cane, coconuts, citrus (mainly limes), and cotton. Food crops of wide variety grown for local consumption include: yams, sweet potatoes, pumpkins, corn, and cassava. Livestock production is a major occupation, but domestic supplies of meat and milk do not meet demand. Fishing, chiefly by seine, trolling and drifting with hand lines, is a traditional occupation. An expanding tourist industry is at present the focus of attention, and a Development Incentives Ordinance is directed towards attracting capital investment in tourism and other industries.

FLAG. Two green triangles on a field of gold, with a symbolic nutmeg in the left triangle. A star, circled in red, joins the two triangles. The whole is framed by a red border, with three stars on each horizontal stripe.

GUATEMALA



The capital's Civic Center

Area: 50,700 square miles
Population: 7,200,000 (1981)
Capital: Guatemala City
Currency: quetzal
Language: Spanish
Independence Day: September 15
National hero: Tecún Umán

Guatemala, "land of eternal spring," was the cradle and homeland of Maya civilization. Among its natural attractions are Lake Atitlán, with a view of three volcanos: Tolimán, Atitlán, and San Pedro. Others are Lake Izabal and scenic Dulce River.

GEOGRAPHY. The country is divided from north to south into four geophysical sections: the Pacific coastal plain, the volcanic area, central mountain range, and the lowlands of Petén.

The fertile coastal plain produces the finest cattle and cotton in the country, along with sugar cane, essential oils, and a variety of tropical fruits.

Ascent to the highlands of the central range of the Sierra Madre brings an abrupt change in the landscape. Of the more than 30 volcanos inside the Pacific belt of fire, some found here are the loftiest in Central America; Tajumulco is the highest at 13,841 feet above sea level. Many important cities are located on the high plateau of the Sierra Madre.

Growing in the lowlands of Petén Department are groves of *chicozapote* or gum trees. These exude a latex or resin which is the base of the chewing gum manufactured in Guatemala and shipped from the Caribbean ports of Santo Tomás and Barrios.

CULTURE. The people of Guatemala are chiefly of European and Maya Indian descent. With the advent of new means of communication many of the Indians from the interior, especially the highlands, have cast off their ancestral isolation and taken on the ways of Western culture.

Although for some 200 years there has been no great variation in the Indian style of dress, certain influences have led to the adoption of individual designs that set one group of Indians apart from the others. The typical embroidered designs and figures have undergone a natural evolution from the strictly traditional to the variegated. Twenty languages derived from the Maya are still spoken in the country.

Guatemala City, capital of the republic, with its magnificent modern buildings, still retains a certain flavor of the eras that came after its founding in 1776. Largely destroyed by the earthquakes of 1917-18 and the last of 1976 the city's principal edifices date back only to those years. However, many of the old churches have been restored to their original architectural lines.

With the new suburbs surrounding it, Guatemala City has experienced considerable growth. Its museum collections cover the period of Maya civilization up to the present day. The archaeological historical, and anthropological museums possess artifacts of tremendous value. Others have superb sculptures and modern paintings on view. Among its cultural institutions are the Federal University of San Carlos de Guatemala and four other private owned universities, along with high schools, institutes, and elementary schools, all part of a modern educational system.

Among tourist attractions are the hill of "El Carmen" in the northeast of the city; a relief map of the country, one of its kind in the world; and the remains of a Maya settlement known as Kaminaljuyú. The city of *Antigua Guatemala* was for some two and a half centuries the capital of the Royal Audience, Government, and Captaincy-General of Guatemala until the present site was proclaimed capital by decree. The old city is bound by rich coffee plantations and contains valuable relics of Spanish art. Many of its buildings have been reconstructed, for instance, the present Colonial Museum was once the seat of the Royal Pontifical University of San Carlos de Borromeo, founded in 1676. *Esquipulas*, located in a valley of the same name, is the home of a majestic sanctuary which holds the Black Christ, renown in Central America and throughout the Continent. *Quiriguá*, in the low valley of Motagua, was in ancient times an important Maya religious center. In *Petén* there are many ruins of Maya ceremonial towns, among which the most outstanding is Tikal. *Zaculeu*, near the present city of Huehuetenango, was the foremost fortified city of the royal Mam. *Cobán*, in the Department of Alta Verapaz, is a busy industrial center known for its silverwork and weaving. *Quezaltenango*, the second most important city in the country is an important commercial center. On the Caribbean coast are *Puerto Barrios* and *Santo Tomás de Castilla*, both with up-to-date port facilities. The seafood-processing town of *Champerico* on the Pacific coast specializes in frozen shrimp, which not only supply the national market, but are shipped over the efficient highway complex to ports on the Caribbean for export to the United States.

EARLY HISTORY. Pedro de Alvarado, conqueror of Guatemala, after subduing the Quiché Indians of the highlands, established the city of Santiago in Iximché, royal court of the Cakchiquel Indians. Later the capital was transferred to a site close to present-day Ciudad Vieja, near Antigua Guatemala. When Alvarado was killed in combat in Mexico, his widow doña Beatriz de la Cueva was named Governor, thus becoming in 1541 the first woman to head a government in the Americas. However, three days later she herself died in the earthquake and floods that completely demolished the city. The survivors moved the government in 1543 to what is today Antigua Guatemala. That too was repeatedly destroyed and rebuilt until, in 1773, it was decided to move the seat of government for the fourth time to its present location. Guatemala declared its independence from Spain September 15, 1821. For a short period the country formed part of the transitory empire of Agustín de Iturbide, until, on July 1, 1823, Guatemala became a member of a federated system and proclaimed its total and absolute independence. The Federation of the United Provinces of Central America was torn by civil wars. When the Federation was dissolved, Guatemala declared itself a State, and after 1847, a free and sovereign republic.

GOVERNMENT. According to its Constitution, Guatemala is a free nation, sovereign and independent, in which the rights of the people to liberty, security, and justice are guaranteed. The governmental system is that of a representative democracy, taking the form of a republic. The exercise of sovereignty is delegated equally among the legislative, executive, and judicial branches. Executive power is vested in the president. The legislative power resides in a unicameral Congress. The chief judge of the Supreme Court of Justice heads the judiciary.

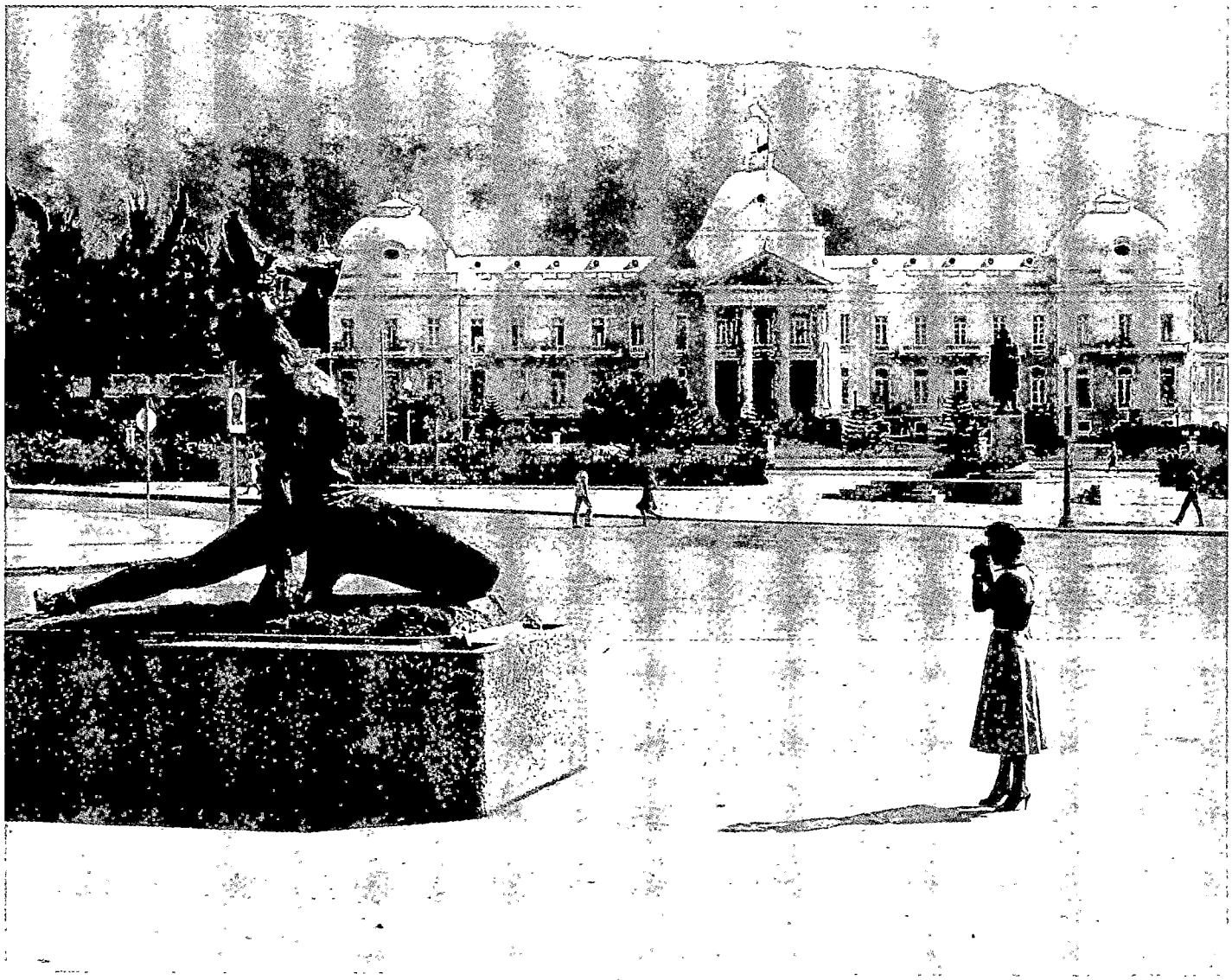
ECONOMY. Guatemala is traditionally an agricultural country, but it is also a supplier of manufactured goods to its Central American neighbors. In fact, 27 per cent of total exports are traded within the region, and 90 per cent of such sales are manufactures, such as shoes, clothing, plastics, and furniture.

The majority of the population, however, still live in rural areas and engage in subsistence farming or work on the large plantations. Guatemala's rich volcanic soil and fine climate lend themselves to the cultivation of a wide variety of crops. Cattle-raising is also a mainstay of the economy. The nation's principal exports are coffee, cotton, bananas, sugar, and meat. Principal imports are heavy equipment, machinery, and construction materials, although Guatemala is a significant producer of cement.

Deposits of nickel, lead, sulphur, and smaller amounts of other minerals are of increasing importance to the economy. Considerable private capital is being invested in nickel mining and exploration for petroleum and natural gas.

FLAG. The Guatemalan flag consists of three vertical stripes of equal width, a bright blue stripe on either side of a white one, which bears the national coat of arms in the center.

HAITI



The National Palace in Port-au-Prince is located in the Heroes of Independence Square

Area: 10,700 square miles
Population: 5,099,000 (1981)
Capital: Port-au-Prince
Currency: gourde
Language: French
Independence Day: January 1
National hero: Jean Jacques Dessalines

Sun-drenched Haiti, a land of tropical scenic beauty, is the world's first black republic and the only French-speaking republic in the Hemisphere. Haitians who became leaders in their own country's struggle for liberty fought with George Washington's army for the independence of the English colonies of North America. Haitian

independence marked the first successful revolt against European colonial rule in Latin America.

GEOGRAPHY. Haiti, an Indian name meaning mountainous land, occupies the western third of the island of Hispaniola, which it shares with the Dominican Republic. Two mountainous peninsulas stretch westward like the claws of a giant crab, partially enclosing the gulf of Gonâve. One mountain range, including groups known as La Hotte and La Selle, extends from east to west along the lower peninsula. Two other ranges stretch from southeast to northeast across the mainland and northern peninsula. Morne La Selle, the highest peak, is in the southeast. There are four important plains: the North Plain, along the northern coast between the mountains and the sea; the Central Plain, bordering the Dominican Republic; and the Artibonite and Cul-de-Sac Plains which extend eastward from the Gulf of Gonâve. Coffee plantations spread over the moist foot-hills and the lowlands are green with sugar cane.

CULTURE. The Haitian population is 90 per cent black and ten per cent mulatto—of French and African ancestry —making this the only black republic in the Western Hemisphere. The Haitian people are by nature happy, resourceful, and creative. Their culture combines elements transplanted to the island by the French colonizers and by blacks brought from Africa as slaves during the colonial period. Successive generations have created a truly national culture, as exemplified in Haitian literature and the fine arts.

Port-au-Prince, the Haitian capital, is a city of contrasts. There is the magnificent National Palace; the ultramodern buildings and pavilions along the waterfront, many of which are decorated with spectacular Haitian designs; the ancient Iron Market with its four Moorish-style turrets; and charming flower-filled squares. The capital's Museum of Ethnology, with its fascinating Voodoo section, is outstanding. The city's main plaza, the Place de l'Indépendence, is the center of community life. Smaller modern towns are *Jacmel* and *Aux Cayes* on the southern coast, and *St. Marc* and *Gonaïves*, where Dessalines proclaimed Haiti's independence in 1804, on the west coast. *Cap Haïtien* is the republic's second city. It was the capital of colonial Haiti and later the seat of Henri Christophe's kingdom. On the picturesque waterfront freighters load coffee, sisal, and bananas. At the nearby village of *Milot* one can see the remains of King Henri Christophe's fabulous palace, Sans Souci, and his mighty fortress, La Citadelle Laferrière, a few miles distant. *Les Cayes*, on the Caribbean, is the chief commercial center and seaport of southern Haiti.

Haitian handicrafts include a wide variety of artistic and useful articles made chiefly from mahogany, sisal, and straw. The contemporary art of Haiti shows the influence of French and African artistic traditions.

EARLY HISTORY. Haiti, discovered by Columbus in 1492, was part of the Spanish colony of Santo Domingo. In 1664, French settlers founded Port-de-Paix; and by the Treaty of Ryswich (1697) France acquired the western third of the island and called the colony Saint-Domingue. The French Revolution stirred demands for the abolition of slavery and for political rights, but these were denied by the colonial rulers. It was then that Toussaint Louverture appeared on the scene. A former slave, he gradually rose in rank until he became a general in the French Army and Governor of Saint-Domingue (Haiti). To break Toussaint's control, Napoleon sent a powerful expedition under the command of his brother-in-law, General Leclerc, to establish French authority once more. After many fierce battles, Toussaint was captured, and sent to France where he died a prisoner. Two Haitian generals formerly in the French Army carried on the war: the Haitian national hero, Jean Jacques Dessalines, and Alexandre Pétion. The French were defeated after a long and bitter struggle in 1803.

On January 1, 1804, Dessalines proclaimed the independence of Saint-Domingue and adopted the original Indian name of Haiti.

GOVERNMENT. The Constitution of 1957 divides the powers of state into three branches: legislative, executive, and judicial. The national legislature, Chambre Legislative, is a unicameral body. The executive power is exercised by the president of the republic. The judicial branch of the government consists of the Court of Cassation, similar to the U.S. Supreme Court, and lower courts.

ECONOMY. The principal occupation of Haiti's people is farming. Main crops are coffee, sugar cane, rice, sisal, wheat, corn, and beans. Coffee accounts for almost half of the country's export earnings. Because of rising domestic demand in recent years, there has been a shift away from export crops to commodities for domestic consumption. Agriculture, however, has been relatively stagnant due to rudimentary farming techniques and serious soil erosion.

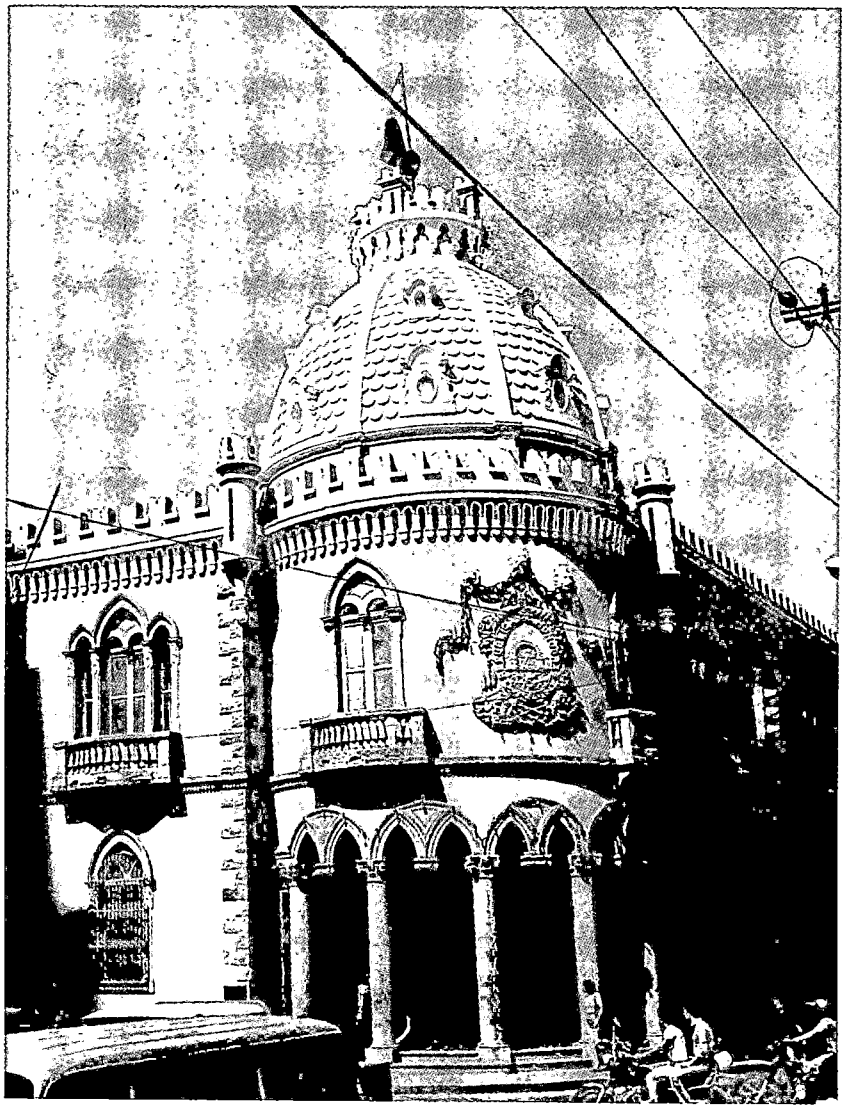
Manufacturing and construction have been the most dynamic sectors of the economy and their contribution to GDP have risen smartly in relation to agriculture. The larger manufacturing plants consist of a cement plant, sugar refineries, and a flour mill. Approximately 200 small enterprises engage in the assembly of electronic equipment, sporting goods, and clothing for export, mainly to the United States. The construction sector has benefited by large public investment to finance major improvements in roads, power, water supply, and ports.

Bauxite extraction is the only real mining activity in Haiti. Tourism is of growing significance because of Haiti's exotic ambience, excellent restaurants, and superior accomodations.

Haiti's principal exports are coffee, bauxite, essential oils, and miscellaneous assembled articles.

FLAG. The half of the Haitian flag next to the staff is black and the other half red. In the center is a rectangular field on which appears the national coat of arms.

HONDURAS



Presidential House, Tegucigalpa

Area: 43,300 square miles
Population: 3,821,000 (1981)
Capital: Tegucigalpa
Currency: lempira
Language: Spanish
Independence Day: September 15
National hero: Francisco Morazán

Honduras is a land of banana and coffee plantations, fields of cotton and sugar cane, rich mineral resources, and extensive forest regions covering roughly 45 per cent of the total area. The country is one of the world's major producers of fine woods, notably, mahogany. Two highlights of the country are the ancient Maya ruins of Copán and the Pan American Agricultural School, one of Latin America's most advanced agricultural colleges, located in the Zamorano Valley.

GEOGRAPHY. Wedge-shaped Honduras, second largest of the five Central American republics, is the most mountainous of all and is the only one having no volcanoes. The Central American Cordillera runs through the country from northwest to southeast. Vast banana plantations are found on the broad northern coastal plain extending inland from the Caribbean. A great expanse of swamps, mountains, and forests covers the lower eastern coast called Mosquitia. The Central Plateau, with its high ridges and deep valleys, occupies about 65 per cent of the national territory. Most of the arable land in this major region is under cultivation, producing coffee, tobacco, wheat, fruits, and vegetables. Honduras has several large rivers, countless streams, and several coastal lagoons. Its pride is Lake Yojoa in the Celaque Mountains.

Honduras also has insular possessions including the picturesque Bay Islands, formed by the summit of a submerged mountain range. Honduras' only Pacific port, Amapala, is located on Tiger Island in the Gulf of Fonseca. The Bay Islands and the Mosquitia region were ruled

alternately by Spain and Great Britain until 1859, and the majority of the inhabitants are descendants of the British, some of whom claim relationship with the free-booters and buccaneers of the Spanish Main who finally settled here.

CULTURE. The homogeneous population of Honduras is chiefly of Spanish and Indian descent. The nation has a firmly established tradition of racial equality, which emphasizes the importance of talent, ability, and education.

Pre-Columbian art in Honduras centers around the ruins of Copán, one of the great cultural centers of the Old Empire of the Mayas. The ancient ruin, re-discovered in 1839 and later restored, spreads over many acres; it is built on two levels, the upper on a cliff overlooking the Copán River. The Great Court where worshippers gathered, the Hieroglyphic Stairway, with its carved steps containing the longest known Maya inscription, and the magnificently proportioned temple in the East Court are Copán's chief highlights. Contemporary art revolves around the National School of Fine Arts in *Comayagüela.* It is noted for its "Maya Corridor" with frescos illustrating Maya life and culture.

Mountainous *Tegucigalpa,* Honduras' capital, stands as it was originally built, quaint streets of stairs connecting one level with another. Tegucigalpa is one of the few world capitals without a railroad, but its air services are outstanding. It is the center of the silver and gold mining region and of a large sub-tropical agricultural zone in the interior. The republic's second city, *San Pedro Sula,* center of the banana and sugar-growing industries, is an important distributing point for the northern and western areas. Industries are more developed in this briskly modern city. *Choluteca,* on the wide, beautiful plain of the Choluteca River, is a cattle and coffee center. *La Ceiba* is one of Honduras' principal Caribbean ports.

Comayagua, the first capital of Honduras, is also the site of the first Spanish colonial university in Central America, established in 1632. The purest examples of colonial architecture in Honduras are found in this city. Today it is the distributing center for the great Comayagua Valley.

EARLY HISTORY. Columbus landed on the Central American mainland in 1502 to the south of what is now known as Cape Honduras. The country's name, from the Spanish word *honduras* (depths), was suggested by the deep waters found off the north coast. Attempts at conquest and settlement followed; but the Spaniards quarreled among themselves and the settlements they established engaged in continuous rivalry. The Indians were not subdued until the late 1530's, when the Indian chief Lempira with 30,000 of his followers fought the Spaniards until he was assassinated at a peace parley. The name Lempira (now the name of the country's monetary unit) is a Honduran symbol of liberty and courage. In 1537 Comayagua was founded as the provincial capital.

In 1543, jurisdiction over Honduras was exercised by the *Audiencia,* a judicial tribunal with political and administrative functions, which in the seventeenth century became the Captaincy-General of Guatemala. In 1786 Honduras was divided into two provinces: Tegucigalpa and Comayagua. In 1578 silver was discovered in the hills around Tegucigalpa, probably accounting for its Indian name derived from Tegus Galpa, meaning Silver Hill. Because of its mineral wealth and growing economic importance, Honduras was frequently attacked by French, British, and Dutch buccaneers during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. In the eighteenth century the Misquito Indians with the aid of British forces fought the Spaniards. They were defeated and forced to retire to the Mosquitia region. The British forces occupied the Bay Islands until 1859 when England signed a treaty with Honduras relinquishing control of this region.

On September 15, 1821, Honduras joined the other four Central American provinces comprising the Captaincy-General of Guatemala in declaring independence from Spain. All were annexed to the Mexican Empire of Agustín Iturbide in 1822-23. Upon the downfall of the empire in 1823, Honduras joined the federation known as the United Provinces of Central America; its first president was José Arce. In 1830, Francisco Morazán became the second president of the federation. Able, idealistic Morazán introduced many reforms, both social and economic. Despite Morazán's efforts to preserve the federation, it disintegrated. On November 5th, 1838, Honduras declared its independence. In January 1841 the first constitutional president Francisco Ferrera was inaugurated.

GOVERNMENT. The Constitution of 1982 divides the powers of government into three branches: legislative, executive, and judicial. The legislative power is exercised by the unicameral Congress of Deputies. Executive power is vested in the president, elected by popular direct vote for a four-year term. The judicial power is exercised by the Supreme Court.

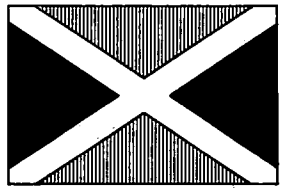
ECONOMY. Agriculture—particularly the great banana plantations—contributes over two thirds of the country's exportable goods. In 1975 the Honduran Banana Corporation (COHBANA) was established to rehabilitate the banana plantations devastated by the 1974 hurricane Fifi. As a result of these efforts, banana production by 1977 had recovered to about 80 per cent of its 1973 capacities.

Rising domestic and Central American demand enabled industry to grow 8.3 per cent in 1977. An increase in private investment not only stimulated the established industrial subsectors, such as food processing, forest products, and construction materials, but encouraged the founding of new enterprises. However, beginning in 1980 the expansion of economic activity slowed sharply and by 1981 the gross domestic product (GDP) had grown only 0.3 per cent. The instability in the Central American region undoubtedly had a decisive influence in the Honduran economy, affected by the level of private investment and the flight of capital.

The forests of Honduras are its largest natural resource. The country's major foreign exports are agricultural: bananas, coffee, sugar and lumber.

FLAG. The Honduran flag consists of three horizontal stripes of equal width, the two outer ones blue, and the center one white. In the center of the white stripe are five blue stars representing the states that formed the Central American federation.

JAMAICA



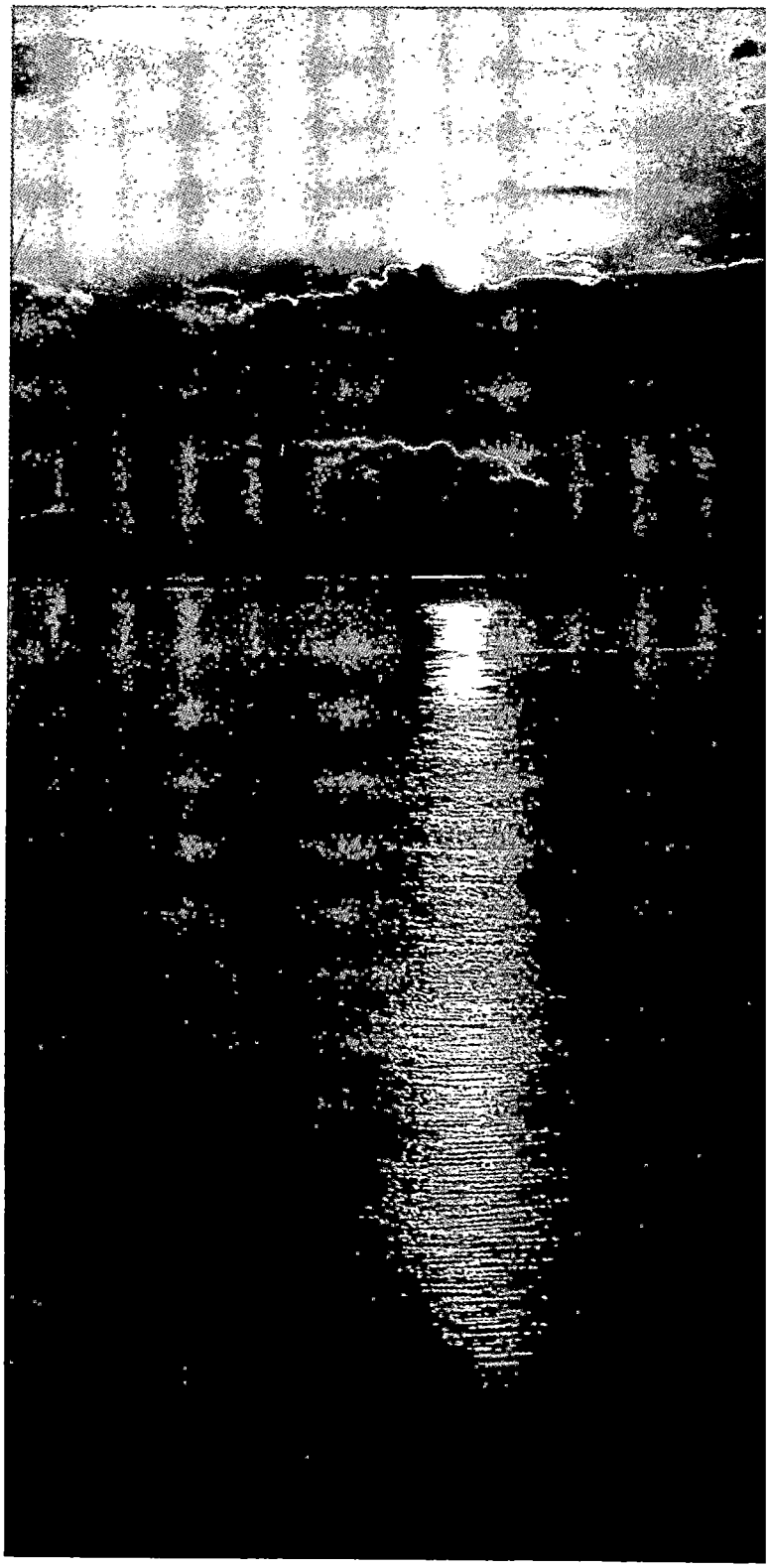
Area: 4,243.6 square miles
Population: 2,095,878 (1982)
Capital: Kingston
Currency: Jamaican dollar
Language: English
Independence Day: First Monday in August
National hero: Marcus Garvey

Christened *Xaymaca*, meaning "Land of Wood and Water," by its first inhabitants the Arawak Indians, this exotic island has attracted to its shores an extraordinary variety of peoples during its long history of almost five centuries, starting with its discovery by Columbus in 1494. The early buccaneers, adventurers, and Spanish colonizers were followed by Europeans, Africans, East Indians, and many others. The intermingling of diverse races, nationalities, and cultures from all regions of the globe has made Jamaica unique and fascinating to students, social scientists, and tourists alike. Jamaicans are justly proud of their multiracial society, marked by harmonious integration—a rare example to the rest of the world—and simply expressed by the national motto "Out of many, one people." If variety is the "spice of life," then Jamaica is overflowing with it: in human types and culture, magnificent scenic contrasts, folklore, and entertainment.

GEOGRAPHY. Jamaica is the third largest Caribbean island. It lies about 90 miles south of Cuba. The topography and landscape comprise three distinct regions. The rocky, mountainous eastern part has been eroded through the ages, accounting for the sharp-crested ridges and deep, twisting valleys; this region is dominated by the Blue Mountains, the highest range on the island, having a peak of 7,402 feet. The central and western zones are capped by thick layers of white limestone, from which several plateaus were formed in the age-old geological development of the island. One rare feature is the disappearance of the streams, which flow through a maze of underground caverns, reappearing in the deeper basins or at the edge of the limestone. The Cockpit Country is so broken into deep, circular arenas and huge rocky buttresses, that it is almost impenetrable and, therefore, sparsely populated. The highland section consists of a rolling countryside of rounded hills and hollows.

Surrounding the highlands is a narrow coastal plain, interrupted by spurs of highland reaching down to the sea. Miles of gleaming white sand beaches rim the northern and southern shores, many of them protected by coral reefs.

Half of Jamaica's land area is used for the basic component in the manufacture of aluminum. There are also substantial deposits of limestone, gypsum, silica, marble and natural whiting. Limestone has many uses, including road building construction.



A typical tropical sunset in the beautiful island of Jamaica. Courtesy of Jamaica Tourist Board; photo by Johnny O'Brien

Jamaica does not have the excessively hot, humid climate usually associated with the tropics. The temperature range is slight, July being the hottest month (with an average temperature of 81 degrees) and January, the coolest (averaging around 76 degrees). Highland temperatures are 10 to 20 degrees lower, and on the plains it is rare for day-time temperatures to exceed 91 degrees. The rainy season begins around the end of April and reaches a maximum in September, October, and November. The overall delightful climate and 300 days of sunshine a year enhance Jamaica's many attractions to tourists, retired persons and lovers of the outdoors.

CULTURE. Jamaica's cultural heritage is predominantly Afro-European. The oldest ethnic group having living descendants today are the Maroons. Following the retreat of the Spaniards, this warlike minority of African stock (some of mixed Spanish and/or Arawak descent) took to the remote highlands, where they lived a "life apart" in their isolated villages until recent times. Since the late seventeenth century, people of African origin have predominated; about 15 per cent of the population is classified as Afro-European by the national census. The rest of the Jamaicans are international by racial and national origins. Thus, their sense of national identity and unity is all the more remarkable.

The center of cultural life and activity is the capital, *Kingston*. It was founded on a beautiful protected harbor in 1692 after the destruction of Port Royal by earthquake. Kingston is noted for the following cultural institutions: the Institute of Jamaica, housing exhibits of historic and artistic relics; the University of the West Indies, having outstanding medical and engineering schools; the College of Arts, Science, and Technology, Devon House and the Royal Botanical Hope Gardens. There is much cultural activity at Kingston's Little and Ward Theatres and the Cultural Training Centre for Music, Drama, Dance and Art. Chinese, East Indians, the Lebanese and other ethnic groups have contributed much to the cultural mosaic. African folklore, deeply ingrained in the national culture, is most vividly expressed in music and dance; and Jonkanoo dancers are typical, as are their steel drum bands. Jamaica is also the home of the ska and reggae sounds in music.

HISTORY. Although Columbus discovered Jamaica in 1494, on his second voyage to the New World, the Spaniards did not actually occupy the island until early in the sixteenth century. Failing to find gold, they raised livestock and a few crops. However, the native labor supply declined rapidly because the gentle Arawak Indians, who were enslaved by the Spaniards and decimated by the European diseases, were almost completely wiped out during the sixteenth century. To replace them, the Spaniards began to bring in Africans as early as 1517 to work as field and household slaves; thus began three centuries of slavery, which finally ended under British rule.

To the evils of slavery was added the long period of piracy, highlighted by the role of the infamous Henry Morgan, whose buccaneer fleet was the scourge of the Spanish Main and an invaluable asset to the English in gaining and holding Caribbean islands. The English invaded Jamaica in 1655 and five years of guerrilla warfare ensued; finally in 1670, Spain ceded possession of the island to England by the Treaty of Madrid.

Port Royal became headquarters for Henry Morgan, who was rewarded by England with the post of lieutenant-governor of Jamaica; he died there in 1688. While Jamaica was becoming one of the world's largest slave markets, Port Royal gained the reputation of being the "wickedest city in the world," until a violent earthquake toppled most of it into the sea in 1692. Although the slave trade was abolished by law in 1808, slavery continued in Jamaica until the British Parliament passed the Abolition Act in 1834.

Two great heroes are associated with the island: Simón Bolívar and Horatio Nelson. The latter began his rise to admiral in the British Navy at Port Royal in 1777. While living in exile on the island during the wars of independence against Spain, the great Latin American liberator Simón Bolívar wrote in 1815 his famous "Jamaican Letter," setting forth his dream of an America united in "freedom and glory."

Jamaica was a Crown Colony from 1816 to 1944, when a new constitution was adopted conferring dominion status. In 1958, Jamaica joined the Federation of the British West Indies, which was dissolved four years later. Jamaica achieved full self-government on August 6, 1962, when it became an independent nation within the British Commonwealth of Nations.

GOVERNMENT. Jamaica is a Parliamentary Democracy based on a system of representative and responsible Government. Universal adult suffrage was instituted in 1944, and members of the House of Representatives are elected at five-year intervals. The House of Representatives consists of 60 members and is the more powerful of the two Houses of Parliament. The second is the Senate or 'Upper House'. There are 21 Senators, thirteen of whom are appointed by the Governor-General on the advice of the Prime Minsiter, and eight on the advice of the Leader of the Opposition.

The Government's executive function is carried out by the Prime Minister and his Cabinet of Ministers. Jamaica's legal system and the judiciary are based on English Common Law and practice and the administration of justice is vested in an independent judiciary.

Jamaica became a member of the Organization of American States in 1969.

ECONOMY. The chief contributors to the Jamaican economy are the bauxite mining, alumina production, agriculture, and tourism. Manufacturing has developed into an important sector in both the domestic and export markets.

Jamaica is one of the world's largest producers of bauxite, which together with hydrate of aluminum, represents approximately 35 per cent of total export value. It accounts for three-fourths of the country's visible export earnings.

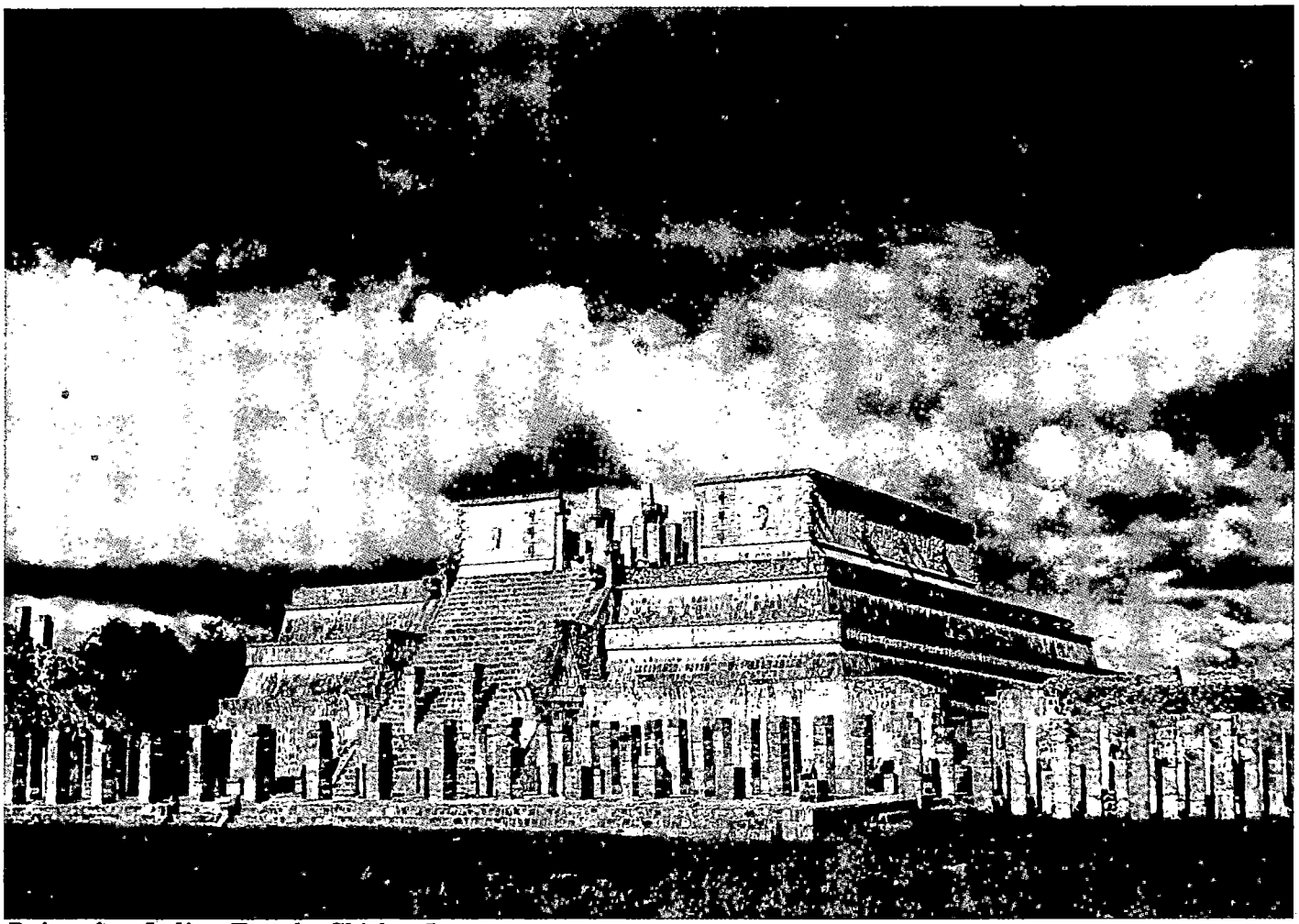
Tourism is the second largest earner of foreign exchange, generating some 20,000 jobs, directly and indirectly.

Domestic and export agriculture account for one third of national employment. The major agricultural exports are sugar, bananas, coffee, cocoa and recent thrusts have been made into several non-traditional areas.

Other important industries are textiles, rum and processed foods.

FLAG. A diagonal cross in gold divides the flag into four triangles in juxtaposition; the top and bottom triangles are green, and the other two are black.

MEXICO



Ruins of an Indian Temple, Chichén Itzá

Area: 759,600 square miles
Population: 72,270,000 (1981)
Capital: Mexico City (Federal District)
Currency: peso
Language: Spanish
Independence Day: September 16
National hero: Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla

Mexico is a country of contrasts and color. Its heritage combines ancient Indian civilizations with the rich cultural contributions of Old Spain. Modern Mexico is progressive and dynamic. The national territory encompasses tropical lowlands, temperate highland zones, magnificent mountains, arid deserts, and such famous volcanic peaks as Orizaba, Popocatépetl, and Iztaccíhuatl.

GEOGRAPHY. Because of its wide range of altitude, Mexico has a greatly diversified climate ranging from tropical to cold. Two mountain chains, the Eastern Sierra Madre and the Western Sierra Madre, cross the country from north to south forming between them a number of valleys and plateaus. The Central Plain is located between these ranges. With a few exceptions, the principal cities are in this region. Between the mountain ranges and the coast are tropical coastal plains. South lie the broken plateaus of the Mesa del Sur and Chiapas Highlands. The peninsulas of Yucatán and Baja California complete the national territory.

CULTURE. Mexico's present-day population is primarily of mixed ancestry, although there exist pockets of pure Indians and people of direct European descent, mainly Spanish. Mexicans are nationalistic, progressive, and deeply concerned with economic, social and cultural development.

The pre-Columbian peoples of Mexico—notably the Mayas, the Nahuas, the Zapotecs, the Mixtecs, and the

Tarascos—developed beautiful and original art forms. Their architecture and sculpture are particularly impressive, rivaling in majesty those of the Egyptians. Great temples and palaces are found in Chichén-Itzá and Uxmal in Yucatán. Among the more surprising Mayan achievements was the creation of a calendar more accurate than the Julian.

The last of the Nahua Indians to inhabit the Central Plateau were the Aztecs, who assimilated the culture of the peoples who lived before them in central Mexico. Their capital city, Tenochtitlán, was comparable in size and services with the great European cities of the time.

During Mexico's colonial period architecture was the predominant mode of artistic expression, with Indian motifs combined with the European styles then in fashion. This is particularly marked, for example, in the sanctuary of the Cathedral of Mexico.

Perhaps Mexico's greatest contribution to contemporary art is mural painting represented by the works of Diego Rivera, José Clemente Orozco, David Alfaro Siqueiros, and other famous masters. The artisans and craftsmen of Mexico are noted for their ceramics and working of gold and silver.

Mexico has a rich body of folk music and renowned literary figures. Among major authors from colonial times to the present are Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz and Alfonso Reyes.

Mexico City, the oldest metropolis on the Continent, was founded in 1521 by Hernán Cortés on the ruins of ancient Tenochtitlán. During the colonial epoch several "firsts" came about in Mexico before anywhere else in the Western Hemisphere. In 1539 the press of Juan Pablos printed the first book in the Americas; the University was founded in 1551, and in the same year the Cathedral of Mexico was begun on the ruins of the Aztec Great Temple; in 1527 the oldest hospital on the Continent, Hospital de Jesus, was established.

Mexico City is not only the cultural and political center of the country, but also the heart of its economic and industrial life. In its environs are famous tourist attractions such as Lake Xochimilco with its "floating gardens," and the ruins of Teotihuacán, with its imposing pyramids of the Sun and the Moon, rising 200 feet into the air. To the north of the city is the shrine of the Virgin of Guadalupe, which holds the mantle of the Indian Juan Diego, on which, according to legend, the image of the Virgin miraculously appeared.

Guadalajara, second largest city of the republic, is located in a rich cattle-raising and agricultural district. It is noted not only for its graceful Spanish architecture and exceptional climate, but also for its regional industries and arts, such as pottery and glassware. *Monterrey*, capital of the state of Nuevo León in the north, is another important industrial city. *Puebla*, along with the historic city of *Guanajuato*, remain two of the most typically colonial cities in the country.

Mérida, the capital of Yucatán, is the production center for henequen, a fiber better known as *sisal* for the port from which it is shipped. South of Mérida are the famous Maya ruins of Uxmal and to the west those of Chichén-Itzá. *Veracruz*, the country's largest port, is on the Gulf of Mexico. *Tampico*, at the mouth of the Pánuco River, is a center of the petroleum industry. *Acapulco* is world famous for its beautiful beaches in a mountain setting, and *Cancún* for its blue-green waters and white sandy beaches.

EARLY HISTORY. Before the arrival of the Spaniards, great civilizations flourished in Mexico. In 1325 the Aztecs founded Tenochtitlán, site of present-day Mexico City. In 1519 Cortés landed on the beach of what is today Veracruz, climbed to the Mexican Highlands, and after two years of struggle defeated the Aztecs with the help of rival Indian tribes. New Spain was governed by viceroys for the next 300 years.

Independence from Spain was declared on September 16, 1810, by the priest Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla. Upon his death in 1811, José María Morelos y Pavón continued the battle. Finally, in 1821 the independence of the nation was achieved. However, in 1848 Mexico, in a war with the United States, lost half of what was then national territory.

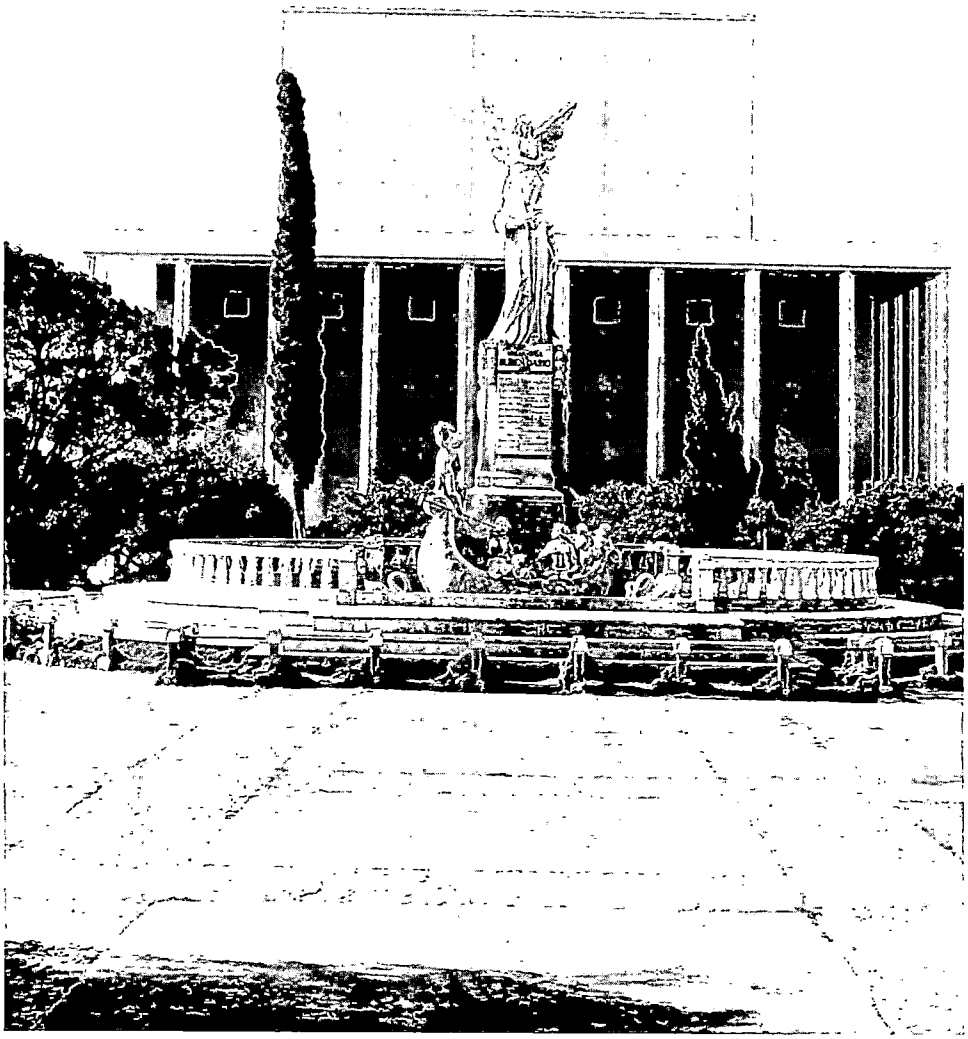
The country entered a long period of civil strife and foreign intervention. When Benito Juárez became president in 1858, he instituted a series of liberal reforms and a more democratic form of government. This aroused the animosity of the conservative aristocracy and the high clergy and led to civil war. Juárez defeated the conservatives; but a conflict for which Mexico was ill-prepared, arose with France. In 1863 the French invaded the country and set up a monarchy under Emperor Maximilian. The regime endured for four years until the overthrow of Maximilian, after which Juárez resumed the presidency until his death in 1872. Not long after, General Porfírio Díaz took over the country and set up a dictatorship that lasted until 1910. That year Francisco I. Madero led what was to be the Mexican Revolution, finally ousting Díaz and reclaiming the land for the people. In 1917 a Constitution was drawn up which legally embodied the ideals that inspired the Revolution.

GOVERNMENT. The official name of the country is the United Mexican States. It is a federal democracy with three branches of government. Executive power is exercised by the president, who is elected for six years by popular vote; legislative power lies with the Congress, which is divided into the House of Deputies and the Senate; judicial power is vested in the Supreme Court and the lower courts. The states that form part of the federation are free and sovereign in matters concerning internal affairs.

ECONOMY. Mexico is as much an agricultural as an industrial country. Agriculture, cattle-raising, and fishing are extremely important sectors of the national economy. Principal exports are petroleum, cotton, beef, and shrimp. The nation is rich in minerals and lumber and is also one of the leading producers of silver. Other important minerals are gold, copper, slate, zinc, antimony, mercury, arsenic, graphite, molybdenum, sulphur, coal, and opals. Mexico is in the forefront of the petroleum-producing countries and one of the major oil exporters. The industrial sector is now able to produce articles that used to be imported such as electronic devices, items of iron and steel, and chemical products. Mexico is famous for its handicrafts in silver, pottery, leather, wood, fibers, and fabrics.

FLAG. The Mexican flag consists of three vertical stripes of equal width: green, white, and red, in the center of the white stripe is the national coat of arms.

NICARAGUA



Monument in Managua dedicated to the poet Rubén Darío, founder of the modernistic movement

Area: 54,022 square miles*
Population: 2,917,816*
Capital: Managua
Currency: córdoba
Language: Spanish
Independence Day: September 15
National hero: Augusto César Sandino
***1982, Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos (National Institute of Statistics and Census)**

Nicaragua, native land of the illustrious poet Rubén Darío, is the largest of the five Central American republics. Dominated by a chain of dormant volcanoes, the land has many scenic attractions. Lake Nicaragua is one of the world's largest fresh-water lakes. Together with the San Juan River, the lake forms a great natural waterway, which has long been considered suitable for the construction of an interoceanic canal connecting the Atlantic and the Pacific.

GEOGRAPHY. Triangular in shape, Nicaragua is divided into two regions by the Central American cordillera. The most important agricultural and industrial area is the broad lowland belt that parallels the Pacific coast. The large scenic lakes, Nicaragua and Managua, dominate this region. The northwestern end of the lowlands is broken by a chain of more than 20 volcanoes, some of which are still active. Coffee, oil-producing sesame seeds, cacao, sugar, cotton, and tobacco flourish in the rich volcanic soil. The lowlands on the Caribbean coast, largely covered with tropical forests, are called the Mosquito Coast. To the north, a triangular wedge of temperate highlands rises to an altitude of 7,000 feet and slopes gradually toward the east. Coffee thrives in this zone of farms and cattle ranches.

CULTURE. From the crossing of Indigenous, European and African origins, stem the roots of the Nicaraguan people. Today, practically all the Nicaraguan people are Mes-

tizo. Nevertheless, according to their ethnic identifications and based on the cultural linguistic criteria, the Nicaraguan people can be divided into the following groups: Indians, who speak different dialects, consist of about three per cent of the population; Creoles, who are of African origin and speak English, consist of one per cent; and the Mestizos, who speak Spanish, constitute approximately 96 per cent.

In the field of education, the most significant inroad made by Nicaragua has been the Great National Crusade Against Illiteracy. It has been so successful that since its establishment illiteracy has been reduced to 12 per cent, one of the lowest indexes in the world. By contrast, in 1979, 50 per cent of the population did not read or write. Public education is free and compulsory.

Managua, capital of the republic, is located on the shores of Lake Managua. A modern, progressive city, one of Managua's attractions is the park and monument dedicated to the poet Rubén Darío, founder of the modernistic movement. Near the capital at *Acahualinca*, prehistoric footprints have been preserved by volcanic cinders which, from an archaeological standpoint, indicate the existence of man in America from the most remote times. In 1972 an earthquake partially destroyed Managua. With the help of private and governmental organizations, including the OAS, the Government of Nicaragua helped the people rebuild and improve a more efficient capital city. The old city of *León Viejo* lies in ruins near Momotombo Volcano. After its destruction by an earthquake in 1609, León was rebuilt on a new site; it was the provincial capital during the colonial period and then of the republic until 1852. This classical colonial city of cobbled streets, adobe houses, red-tile roofs, and many old buildings, cherishes the distinction of being Rubén Darío's final resting place. His tomb is in León's splendid Cathedral, one of the largest in Latin America, which also possesses valuable jewels and religious relics. A center of culture throughout its history, León is the seat of the national university.

Nicaragua's oldest city, unspoiled, venerable *Granada*, has been a center of commerce and wealth since early colonial days. It is situated on the shores of Lake Nicaragua in a fertile coffee-and sugar cane-producing region. Many of its people are landowners or merchants engaged in trade and industry. It is famous for its exquisite hand-made laces and embroidery, for a valuable collection of Indian idols, and for the more than six hundred picturesque little islands along its shoreline. The "City of Flowers," *Masaya*, which grew up around the proud Indian enclave of Monimbó, is the capital of national folklore. Located at the center of Nicaragua's densely populated Western coast, it is famous for its artisan markets.

Nicaragua's principal port, *Corinto*, is on the Pacific coast. *Matagalpa*, chief city of the north, lies in the midst of coffee groves, grazing lands, and virgin forests. Some of the country's finest coffee is grown here. *Bonanza, Siuna*, and *La Luz* are large gold mining centers developed in recent years with machinery flown in by plane. *Bluefields*, the largest port on the Caribbean, takes its name from the Dutch pirate Blewfeldt.

San Juan river, the outlet for the great lakes, forming most of the borderline with Costa Rica is geographically and historically important. The geographical position of Nicaragua and the possibility that the country's territory could be a way of communication between the Atlantic and the Pacific oceans, gave this country an important geopolitical status since colonial days.

EARLY HISTORY. In 1502 Columbus anchored in calm waters at the cape named by him Cabo Gracias a Dios (Cape Thanks Be to God), after rough sailing along the coast. The land was named for Nicarao, an Indian chieftain who ruled the area at the time of the Spanish Conquest. Columbus claimed possession of the land in the name of the King of Spain, and 20 years later Gil González Dávila began exploration. In 1524 Francisco Hernández de Córdoba founded Granada, followed by León. During most of the colonial period the province was under the jurisdiction of the Captaincy-General of Guatemala.

The independence of the five provinces of Central America from the Spanish Crown was proclaimed in Guatemala City on September 15, 1821, and Nicaragua joined the other four in forming the United Provinces of Central America. However, this federation was dissolved in 1838; on April 30 of the same year Nicaragua declared national independence and adopted a constitution.

GOVERNMENT. The Fundamental Statutes and the Statutes of Rights and Guarantees of Nicaraguans were adopted in 1979. Under the Fundamental Statutes the powers of state are divided into three branches: executive, exercised by the Government Board; legislative, exercised by the State Council and the Government Board; and judicial, composed of the Supreme Court and other courts of justice. Elections for President, Vice President and members of the Constituent Assembly will be held on November 4, 1984.

ECONOMY. Agriculture and industry employ 60 per cent of the economically active population and together generate about 50 per cent of GDP. Most important products are cotton, coffee, sugar cane, bananas, tobacco, sesame, meat, seafood. Basic grains are grown mainly for domestic consumption, although 20,000 metric tons were exported in 1977. Livestock and meat processing also are important to the economy.

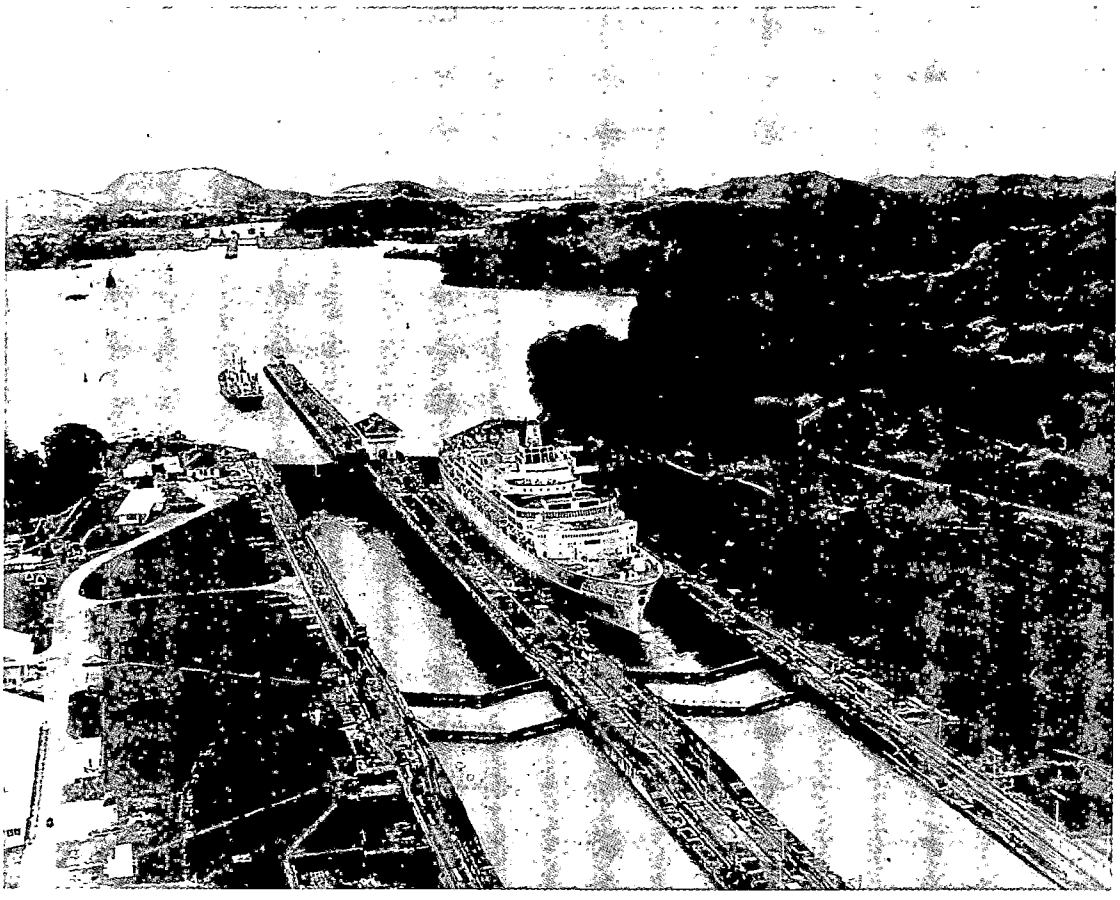
Industry has been expanding as a result of the Government's program of credit assistance and rising domestic and foreign demand. Food processing and food products contributed over 40 per cent of industrial output. Other fast-growing subsectors are textiles, furniture and other forest products, and chemicals, especially fertilizers and pesticides.

Nicaragua's principal exports are coffee, cotton, sugar, and meat. Seventy per cent of the yearly harvest of magnificent woods is exported. Gold and silver mines are administered as a State industry and gold has become one of Nicaragua's principal exports. Within the Central American region, the country exports chemical and pharmaceutical products, raw materials for agriculture, and concentrated animal feed.

The National Reconstruction Governing Board is developing a successful economic plan. In 1980 Nicaragua reached an economic growth of 10 per cent, the largest in America.

FLAG. The national flag consists of three horizontal stripes. The upper and lower ones are blue and the middle one white with the national coat of arms in the center.

PANAMA



Aerial view of Miraflores Locks on the Panama Canal

Area: 28,800 square miles
Population: 1,940,000 (1981)
Capital: Panama City
Currency: balboa
Language: Spanish
Independence Day: November 3
National hero: Tomás Herrera

Panama is strategically located at the crossroads of international trade and travel, being the connecting link between the Atlantic and the Pacific and the land bridge between North and South America. It is also the junction for inter-American air traffic. Panama's resources include extensive virgin forests; a complex river system under development to provide hydroelectric power and easy transportation; and fertile agricultural lands. Panama City was the site of the first Pan American Congress convoked by Simón Bolivar in 1826.

GEOGRAPHY. The Isthmus of Panama runs east and west, looking somewhat like a reclining letter S. Two main mountain ranges form the backbone of the isthmus, enclosing many fertile valleys and plains. The eastern region consists mainly of vast expanses of jungle and tropical forests. Panamanian coasts are indented and scattered with islands. The most interesting islands belong to the San Blas Archipelago in the Caribbean. These 365 islands range in size from small ones with a few coconut palms to large ones inhabited by hundreds of Indians. Taboga Island, just off-shore from Panama City, and Contadora Island in the Gulf of Panama are popular summer resorts. Contadora forms part of the Pearl Archipelago and is known for its rich fishing grounds and fine modern hotel.

CULTURE. Panamanians have long been subjected to a wide variety of cultural influences through continuous contact with both transient and immigrant foreigners. Although they have accepted certain ideas, habits, tastes, and economic patterns, the underlying culture is the original traditional Hispanic one. Since the birth of the republic, the nation's artists, writers, and intellectuals have developed an outstanding national culture. Panamanians identify their population as being composed of a Spanish-speaking majority, largely of Spanish and Indian descent, and minority groups of Antillean blacks and Indians.

The modern cosmopolitan capital, Panama City, is a blend of Spanish colonial charm, modern progress, and the bazaar atmosphere of the Orient. In addition to being the political and cultural center of the country, it is also the leading commercial center. Panama City is situated at the Pacific terminus of the Canal. Outstanding religious structures of Spanish colonial times are the Cathedral with its painting of the Virgin of the Rosary by Murillo, and the Church of San José, famous for its golden altar saved from

destruction by the pirate Morgan when a resourceful monk painted it to look like wood. On the grounds of the Presidential Palace, graceful snow-white egrets stroll about the Moorish court yard, which is ornamented with columns studded with mother-of-pearl.

Las Bóvedas (The Vaults) are the dungeons under the sea wall built to defend the city from attack. The Spanish governors kept political prisoners in the dungeons. Santo Tomás Hospital and the Social Security Hospital are among the best-equipped institutions of their kind in Latin America. The National University of Panama, one of the most modern cultural centers in the Hemisphere, is an autonomous institution and provides free tuition. The ruins of Old Panama, about seven miles from the capital, mutely tell the tale of sacking and destruction by the pirate Henry Morgan. Built in 1518 and famed for its splendor, Old Panama is gradually being restored.

Panama City, in fact all of Panama, is famous for its pre-Lenten Carnaval. Religious parades and festivals make Holy Week a colorful spectacle.

Colón, situated at the entrance to the Canal, is a great international commercial center and free trade zone. The sector known as Cristóbal is primarily engaged in loading and unloading the vessels of all nations that line its piers. Romantic *Portobelo*, overlooking a beautiful harbor sheltered by rugged hills, was a colonial stronghold and chief port-of-call for Spain's treasure fleet in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

Outside of Panama City and Colón, the majority of Panamanians live in the region west of the Canal and south of the mountain divide, in thousands of scattered villages, hamlets, and isolated farms. A growing network of access roads is now linking this region with the national highway, the Panamanian sector of the Pan American Highway System which runs between Panama City and *David*, the country's third largest city. David, in the extreme western part of the country, is the capital of prosperous Chiriqui Province, a region of extensive forests, rich soil, fine grasslands, and plantations. *Puerto Armuelles* is the Pacific port for this region.

The Caribbean region west of the Canal is a sparsely-inhabited area of virgin forests, except for banana and cacao plantations near the Costa Rican border and farms in the vicinity of Gatún Lake. Most of eastern Panama and all of Darién Province to the Colombian border constitute a vast reservoir of land and dense jungle only partially explored. The Cuna and Chocoe Indians live in the southwestern part of Darién Province and still retain their ancient tribal customs, languages, and mode of living. The Cuna Indians, who inhabit the San Blas Islands off the northern Caribbean coast, have an interesting social organization and unique handicrafts.

EARLY HISTORY. In 1502 Columbus explored the Caribbean coast of Panama, claiming the land for the Spanish Crown. In 1513 Vasco Núñez de Balboa set out on his journey across the Isthmus, which ended with his discovery of the Pacific Ocean. The provincial governor Pedro Arias Dávila ("Pedrarias") moved the seat of government to the Pacific coast and established the town of Panama in 1519. The town grew in importance and was made the seat of Spain's third Royal Audiencia in 1538. For two hundred years it was a focal point of commerce in the New World and was one of the principal seats of colonial administration in Spanish America until 1793, when it was put under the jurisdiction of the Viceroyalty of New Granada (later to become the Republic of Colombia).

In 1819 Venezuela and Colombia, freed from Spanish rule, united as the "Republic of Greater Colombia". Panama declared its independence and joined the Confederation under the name of the Department of the Isthmus in 1821. Although the Confederation was dissolved in 1830, Panama remained united with Colombia until 1903, except for brief intervals when secessionist movements led the people to seek autonomy. The most successful of several was led by Panama's national hero Tomás Herrera in 1840, after which the country maintained its independence for thirteen months. Panama seceded from Colombia and proclaimed its independence on November 3, 1903. Soon afterward, Panama signed a treaty with the United States for the construction of the Canal, one of the greatest engineering feats in history opened to worldwide shipping in 1914.

In mid-1977 Panama and the United States signed two new treaties which will turn control of the Canal over to Panama at the end of the year 2000.

GOVERNMENT. The Constitution provides for three branches of government: executive, headed by the President, legislative composed by an Assembly of Representative and a Legislative Council, and the judiciary headed by the Supreme Court of Justice.

ECONOMY. The principal factors determining the growth rhythm of Panama's economy have been public and private investment. Generally speaking, the greatest dynamism is seen in the service field: banking, insurance, various types of financial establishments, warehousing, and services in connection with the Panama Canal. In the past three years the economic situation of Panama has improved considerably due in part to the successful conclusion of the Canal negotiations.

The growth of the agricultural sector reflects the effects of favorable weather and government assistance through credit and price supports.

The value added of the livestock sector expanded partly as the result of ample credit available.

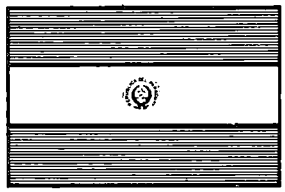
Industrial output of foodstuffs, shoes, clothing, and construction materials increased as manufacturing benefited from a rise in tariffs and the introduction of import quotas in 1976.

Panama's main exports are bananas, beef, shrimp, and refined petroleum and its derivatives. Imports consist of crude oil, imported for refining and re-export, capital equipment, food products, and chemicals.

An expanding tourism industry remains one of the brightest spots in the country's economic picture.

FLAG. The Panamanian flag is divided into four quarters. The upper one next to the staff is white with a blue star in its center; the other one is red; the lower one next to the staff is blue and the fourth, white with a red star in the center.

PARAGUAY





San Roque Church at Areguá, finished in 1720

Area: 183,950 square miles
Population: 3,268,000 (1981)
Capital: Asunción
Currency: guaraní
Language: Spanish and Guaraní
Independence Day: May 14-15
National hero: José Gaspar Rodríguez de Francia

Paraguay is a country of hardworking, peaceful people. Its mediterranean condition and unusual racial composition have molded the Paraguayan into something of a stoic, ready and able to repell aggression. These farmer-soldiers, as the Paraguayans are called, are legendary warriors whose determined resistance throughout history against superior forces has enabled them to face adversity with decision and equanimity.

GEOGRAPHY. Paraguay is located to the south-center of the South American Continent. It has no maritime coast-

line, which, however, has little effect on the nation's economic, political, and cultural life.

The Tropic of Capricorn passes through the mouth of the Ypane River, dividing the country into two climatic zones: to the north, the torrid zone; to the south, a temperate zone, which places Paraguay in the category of a sub-tropical region.

Paraguay is a beautiful country of towering palms, enormous forests, and valuable species of hardwood; a land of orchids, oranges and spectacular waterfalls.

Geographically, the country is divided into two regions: the Eastern, lying east of the Paraguay River, with its fertile and well-watered soil; and the Western or Chaco Boreal of immense cattle and mineral wealth; both provide the underpinnings of Paraguayan economic development. The majority of the population and the prinicipal industrial and commercial activities are concentrated in the Eastern Region. The Chaco Boreal to the west is a lightly-populated land of wide prairies and dense woods.

Two great rivers, the Paraguay, some 1,600 miles long, and the Paraná, about 2,800 miles in length, flow into the Atlantic Ocean and form the country's vital communication links with the outside world.

CULTURE. The ethnic base of the Paraguayan people is a cross-breeding between the Spanish colonists and the Guaraní Indians, a cultural mix that has managed to retain to this day the original traits of both races. Spanish and Guaraní are the national languages.

In literature, drama, and the plastic arts, Paraguayan artists have deep roots in their own unique environment. As long ago as the colonial period the Franciscans and Jesuits founded musical societies and art schools, thus encouraging the innate artistic talent of the Paraguayan people.

Handicrafts are an important activity among the people. For example, among the crafts of surpassing quality is the exquisite lace called *ñandutí*, meaning in Guaraní spider web.

Asunción, the capital, is the center of business activity and the seat of government and its agencies, located on the banks of the Paraguay River. It is a thriving city where modern architecture lives compatibly alongside the old, colonial-style mansions with their gardens and iron grillwork. Major nineteenth century buildings are the López Palace, seat of government, the Congressional Palace, the National Pantheon of Heroes, and the Cathedral. The city's clean, well-designed streets are bordered by lush orange trees. A number of museums hold valuable mementos of Paraguayan history. Asunción's botanical garden ranks among the best in the Hemisphere.

Other main cities of Paraguay are *Villarica, Puerto Presidente Stroessner, Encarnación, Concepción, Coronel Oviedo, Paraguarí, Pedro Juan Caballero, Luque, San Bernardino, Pilar, San Juan Bautista, Mariscal Estigarribia*, and *Ypacaraí*, near the famous lake of the same name.

EARLY HISTORY. In 1537 Juan de Salazar y Espinosa founded the city of Nuestra Señora Santa María de la Asunción, which became the colonial capital. From Asunción the conquistadores went forth to establish other cities.

During the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries the Jesuits carried out an unparalleled social and missionary program that brought the Indians into the mainstream of national life.

In 1721 a revolutionary movement known as the *Comuneros* developed. Headed by José de Antequera y Castro, in a popular reaction against Spanish domination, it was to launch the first cry for liberty heard in the Americas by proclaiming that "the will of the people supersedes the rights of the Crown."

While this early rebellion failed, Paraguay eventually obtained her independence from Spain in May of 1811. Paraguayan patriots, lead by Pedro Juan Caballero, Fulgencio Yegros and others, forced the Spanish Governor Bernardo de Velasco to surrender his power.

GOVERNMENT. With the national Constitution promulgated August 25, 1967, by the National Constitutional Convention, Paraguay reaffirmed its status as a united, indivisible republic, with a democratic, representative government. Governmental powers are divided among three branches: the legislative, the executive, and the judicial.

ECONOMY. In the past, one of the most underdeveloped of the Latin American countries, Paraguay has had (with the exception of 1974) an almost unbroken record of fast economic growth in the 70s. This unprecedented expansion was happily combined with the lowest inflation rate in South America, a very favorable balance of trade, and rising international reserves.

In spite of the overall dynamism of the economy in recent years, Paraguay's productive structure depends basically on agriculture. Good weather and rising demand have benefited the country's major crops: tobacco, soybeans, yucca, sugar cane, rice, and cotton. All are exported with the exception of yucca and rice.

The behavior of the Paraguay's manufacturing turns directly on conditions prevailing in the primary sector, since two thirds of manufacturing value added comes from the processing of livestock, wood, cotton fibers, tobacco, sugar, and oil seeds.

Paraguay is a supplier of electric power to Brazil and Argentina. The hydroelectric plant at Acaray has made electricity available throughout the country and plans are under way to further increase the generating capacity of this complex.

The construction of the world's largest hydroelectric complex is the work of the Entidad Nacional Paraguayo-Brasileña ITAIPU, established by a treaty signed between Paraguay and Brazil in April 1973. The construction has gone through three fundamental stages: Diversion of the Paraná river in 1978 in order to begin construction safely; damming the Paraná river and consequent formation of the ITAIPU dam, completed in 1982; and operation of the first three power-generating units in 1983. The total production capacity of the complex is 12,000,000 kilowatts. Paraguay is also cooperating with Argentina in the building of the 4,000,000 kilowatts Yacyretá dam south of Encarnación.

FLAG. The Paraguayan flag is composed of three horizontal stripes, the upper red, the middle white, and the lower blue. In the center of one side is the national coat of arms, on the reverse the Treasury Seal.

PERU



This beautiful fountain adorns the Plaza de Armas. In the background is the Government Palace. Lima

Area: 496,224 square miles
Population: 17,030,000
Capital: Lima
Currency: sol
Language: Spanish and Quechua
Independence Day: July 28
National hero: Hipólito Unánue

Peru is outstanding for its scenic beauty, natural resources, Inca and pre-Inca remains, and Spanish colonial architecture..

GEOGRAPHY. The country, situated on the northern half of South America's west coast, is the third largest country in South America, bordered by Ecuador, Colombia, Brazil, Bolivia and Chile. The three topographical and climatic regions are the following: the Coastal zone, consisting of arid plains and foothills, with mild temperatures year-round. Rains seldom falls on the coast due to the effect on the cold Humboldt Current, flowing northward from the Antartic. The main agricultural, industrial and commercial centers of the country, which depend on water running off the Andes, are in this region. The contrast between the

desert and the verdant river valleys along the coast is striking; the Highlands (la Sierra), crossed by the Andean Mountains, occupies 27 per cent of Peru's land area and is inhabited by 47 per cent of the population. The topographic characteristics of the Sierra have hindered the development of transportation and communication facilities within the area and between the coast and the interior. The highest mountain, Huascarán, raises over 22,000 feet above sea level. The climate in the Sierra ranges from temperate to frigid, depending on its elevation. Peru shares with Bolivia famous lake Titicaca, the world's highest navigable body of water, situated 12,500 feet above sea level with an area of about 3,427 square miles; the Jungle (La Selva) accounts for more than half of Peru's land area. Many rivers descend from the Andes eastern slopes and feed into the Amazon. The climate is warm and humid, with abundant rainfalls throughout the year. The Selva is thought to have large petroleum deposits.

CULTURE. Pre-Columbian Peru has several of America's most advanced cultures. A series of great civilizations flourished in Peru, dating approximately 800 B.C. Outstanding among them were the Chimu Civilization with its capital Chan Chan (north of the present city of Trujillo) and the Chavin Culture in the Callejón de Huaylas. Brilliantly colored handwoven textiles and polished ceramics typify the Paracas and Nazca cultures. The Tiahuanaco Civilization of the Altiplano produced a massive style of architecture. The Incas, unsurpassed in the skills and accuracy of their stone cutting and fitting also achieved a high degree of economic, political and social development around 1400 A.D. The basis of the Inca society was the community or clan, called the "ayllu"; their capital and sacred city was Cuzco. During the colonial period, Spanish baroque fused with the rich Inca tradition to produce a creole art. The Cuzco school of painting followed the Spanish baroque tradition with influence from the Italian, Flemish and French schools.

Lima, the "City of Kings," capital of the republic, is Peru's most important industrial, cultural and commercial center. It possesses fine examples of colonial architecture, modern buildings, museums, wide avenues and promenades. Lima is the seat of the National University of San Marcos which was created in the XVI century. The ancient Inca capital of *Cuzco* is called the "Archeological Capital of South America" because of the ruins of Inca temples, fortresses, palaces, and other structures throughout the city and vicinity, among them the fortresses of Sacsahuamán and Ollantaytambo. The city of Machu Picchu is another example of Inca architectural design.

EARLY HISTORY. When the Spanish arrived in 1532, Peru's territory was the nucleus of the highly developed Inca Civilization. Centered at Cuzco, the Inca Empire extended over a vast region from northern Ecuador to central Chile. In search of the Inca's wealth, the Spanish explorer Francisco Pizarro arrived in the territory during a debilitating and disruptive period of a protracted civil war of succesion. By 1533, the Inca capital of Cuzco had fallen, and by 1542 the Spanish had consolidated control. Gold and silver from the Andes enriched the conquerors, and Peru rose to be the richest and most powerful of Spain's viceroyalties in America.

Peru was the last of the continental colonies to be freed from Spain. In 1820, General José de San Martín, an Argentinian, sailed from Valparaiso, Chile, with a great expedition to liberate Peru. Peruvian patriots, long held in check by the royalists joined forces with San Martín's army and on July 28, 1821, Peru was declared free and independent. However, the decisive battle for freedom was fought by Simón Bolívar's forces under the command of General Antonio José de Sucre, who defeated the royalists at Ayacucho on December 9, 1824.

GOVERNMENT. Peru's governmental structure is established by the Constitution which took effect on July 28, 1980. It has a republican form of government consisting of three branches: legislative, executive, and judicial. Legislative authority is vested in the Congress composed of the Senate and Chamber of Deputies. The Executive power is vested in the President and two Vice Presidents, elected for a period of five years, and assisted by a Cabinet of Ministers. The Judiciary power is headed by the Supreme Court, whose members serve for life and includes superior and lower courts.

ECONOMY. The economy of Peru, traditionally extractive and agricultural, has engaged, along with the majority of the Latin American nations, in a massive effort to develop an increasing complex and diversified industry.

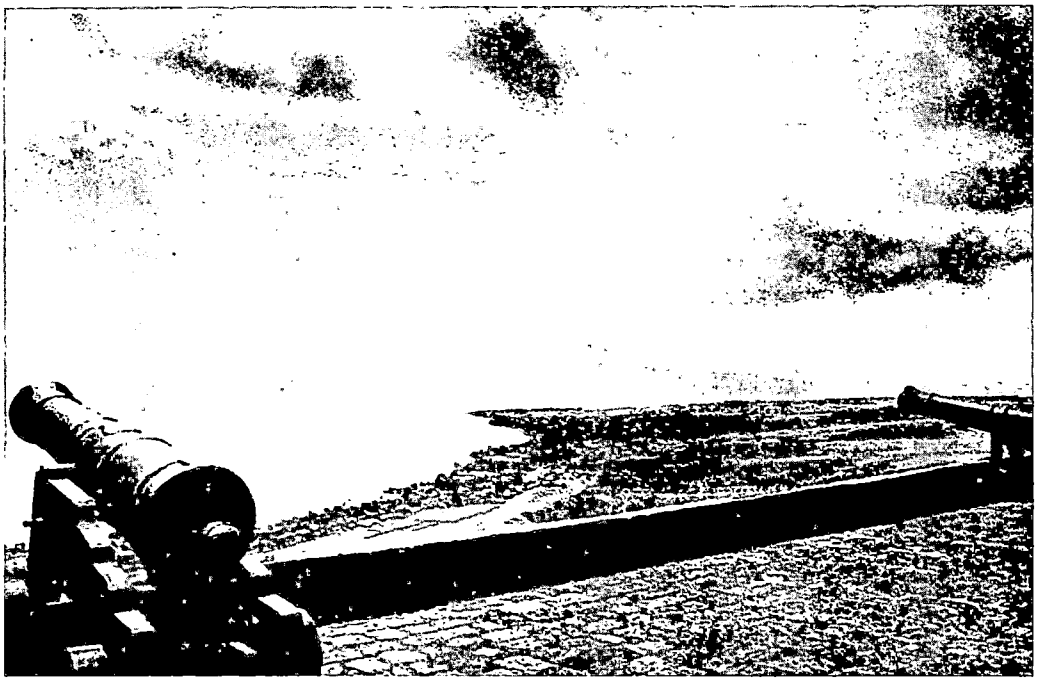
Heading the list of exportable products are petroleum, copper and fishmeal. Following in importance are coffee, silver, zinc, and sugar, Imports consist mainly of heavy machinery. Peru has long been famous for its rich and varied mineral resources; it is one of the world's leading producers of silver, zinc, lead, copper, gold and iron ore. Although not a major crude oil producer, Peru became self-sufficient and a net oil exporter in 1978. Aggressive exploration now being carried out is expected to increase known reserves and prolong Peru's ability to export oil.

The fishing industry of Peru is among the first in the world. Eighteen ports and bays are reserved for this activity which employs some 150,000 workers.

Principal farm products are cotton, wool, leather, hides, sugar, coffee, rice, potatoes, beans, barley and tobacco.

FLAG. The Peruvian flag is composed of three vertical stripes: red, white, and red, with the coat of arms in the center.

SAINT CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS



Fort George located in Brimstone Hill mountain in St. Kitts. Nevis in the background

Area: 104 square miles
Population: 44,400 (1980)
Capital: Basseterre
Currency: Eastern Caribbean dollar (EC)
Language: English
Independence Day: September 19

In 1983 the islands of St. Kitts and Nevis became the independent nation of Saint Christopher and Nevis, the 32nd member of the Organization of American States. This beautiful country boasts one of the healthiest climates of the Caribbean islands, hardly any tropical disease exists. As in other Caribbean islands, ocean breezes temper the tropical mean temperature of about 79° F, but unlike others humidity is low, and there is no rainy season.

GEOGRAPHY. St. Kitts is situated 200 miles southeast of Puerto Rico. It is part of the Leeward islands group. The island is of volcanic nature with a high peak, Mount Misery, dominating the central mountain range, a branch of which encloses a fertile valley extending to the sea coast where the capital of the country, Basseterre, is located. The valleys and lower slopes of the mountain range constitute most of the arable and cultivated portion of the island. The higher slopes are covered with short grass, excellent for cattle grazing. Forests abound at the summit of the range. Most of the beaches of St. Kitts are of black volcanic sand, except those of golden sand extending toward Nevis and bordering the peninsula known as Frigate Bay. St. Kitts is oval in shape with a narrow neck of land extending from the south eastern end. It is 23 miles long with an area of 65 square miles.

Nevis is to the south of St. Kitts separated by a two-mile wide channel. Approaching this island from the sea one is struck by the spectacular beauty of its central mountain range emerging gradually to form an almost perfect cone about 3,300 feet high surrounded by clouds which give it the appearance of a snow capped mountain. It is believed that when the Spaniards saw it they named the island "nieves", meaning snow. The climate is the same as that of St. Kitts but the soil, unlike that of St. Kitts which is light and porous, is composed of clay studded with volcanic boulders. The only town, Charlestown, has a population of about 1,000. The island's population is about 10,000, and has an area of 36 square miles.

CULTURE. The present population of Saint Christopher and Nevis is 90 per cent black descendents of the African slaves brought by the Europeans and the rest is caucasian and of mixed blood. The torch that appears in the country's coat-of-arms is held by the hands of an African, a European and a person of mixed races and signifies the struggle and quest for freedom by a people of differing ethnic origins but united in purposes. These origins have developed into a very interesting cultural pattern, influencing the people, their customs, and the arts. The visitors will admire the Georgian style of the beautiful plantations, churches and other buildings amidst a forest of ever-green trees. Music and dance are the most vibrant art forms of the country and are fully expressed during Carnival. In this country Carnival is a unique calendar of activities that include the Christmas festivities and a display of cultural events. A Dramatic and Cultural Society in Nevis became aware of

the wealth in folklore and customs, and a festival called Culturama was created in 1974. The main purpose was to revive the traditional customs and the interest in the indigenous folk art as well as to preserve traditional customs and local folk art. It was also established to raise funds in order to build a community cultural center.

Education is one of the country's major concerns. To satisfy the needs and requirements of a changing society more emphasis has been placed on technical and vocational training in secondary schools and centers. The University of the West Indies provides higher education to the men and women of the country through different centers and programs that include seminars, workshops and lectures. There are 34 government, 14 private, and 6 denominational schools in St. Kitts and Nevis. Primary education is compulsory for all children between the ages of 5 and 14, but children may remain in school until the age of 16.

There are many sites of cultural and historical interest in the islands, and the visitors may reach them via beautiful and memorable drives. In St. Kitts a must to see is Brimstone Hill, a mountain with steep and forbidding slopes where the famous Fort George is located. The site itself with towering mountains in the background and sugarcane fields sloping gently down to the blue Caribbean is worth the visit. Brimstone Hill was known as the "Gibraltar of the West Indies" for the important part it played in the history of the country. In Nevis one can see, among the historical sites, the Fig Tree Church where the register of the marriage of Admiral Nelson to a young widow, Mrs. France Nisbet, is preserved. Visitors from the United States would be interested to know that Alexander Hamilton was born in Nevis. A plaque commemorating his birth may be seen on the original front wall of the ruins of the house where he was born. The picturesque little capital, Charlestown, with its old buildings and vivid flowers will also charm the visitor.

There are excellent accommodations in hotels and old inns and the visitors will enjoy shopping in the duty-free boutiques offering handicrafts, silk-screened and hand embroidered clothes.

HISTORY. The first-known inhabitants of St. Kitts, it is believed, were Indians that came to the land around 3000 years B.C. From the crudely made tools found by an expedition in 1975, they must have lived a very simple life, relying mostly on shellfish for sustenance. They were followed by the Saladoid Indians who came around the first century. These Indians made colorful pottery and depended mostly on agriculture to survive. For reasons not too well determined yet, they suffered a gradual decline and no trace of their culture has been found dated after 650 A.D. Between 650 A.D. and the arrival of the Caribs and Arawaks, little is known of the history of that part of the world.

When Columbus arrived in St. Kitts during his second voyage in 1493, it was populated by the Caribs. The Spaniards did not colonize the island which was first conquered by Britain in 1623. France also conquered other parts of the island in 1624, and intermittent wars broke up between these two countries that lasted many years, during which command of the island shifted from one to the other. Finally in 1783 the island was ceded to Britain by the Treaty of Versailles.

Nevis like St. Kitts was visited by Columbus in the same year. Little was heard of Nevis after its discovery until it was colonized by the British in 1628. The hard work of the settlers led to the island's prosperity which was interrupted by the Spaniards who captured the land in 1629. Although it suffered periodically from Spanish and French attacks the island remained in the hands of the British and maintained a sound economic position for a long time. The island never recaptured the splendor it once had, but it is still known as the "Queen of the Caribbean Islands."

In 1816 St. Kitts, Nevis, Anguilla, and the Virgin Islands formed a single British Colony. Between 1958 and 1961 they were a part of the West Indies Federation, and in 1966 St. Kitts, Nevis and Anguilla joined with others in a State of Association with Great Britain. St. Kitts and Nevis gained independence on September 19, 1983.

GOVERNMENT. Under the 1983 Constitution St. Kitts and Nevis is a sovereign and democratic federal state with a parliamentary system. There is a Governor-General who is appointed by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on the advise of the Prime Minister. The Governor-General names as Prime Minister that member of the House of Assembly who appears to him likely to command the support of the majority of the representatives. The Legislative power consists of the Governor-General and the House of Assembly. A Puisne Judge of the East Caribbean Supreme Court is resident of St. Kitts. The Constitution also provides for a legislature and an Assembly for the Island of Nevis.

ECONOMY. The Government's objectives are to further develop agriculture, diversify the economy, actively encourage the establishment of industry and tap the vast potential for tourism development. The Government has adopted this strategy partly to compensate for the decline of the sugar industry, traditionally the most important economic factor. Sugar dominated the economy for over three and a half centuries and still remains the major employer of labor.

Agriculture is vital to the social and economic development of the country. It employs 38 per cent of the total labor force. At present it satisfies about 30 per cent of domestic consumption but it is estimated that 65 per cent could be met by local production.

Livestock consists mainly of cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, and poultry.

Industrial growth is based on the development of small and medium-size manufacturing plants. The tourist industry is gaining in importance.

The principal exports are sugar and cotton. Footwear, garments, and electrical appliances are also exported.

International telegraph, telex and telephone services are provided. There are 12 miles of streets in Basseterre and 58 miles of roads in and around St. Kitts. In Nevis there are 63 miles of roads. Golden Rock Airport with its 8,000 feet runway is capable of handling all large aircraft. In Nevis the Newcastle runway has been lit to accommodate night landing facilities. There is a deep-water port in Basseterre with a main berth of 400 feet long and a minimum water depth of 30 feet.

FLAG. Green and red triangles separated by diagonal bars of gold and a black central column with two white stars.

SAINT LUCIA



Saint Lucia's famous two Pitons rise out of the Caribbean Sea. Courtesy of the Caribbean Tourism Association.

Area: 238 square miles
Population: 120,300 (1981)
Capital: Castries
Currency: Eastern Caribbean dollar
Language: English
Independence Day: February 22

Unspoiled St. Lucia, which has rightly been called an "island paradise," is one Columbus never "discovered" or set foot upon. The same cannot be said of the English and French who fought over St. Lucia for more than a century In fact, the young nation is known as the "Helen of the West" for the long series of battles that swirled around her as they did around the fabled Helen of Troy.

GEOGRAPHY. The lush, green mountains and hills that occupy the central portion of St. Lucia are fringed with beaches washed on the one side by the blue Atlantic and on the other by the turquoise Caribbean.

With a population of 120,300, St. Lucia lies 25 miles from Martinique to the north and 20 miles from St. Vincent on the south. The island is about 238 sq. miles in area, 27 miles long and 14 miles wide. Like most of the Windward Islands, it is of volcanic origin with a rugged, hilly terrain. The highest peak is Morne Gimie at 3,145 feet, but there are several other mountains ranging between 2,000 and 3,000 feet. Among these, the most striking are the twin peaks Gros Piton and Petit Piton, old volcanic cones near the town of Soufrière on the east coast.

The climate in St. Lucia is pleasant all year round, with temperatures in the resort areas ranging from 75° F. to 93 in the warm season (May to October). Minimum night-time temperatures in the cool season (December-March) fall no lower than 64° F. There is a rainy season from July to November, though it does not rain constantly during this period. St. Lucia is laced with many small rivers and the coastline, particularly on the Atlantic shore, is indented with hundreds of bays and inlets.

CULTURE. The racial composition of St. Lucia is much like that of the other Caribbean islands—a majority population of blacks, descendents of Africans, brought to work the plantations in the days of slavery, an East Indian minority, and a small white population.

St. Lucians are generally a warm, hospitable people, proud of their land and cultural heritage. African tradition is particularly notable in music and dance, but the years of occupation also made for strong British and French influences. English is the official language, but even more prevalent is a French patois intermingled with African

dialect. Predominant religion on the island is Roman Catholicism. The leading Protestant churches are Anglican and Methodist.

The works of local artists and craftsmen are to be found in the shops and market places. St. Lucians are especially adept at the fabrication of cane furniture and at pottery-making. The most unusual type of pottery is the St. Lucian coalpot, a kind of West Indian hibachi made of heavy clay.

Because of two serious fires in 1927 and 1948, much of St. Lucia's Georgian architecture was destroyed. However, a number of stone cathedrals are worth visiting, along with the Victorian library at Castries and the Governor's Residence on Morne Fortuné.

The quality and availability of education is generally quite good from the primary grades onward to the technical and professional level.

Castries, with a population of over 40,000 is the capital city. It lies at the eastern side of one of the largest and most beautiful harbors in the West Indies. The Vigie Peninsula forms the northern arc of the Castries Harbour and is the site of an airport that serves inter-island and small aircraft. There is an international airport at Vieux Fort 40 miles from the capital.

Castries is the commercial and professional hub of the island. It also abounds in luxurious hotels, motels, fabulous restaurants, and boutiques and shops of every description.

The capital, however, has no monopoly on good accommodations, for the entire western coastline from Castries to Cap Estate at the very northernmost tip of the island is dotted with attractive beachside resorts offering every type of diversion.

To the south, the town of *Soufrière*, spectacularly guarded by the two Pitons, has drawn visitors to its gardenlike atmosphere and its healthful Sulphur Springs for many decades. These springs are located within the remains of an old volcano. Plans are to harness some of the thermal power recently discovered in the vicinity of the springs which would augment the electrical capacity of the island, decrease dependency on imported fuel, and spur industrialization.

The town of Vieux Fort with an international airport and a luxury hotel is now being developed along the concept of a Free Zone area.

HISTORY. First evidence of the island appears on a Vatican globe of 1502, where it is called Santa Lucia. But the first definite records of its existence occur in August 1604. They report the landing of 67 Englishmen whose ship was blown off course on the way to the Guianas. The 67 passengers decided to abandon the trip and set up a settlement on the island. The small colony failed to take root, however, due to the attacks of the resident Carib Indians. Few escaped with their lives.

In 1639 another attempt at colonization was made when Sir Thomas Warner, to whom rights to the island had been granted, commissioned about 400 men to set up a colony. At first all went well and a truce was made with the Caribs. But after two years, relations between the Europeans and the Indians collapsed, and in 1640 the Caribs wiped out the entire colony.

The French were next to dare the wrath of the Caribs. A French settlement was established in 1651, and France claimed St. Lucia as its own. The Governor married a Carib and the colony was left in peace until his death in 1654 at the hands of rebellious Caribs. In spite of their increasing and dangerous problems with the Caribs, the French stayed on under several different governors. In 1664 their claim to the island was challenged by the British. Under the leadership of Sir Thomas Warner, a thousand Barbadians and 600 Caribs invaded St. Lucia, meeting with little resistance. This attack marked the beginning of a century-long struggle between the French and British, with advantage going first to one and then the other in the battle for St. Lucia. Finally, in 1803, the British gathered a large force and invaded the island at Choc Bay. This proved to be the decisive victory that would return St. Lucia to British rule for 176 years.

In 1838 St. Lucia was annexed to the Government of the Windward Islands, comprised then of Barbados, Grenada, St. Vincent, and Tobago. St. Lucia remained a member until 1960, when it became a separate administrative unit of the Crown and was given a new constitution. In 1967 the island received an improved constitution and became an associated state of Great Britain. With this the island achieved internal self-government, and Great Britain remained responsible for defense and external affairs. A parliamentary form of government was adopted.

On February 22, 1979, St. Lucia attained full independence. That same year the young nation became a member of the Organization of American States.

GOVERNMENT. Saint Lucia is an independent state, attaining that status on February 22, 1979. It remains a member of the Commonwealth with the Queen as Head of State. A Governor-General appointed by the Queen on the advice of the Prime Minister represents the Queen in the State. The executive government rests on the Prime Minister. Parliament is composed by the House of Assembly and the State.

ECONOMY. The mainstay of the St. Lucian economy is agriculture which employs the majority of the population. Principal crops are bananas and coconuts. All types of citrus fruits are grown commercially. Sugar cane was for many years the leading export crop, but in recent times has yielded first place to bananas. Many types of fruits and vegetables are grown for domestic consumption.

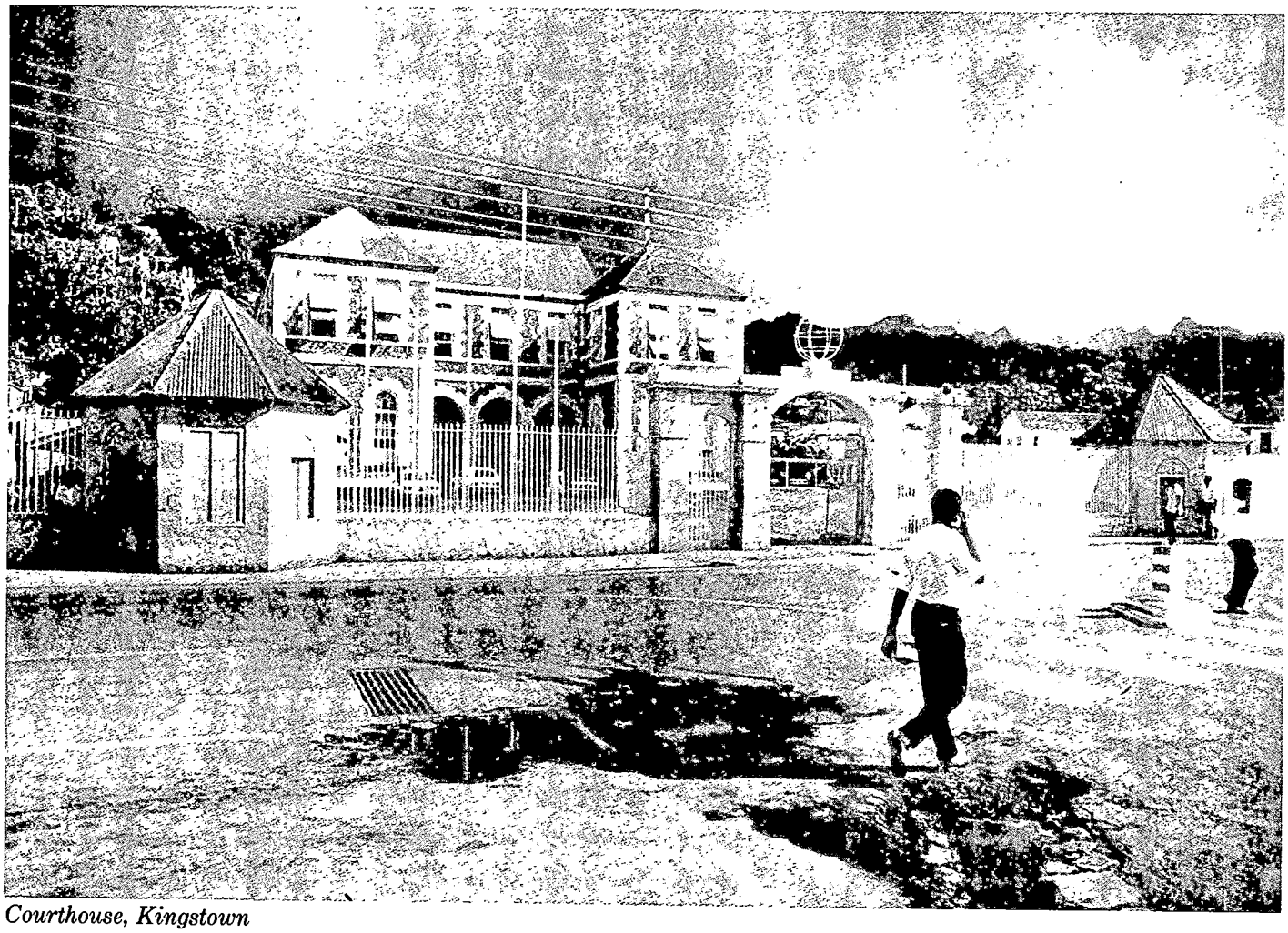
The nation's industries include the production of soft drinks, coconut oil, beer, flour, electrical components, clothing, and corrugated cartons. A large multimillion-dollar oil complex has been under construction.

The main seaport, Castries Harbour, is one of the most sheltered anchorages in the world. It is an international shipping port and can accommodate three large cargo and passenger ships simultaneously. The port facilities are in the process of expansion.

Tourism is big business in St. Lucia and makes an important contribution to the national economy.

FLAG. The flag of St. Lucia is blue. In its center is an isosceles triangle inside of which a gold equilateral triangle rises from a common base. The remaining portion of the isosceles triangle is black, edged with white.

SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES



Courthouse, Kingstown

Area: 150 square miles
Population: 110,000 (1981)
Capital: Kingstown
Currency: Eastern Caribbean dollar
Language: English
Independence Day: October 27

Beautiful is the simplest way to describe Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in the Windward Islands, located 100 miles west of Barbados, 21 miles south-west of Saint Lucia and 190 miles north of Trinidad and Tobago. It is a country of sandy beaches and mountainous terrain surrounded by blue-green waters. When discovered by Christopher Columbus in 1498, these lands were populated by Carib Indians.

GEOGRAPHY. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines covers a total area of 150 square miles formed by the islands of Saint Vincent, Bequia, Mustique, Canouan, Mayreau, Union, Prune (Palm), Petit St. Vincent and numerous islets. The largest island of the country, Saint Vincent, is 18 miles from north to south and 11 miles from east to west. The Grenadines include the rest of the islands mentioned in a chain extending between Saint Vincent and Grenada. All have soft white sandy beaches, crystal clear waters and coral reefs with enclosed bays that provide excellent cruising grounds. These waters are reputed to be among the finest sailing waters in the world. The weather is of a pleasant tropical nature with an average temperature of 78° F. The bright sun and clear skies make the days warm; however, the prevailing north-east trade winds are very refreshing; the nights are cool.

A mountain range running from north to south splits the island of Saint Vincent almost equally into a windward side and a leeward side. To the north is the Soufriére Volcano. Before this 4,000-ft. high volcano erupted in 1979, it was possible to swim in a lake created by its one-mile crater. No water is left now and a cinder dome has formed in the center of the crater. The view atop the volcano is spectacular, especially on the leeward side overlooking the Caribbean. The Windward coastline is bathed by the

Atlantic. Here the gently undulating slopes are a restful site interrupted only by the pounding of the waves. The Caribbean coastline of the leeward side provides dramatic views, but the waters are gentle offering good swimming conditions.

CULTURE. The majority of the people are black. Their first ancestors to arrive in Saint Vincent did not come as slaves, but as the survivors of a slave ship that sank between Saint Vincent and Bequia. The Caribs accepted them in their community and eventually intermixed with them, forming the Black Caribs. Intermittently, the British and the French controlled the island and also left their mark on the culture of the country. Towards the end of the eighteenth century, the British brought black slaves to work the land. When slavery was abolished in 1838, Portuguese and East Indians came to settle and work as indentured servants. The Vincentian today is the result of this cultural mixture.

Although Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is among the world's newest free nations, it is rich in culture. What makes this small nation great is the people. The Vincentians are friendly, courteous and have a wonderful sense of humor. Their carnival and calypso are typical forms of expression. The strength of character of the people has been amply demonstrated by the struggle to maintain stability after the hurricanes of 1875, 1886, 1898 and recently those called Allen and David so devastating for the economy of the country and the welfare of the people. Despite these calamities the Vincentians have managed to survive and keep their good-humored nature.

Down in the valley at the foot of the hills lies the capital, Kingstown, surrounded by the sparkling harbor located on the Caribbean side of the island. There are three main streets, Bay Street near the waterfront, Middle Street in the center of town, and Back or Grenville Street toward the hills where the houses have unobstructed views of the bay. Busy life can be experienced on Saturday when products are brought by buses or ships to the colorful waterfront market. In contrast, relaxation may be found in palm-lined lanes where St. George's Anglican Cathedral and St. Mary's Catholic Church are located. The architecture and stained glass windows of the churches are reminiscent of European style. A must to see is the two-century old Botanical Garden, which may be the oldest in the Western Hemisphere, overlooked by Government House, home of the Governor-General.

Primary education is free and is provided by 60 primary schools. 12 secondary schools are scattered throughout the island. The majority are financed and run by the government. Higher education is provided by a Teachers Training College and a Technical College. The University of West Indies offers professional training for suitably qualified students. There are library services comprising headquarters in the capital and fifteen branches throughout the country. There is also a bookmobile serving seven points on Saint Vincent.

HISTORY. When Christopher Columbus discovered Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in 1498 he found it was inhabited by the Caribs as were most of the islands in the area. The Caribs possessed the island until 1627. For a number of years the island was claimed by both the British and the French and control passed back and forth between them. In 1783 it was ceded to the British Crown under the terms of the Treaty of Versailles. The emancipation of slaves took place in 1838. Saint Vincent joined the Federation of the West Indies as an independent member in 1958 and remained until 1962 when the Federation was dissolved. On October 17, 1969 Saint Vincent became an Associated State of the United Kingdom with internal self-Government. Britain was still responsible for foreign affairs and defense. On October 27, 1979, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines became an independent state. In 1980 it joined the United Nations, and in 1981, the Organization of American States.

GOVERNMENT. Responsibility for the executive government lies with the Prime Minister. Parliament consists of a Senate and an elected House of Representatives.

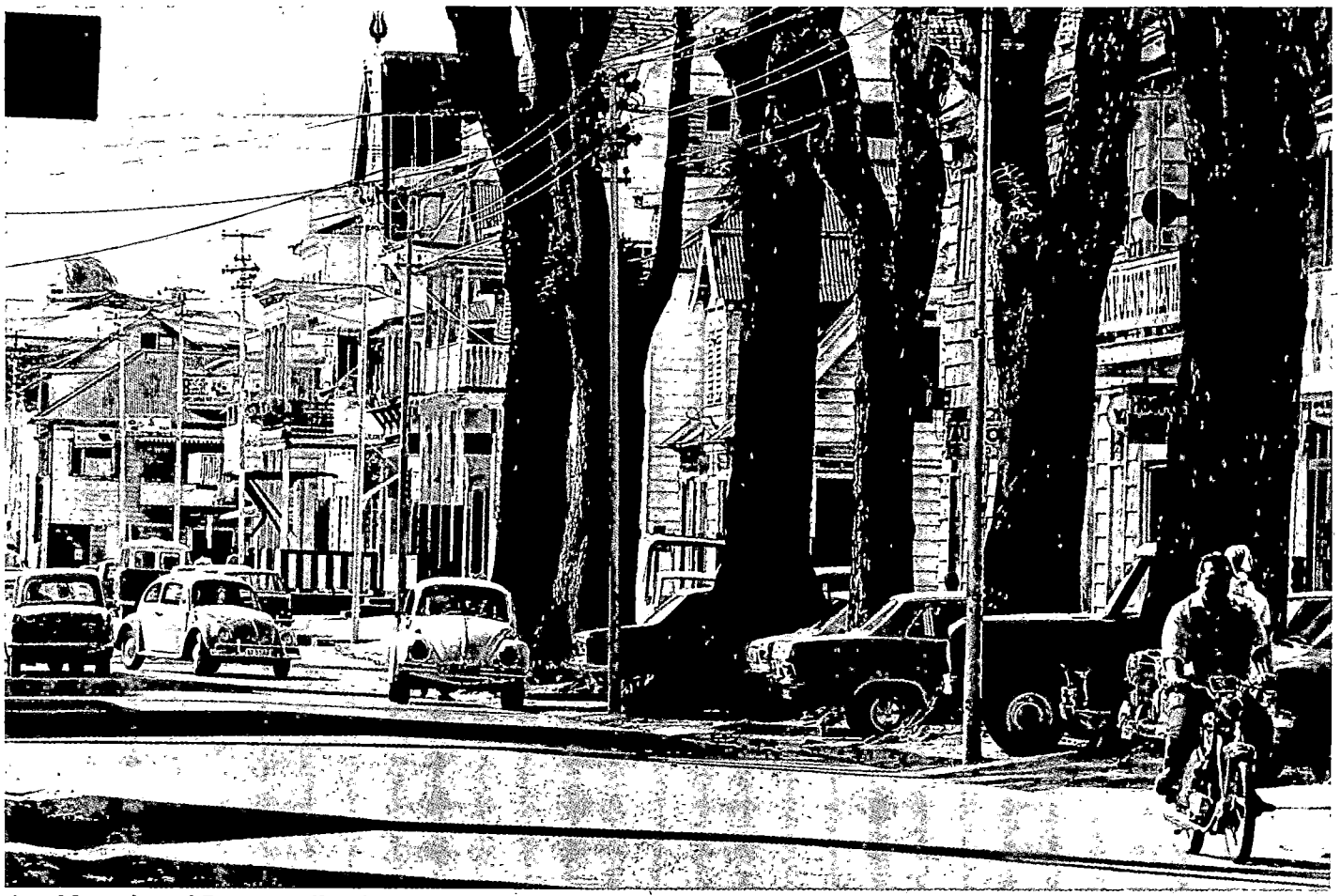
ECONOMY. Of the 150 square miles, 35,000 acres are arable in which bananas, arrowroot, coconuts, carrots, peanuts, citrus fruits, sweet potatoes, and other vegetables are grown. The principal export crops are bananas, coconuts, and arrowroot. Livestock farming is gradually improving. A meat processing plant began operation in 1975. Fishing is presently done only for domestic purposes. However, a fisheries development plan is being formulated with the assistance of FAO. The banana industry accounts for about 60 per cent of the economy. Other industries include arrowroot starch, coconut oil, rum and cigarettes.

The country forms part of the Eastern Caribbean Common Market and is a member of the Caribbean Free Trade Association (CARIFTA). The beauty of the land should attract tourism, but facilities are not fully developed. The hotels are small and range from modest to luxurious. The Government has begun a comprehensive tourist plan that should transform tourism into a major industry. It is also making concessions to investors in order to attract foreign capital.

Transportation and communications are good. The Arnos Vale airport handles international and domestic flights. The harbor of the capital serves white-sailed yachts as well as modern freighters, cruisers, and mail boats. International telephone and telex services are also provided. There are about 220 miles of highways and 230 of secondary roads.

FLAG. The flag has three vertical stripes of blue, yellow, and green separated by narrow stripes of white. In the center of the middle stripe is the coat-of-arms superimposed on a breadfruit leaf.

SURINAME



An old section of Paramaribo lined with mahogany trees

Area: 65,000 square miles
Population: 350,000 (1981)
Capital: Paramaribo
Currency: Suriname florin (Sf)
Language: Dutch
Independence Day: November 25

In northeast South America, between the Orinoco and the Amazon rivers, lies a vast territory known as Guiana. Suriname, for many years a colony of the Netherlands and then called Dutch Guiana, is the heart of this region. It is now a free and sovereign nation.

GEOGRAPHY. Suriname lies between Guyana and French Guiana. Its roughly rectangular territory is seamed with countless rivers and streams and divided into four distinct regions. The coastal belt—where the majority of the people live—comprises about 16 per cent of the total land area; the intermediate plains are covered by dense vegetation and savannah; to the west, steep mountains cloaked in impenetrable tropical rain forests make up a large part of the interior. The central range stretches southward toward the Tumac-Humac mountains on the Brazilian border. The Wilhelmina and Kayser ranges rise to the west and the Orange mountains to the east.

The climate is characterized by frequent rains that are heavier in the mountains of the interior. Although there are four seasons, none of them is completely dry or rainy. The temperature during the day varies from 72° F to 89° F (23° to 32° Celsius). The most pleasant time of the year is the "short dry season," which extends from February to April.

CULTURE. Most of the native Amerindians and the Bushnegroes, descendants of runaway freedom-seeking slaves, live in the hinterland. Almost half the Surinamese people live in or near Paramaribo. The majority are descendants of slaves from Africa and contract laborers from India, Indonesia, and China. The balance are Amerindians and descendants of settlers from Europe and the Middle East.

The official language is Dutch, although a lingua franca called "Sranan tongo," a mixture of English, Dutch, Spanish and Portuguese, is widely used, and Hindi, Javanese, and Chinese are also spoken. English is commonly used in international business contacts.

Education is provided by public schools controlled by the government and private schools run primarily by religious organizations. Attendance at school for children from 7 to 12 years of age has been cumpulsory since 1876. There are four centers of higher learning and one university, established in 1966.

Cultural centers and associations frequently schedule concerts, plays, and ballet performances. Various little theater groups perform folkloric and other types of drama.

The region is rich in handicrafts, particularly ceramics, woodcarving, and gold and silver work.

The capital, *Paramaribo*, located on the left bank of the Suriname River, is the country's administrative center and principal port. It is a modern city at the heart of which remain many of the old colonial structures. Here a population of over 100,000 is concentrated. To the north of the city is the oldest section with its typical buildings adorned with splendid, wooden balconies, painted in vivid colors. The city spreads in all directions toward the edges of the suburbs, where elegant residential areas boast white-walled villas with magnificent gardens.

New Nickerie, the second city of Suriname, is located on the south bank of the Nickerie River. Its population of more than 24,000 people can travel to Paramaribo by highway, by air, and by waterway. Important towns are *Albina*, 18 miles from the mouth of the Marowijne River, on the border with French Guiana; *Moengo*, 100 miles up the Cottica River, an important loading center for the bauxite mines of the Suriname Aluminum Co.; *Paranam*, headquarters of a bauxite mining and processing plant; and *Smalkalden*, also a mining and loading town on the Suriname River.

HISTORY. During a voyage along the coast of South America near the end of the fifteenth century, Spanish explorers discovered Suriname. And, although the English had visited there under the command of Sir Walter Raleigh, King Philip II of Spain formally declared the land a Spanish possession in 1593. Early in the seventeenth century the English began an attempt at colonization that was reinforced by Jews from Italy and Holland, who established tobacco farms in the Jodensavanna region. The Dutch also set up a colony near the Commewijne River, where they concentrated on the lumber business. These short-lived colonies were razed by the Spaniards in 1613 and the settlers dispersed. The French tried to gain a foothold by building a fort, which was never finished. In 1650 Lord Francis Willoughby, Governor of Barbados, declared Suriname a British possession and the land was reopened for colonization. During this era 500 plantations were established, and, because the Amerindians were considered unsuited to farm work, many slaves were imported from Africa.

In 1667 British rule came to an end when Commander Abraham Crijnssen from Zeeland took possession of the colony. Not long after, however, the English and the Dutch made peace, and with the Treaty of Breda the English gave up claim to Suriname in exchange for New Amsterdam, which they renamed New York.

Nearly a century later, in 1799, the British again invaded Suriname and kept possession of it off and on until 1816, when, under the terms of the Treaty of Paris, it was returned to the Kingdom of Holland. After several bloody uprisings by runaway slaves called Marrons, who were fighting for their freedom, King William II of Holland finally abolished the inhuman system of slavery on July 1, 1863. July 1 is now celebrated by Suriname as "Freedoms Day."

In 1866 the colony obtained a limited right of suffrage, and the "Staten," an elected representation of the people, was created. In 1954 Suriname obtained complete autonomy in its internal affairs, and, finally, on November 25, 1975, Suriname became an independent republic.

GOVERNMENT. Since the revolution of February 1980, a transitional constitution establishes governing authority with a Policy Center and a Council of Ministers. Suriname is working towards the establishment of a form of direct democracy based on a representation by elected officials, representing regional and functional sectors within the country. Those representatives will form a National Legislative Assembly.

ECONOMY. The economy of Suriname is primarily based on agriculture and bauxite mining. While bauxite is the principal source of income from foreign trade, agriculture is increasingly important. The richest and most accessible lands are found mainly near the rivers, where most farming is carried on. The humid coast, however, is suitable for the cultivation of rice, the primary agricultural product. Almost half the work force is engaged in agriculture.

The largest industrial centers are the bauxite plants in Paranam, Onverdacht, and Moengo; aluminum products are manufactured at plants in the industrial park at Paramaribo, and the smelter is located near Paranam.

Medium-sized industries include a brewery; factories for the manufacture of cigarettes, furniture, clothing, paint, construction materials, and household appliances.

The lumber business is also important. Thanks to large forest reserves, Suriname can provide neighboring nations and European clients with wood and wood products such as plywood and pre-fabricated housing materials.

Principal agricultural exports are rice, bananas, coffee, citrus fruits, sugar, and lumber. Livestock and seafood are in the process of development, the latter for export as well as domestic use.

Principal imports are petroleum and other fuels, basic materials, and other consumer capital goods, textiles, and automobile parts.

FLAG. Five alternating horizontal stripes: green and white, red, white and green. The broad red stripe has a yellow star in the center.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO



Sunset on one of Tobago's many fine beaches

Area: 2,000 square miles
Population: 1,072,000 (1981)
Capital: Port of Spain
Currency: Trinidad and Tobago dollar
Language: English
Independence Day: August 31

Cosmopolitan Trinidad and serene, exotic Tobago form the two-island nation whose official name is Trinidad and Tobago. Peopled by a mixture of races from many nations and continents, it is a land of white coral beaches, lush tropical vegetation, fields of rice and sugar cane, and plantations of coconut palms and citrus fruits; of oil wells, natural gas and asphalt; of calypso, limbo-dancing, and steel bands.

GEOGRAPHY. Southernmost of the Caribbean Islands, Trinidad is located close to the northeast coast of Venezuela, some 15 miles to the north of the delta of the Orinoco River. The tips of its two peninsulas that encircle the Gulf of Paria are separated from the shores of Venezuela by the narrow Dragon's Mouth and Serpent's Mouth channels. The island is about 48 miles long and 35 miles wide, with an area of 1,864 square miles. Three low mountain ranges that cross the island in the north, center, and south, are the

continuation of a Venezuelan range. Numerous rivers lend beauty to the landscape and keep the fields and forests green. The two most outstanding physical features of Trinidad are the Maracas Falls in the north and the great Pitch Lake in the south. To appreciate the true charm and character of the island, one must take to the highways and explore the fields and forests, and visit the beaches for water sports, fishing, and boating. The climate is tropical, with a dry season from January to May and a rainy season from June to December.

The 116-square-mile Island of Tobago, 20 miles to the northeast of Trinidad, is of volcanic origin and formed of a single mountainous mass, with a range of hills rising from the coral beaches to the height of 1,798 feet in the center. The coast is ringed with coves, bays, and peaceful beaches, while dense tropical vegetation covers the hills.

Five smaller islands are included in the national territory, including Little Tobago, a bird sanctuary, which is said to be the only place outside of New Guinea where the Bird of Paradise can be seen in a natural setting.

CULTURE. Trinidad has one of the most cosmopolitan populations in the world. Here the cultures of the Africans, British, Chinese, East Indians, French, Lebanese, Portuguese, Spanish, and Syrians mingle in perfect harmony. Having assimilated so many peoples from diverse backgrounds, Trinidad's culture is today rich in gifted artists, writers, and musicians. Visitors to this picturesque island see Moslem mosques, Hindu temples, and Victorian mansions; persons clad in Indian saris and modern tropical attire; and one hears calypso songs, rhythmic steel bands, Hindu and Moslem ritual music, and the murmur of many tongues.

The perfect harmony in which the varied peoples live is clearly demonstrated during Carnival, when gay throngs converge on Port of Spain, moving joyously to the throb of the steel drums. Nearly everyone on the island takes part each year in the Carnival's colorful street dances, masquerades, and uninhibited revelry in happy, good-humored unity on the two days before Ash Wednesday. Moslem and Hindu religious holidays are also celebrated with traditional rituals.

Port of Spain, the national capital, is an attractive town situated on the open roadstead of Trinidad's sheltered harbor, with a backdrop of green hills, Activity in its business sector is unusually brisk for a tropical town, but there is a relaxed, old-world atmosphere in the residential section, with its wide tree-lined streets. *San Fernando* and *Arima* are the country's next largest towns.

The inhabitants of Tobago are relaxed and informal. In addition to a few retired residents, most of them British, the population is composed mainly of people of African descent. Tobago is an ideal spot for water sports, gamefishing, bird-watching, or just relaxing. *Scarborough*, the principal town, is typical of the tropics. Situated on the shore of Rockley Bay and backed by hills, the town's steep lanes climb the slopes. On the summit of the hill, Fort King George still stands guard. Scarborough's native market is its main tourist attraction. *Charlotteville*, located on Man of War Bay, is a larger town than Scarborough, but not as important. A walk or drive through the verdant hills affords magnificent views of both landscape and sea.

HISTORY. When Columbus sighted the three peaks of the island on the horizon in 1498, he named it Trinidad (meaning Trinity). At that time Trinidad was inhabited by the warlike Caribs and the more peaceful Arawaks. Tobago was believed to be uninhabited. It was not until 1532 that Spain named a governor to Trinidad and later encouraged colonization. During the seventeenth century the islands suffered attacks by the Dutch and French. At the time of the French Revolution many French families migrated to Trinidad from Haiti and other Caribbean islands. In 1797, during the Napoleonic Wars, an English force seized Trinidad, which was ceded to Great Britain in 1802 by the Treaty of Amiens. Tobago passed from Spain to England, then to Holland and later to France, which ceded it to England in 1814. Tobago formed part of the colony of the Windward Islands until 1899, when it was united administratively with Trinidad.

The two islands were governed as a Crown Colony with a measure of self-rule until January 1958, when they, together with Jamaica, Barbados, and the Windward and Leeward Islands formed the Federation of the British West Indies. The Federation was dissolved in 1962, and Trinidad and Tobago became an independent nation within the British Commonwealth on August 31, 1962, and a member of the Organization of American States in March 1967. Trinidad and Tobago became a Republic on August 1st, 1976.

GOVERNMENT. Under the Constitution of 1976, Trinidad and Tobago is a Parliamentary Democracy. The Parliament consists of the President, the Senate, and the House of Representatives. The President exercises the executive power; the legislative power is composed by the Senate and the House of Representatives: and the judiciary power consists of the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals.

ECONOMY. Compared to other Caribbean countries, the economy of Trinidad and Tobago is relatively strong with one of the highest GDPs of that region. However the poor performance in recent years of two of the major sectors of the economy, petroleum and sugar, has affected the economic growth of the country, but has been compensated for by a growth in the service sector.

The construction industry is one of the most dynamic in the economy. The performance of this sector over the years has been impressive despite the shortage of materials. To remedy this shortage, the Government has invested in the expansion program of Trinidad Cement Limited and has signed a joint agreement with Barbados for the construction of a cement plant in that country.

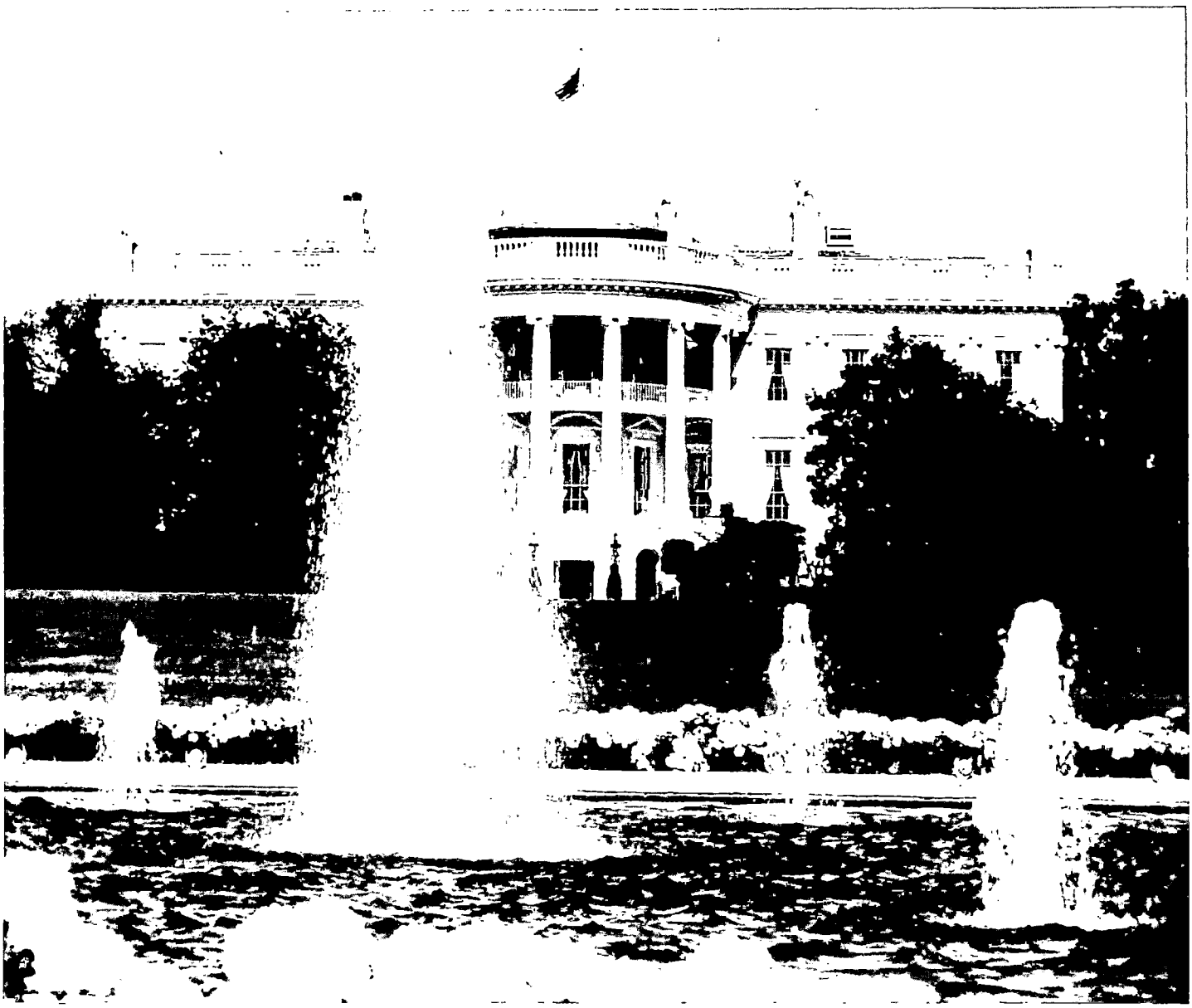
Light manufacturing, processing, and assembly operations are also important industries. The agricultural sector is the second largest source of earnings after petroleum. Recently the Government has directly promoted the development of energy-based industries such as the Iron & Steel Company of Trinidad and Tobago and the Fertiliser Company of Trinidad and Tobago. A urea plant and a methanol plant have also been established.

Chief exports are sugar—the main agricultural product—coffee, and cocoa.

Because of the beauty and uniqueness of this country tourism contributes to the economy, but it is not a major foreign exchange earner.

FLAG. The flag of Trinidad and Tobago consists of a red field with a white-bordered black diagonal running from the top left-hand corner.

UNITED STATES



The White House, Washington, D.C.

Area: 3,618 770 square miles
Population: 226,545,805*
Capital: Washington, D.C.
Monetary unit: Dollar (US$)
Language: English
Independence Day: July 4
National hero: George Washington

The United States is the fourth largest country in the world. A dynamic country of great beauty with a population as varied as its climate and topography. All races and almost all nationalities live within its boundaries. Despite their different origin all citizens have one thing in common guaranteed by the Bill of Rights: freedom of speech, of the press, of religion.

GEOGRAPHY. The central part of North America, the State of Alaska to the northwest of the continent, the State of Hawaii including a group of 20 islands in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, the Free Associated State of Puerto Rico, and several islands in the Atlantic and Pacific oceans make up the territory of the United States. The country is the second largest in the Western Hemisphere after Canada. Alaska occupies the territory bought from Russia in 1867 and represents 16% of the total area. The arctic zone in Alaska and the semi-tropical zones of Florida and Hawaii are the extreme opposites in climate and geography.

*1980 census, Bureau of the Census

The main part of the territory comprising about 2,400 miles from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific may be divided into five very different geographical regions: (1) the Atlantic Plains where the coastline is dotted with a great number of bays and excellent ports extending to the low Appalachian Mountains covered with pine forests; (2) the Great Plains, a semi-arid zone extending to the Rocky Mountains, at the center of which the Mississippi River runs from north to south and where a vast area is dedicated to corn and wheat growing as well as cattle grazing; (3) the Rocky Mountains region where the huge mountain peaks reach heights of over 16,000 feet and where the mineral wealth of the country is located; (4) the subwestern region, an extraordinary arid zone explored by the Spaniard Francisco Coronado when he was looking for the legendary Seven Golden Cities of Cibola and found instead the Grand Canyon of the Colorado River, one of nature's wonders; and (5) the West Coast that includes the Sierra Nevada, the Pacific coastline covered with palm trees and the giant sequoia, and the zone of the Central Valley comprising arid lands as well as fruit groves and vineyards.

CULTURE: The motto that appears in the seal of the nation, *E Pluribus Unum* (from many, one) typifies the culture of the United States. According to the 1980 census over one million of the people are native Indians and over 26 million are Blacks. Of the total population, 116,492,644 are women and 110,053,161 are men. The number of immigrants from 1820 to 1980 reached 49,554,000. There are 14,605,883 Hispanics living in the United States. The immigration of different nationalities and races has contributed substantially to the economic, social and cultural growth of the country. The public schools that were founded in New England in 1647 constitute the basis of the educational system. The middle class predominates and in 1982 of the total of 99,526,000 persons employed, 43,256,000 were women.

HISTORY. John Cabot a navigator born in Genoa, Italy, at the service of Great Britain, discovered the eastern coast of North America in 1497, five years after Columbus discovered the tiny island of San Salvador and South America. From his discoveries and those of his son, Sebastian, Great Britain claimed North America as one of its possessions. However, it did not establish a colony until 1607 when Jamestown in Virginia was founded. In 1513, the Spaniard Ponce de Leon discovered Florida and in 1565 Pedro Menéndez de Aviles founded Saint Augustine, the oldest town in the United States.

After 1607 the main British colonies were established by men and women fleeing from religious or political persecution, looking for shelter in the New World. The first of those colonies was Plymouth founded in 1620 by the Pilgrim Fathers who arrived in New England aboard the Mayflower. Other colonies, such as those of the Catholics, the Quakers under William Penn and the French Huguenots, were established later.

Years of unfair taxes and trade restrictions imposed by England nurtured the revolutionary spirit of the colonists. The first battles of the North American Revolution were fought in April 1775, and on the 4th of July of 1776 the Declaration of Independence was signed. The patriot army of General George Washington, strengthened with the economic and military aid of France and other foreign countries, fought bravely until victory was obtained in 1781.

George Washington was the first president of the United States elected under a new Constitution that came into force in 1789, under which a federal union was established substantially more powerful than that established under the Articles of Confederation.

In 1861 the insurmountable differences between the northern and southern states on economic issues and slavery of the Blacks resulted in the Civil War. In 1862 President Lincoln proclaimed the freedom of slaves, and three years later the Union Army (the northern states) won victory over the Confederate Army, and the country was united once more. In 1898 the Spanish-American War took place, resulting in the independence of Cuba from Spain, and the concession of the Spanish colonies of Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines to the United States.

United States participation in the two world wars of the 20th century was the decisive factor that won victory for the countries of the free world. In 1946 the United States granted independence to the Philippines and Puerto Rico became a Free Associated State in 1952.

GOVERNMENT. The Constitution of 1789 with 26 amendments is still in force. It is the supreme law of the country. According to the Constitution the United States has a democratic and representative form of government divided into three branches: The executive power headed by the President, the legislative power composed by the Senate and the House of Representatives, and the judicial power vested on the Supreme Court and other lesser courts. The structure of the state and local governments is similar to that of the federal government. The citizens have the right of self-determination as expressed in the popular phrase, "A government of the people, by the people, and for the people." They may exercise their right through a secret ballot in local, state, and national elections.

ECONOMY. Agriculture was the main economic activity until after the Civil War. Starting in 1862, millions of people became landlords and farmers thanks to a special law called the Homestead Act that donated 160 acres to any citizen who would establish residence in nonpopulated land and cultivate it during five years. As of 1980 there were 2,500,000 individual farms with an average size of 440 acres.

At the beginning of the 20th century the United States had become the first industrial nation of the world due mainly to five factors: (1) a wealth of mineral and forest resources, raw materials, hydroelectric power, and petroleum deposits; (2) the industrial revolution brought about by the steamship, the telegraph, the telephone, the sewing machine, the airplane, and the inventions of Thomas Edison that amounted to more than 1,200; (3) the abundance of manpower, reinforced by the continuous European immigration; (4) home appliances and automobile production and consumption; (5) foreign trade expansion that made the United States the first commercial nation and major purchaser of world market products.

The total amount of exports in 1982 was over $212 billion while imports reached over $243 billion.

FLAG. The United States flag is composed of 13 horizontal stripes, seven red and six white, and 50 white stars over a blue rectangle. The stripes represent the first 13 colonies and the stars the 50 states.

URUGUAY



Plaza Independencia, Montevideo

Area: 72,200 square miles
Population: 2,908,000 (1981)
Capital: Montevideo
Currency: peso
Language: Spanish
Independence Day: August 25
National hero: José Artigas

Uruguay long ago achieved the reputation for being a pioneer in advanced political, economic, and social reforms. For this reason, it has been called "the social laboratory of the Americas" and "America's first welfare state." Uruguay established the eight-hour working day long before its adoption by most other countries of the Hemisphere. Public education is free to students at all levels, from the primary grades through the university; thus, it is not surprising that Uruguay has one of the lowest rates of illiteracy in the Hemisphere.

GEOGRAPHY. Smallest of the South American republics, Uruguay is situated on South America's east coast, between the mouth of the Río de la Plata and Brazil's southernmost region. With the exception of the northern highlands, the topography of the country is largely level, with well-distributed natural waterways. About 73 per cent of the land consists of natural pastures, which support fine herds of cattle and sheep; 12 per cent of the land is under cultivation.

CULTURE. The national culture of Uruguay is a product of the country's native writers, artists, and thinkers, and the cultural influences of Europe transplanted by immigrants from many countries. Successive waves of immigration, particularly from Spain and Italy, account for

Uruguay's racially homogeneous and cosmopolitan population. The native Charrúa Indians had virtually disappeared by 1830, but they are vividly portrayed in the great epic poem *Tabaré* by Juan Zorilla de San Martín. The works of José Enrique Rodó, one of America's foremost literary figures, represent the highest attainment in national literature.

Center of cultural, economic, and political life, *Montevideo* is one of America's most impressive capitals. Visitors admire its broad, tree-shaded boulevards, magnificent parks and rose gardens, and public buildings—notably the marble and granite Legislative Palace. In the original "Old City," founded in 1726, the chief colonial landmarks are the Cathedral and the Cabildo (former city hall). The capital's main boulevard, Avenida 18 de Julio, begins at the Plaza Independencia and terminates at Batlle Park, where the huge Centenary Stadium is located. Spreading along the Río de la Plata are beautiful residential suburbs and a string of crescent-shaped beaches from Ramírez and Pocitos to Carrasco. Continuing eastward from the capital toward the Atlantic are the famous beach resorts of Atlántida, La Floresta, Piriápolis, Punta del Este, La Paloma, and La Coronilla.

Paysandú, the nation's second city in size, is a busy commercial center with many industries, including flour mills, tanneries, sugar refineries, textile mills, breweries, and canning factories. *Salto*, the third largest city, is a livestock and agricultural center, famous for its orange and tangerine groves and wine grapes. The attractive city of *Mercedes*, on the shores of the Negro River, is important as a transportation center in a productive agricultural and livestock zone. *Fray Bentos*, the first major river port on the Uruguayan River, exports a large output of meat products and extracts from its meatpacking industry. *Colonia* is an important travel link by ferry between Montevideo and Buenos Aires and contains many colonial landmarks; it is the starting point of the Uruguayan sector of the Pan American Highway. Picturesque *Minas* was named for its mines and is the source of beautiful varieties of marble. In another beautiful region is *Colonia Suiza*, originally settled by Swiss immigrants.

EARLY HISTORY. Juan Diaz de Solis, one of Spain's chief navigators, discovered the Río de la Plata and landed about 100 miles east of present-day Montevideo in 1516. He claimed the territory for the Spanish Crown, but was soon killed fighting the Charrúa Indians, whose fierce resistance to the invaders prevented repeated attempts at colonization for more than a century. In 1680 Nova Colonia do Sacramento (now Colonia) was founded by the Portuguese as an outpost against Spanish penetration from Buenos Aires, on the opposite shores of the Río de la Plata. The Spaniards founded Montevideo in 1726 as a fortified stronghold against encroachment from the huge Portuguese colony of Brazil. Thus the Banda Oriental, as the region east of the Uruguay River was called, became a battleground in a long struggle to conquer and hold the territory that lasted until 1828. The Portuguese were finally expelled from Colonia by the Spaniards, and in 1777 the Banda Oriental became part of Spain's Viceroyalty of the Río de la Plata.

The revolutionary movement, touched off in Buenos Aires in 1810, spread to the Banda Oriental where patriots led by José Artigas fought for independence from Spain and against invading Portuguese forces for a decade. Unable to defeat the Portuguese, Artigas was forced to retreat across the Uruguay River. The Banda Oriental was annexed to Portuguese Brazil as the Cisplatine Province in 1821. Known as the "Father of Uruguayan Independence," Artigas had firmly implanted the goal of a free Uruguay, which was finally achieved by his former lieutenant Juan Antonio Lavalleja. Independence was declared in 1825.

José Batlle Ordóñez elected president in 1903 has been called the "father of modern Uruguay" because of the tremendous benefits reaped from the advanced economic, social, and political reforms effected during his two terms as president of the republic. His ambition to adopt the Swiss pattern of a national executive council was realized after his death, when Uruguay, by a national plebiscite in 1951, abolished the presidency and placed the executive power in a nine-man council of government elected directly by the people. However, after 15 years of government by the National Council, this system proved unsatisfactory, and on November 27, 1966, the Uruguayans voted in a plebiscite to restore the executive power to a single chief of state.

GOVERNMENT. The Constitution provides that the President and Vice President shall be elected jointly and directly by the people (*cuerpo electoral*) by a simple majority of votes for the period of five years under the simultaneous double vote system in which there may never be accumulation of votes of party factions (*sublemas*).

ECONOMY. Agriculture and livestock-raising are the pillars of Uruguay's economy. Significant food crops include cereal grains, flax, oilseeds, sugar beets, and various fruits and vegetables. Fishing has grown substantially due to the Government's investments in expansion of the fishing fleet, improvement of processing plants and ports, and adoption of better marketing techniques. Traditional exports are meat, wool, and hides.

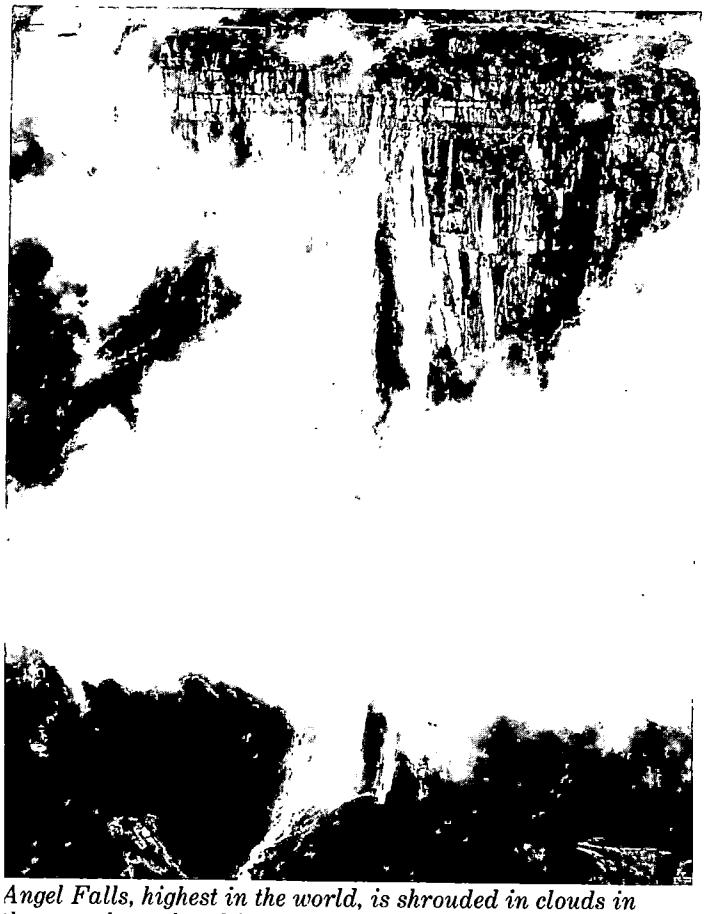
The processing of agricultural and animal products makes up about 50 per cent of Uruguay's industrial output. After two decades of stagnation, industry made a strong recovery between 1974 and 1976, but in 1981 it was affected by international recession and the increasing competition of imports resulting from reduction in import tariffs.

In an effort to reduce the heavy economic cost of petroleum imports, the Government has embarked on several cooperative projects to exploit the country's considerable hydroelectric potential. The largest project was a joint venture with Argentina, the Salto Grande hydroelectric plant.

An influx of thousands of tourists to the luxurious resorts and many beaches of Uruguay also contributes significantly to the national income.

FLAG. The Uruguayan flag consists of four blue horizontal stripes alternating with five white ones, with a golden sun in a white square in the upper corner next to the flagstaff.

VENEZUELA



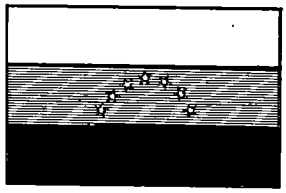
Angel Falls, highest in the world, is shrouded in clouds in the scarcely explored jungles of the Guayana Highlands

Area: 352,200 square miles
Population: 14,313,000 (1981)
Capital: Caracas
Currency: bolívar
Language: Spanish
Independence Day: July 5
National hero: Simón Bolívar

Venezuela is rich in the variety and quantity of its natural resources, with enormous deposits of iron ore, bauxite, gold, and other minerals. The country is also blessed with very productive lands and many rivers that provide it with hydraulic potential. Among its natural wonders are Angel Falls, the highest waterfall in the world, the beautiful Guácharo cavern and the Orinoco river, the third in volume of the world. These characteristics place Venezuela in a unique position and make it a most attractive country.

The land is said to have received its name from the explorer Americus Vespucius, who was reminded of Venice by the native huts built on piles over the waters of Lake Maracaibo and called it Venezuela, Spanish for Little Venice.

GEOGRAPHY. Venezuela exceptional geographical location permits easy access to the most important ports in the world. The country is situated in the north of South America. The variety of the climate is one of the most important geographical characteristics of the country. There are seven main regions: the northern, which follows the Caribbean coast from the Maracaibo Basin to the eastern peninsula of Paria; the Andean, which includes the mountainous chain known as the Sierra Nevada where the highest mountain peak of the country, the snow-capped Pico Bolívar, is found, rising more than 16,000 feet above sea level; the Maracaibo Basin, a hot humid region of fertile valleys surrounding Lake Maracaibo, and the greatest petroleum center of the country; the *llanos*, or great plains, covering almost a third of the national territory, from the Andes in the west to the delta of the Orinoco river in the east; the Escudo de Guayana to the south of the country, one of the oldest geological formations of the world where the typical mountain ranges of this region, the Tepuy, may be seen; the Orinoco basin to the northeast, an important waterway region; and the islands region that includes the islands of Margarita, Coche y Cubagua, Isla de Aves, and Los Mónjes.



Behind the hot Caribbean coast lies the temperate coffee and cacao-producing region of the Central Highlands. The greatest concentration of population is found in this area, which includes Caracas, capital of the nation, Valencia and Maracay, two important industrial centers. The country's most productive agricultural lands in the valleys of Tuy and Yaracuy, and Lake Valencia are also found in this region. More towards the south are the high valleys of Portuguesa and Barinas offering a wealth of agricultural production. The Maracaibo Basin is the petroleum and milk producing region of the country.

The wide llanos to the north of the Orinoco river have traditionally been the center of the country's cattle industry, but today modern technology is turning some of this extensive pasture land into fields of rice, corn, sorgo, and sesame. The Guayana Highlands of Venezuela are covered with impenetrable, scarcely explored, jungles. A mountain chain in this region is the major source of the country's mineral deposits. Gran Sabana and Auyantepuy are part of the wide altiplano. Auyantepuy contains the highest known waterfall in the world, Angel Falls, with a drop of approximately 2,625 feet.

Of the 71 islands in the national territory, the most important is Margarita Island, a major fishing port, once famous for its pearls, now well-known as a free port and a great attraction for tourists.

CULTURE. The majority of Venezuelans are of European and Indian ancestry. There is a minority of blacks descendants of the African slaves. A cosmopolitan population includes some 700,000 foreigners who have settled in Venezuela especially since 1946, when an "open door" immigration policy was established at the end of World War II. Despite present immigration restrictions, European immigrants mostly Spanish, Italians and Portuguese have made a significant contribution to the economic, social, and cultural development of the country. More recently there have been immigrants from neighboring countries, such as Argentina, Colombia, Chile and other

South American countries. The national culture has preserved the Spanish colonial heritage along with the modern. The School of Plastic Arts Cristóbal Rojas has produced many outstanding contemporary artists, among them, Jesús Soto and Cruz Diez. The founding of the Chacao Conservatory in the eighteenth century gave music an important place in cultural life. The "Populo Meus" of José Angel Lamas is considered one of the most moving religious works ever composed in the Americas. Today Venezuela has one of the largest and most important cultural centers of the Western Hemisphere. The center has been named after the renown Venezuelan pianist, Teresa Carreño, nationally and internationally famous. National literature was greatly enriched by the writings of Simón Bolívar and by the gifted philologist, poet, and historian Andrés Bello. In the field of contemporary literature *Doña Barbara* by Rómulo Gallegos is a classic of Latin American fiction.

Education in Venezuela is free for all citizens. A wide system of higher education has been developed to include universities and technical institutions of high quality which have produced scientists and specialists in engineering, medicine, social, political, and natural sciences, and other fields.

In *Caracas*, the political and commercial heart of the republic, one finds many reminders of the Liberator: the Bolívar Museum, the National Pantheon, and the Casa Natal, Bolívar's birthplace. The overwhelming spirit of modern times has transformed this venerable metropolis into a city of the most avant garde architecture. Here are found six universities, several museums, broad boulevards, lovely parks, and elegant residential districts. *Maracay*, very close to Caracas, originally a sleepy colonial town, it is now a modern city of varied industries. *Valencia*, in a setting of rolling hills, orange and lemon groves, coffee and cacao plantations, is the principal distribution center for the agricultural products of the Aragua Valley. In recent years, however, Valencia has become the country's largest industrial zone. *Maracaibo*, Venezuela's second city, is famous as a petroleum and commercial center of the west of the country. *Ciudad Bolívar*, formerly Angostura, originator of the famous bitters, is historically important as the seat of the Congress of Angostura, which proclaimed the Republic of Gran Colombia and elected Simón Bolívar president in 1819. Besides, it is the main shipping and trading center for the southern llanos and the entire Orinoco river area. *La Guaira*, Venezuela's principal port, is a city of steep, narrow streets climbing sharply from the busy port section to the terraced slopes of the Coastal Range, and *Puerto Cabello* is one of the largest natural ports in the world. *Barquisimeto*, one of Venezuela's fastest growing cities, is the main agricultural and economic center of the northwest.

EARLY HISTORY. Columbus discoverd the land later christened Venezuela on August 1, 1498, when he anchored in the Gulf of Paria. His reports of pearls and gold induced Alonso de Ojeda and many others to explore the Caribbean coast as far as Lake Maracaibo. Soon Venezuela's Pearl Coast became famous. Cubagua, founded in 1516, was the first city in South America and after being destroyed by an earthquake Cumaná was founded in 1521. In 1528 Carlos I of Spain gave the German banking house of Welser the right to conquer and settle the most desirable parts of Venezuela. The German mandate was terminated in 1546 and true colonization began in 1556. Caracas, founded by Diego de Losada in 1567, became the capital of the Province of Venezuela in 1577, which together with the Provinces of Nueva Andalucía, Mérida, Maracaibo, and Guyana formed the Captaincy-General of Venezuala, with the same boundaries as the republic today (except for Trinidad). By 1786 the Captaincy-General had its own Royal Audiencia. Among the precursors that contributed to the cause of Venezuela's independence, Francisco de Miranda was considered the father of the independence movement. Simón Bolívar, known in History as the Liberator, obtained liberty for northern South America. On July 5, 1811, Venezuela declared its independence from Spain and by the end of the year had adopted a new constitution. In 1821 Bolívar obtained Venezuela's independence at the Battle of Carabobo after seeking freedom for Colombia in the Battle of Boyacá in 1819. Bolívar then sponsored the creation of Gran Colombia, which encompassed Venezuela, New Granada, Ecuador, and what is now Panama. In 1830 Bolívar died in Santa Marta and in the same year Venezuela seceded from Gran Colombia and established its own constitution.

After Bolívar's death the country suffered a long period of political instability. At the beginning of the twentieth century the country was controlled by a series of dictatorships that ended in 1936 when the democratic form of government was first established. The democratic process was completed in 1958, and in 1961 the National Constitution now in force was adopted, under which Venezuela has consolidated its democratic institutions.

GOVERNMENT. Venezuela is a representative democracy, with power divided among three branches: the Executive, headed by the president of the republic who is elected by direct popular vote for the period of five years; the Legislative, composed of a Senate and a House of Representatives; and the Judiciary, consisting of the Supreme Court of Justice and other courts determined by law.

ECONOMY. Based on its petroleum wealth, Venezuela has become a very prosperous country with a low inflation index. Because of the sharp increase in oil prices in the early 70s, Venezuela's balance of payments accounts and international reserves soared, but due to the weakening of the world oil market a downward trend was observed in 1980. However, it continues to have a strong economy, based mainly on basic raw materials, such as iron ore, bauxite, coal, gold, petroleum and petroleum derivatives. It also has great hydroelectric resources, forests, and extensive lands for the development of cattle and agriculture as well as a wide and modern road network.

The nation's main ports are La Guaira, Puerto Cabello, and Maracaibo where Venezuela's main exports are shipped to other countries—crude and refined oil, iron ore and ingots, industrial diamonds, gold, steel manufactures, natural gas, and sugar.

FLAG. The Venezuelan flag consists of three horizontal stripes of equal width: yellow, blue, and red from top to bottom. The blue stripe has an arc of seven white stars.

THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

The purposes of the Organization of American States (OAS) are to strengthen the peace and security of the Hemisphere; to prevent possible causes of difficulties and to ensure the pacific settlement of disputes that may arise among the member states; to provide for common action on the part of those states in the event of aggression; to seek the solution of political, juridical, and economic problems that may arise among them; and to promote, by cooperative action, their economic, social, and cultural development.

To achieve these objectives, the OAS acts through the General Assembly; the Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs; the three Councils (the Permanent Council, the Inter-American Economic and Social Council, and the Inter-American Council for Education, Science, and Culture); the Inter-American Juridical Committee; the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights; the General Secretariat; the Specialized Conferences; and the Specialized Organizations.

The General Assembly holds regular sessions once a year and special sessions when circumstances warrant. The Meeting of Consultation is convened to consider urgent matters of common interest and to serve as Organ of Consultation in the application of the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance (known as the Rio Treaty), which is the main instrument for joint action in the event of aggression. The Permanent Council takes cognizance of matters referred to it by the General Assembly or the Meeting of Consultation and carries out the decisions of both when their implementation has not been assigned to any other body; monitors the maintenance of friendly relations among the member states and the observance of the standards governing General Secretariat operations; and, in certain instances specified in the Charter of the Organization, acts provisionally as Organ of Consultation under the Rio Treaty. The other two Councils, each of which has a Permanent Executive Committee, organize inter-American action in their areas and hold regular meetings once a year. The General Secretariat is the central, permanent organ of the OAS. The headquarters of both the Permanent Council and the General Secretariat is in Washington, D.C.

The Organization of American States is the oldest regional society of nations in the world, dating back to the First International Conference of American States, held in Washington, D.C., which on April 14, 1890, established the International Union of American Republics. When the United Nations was established, the OAS joined it as a regional organization. The Charter governing the OAS was signed in Bogotá in 1948 and amended by the Protocol of Buenos Aires, which entered into force in February 1970. Today the OAS is made up of thirty-two member states.

MEMBER STATES: **Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, The Bahamas,** *(Commonwealth of)*, **Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica,** *(Commonwealth of)*, **Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, United States, Uruguay, Venezuela.**



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GUIDE TO THE COLUMBUS MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Organization of American States
General Secretariat
COLUMBUS MEMORIAL LIBRARY
Washington, D.C.
1988

Columbus Memorial Library
Organization of American States
19th and Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20006-4499
(202) 458-6037

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The Library is closed on the following days: New Year's Day, Martin Luther King's Day, Washington's Birthday, Good Friday, Memorial Day, U.S. Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day.

	Telephone
Director of the Library	458 - 6040
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Records Management Center	458 - 3849

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GUIDE TO THE COLUMBUS MEMORIAL LIBRARY

2d edition

Columbus Memorial Library
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
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INTRODUCTION

This guide is intended to provide an introduction to the services and collections of the Columbus Memorial Library. It describes those services offered by the Library and gives considerable information pertaining to the collections, activities and programs of the Library. The guide is solely a first step in making the reader self-sufficient in using the Library. The reader will gain further expertise through experience and by asking for assistance from a member of the staff.

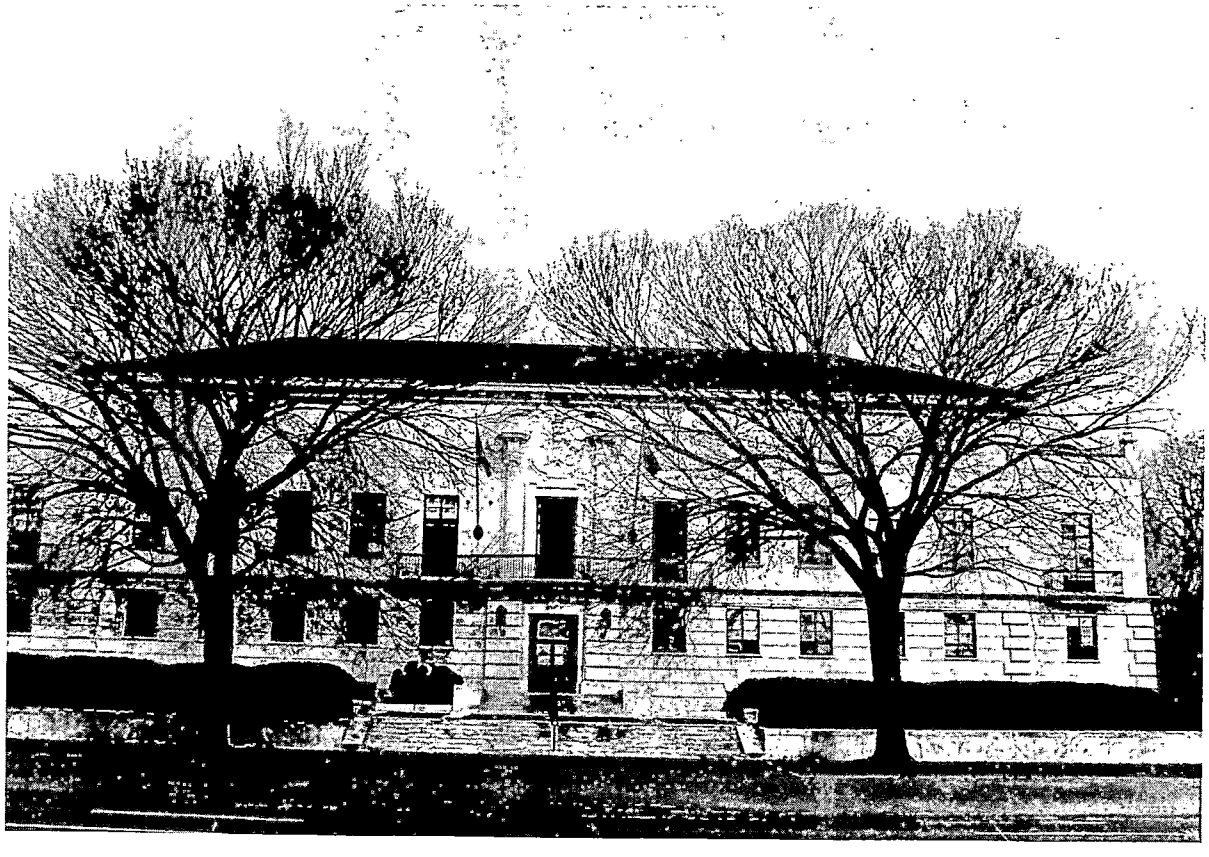
The Guide is divided into four sections - **Reader Services**, the **Collections**, **Processing Services**, **Glossary of Library Terms**. Sufficient detail is provided to answer the most commonly received inquiries. However, all Library users are encouraged to contact a member of the staff should they require additional information.

The Library provides for the selective dissemination of information about books and periodical articles that are of especial interest to the staff of the General Secretariat. The List of Recently Catalogued Books is issued quarterly. Periodical Articles of Interest is issued bi-monthly. These two publications provide an excellent means for keeping current with matters of interest within the inter-American system. These publications are sent to the offices of the **Secretary General**, **Assistant Secretary General**, **Assistant Secretaries** and **Departamental Directors**. Others wishing to receive these publications should contact the Library.

Thomas L. Welch
Director
Columbus Memorial Library

ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

Columbus Memorial Library

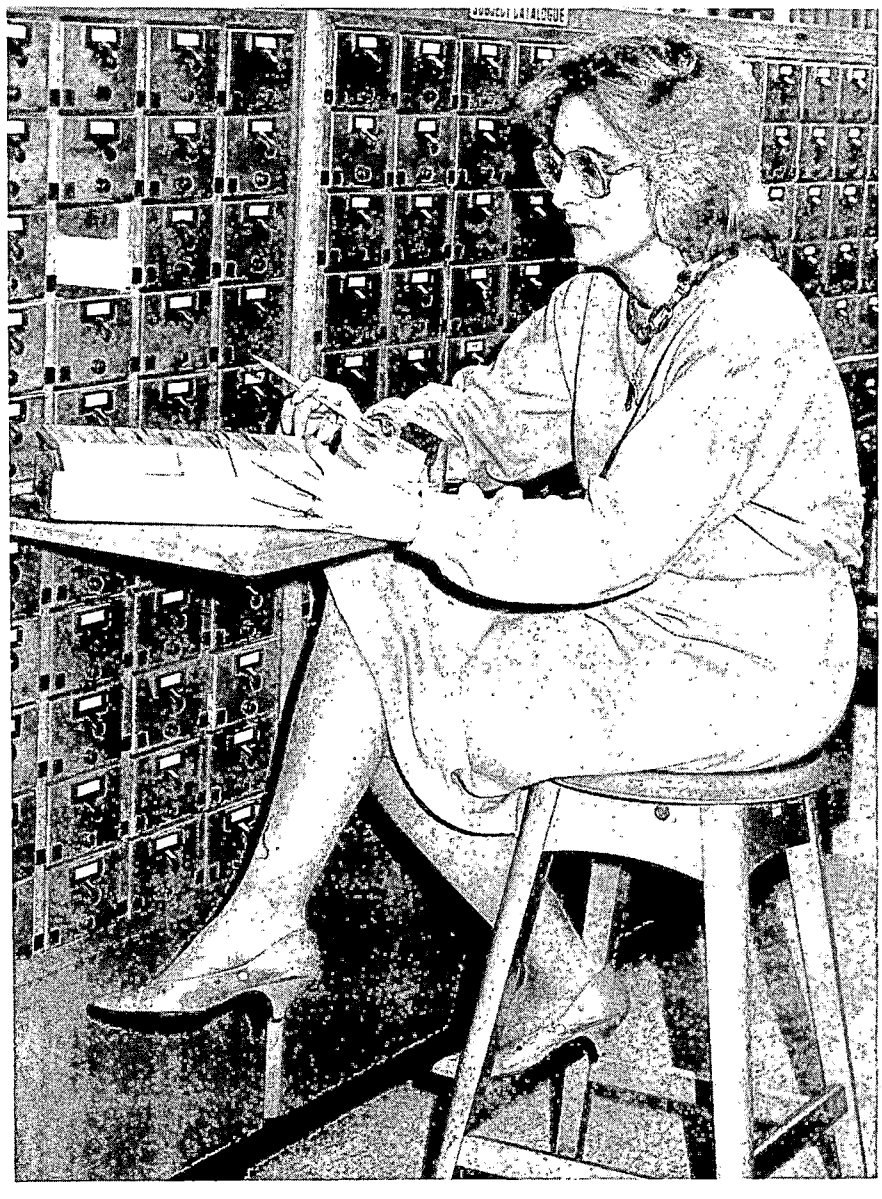


The collections of the Columbus Memorial Library contain millions of books, periodicals, documents, microforms and other graphic materials. All items housed in the Library may be consulted in accordance with the regulations governing the use of the different types of resources. Regulations governing usage are designed to assure all readers with the maximum degree of access to materials in the collections.

LOCATING INFORMATION

Locating recorded information is ordinarily a two-step process: first, the identification of a work that is apt to contain the desired information, and second, the location of a copy of a particular publication.

PUBLIC CARD CATALOGUE



The public card catalogue is usually the first place to look to locate bibliographic information. It provides a listing in standardized format for most books and serials in the Library. The card catalogue in this Library is divided into two sections. One section is the Author/Title Catalogue and the other section is the Subject Catalogue. The Author/Title Catalogue is an alphabetical listing of materials by their authors and titles. The Subject Catalogue gives the bibliographic information under the subject headings that specifically describe the contents. Subject headings may not correspond exactly with those the reader has in mind. Try several approaches or consult the subject authority control, a two volume set, Library of Congress Subject Headings, which is located near the card catalogue.

Arrangement of cards in the catalogues is alphabetical; however, please note the following special filing rules.

1. Cards are filed alphabetically letter-by-letter and then word-by-word.

2. Abbreviations are filed as if spelled in full.

3. Numbers are filed as if spelled in full according to the language used in the book.

4. Proper names beginning with Mc or M' are filed as if spelled Mac

5. The apostrophe (') is ignored in filing cards except as indicated in item four above.

6. The articles a, an, and the, as well their equivalents in languages other than English, are disregarded in filing if they are the first word of the title or a name.

7. Works published by a governmental agency, are filed, with few exceptions, under the name of the jurisdiction, usually these are country, state, county or city.

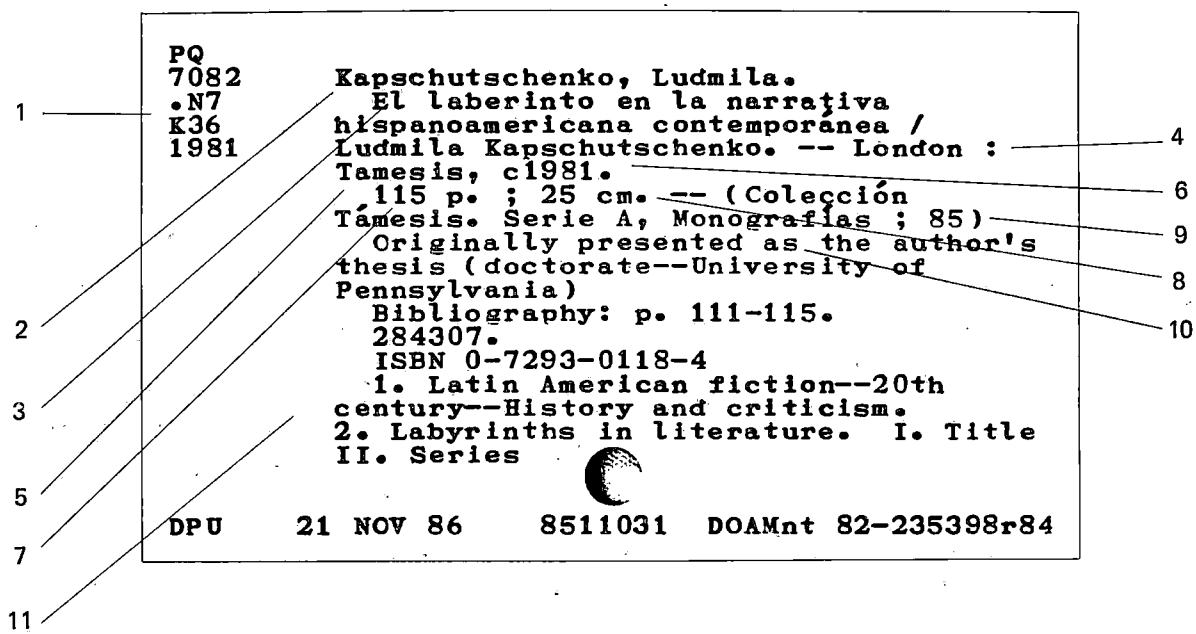
8. Period and date subdivisions are filed chronologically as part of the subject heading.

9. In the subject catalogue, the priority for filing identical words is person, place, object.

10. Computer languages and certain other common acronyms are filed as words.

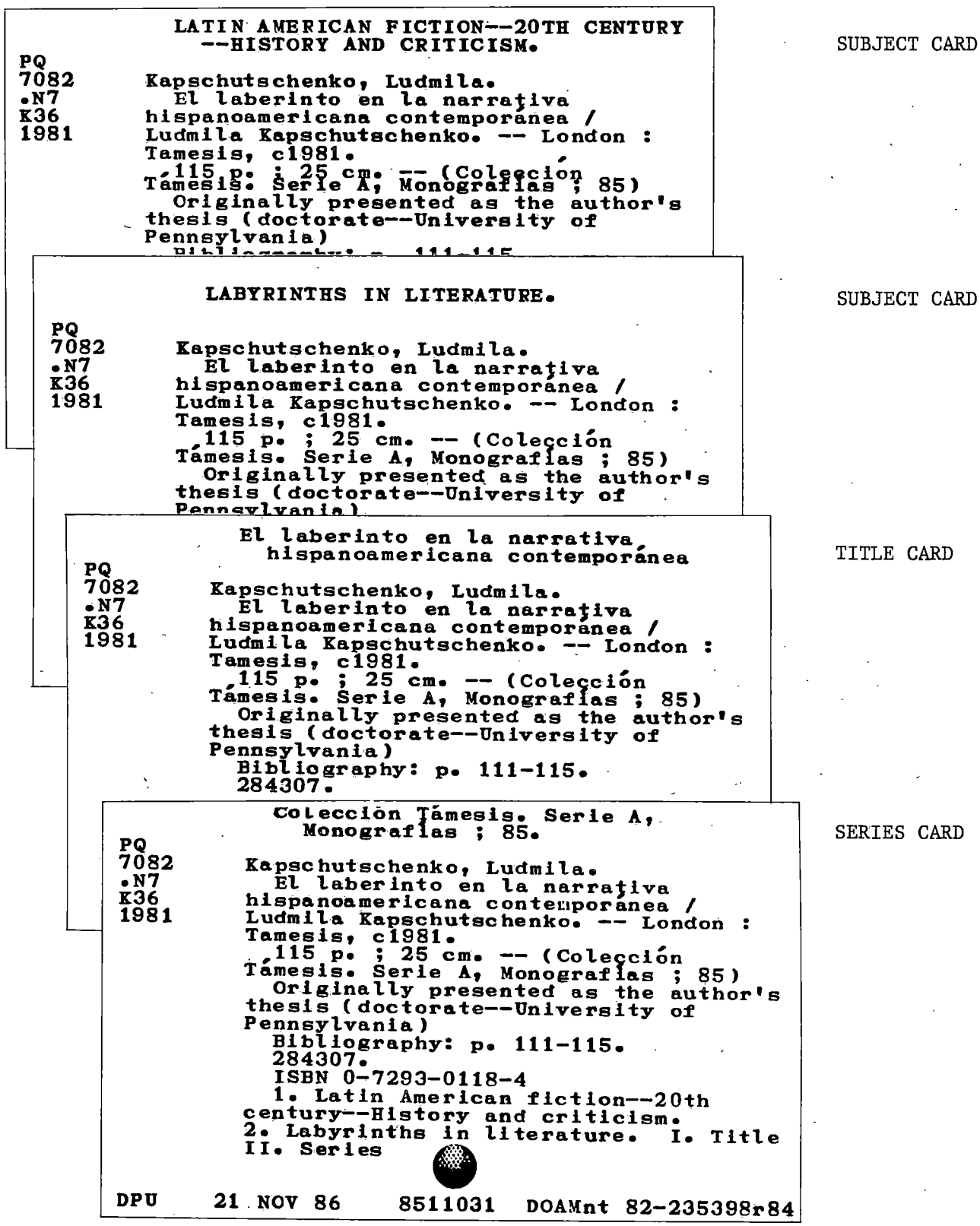
CARDS IN THE CARD CATALOGUE

There are more than one million cards in the public card catalogue of the Columbus Memorial Library and some 2,000 are added each month. The format and typography have varied a little over the years, but the basic design remains a unit card with the main entry in the most prominent position. All other headings and holdings information are added to this unit card. Four to six cards identify most books in the Library. Notice the types and quantity of information available on the catalogue card:



1. Call Number
2. Author
3. Title
4. Place of publication
5. Publisher
6. Date of publication
7. Number of pages
8. Size of book
9. Series
10. Content notes
11. Added entries for subject, title and series.

OTHER CARDS IN THE CARD CATALOGUE FOR THIS BOOK



LATIN AMERICAN FICTION--20TH CENTURY
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SUBJECT CARD

PQ
7082 Kapschutschenko, Ludmila.
.N7 El laberinto en la narrativa
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1981 Ludmila Kapschutschenko. -- London :
Tamesis, c1981.
115 p. ; 25 cm. -- (Colección
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Originally presented as the author's
thesis (doctorate--University of
Pennsylvania)
Bibliography: p. 111-115.

LABYRINTHS IN LITERATURE.

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Originally presented as the author's
thesis (doctorate--University of
Pennsylvania)

El laberinto en la narrativa
hispanoamericana contemporánea

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thesis (doctorate--University of
Pennsylvania)
Bibliography: p. 111-115.
284307.

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Monografías ; 85.

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.N7 El laberinto en la narrativa
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Tamesis, c1981.
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Tamesis. Serie A, Monografías ; 85)
Originally presented as the author's
thesis (doctorate--University of
Pennsylvania)
Bibliography: p. 111-115.
284307.
ISBN 0-7293-0118-4
1. Latin American fiction--20th
century--History and criticism.
2. Labyrinths in literature. I. Title
II. Series

DPU 21 NOV 86 8511031 DOAMnt 82-235398r84

CROSS REFERENCES

The card catalogues contain a large number of cross references. These direct the user from a form of the name not used to the form accepted by the Library. The same is also true for subject headings not used in the Library.

For example:

Calderón, Francisco
see
García Calderón, Francisco

ORPLAN
see
Chile. Oficina Regional de Planificación para la Región del Maule

Economic sanctions
see
Sanctions (Law)

Foreign relations
see
Subdivision under names of countries, e.g.,
Uruguay - Foreign relations

The **Subject Catalogue** also contains a large number of cards called <u>see also</u> references. These cards direct the user to additional subject headings that are likely to give the reader information on themes closely related on the topic.

For example:

Debt
see also
Bankrupty

Political science
see also
Administrative law

LOCATION SYMBOLS IN THE CARD CATALOGUE

Most of the books and serials in the Library are located in the closed stacks; however, some books are shelved in other areas. Those items not shelved in the closed stacks are frequently identified in the card catalogue by the addition of a superscription above the call number or a location stamp prominently displayed on the left side of the card.

The superscriptions most frequently used in the Library are:

SUPERSCRIPTION	LOCATION
Archives	Vault - ask at Reference Desk
Rare	Vault - ask at Reference Desk
Ref.	Reference
Reserve	Reference
Vault	Vault - ask at Reference Desk

Many books and serials in the Library are shelved according to country. These are identified by a prefix above the call number. This prefix is an integral part of the call number and must be supplied when requesting books.

Examples:

Prefix Haiti	Prefix Peru
AP	F
51	3451
.D6	.L8
nº.2	C3

CLASSIFICATION OF BOOKS BY SUBJECT

The Library classifies materials according to the Library of Congress Classification system. This classification scheme provides for the grouping of related materials on the shelves by use of an alpha-numeric set of symbols assigned to each book based on the book's content. The list below identifies the principal subject areas. These are often further subdivided by the addition of more letters in the call number.

Subject	Library of Congress Classification
Agriculture	S
Anthropology	GN
Bibliography	Z
Biology	QH
Botany	QK
Business	HF, HG
Chemistry	QD
Economics	HB, HC, HD, HJ
Education	L
Engineering	TA - TH
Fine Arts	N
Geography	G. GA, GB
Geology	QE
History	C, D, E, F
Americas	E, F
Europe	D
Home Economics	TX
Languages	P - PM
Law	K
Literature (Includes fiction)	PN -PZ
Mathematics	QA
Medicine	R
Music	M
Philosophy	B -BD
Physics	QC
Political Science	J
Psychology	BE
Religion	BL -BX
Sociology	HM - HX
Recreation	GV
Technology	T
Zoology	QL

TO LOCATE A PERIODICAL

The Library's periodical collection is arranged in alphabetical sequence and shelved by the name of the country in which the periodical is printed. These are maintained in the closed stacks. Current issues of a few selected titles for which there is a high reader demand are shelved in the Reading Room.

A Periodical Catalogue is maintained in the Reading Room. This catalogue is divided into three sections:

(1) Title
(2) Country (of issue)
(3) Subject

To determine if the Library has received a specific issue it is necessary to consult the Periodical Kardex. The Serials Librarian will provide holdings information when requested.



CONSULTATION AND CIRCULATION OF BOOKS AND PERIODICALS

Readers may freely remove books from the open shelves in the Reading Room. These books should be returned to the Library Assistant on duty at the Circulation Desk.

The Circulation Services Unit is responsible for the paging of materials from the closed stacks collections, maintenance of the records of those books currently in circulation and the return of Library materials.

To consult a book from the closed stacks:

The retrieval of materials housed in the closed stacks area of the Library is accomplished by presenting a book or periodical request slip to the assistant on duty at the Circulation Desk. The request slip must contain the bibliographic information requested as well as the name of the reader. There are two types of request slips as illustrated below:

Charge slip
to request
a book or classified serial

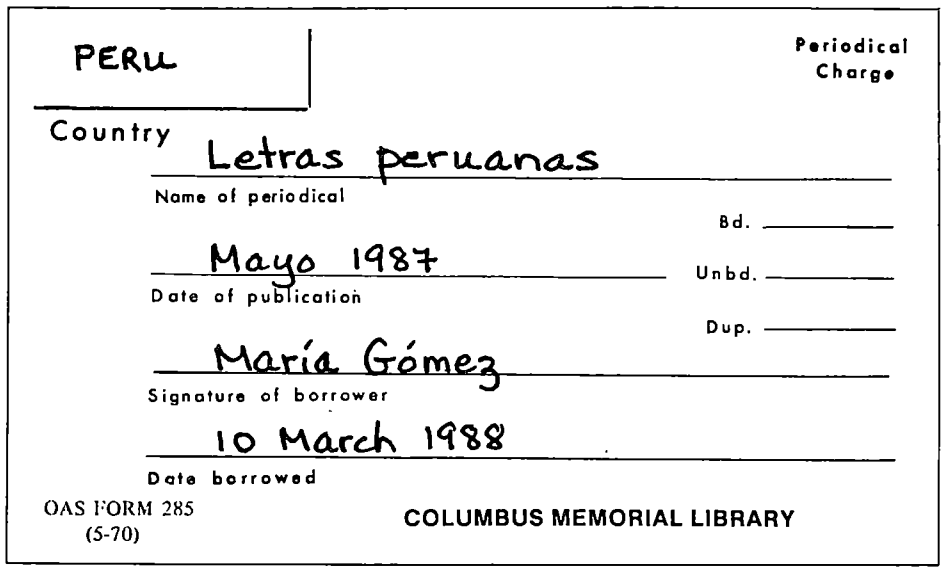
COLUMBUS MEMORIAL LIBRARY
Circulation Desk
BOOKS

CALL NUMBER
MEX
ND
255
.B7

Author Helm, Mckinley
Title Modern Mexican Painters
Name of reader Pablo Gómez
Date 14 March 1988

OAS Form 245
(1-82)

Charge slip
to request
a periodical


PERU

Country

Periodical Charge

Letras peruanas

Name of periodical

Bd. _____

Mayo 1987

Date of publication

Unbd. _____

Dup. _____

María Gómez

Signature of borrower

10 March 1988

Date borrowed

OAS FORM 285
(5-70)

COLUMBUS MEMORIAL LIBRARY

A Library staff member will deliver the materials requested directly to the Reading Room. All materials must be consulted in the Reading Room.

The Columbus Memorial Library is a non-circulating library. Short term loans are made to staff of the General Secretariat and to the officials accredited by Member Countries to the Organization of American States. In these latter cases books are lent for a period of two weeks and periodicals may also be borrowed for two weeks.

To Place a Hold on a Book:

If a book is not available for immediate consultation, the Circulation Services Unit will assist in filling out a hold request card. The Library staff will notify the reader when the book is ready for use.

Overdue Library Materials and Lost Books:

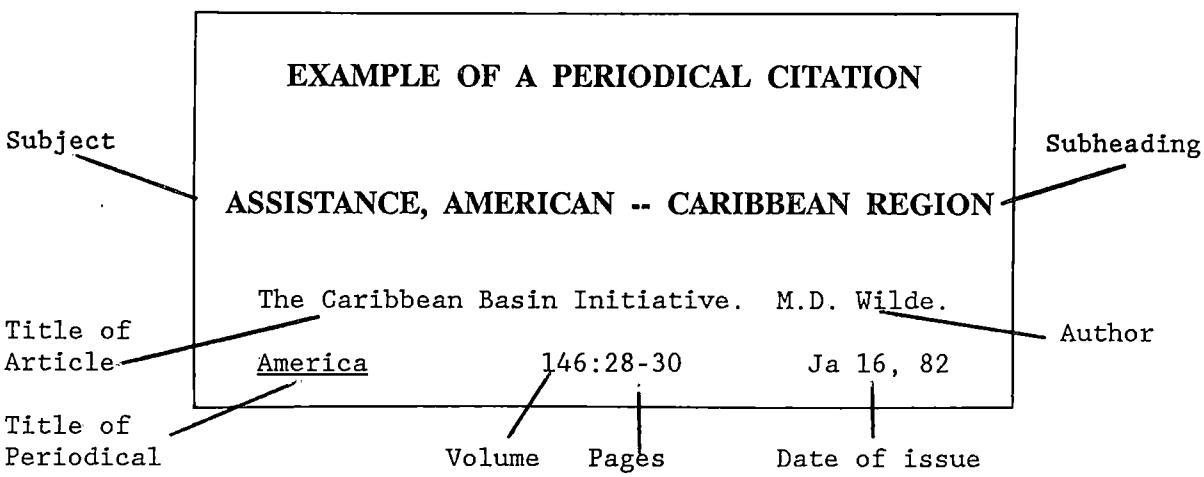
Books and serials are lent to OAS officials and diplomatic personnel to assist them in their work. It is fully expected that such materials will be returned to the Library no later than the date due as indicated in the book. Charges for lost books are assessed at the current replacement cost of the item.

REFERENCE ASSISTANCE

The Reference and Information Services staff is on duty in the Reading Room during the hours that the Library is open. Assistance will be provided in the usage of all Library materials and resources, general information about the Library, utilization of the card catalogues, methods of access to a variety of materials, and guidance in research techniques.

The Reference collections contain a large number of atlases, bibliographies, codes, dictionaries, directories, indexes and encyclopedias to assist the reader to locate both information and bibliographic data. The most commonly used reference work is an index to periodical literature. Designed to locate specific articles in periodicals and newspapers, a periodical index ordinarily lists by specific subject, author and/or title. There are general indexes, such as Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature, as well as highly specialized indexes, such as the Social Science Index.

The following citation is a selection from the index, Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature. Most periodical indexes give citations in approximately the same format. A newspaper index will omit the title of the newspaper.



COMPUTERIZED INFORMATION RETRIEVAL SERVICES

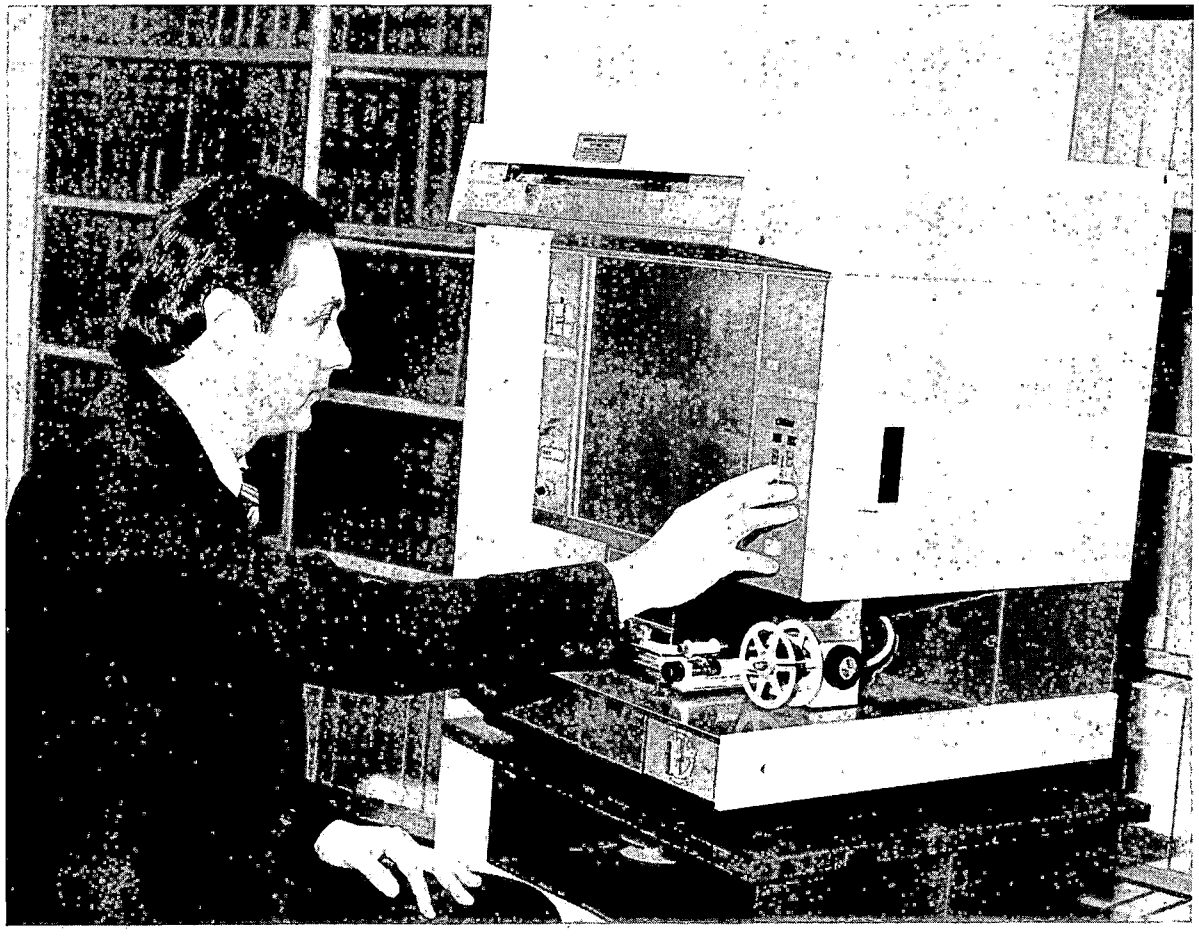
The Library using the computerized information service, DIALOG, can search some 225 individual online bibliographic data bases by subject, name, geographic region, etc., in just a fraction of the time that would be required to search manually for the same information in the conventionally printed abstracts and indexes. The data files that are offered by the DIALOG system are extensive and often interdisciplinary in nature, and cover, for example, areas such as law, economics, government, public affairs, textiles, the environment, medicine, education, and a myriad of additional subjects.

Ordinarily an online search of any of the data bases included in DIALOG will require only a few minutes of computer time and the charges are prorated. The more complete the citations requested, the more computer-connect-time the search will require. For example, a reader desiring to search by key-words, as well as descriptors, will be charged more, as the search will require a more lengthy use of the data base. The average search with an offline print of 15-20 citations usually costs approximately $15-$20.



INTERLIBRARY LOAN SERVICE

The Reference Librarian will assist patrons in locating materials not available in the Columbus Memorial Library. This service is primarily for the use of the staff of the General Secretariat who are engaged in extensive research projects and for delegates of the missions working on studies related to their assignments. All interlibrary loan transactions are governed by the terms of the American Library Association's Interlibrary Loan Code. Patrons are ordinarily billed for all costs charged by a library responding to the Columbus Memorial Library's request to borrow materials. Unfortunately the Columbus Memorial Library is unable to borrow materials from libraries located outside the United States of America.



PHOTOCOPY SERVICES

The Columbus Memorial Library provides photocopy services for both printed and microform materials. There is a charge of $.15 for each page of photocopy. Delays in receipt of photocopies are unavoidable due to the Library's dependence on a centralized photocopying service.

RECORDS MANAGEMENT CENTER

The Records Management Center of the Library provides service for requests for records or historical information contained in the inactive records produced in the normal course of the operation of the Organization. Record materials within the custody of the Records Management Center are agreements, conventions, articles, lectures, manuscripts, original conference documents, correspondence, including letters, memoranda and telecommunications, executed forms, policy and procedural issuances, reports, and other documentary materials prepared or received by the General Secretariat.

Consultation of records maintained in the Records Management Center is almost exclusively limited in use to the staff of the General Secretariat. A researcher wishing to use materials housed in the Records Management Center should consult the OAS Records Management Handbook to ascertain the types of materials stored and the length of their retention.

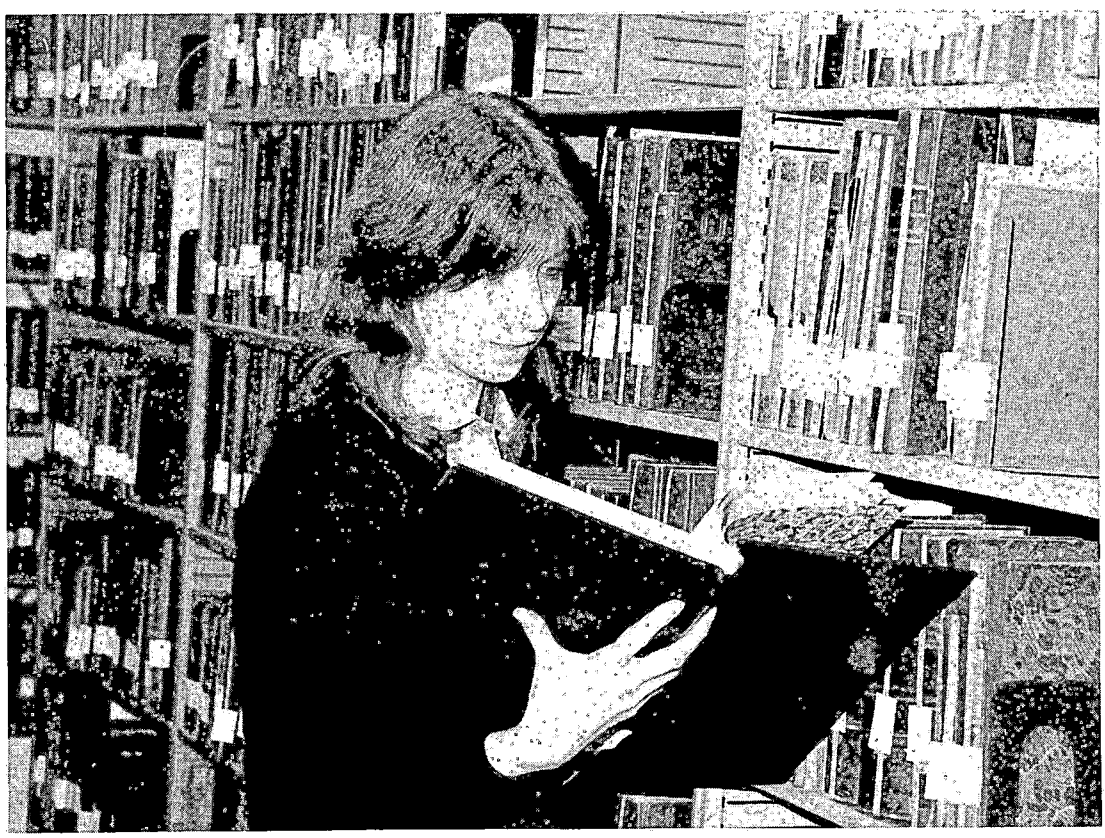
The originating office, the successor office, or a higher office with administrative authority over these records have immediate access, but access for outsiders is determined by the nature of the request. Persons wishing to consult the OAS archival records should write or telephone the Records Management Center prior to visiting.

Photocopy services are available at a charge of $.15 per copy.

THE COLLECTIONS OF THE COLUMBUS MEMORIAL LIBRARY

The Columbus Memorial Library was created by the First International Conference of the American Republics in 1890 with the passage of the following resolution:

> Resolved, that there be established at such location in the city of Washington as the Government of the United States may designate, to commemorate the meeting of the International American Conference, a Latin American Memorial Library, to be formed by contributions from all Governments represented in this Conference, wherein shall be collected all the historical geographical, and literary works, maps, manuscripts, and official documents relating to the history and civilization of America, such library to be solemnly dedicated on the day on which the United States celebrates the Fourth Centennial of the Discovery of America.



The first book actually registered in the "Accessions Catalogue of the Library of the Bureau", on 27 October 1890, was Delmar's Classified Trades Directory, 1889-1890, published by Belford, Clark and Company of Chicago.

In October 1893 the Columbus Memorial Library accessioned its first purchased volume, a work in German, by M. Clotten, Amerika, printed in Leipzig in 1892. Since that time the collections have grown to include millions of items in a variety of formats - books, serials, technical reports, documents, periodicals, microforms, manuscripts, theses, maps, phono-discs, honorary medals, stamps and photographs.

1. General Collection

The general collection of the Library consists of approximately 500,000 volumes related to Latin America and the Caribbean. These materials, both monographic and serial, document the culture of the Member States, and include as well a large number of titles about Spain, Portugal and France. The works are grouped according to country and treat such subjects as law, political science, art, technology, economics, rural and urban development, music, education, human rights, history, geography, etc. The Library makes efforts to acquire both monographs and serials that record the growth and development of the inter-American system. Bibliographic access to these titles is through the public Card Catalogue and the Periodical Catalogue.

2. Organization of American States Collection

The Library maintains a complete collection of the printed documentation of the Organization of American States and its predecessor organizations, the International Bureau of the American Republics and the Pan American Union. This collection includes copies of the Informational and Technical Publications of the General Secretariat, the Official Records of the Organization of American States, and Technical Reports. The Library provides bibliographic access to these documents by publishing the Lista General de Documentos Oficiales, the Indice Analítico de Documentos Oficiales, the Catálogo de Informes y Documentos Técnicos and through the Library's public card catalogue.

3. Specialized Collections

The Inter-American Specialized Organizations are intergovernmental agencies established by multilateral agreements with specific functions on technical matters of common interest to the American States. The Library collects materials by and about these organizations. To determine the

Library's holdings for the specialized Organizations, which include, Pan American Health Organization, Inter-American Children's Institute, Inter-American Commission of Women, Pan American Institute of Geography and History, Inter-American Indian Institute, and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture. Bibliographic retrieval for the publications of these agencies is through the public card catalogue.

4. Official Gazettes of the Member States Collection

Each Member States issues an official gazette that includes information relative to laws, modification of regulations, treaty agreements, executive orders, etc. The Library attempts to acquire each number issued and holds a comprehensive collections of these.

5. United Nations Collection

The Library is a depository for publications of the United Nations. The Library receives official United Nations's documentation in both English and Spanish. Most of these are arranged according to the United Nation's classification scheme. Bibliographic access to United Nations documentation is available through a number of printed indexes and bibliographies as well as the public card catalogue.

6. League of Nations Collection

The Library has a small, comprehensive collection of documents issued under the aegis of the League of Nations, an international organization formed after World War I to "promote international cooperation and to achieve peace and security." Bibliographic access to these publications is through a number of bibliographic printed indexes and the public card catalogue.

7. Microform Collection

A large number of serial publications are available in the microform collections of the Library. This collection includes the OAS official records, selected serials, foreign newspapers, and similar materials. These may be consulted in the Main Library.

8. International Organizations Collection

The Library acquires materials from a number of other international organizations. Official papers, reports, and publications of such agencies as the International Labor Office, the Inter-American Development Bank, Food and Agriculture Organization, the International Monetary Fund, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, etc., are often included in this collection. Access to these materials is through the Library's public card catalogue.

9. Maps and Atlases Collection

A number of historical maps and atlas of the Caribbean and Latin America are in the custody of the Library. Access is through a special maps catalogue and through the public card catalogue.

10. Rare Books Collection

The Columbus Memorial Library's collection of rare and valuable books relating to Latin America and the Caribbean contains approximately, 8,000 volumes. The earliest imprint is dated 1535. The collection contains numerous descriptive accounts of the Member Countries, as well as legal codes, dictionaries, geographies and histories. Bibliographic access is through printed bibliographies and the public card catalogue. There are restrictions on the use of these materials due to their rareness and physical condition.

11. Photographs Collection

The Library maintains a large collection of photographs illustrative of life and culture in the Member Countries. Included in this collection are portraits, works depicting the geography of the member countries, examples of handicrafts, industrial development, rural scenes and thousands of other similar items. These are indexed according to subject.

12. Leo Stanton Rowe Collection

The Library has custodianship of many of the personal papers of Dr. Leo S. Rowe, Director General of the Pan American Union, 1920 to 1946. These

papers include notebooks, speeches, letters, diaries, newspapers clippings, manuscripts, etc. Dr. Rowe's papers are bibliographically retrievable through the consultation of special lists maintained by the Library. Use of this collection requires the permission of the Director of the Library.

13. Archives Collection

The Library and Records Management Center comprise the single largest depository of publications and papers documenting the history and programs of the Organization of American States and its predecessor organizations. Many of these are accesssible through the public card catalogue or through trasmittal slips received when official papers are transferred from the various offices of the General Secretariat to archival custody. This collection includes millions of pages of printed and typewritten materials.

14. Honorary Medals and Decorations Collection

The Library is custodian of a number of honorary medallions and plaques issued by the member countries. Access is through a listing of those held. These medallions are often displayed for special celebrations. Examination of a particular medallion requires the authorization of the Director of the Library.



COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT, MAINTENANCE AND BIBLIOGRAPHIC ACCESS

The primary goal of the collection development program is to build a library collection which supports the information, reference, and research needs of the General Secretariat and the missions accredited to the Organization. It is the responsibility of the staff of the Library to select materials that ensure appropriate printed resources are available to permit officials of the Secretariat and missions to function effectively in their work.

The Library acquire materials in a variety of ways - purchase, gift, and exchange. Acquisition policies are described in the Columbus Memorial Library Collection Development Policy. This policy statement describes the subject areas and geographical regions that are included within the Library's acquisition framework. A copy of the policy statement is available from the Office of the Director of the Library.

The Library will automatically acquire most titles that are relative to the Organization of American States and many more that are directly concerned with the inter-American system. Also, other titles in high demand by several areas of the Secretariat will be ordered through regular Library channels.

PURCHASE OF LIBRARY MATERIALS

The Acquisition Unit of the Library is charged with the responsibility for ordering all books and serials acquired by the offices of the General Secretariat.

This unit maintains records of all titles currently on order as well as records of titles waiting to be ordered. The Acquisitions Unit assists officials of the Secretariat and the missions to locate bibliographic information and prices for materials that they may wish to suggest for purchase.

The acquisition of books and serials for the permanent use of offices within the General Secretariat is handled by the Library. To order any book or serial for the permanent use of an office of the Secretariat the Library must receive a memorandum signed by the appropriate official and must include the budget account number of the department. The memorandum must include author, title, place and date of publication and the publisher. The price of the book or serial should also be given.



GIFT, EXCHANGE, AND DEPOSIT

Gifts

A large number of books and serials are donated to the Library annually. Any person desiring to give publications to the Library should contact the Gift and Exhange Librarian.

Exchange

The Library frequently exchanges certain serial titles published by the OAS for other titles it wishes to receive. This is an agreement between the Columbus Memorial Library and another library to exchange one publication for another. The Library does not ordinarily execute an exchange agreement with individuals.

Depository Libraries

The Organization of American States publishes a large number of documents and reports each year. To ensure their availability in the Member Countries, the Library maintains a network of depository libraries throughout Latin America, the Caribbean, and the United States. Designation as a depository library necessitates a formal agreement with the Columbus Memorial Library. The OAS depository library program is throroughly explained in the document Bibliotecas Depositarias y de Canje de la Organización de los Estados Americanos, a copy of which may be obtained from the Gits and Exchange Librarian. In general terms the OAS depository libraries are ordinarily the national libraries of the Member States, the libraries of principal universities, the library of the ministries of foreign relations, the libraries of international organizations, and the libraries of the Specialized Organizations.

MAINTENANCE OF THE COLLECTIONS

The Library classifies, catalogues and indexes materials to make them more readily accessible for consultation.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC CONTROL

The Cataloguing Unit is responsible for the bibliographic control of books and serials in the General Collection. The Library adheres to standardized policies for bibliographic control. The Library authority for entry control is the Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules, 2d edition; subject cataloguing adheres to the Library of Congress Subject Headings and the classification scheme employed is that utilized by the Library of Congress. All cataloguing is accomplished online through the OCLC system. Readers may have access to the OCLC data base by contacting the Cataloguing Unit.

SERIALS CONTROL

Once a serial subscription is initiated, the Serial Publications Unit, receives, examines, establishes holdings control records, and distributes periodical publications, annuals, and the official gazettes received by the Library. All serial titles received within the Secretariat are controlled by the Serials Unit. This Unit routes serials to the appropriate offices. To ascertain if a particular title or a specific issue of a serial has been received in the Library it is necessary to contact this Unit.



CATALOGUING, INDEXING AND CLASSIFICATION OF OAS DOCUMENTS

The Indexing and Classification Unit has the responsibility for producing lists and indexes for a variety of publications issued by the Organization. Among these are the Lista General de Documentos Oficiales, and the Indice Analítico de Documentos Oficiales.

The OAS Documents Control Unit catalogues all documents issued as Informational Publications as many of the OAS official records. Standard bibliographic format is followed. This Unit is responsible for both holdings and bibliographic information for all OAS publications received in the Library. A Kardex is maintained of all official records, those documents bearing the Secretariat's number. Copies of these documents are filed immediately and are available for consultation in the Library.

PUBLICATIONS OF THE LIBRARY

The Columbus Memorial Library has throughout its history published a large number of documents. Among the most prominent series are:

1. Bibliographic Series. Nº 1 - 51; 1930-1963

2. Cuadernos Bibliotecológicos. Nº 1 - 48; 1960-1968

3. Documentation and Information Series. Nº 1 - ; 1977-

4. Hipólito Unanue Bibliographic Series. Nº 1 - ; 1988-

5. Lista General de los Documentos Oficiales. Nº 1 - ; 1959-

6. Indice Analítico de los Documentos Oficiales de la OEA. Nº 1 - ; 1960-

RECORDS MANAGEMENT CENTER

The Archives of the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States consist of the inactive permanent and semipermanent records of the various departments, offices, missions, and agencies. These records are housed in the Records Management Center in order to conserve office space and equipment.

The General Secretariat Filing System consists of an obligatory subject file and an optional chronological file. Additional specialized files, organized to meet the specific needs of various offices are also available. All information concerning the filing systems in use in the General Secretariat is included in the Records Management Handbook.

Temporary records should be disposed of by the office. Semipermanent and permanent records must be tranferred to the Records Management Center. The staff member responsible for offices files must prepare the records for transfer. All records are to be packed in standard records containers. The office will prepare the Records Transmittal and Receipt in triplicate, using sequence office numbers for each box transferred and send all copies of the slip to the Records Management Center. The Office will affix one gummed label, properly filled out, to each box. The Records Management Center will return one copy of the Transmittal Slip to the office once the records are received.

Those records retired to the Records Management Center are available for consultation in the Records Management Center or the staff will send requested files via messenger. It is the responsibility of the borrower to return all records intact to the Records Management Center.

All staff should be familiar with the information contained in the Records Management Handbook.

OAS Form 70
(5-72)

OAS RECORDS TRANSMITTAL AND RECEIPT

This space for use in Records Center

To: Records Center		Receipt	Processed	List No.
From: Rm.: Ext.:		Date:		
Date: Total number of boxes:		By:		

Inclusive Years	RECORDS TITLE AND RANGE (Subject, Alphabetical, Numerical, Date)	Dept. Box No.	Box No.	Shelf No.

GLOSSARY OF LIBRARY TERMS

ABSTRACT

Lists articles, books, and other materials in specialized fields with a summary of the contents.

ADDED ENTRY

A duplicate of the main entry with the addition of a heading to represent a secondary author, title, subject, series, etc., giving another approach to the book.

ANNOTATION

A brief summary describing or evaluating a publication or a portion of one, specially notes added in bibliography listings.

ATLAS

A collection of maps in book form.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

A publication providing lists of books, periodicals, or other publications as subject sources for certain information fields. Also lists works consulted by an author.

CALL NUMBER

A combination of letters and numbers assigned to a book classifying it by specific subject, thus providing the means of locating materials on the shelves.

CARD CATALOGUE

Files of cards in which entries are on separate cards giving book information on the holdings of a library. Author, title, and subjects arranged in alphabetical order are the main types of entries.

CROSS REFERENCE

A directive note from one heading or descriptor to another.

DOCUMENTS

Publications on various subjects issued by all levels of government.

GAZETTEER

A geographical dictionary giving names and descriptions of places in alphabetical order.

IMPRINT

Place and date of publication and name of publisher.

INDEX

A publication giving lists by specific subject, author, title to materials in periodicals, newspapers, and books. Book reviews, plays, poetry, quotations, and short stories may be found through specialized indexes.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

Provides for the grouping of related materials on the shelves by use of an alpha-numeric set of symbols assigned to each book.

MAIN ENTRY

Considered the master card in the card catalog for a book, usually the author card. Gives all the information necessary for complete indentification of a book.

MICROFORM

All types of microform described below are photographic reproductions so much smaller than the publications photographed that a projecting machine is necessary to read the image.

Microcard

A microform on opaque card. Many government documents are available on microcards.

Microfiche

A microform on a flat sheet of film. This is the medium used for OAS documentation.

Microfilm

A microform on a roll of film. Many newspapers are reproduced in this medium.

MONOGRAPH

A complete treatise on a particular subject.

OPEN ENTRY

A special spacing allowed on a card in the card catalogue for entering information concerning additions or changes to the title.

READER-PRINTER

A projecting machine which will reproduce copies of certain types of microforms.

REFERENCE BOOKS

A type of book compiled to provide brief, definite information covering a specialized field and not intended to be read consecutively.

RESERVE BOOKS

A collection of legal codes for the Member States and is housed in the Reference Collection.

"SEE" REFERENCE

A directive notation on a card in the card catalog from a heading not sed to another heading under which materials will be found.

SERIAL

A publication issued in successive parts, usually at regular intervals.

SERIES ENTRY

A special card in the card catalog indicating that the work is part of a series having a particular name.

STACKS

Bookshelves, usually double-faced.

SUBJECT CATALOGUE

The section of the card catalog listing the Library's holdings by subject.

SUBJECT HEADING

The caption on the top portion of any card in the subject card catalogue indicating the theme of the material in a book.

TRACINGS

The record on the lower portion of a catalog card indicating major subject fields convered in a publication as well as certain other information such as title, joint author, editor.

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THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

The purposes of the Organization of American States (OAS) are to strengthen the peace and security of the Hemisphere; to prevent possible causes of difficulties and to ensure the pacific settlement of disputes that may arise among the member states; to provide for common action on the part of those states in the event of aggression; to seek the solution of political, juridical, and economic problems that may arise among them; and to promote, by cooperative action, their economic, social, and cultural development.

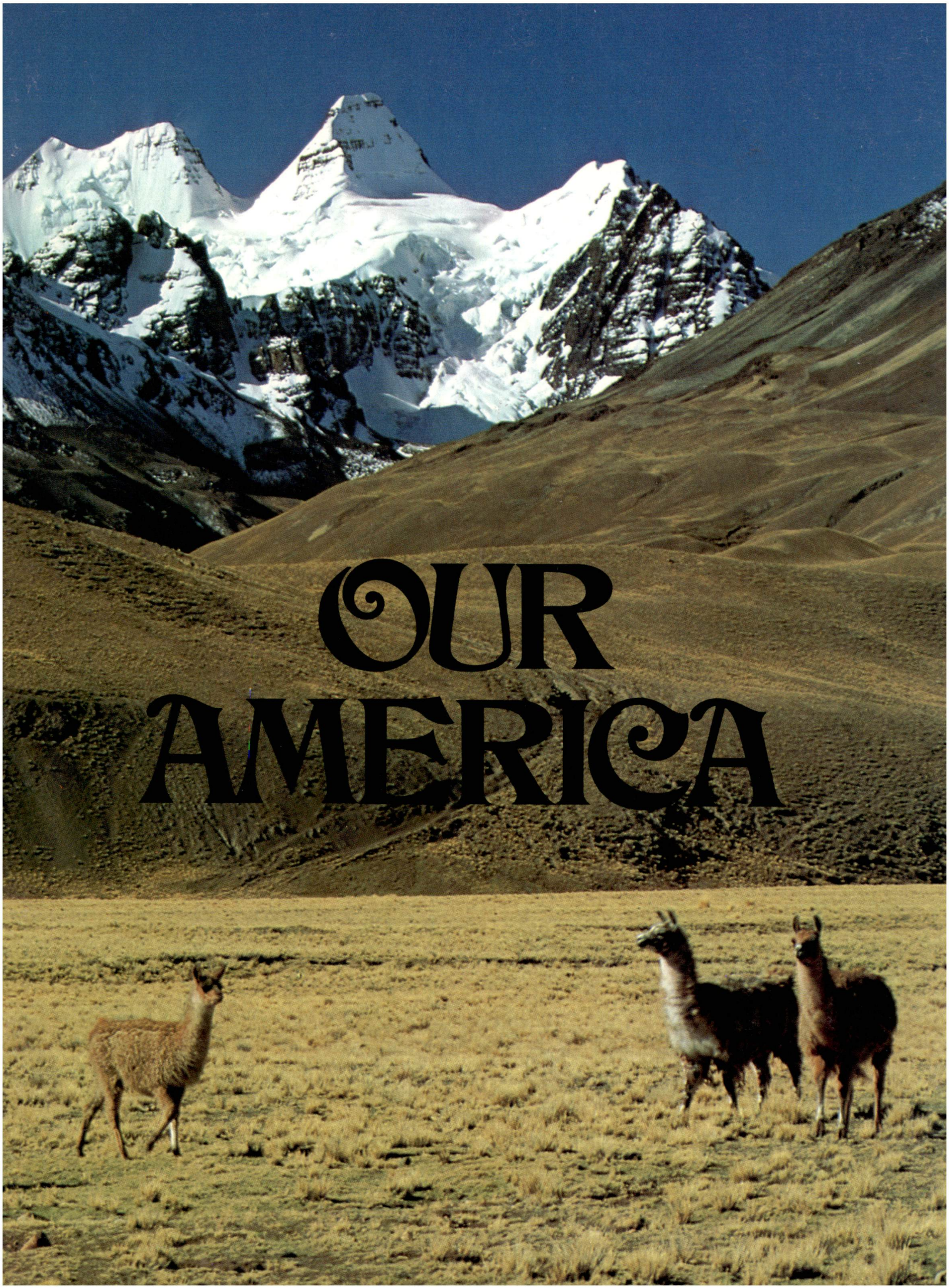
To achieve these objectives, the OAS acts through the General Assembly; the Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs; the three Councils (the Permanent Council, the Inter-American Economic and Social Council, and the Inter-American Council for Education, Science, and Culture); the Inter-American Juridical Committee; the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights; the General Secretariat; the Specialized Conferences; and the Specialized Organizations.

The General Assembly holds regular sessions once a year and special sessions when circumstances warrant. The Meeting of Consultation is convened to consider urgent matters of common interest and to serve as Organ of Consultation in the application of the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance (known as the Rio Treaty), which is the main instrument for joint action in the event of aggression. The Permanent Council takes cognizance of matters referred to it by the General Assembly or the Meeting of Consultation and carries out the decisions of both when their implementation has not been assigned to any other body; monitors the maintenance of friendly relations among the member states and the observance of the standards governing General Secretariat operations; and, in certain instances specified in the Charter of the Organization, acts provisionally as Organ of Consultation under the Rio Treaty. The other two Councils, each of which has a Permanent Executive Committee, organize inter-American action in their areas and hold regular meetings once a year. The General Secretariat is the central, permanent organ of the OAS. The headquarters of both the Permanent Council and the General Secretariat is in Washington, D.C.

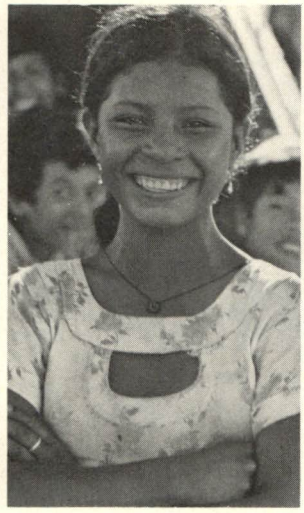
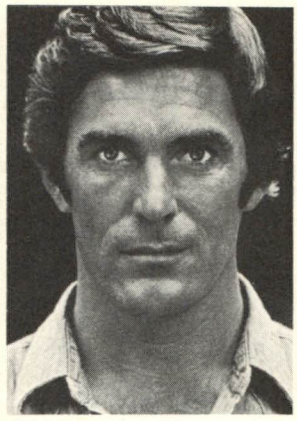
The Organization of American States is the oldest regional society of nations in the world, dating back to the First International Conference of American States, held in Washington, D.C., which on April 14, 1890, established the International Union of American Republics. When the United Nations was established, the OAS joined it as a regional organization. The Charter governing the OAS was signed in Bogotá in 1948 and amended by the Protocol of Buenos Aires, which entered into force in February 1970. Today the OAS is made up of thirty-two member states.

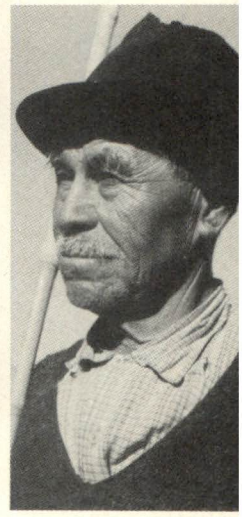
MEMBER STATES: **Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, The Bahamas,** *(Commonwealth of)*, **Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica,** *(Commonwealth of)*, **Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, United States, Uruguay, Venezuela.**

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OUR
AMERICA





OUR AMERICA

An Introduction to the Member Nations of the Organization of American States

IN THE SEVEN years that have elapsed since Américas *published its first supplement—"Our America"—the Western Hemisphere has undergone a series of changes of a magnitude and intensity that would not have been possible in any other age. Waning oil and energy supplies have forced a realignment of priorities in the development efforts of most American countries. The continuing emergence of independent Caribbean nations has given a new orientation to inter-American relations. Better communications among all Hemisphere regions have turned happenings that once seemed remote and isolated into vital issues subject to constant debate. The Latin American novel has scaled the heights to world-wide fame and readership. And in several of the larger Latin American countries, manufacturing has far outdistanced agriculture as the principal economic activity—by a ratio of more than three to one in Argentina and Mexico.*

As the realities of the Hemisphere change, the Organization of American States is ever evolving to serve as a more effective body in meeting the challenges that accompany those changes. Two new nations—Grenada and Surinam—have been added to the OAS membership rolls, providing still greater diversity to the spectrum of the great American family. The issues of our time—energy, human rights, collective economic security and cooperation for development, and the like—are dealt with constantly in OAS forums held throughout the Hemisphere. It is to the Organization's credit that it has been instrumental in the search for definitive solutions to a number of problems that have too long plagued the unity of our America.

Because of the growing interest in inter-American affairs, Américas *here presents a totally new version of "Our America"—profiles of the twenty-six countries that make up the OAS today. To be sure, the information presented here does not attempt in any way to be exhaustive; limitations of space restrict us to all-too-brief summaries of the nations, grouped geographically to stress the common aspects of their land, history, and culture. Those well versed in American affairs may find the approach useful as a kind of refresher course. For those in whom interest is just awakening, we hope it promotes a better understanding of the lands and peoples that make up our America.*

—A. J. L.

THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE consists of North, Central and South America, and the great archipelago of the Antilles. The true spinal cord of America, the Pacific mountain axis stretches all the way from Alaska through Mexico and Central America, continuing as the Andes of South America, where majestic Aconcagua (22,834 feet) reigns as the tallest of fourteen peaks that soar to heights of over four miles. The parallel mountain chains often enclose high plateaus—as in the case of the altiplano of Bolivia and Peru, site of Lake Titicaca, and the basin and range country of western United States, which includes the magnificent Grand Canyon.

In North America the two major plains are the Missouri-Mississippi drainage and the Atlantic coastal plain, while in South America major rivers are associated with four vast plains: the Orinoco (Llanos), the Amazon (Amazonia), the Paraguay (Chaco), and the Paraná (Pampas). Central America is blessed with an abundance of lovely lakes, though the largest fresh water bodies in the Hemisphere form part of North America's Great Lakes system—Superior, Huron, and Michigan. The Caribbean islands share a delightful tropical climate, exuberant vegetation, and the world's finest white sand beaches.

All climates on the planet can be found in the American Hemisphere, often separated by only a few miles. In many areas below the Isthmus of Panama one can go from the serene cold of mountain peaks to the burning heat of the tropics in a period of two hours. Even today past and present intermingle almost paradoxically: beyond some of the prosperous and industrialized cities lie unexplored jungles and tribes virtually untouched by civilization.

IT IS ESTIMATED that at the time of the conquest some fifty million Indians inhabited the Hemisphere. Their ancestors are believed to have come to America across the Bering Strait in successive migrations many thousands of years earlier. Tribal groups varied greatly in physical and cultural characteristics. Among the most brilliant cultures were those of the Maya, whose history spans twelve centuries and who pioneered in the development of writing, calendrics, architecture, and art; the Aztec, who forged a mighty and widespread empire and organized a complex social and political structure; and the Inca, whose empire, which stretched along the Andes and coastal plain from northern Chile to Colombia, was notable for both its skillful social planning and its splendor.

Although the Norse had set foot in Greenland as early as the tenth century and Irish monks had visited the island of "Bresail" centuries earlier, America was actually discovered by the Spaniards in 1492. Christopher Columbus, a Genoese mariner serving Spanish monarchs Ferdinand and Isabella, discovered the island of Guananí or San Salvador in the Bahamas, initiating a series of fantastic discoveries that were to transform not only the geography but the very economy of the world. Formation of the Hispanic empire was extremely rapid. Beyond the dividing line drawn in 1493 by Pope Alexander VI on the incomplete map of the world, all lands, seas, and islands discovered and to be discovered belonged to Spain. Santo Domingo de Guzmán, founded in 1502, was the first capital of the Americas and the center from which the major exploratory expeditions departed. Hernando Cortez' conquest of the Aztec empire was completed in 1521, Centra America was brought under control in 1529, and in 1531—not two decades after the discovery of the Pacific Ocean by Vasco Núñez de Balboa—Francisco Pizarro began the fantastic conquest of the Inca empire.

By the middle of the sixteenth century Spain dominated most of America, except for Brazil, which was ceded to Portugal in 1494 under the Treaty of Tordesillas. France and England established their own territories in the northern part of the Hemisphere, the English settling along the coast of what is now the United States and Newfoundland and the French forming permanent colonies in Nova Scotia and Quebec at the beginning of the seventeenth century.

The Spaniards and Portuguese intermingled freely with the Indians—thus creating the American mestizo—and established prosperous cities throughout the Hemisphere, leaving behind an extraordinary monumental and artistic heritage that is today the pride of Latin America. St. Augustine (the first city founded—by the Spaniards—in what is now the United States), Havana, Mexico City, Santiago de los Caballeros de Goathemala, Santa Fe de Bogotá, San Francisco de Quito, Cuzco, Potosí, and Buenos Aires in Hispanic America and Bahia and Pernambuco in Portuguese America soon grew into emporiums of wealth and centers of culture rivaling the contemporary capitals of Europe. Along with the economic and social development of the colonies—based essentially on mining, exploitation of natural resources, and agriculture—came the emergence of Creole literature and arts and new architectural and painting styles generated by the integration of Indian and European cultural values. The Indians were organized under the encomienda *system, a kind of servitude which despite protective laws soon became an abusive form of exploitation. The ensuing shortage of Indian labor was particularly acute in the Caribbean area, making it necessary to import African slaves and resulting in the incorporation of the African within the sociocultural complex of both British and Latin America. Traditional songs in the United States, Cuban dances, and the Brazilian samba, among others, reflect the African's rich contribution to the culture.*

One factor that tended to unite most American colonies—Spanish, Portuguese, French, or British—by the late eighteenth century was general dissatisfaction with rule from abroad. The 1776 Declaration of Independence of the thirteen British colonies that were to become the United States marked the first step in a long process of liberation that was not to end, insofar as the Spanish empire in the Americas was concerned, until the beginning of the twentieth century with the independence of Cuba. The liberal concepts of the U.S. Constitution unquestionably exerted a significant influence on the enlightened minorities of Latin America,

inclined as they were to any trend toward a style of life more consistent with the French revolutionary thought then in vogue,and more consonant with their natural desire to free themselves from the control of a faraway metropolis and to assume public power directly. Following the occupation of Spain by the Napoleonic forces, revolutionary juntas appeared in most of the colonies, beginning in 1810. Though Spain succeeded in reasserting its authority throughout the empire (except in the Viceroyalty of the River Plate), the repressive policy of Ferdinand VII provoked the reemergence and expansion of independence movements.

The defeat of the Spanish armies by the combined forces of liberation at Ayacucho in 1824 sealed the independence of the Americas. The Spanish empire in the Americas had been reduced to Cuba (which gained independence in 1902) and Puerto Rico (which was acquired by the United States in 1898).

Haiti was the first Latin American country to win its independence in 1804. Brazil became independent in 1822 when Dom Pedro was acclaimed emperor; the monarchy ended and the republic was established without bloodshed in 1889. Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, and Jamaica in the 1960's and Grenada and Surinam in the 1970's achieved full independence through a gradual process.

OUR AMERICA is a crucible in which a new and wholly American race is still being forged. The New World is inhabited by a diversity of human groups, with population minorities of different ancestry and origins coexisting within the political mold of each nation. While often incorporating the initial presence of an Indian America, the foreign powers that fought over and divided the American territory gradually shaped the new



nationalities in their own styles and images. Spaniards, Portuguese, English, and French endeavored by every means to maintain fragmented and separate the common lands of the Hemisphere. This gave rise to the first social distinctions that were later to reinforce social stratification in each of our countries. Conquerors and conquered, masters and slaves, whites and blacks formed social classes within the nascent nations themselves. While geographic conditions helped imprint common regional traits, the particular features of the imported cultures provoked different reactions as they encountered the new environmental conditions. The development of the nations north of the Rio Grande diverged from that of those to the south.

But the fact of a common geography and parallel history takes precedence over any trend toward disunity in the Hemisphere. The eras of the discovery, conquest, colonization, and independence reveal very similar events and circumstances in all our countries. A single ideal of freedom and democracy prevails and will prevail in America despite any lapses. The need for joining our forces and combining our aptitudes and abilities to attain mutual goals of protection and progress is now acknowledged.

To say America is to refer to all of our America, from Alaska to Patagonia: one in the plurality of its intrinsic nature; one in the diversity of its resources, in the contrast of its geography, in the protean dimension of its historical personality.



North America

THE UNITED STATES

THE UNITED STATES of America is a great world power and leader of the free world. For obvious reasons of geographic and historical communality, the development and well-being of the entire Hemisphere is of major concern to it.

Landscape. The main part of the territory, stretching three thousand miles from the Atlantic to the Pacific, can be subdivided into six distinct areas: (1) the Atlantic and Gulf region, whose uneven shoreline includes a great many excellent ports and bays, and which extends back to the forest cover of the Appalachian Mountains; (2) the region from the Appalachian Mountains to the Mississippi River, encompassing the Ohio Valley and the Great Lakes, a highly industrialized area noted for its fertile land; (3) the Great Plains, stretching from the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains, a vast farming zone producing corn, wheat, hogs, and cattle; (4) the Rocky Mountains, where the country's mineral wealth is concentrated; (5) the Southwest, an extraordinary partially desert area that includes the Grand Canyon of the Colorado River, one of the great natural wonders; and (6) the West Coast, with its snow-capped peaks of the Sierra Nevada, its palm-edged beaches, its giant redwoods, its vast deserts, and its irrigated orchards and vineyards. Alaska and Hawaii are the noncontiguous states. In 1970 more than half the population lived in cities of over one hundred thousand, and there were thirty-five cities of more than one million inhabitants.

National Background. In less than two centuries, the nation's population has increased from just under four million (1790 census) to over 216 million. Descendants of European, Asian, and Middle Eastern immigrants, African slaves, and native Indians contribute to the variety of life styles. Over eleven million people whose first language is Spanish live on the U.S. mainland, and nearly three million in Puerto Rico, making the United States the sixth largest Spanish-speaking country in the world.

The country's recorded history began five years after the discovery of the New World, when John Cabot explored the Atlantic Coast for England. Yet long before Jamestown was established in 1607, Ponce de León discovered Florida (1513), where Pedro Menéndez de Avilés founded the first city, St. Augustine, in 1565.

Puritans, Catholics, Quakers, Huguenots, and others sought refuge and freedom in North America after the Pilgrim Fathers landed in 1620. On July 4, 1776, the Declaration of Independence was signed by the original thirteen colonies. George Washington's army of patriots, supported by a scattering of economic, military, and naval assistance from France and from other distinguished foreigners, fought stubbornly until victory was won in 1781.

Washington was elected as the first President under the Constitution, which took effect in 1789, creating a stronger federal union than had been established under the Articles of Confederation.

In 1861 differences between North and South on the question of slavery led to the Civil War. In 1862, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed the emancipation of the slaves in the Confederate states. Three years later, the armies of the North defeated those of the South and the nation was reunited. The Spanish-American War, which broke out in 1898, resulted in the independence of Cuba from Spain and the cession of the Spanish possessions of Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines to the United States. U.S. participation in the two world wars during this century was a decisive factor ensuring the victory of the nations of the free world. In 1946, the United States granted independence to the Philippines, and in 1952 Puerto Rico became a Commonwealth with full internal self-government.

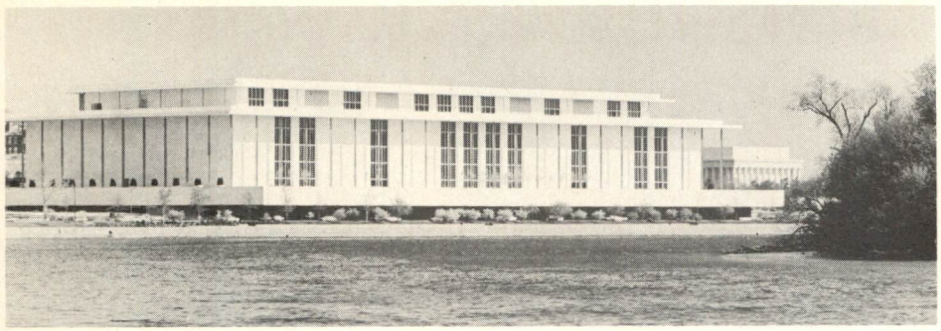
Culture. The characteristics that distinguish U.S. literature today did not develop until the middle of the nineteenth century. In the eighteenth century, Thomas Paine and Thomas Jefferson were among the most influential of numerous political theorists and chroniclers of the natural and intellectual scene. After the Revolution the theme of the new republic was examined extensively, particularly in *The Federalist,* by John Jay, Alexander Hamilton, and James Madison, and Paine's *The Rights of Man.* Political independence was followed by the growth o a national consciousness. Washington Irving (1783-1812) represents the first rea step toward an authentic national novel Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry Davic Thoreau launched the philosophical essay Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and Walt Whitman raised poetry to the highest level Writers like Edgar Allan Poe, Harriet Beecher Stowe, and Herman Melville popularized U.S. literature throughout the world The names of Emily Dickinson, Mark Twain, and Henry Adams, in the nineteenth century, and Stephen Crane, Eugene O'Neill, Upton Sinclair, Robert Frost, William Faulkner, John Steinbeck, Ernest Hemingway, and many others, in this century, have won the United States a proud place in world literature.

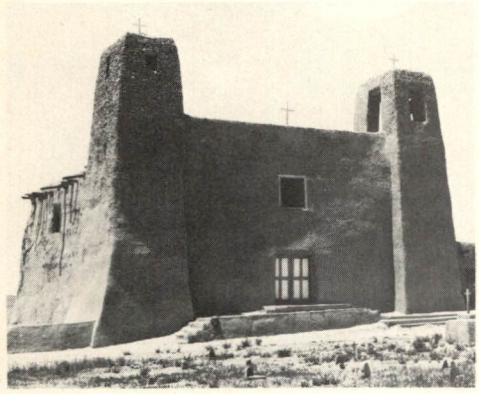
Colonial art, whose initial architecture followed English traditions combined with local realities and whose art forms imitated the European styles with occasional ingenuous expressions of primitivism, evolved toward the discovery of a wholly national style. Its first exponents in modern architecture were Louis H. Sullivan and Frank Lloyd Wright. In painting, the affirmation of an authentically U.S. school is apparent from the portraits of Gilbert Stuart to the abstractionism of Jackson Pollock and other contemporary artists. Among other internationally known painters were J.S. Copley, Thomas Eakins, J. A. M. Whistler, J.S. Sargent, and Edward Hopper.

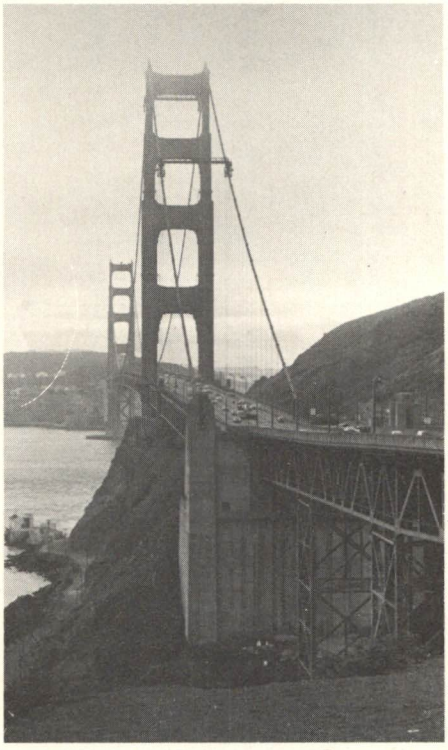
The Hispanic contribution to the historical development of U.S. culture is represented especially by the architecture and traditions of Puerto Rico, St. Augustine, New Orleans, San Antonio, and many cities in New Mexico, Arizona, and California.

The United States possesses not only numerous but excellent cultural institutions that have contributed to the high average level of education. The country's library system in unparalleled, and the quality and abundance of its museums are a source of pride. The government-supported museum complex of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., is especially worthy of admiration, while the Metropolitan Museum and the American Museum of Natural History in New York City, the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, the Field Museum of Chicago, and several thousand smaller museums are the result of private endeavors. Among the world-renowned universities and colleges, Harvard (1636) and William and Mary (1693) are the oldest.

A list of inventors would certainly include, among others, the names of Alexander Graham Bell, Robert Fulton, Samuel F. B. Morse, and Orville and Wilbur Wright.







1 Washington, D.C.'s John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts

2 San Esteban Rey Mission, Acoma Pueblo, New Mexico, oldest U.S. inhabited town

3 World-famous Golden Gate Bridge joins San Francisco with Marin County, California

4 The Grand Canyon of the Colorado River, one of the world's natural wonders

5 New York City's unparalleled skyline bristles with skyscrapers





Benjamin Franklin, Louis Agassiz, George Washington Carver, Albert Einstein, and Robert Oppenheimer are a few of the many distinguished scientists.

Economy. The United States contains about one twentieth of the world's population but produces one third of the world's goods and services. It has abundant natural resources, including good soil and water power, and coal, oil, and other minerals. It exports, primarily, complicated modern machinery and other items that are produced by heavy, technically advanced industry or can be made more cheaply in that country because of its huge scale of production. About one quarter of its exports are agricultural; in 1975 its grain exports amounted to half of the entire world's.

MEXICO

NOTED FOR ITS extraordinary landscapes, dramatic contrasts, and vibrant colors, Mexico is the most populous Spanish-speaking country in the world. The Mexican people are proud of their Indian origins and the grandeur of their historical past, which have bequeathed to them a magnificent architectural and artistic heritage. Favored by institutional and political stability in recent decades, Mexico has, through rapid economic development, become one of the most prosperous countries in the Hemisphere.

Cities and Landscapes. The main agricultural region of Mexico runs from north to south between the Western and Eastern ranges of the Sierra Madre mountains. The tropical Gulf coast region differs in topography, climate, and economy from the central plateau, while the Yucatán and Baja California peninsulas have their own special features. This panoramic diversity is one of the country's major tourist attractions. Mexican lakes are noted for their beauty and coloring, and the beaches at Acapulco and Puerto Vallarta are famous throughout the world.

More than fifty national parks protect an immense wealth of forest reserves, and progressive use of water resources is making vast desert lands productive. A forward looking effort is also being made to bring much of the dense Yucatán jungle into the national economy.

Mexico City, the federal capital of the United Mexican States, is located on the site of the Aztec city of Tenochtitlán. The heart of an extensive metropolitan area, it is the focus of the nation's economic and cultural life. In addition to its magnificent capital, the country boasts such other major cities as Guadalajara, center of a ranching and farming region; Monterrey, the most highly industrialized city; Puebla, proud of its long colonial tradition; and Veracruz, a highly







6 Chichén-Itzá, Maya ceremonial center in Yucatán, Mexico

7 Cathedral of Guadalajara, a colonial masterpiece

8 Magnificent plateresque Santa Prisca Church in Taxco

9 Poolside at an Acapulco hotel. A world-famous resort, Acapulco boasts some twenty golden sandy beaches

10 Chapultepec Castle, Mexico City, residence of Emperor Maximilian, is now a national historical museum





8 *9* *10*

important port. Many other cities, despite their smaller size, attract visitors because of the magnificence of their churches and their pre-Columbian monuments, the charm and color of their plazas and markets, and the beauty of their settings.

National Background. The pre-Columbian peoples of Mexico developed many strong cultures and left evidence of a creative architectural and artistic splendor. The outstanding achievements of the Maya include invention of a 365-day calendar year and the construction of magnificent temples such as those at Chichén-Itzá in Yucatán. The Aztec also left abundant proof of their political organization and urban development. Aztec domination of the broad central plateau was at its height when the Spanish conquest began. In 1519, Hernando Cortez landed at Veracruz and, by exploiting internal opposition to the Aztec overlords,he was able to vanquish the armies of Moctezuma and to destroy his empire. Three hundred years of Spanish domination followed. Mexico City became the seat of the Viceroyalty of New Spain in 1535, rivaling the Viceroyalty of Peru in prosperity and riches.

When Napoleon Bonaparte invaded Spain in 1808, patriots in Latin America seized the opportunity to act. Father Miguel Hidalgo gave the Cry of Independence. He and Father José María Morelos were the forerunners of a liberation movement that was to revolutionize the entire country, culminating in the final downfall of the Spanish forces and Agustín Iturbide's triumphal entry into Mexico City in 1821.

After a brief imperial period, the Republic was reestablished with fewer civil liberties and less representation of the people. Those goals were not achieved until Benito Juárez was elected President in 1858. A civil war nullified the Constitution, and the Archduke Maximilian of Austria, a man alien to the traditions and nature of the Mexican people, was imposed as Emperor by Napoleon III in 1864. Although in exile at the time, Juárez brought the revolution to Mexico, and the Emperor was executed. Porfirio Díaz was elected President in 1877 and was in power most of the time until he was overthrown by the Revolution of 1910. Despite criticism of his administration, the extended period of peace made a significant contribution to the maturity of the new Mexican nation. Francisco Madero was the idealistic and humanitarian exponent of the Revolutionary period, which included such other popular leaders as Venustiano Carranza and Emilio Zapata. In1934, General Lázaro Cárdenas was elected President, launching the contemporary period under

the guidance of the Mexican Revolutionary Party.

An orderly succession of Presidents has operated in favor of the development and progress of the Mexican nation within the framework of a liberal constitution.

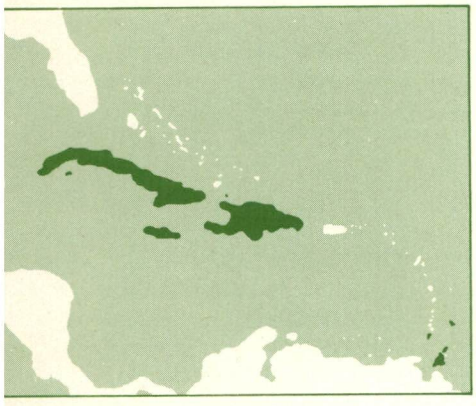
Culture. The most distinctive feature of Mexican culture, its deep national roots, is combined with a readiness to adopt favorable contributions from other lands and peoples.

During the colonial period architecture was the dominant form of artistic expression. The imported Spanish culture made use of the Indian heritage to create combinations of artistic styles such as the Mexican Baroque, which is most evident in the innumerable churches built during that period. Colonial literature was represented by poets of the stature of Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz and writers like Juan Ruiz de Alarcón and José Joaquín Fernández de Lizardi, author of the first New World novel, *El Periquillo Sarniento.*

In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, Mexico boasted a group of distinguished writers and poets, including Justo Sierra, Manuel Gutiérrez Nájera, Amado Nervo, Martín Luis Guzmán, Mariano Azuela, Alfonso Reyes, and José Vasconcelos. The contemporary movement, led by Jaime Torres Bodet and José Gorostiza, now includes such world-famous writers as Octavio Paz, Carlos Fuentes, and Juan Rulfo. Mexican painting, using strong native sources, made an invaluable contribution to twentieth century art through the universally famed murals of Diego Rivera, José Clemente Orozco, Daniel Alfaro Siqueiros, and Rufino Tamayo. The search for musical identity was initiated by composers such as Manuel M. Ponce, Silvestre Revueltas, and Carlos Chávez. The National Museum of Anthropology in Mexico City is among the world's finest.

The soul of Mexico's people is expressed in their extraordinarily rich music, dance, and crafts, in which the Indian heritage is blended with many Spanish artistic and folk influences. From Aztec and colonial days to the present, the various regions have had their traditional products, and their beautifully decorated ceramic ware and exquisite silver jewelry are world famous. Other typical items for which the country is known include textiles, tooled leather, glassware, lacquered bowls and trays, painted sculptured religious panels, and basketry.

Economy. The growth of the Mexican economy since 1950 has been impressive due to a vigorous private enterprise sector and a government policy that has made economic development a major national objective. The value of the industrial production is now triple the agricultural output. The country is rich in mineral resources, and mineral exports such as silver, sulfur, and zinc are an important element of foreign trade. Gold, copper, manganese, coal, and iron ore are also produced. The discovery of extensive new oil fields enabled Mexico to become self-sufficient in crude oil in 1974, and the country has begun to export refined petroleum products. Agricultural exports consist mainly of cotton, sugar, coffee, and shrimp. Tourism has been growing at a rapid rate—with more than a tenfold increase since before World War II, largely through Mexico's efforts to promote tourism by constructing roads, hotels, and other facilities.



The Antilles

Cuba • Jamaica • Haiti • Dominican Republic • Barbados • Grenada • Trinidad and Tobago

CUBA

KNOWN AS THE pearl of the Antilles, Cuba is the largest island in the Caribbean. A land of fertile valleys and balmy breezes caressing tropical beaches, of the royal palm, sugar, tobacco, and rum, it is a natural botanical garden. Its strategic location at the entrance of the Gulf of Mexico, crossroads of the Americas, has made it an object of rivalry among the world powers since its discovery, facilitated its foreign trade, and led to the development of an extraordinarily prosperous nation.

Cities and Landscapes. Cuba is primarily lowland. Three mountain chains cross the island: the Sierra de los Órganos, to the west; the Central Massif; and the Sierra Maestra, in the east. The island is surrounded by numerous bays and islets, the largest of which is the beautiful Isle of Pines, famous for its marble, citrus fruits, and black sandy beaches. The deep, well-formed bays along Cuba's coasts provide excellent ports. Those of Havana and Bahía Honda, to the north, and Guantánamo, in the south, are among the best in the world.

Havana, the capital, is the principal city of the Antilles and one of the most attractive. Founded in 1515, it is a harmonious blend of ancient and modern. The imposing fortresses that surround the city recall its role as a stronghold during the centuries of colonial rule. To the west of the capital, on the southern plain of Pinar del Río, the world-famous Vueltabajo tobacco is cultivated. Providing the island with a natural monopoly, this tobacco has never been successfully grown elsewhere. Famous Varadero Beach and the majestic Bellamar Caves, two of the island's outstanding natural attractions, are to the east of Havana. At the far eastern end is historic Santiago de Cuba, the second largest city.

National Background. Cuba was discovered by Columbus in 1492 and settled by Diego Velázquez. The island prospered as the key point on the route from the Indies, attracting many pirates during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. In 1762 Havana was captured by the English, but soon returned to Spanish hands in exchange for Florida.

Several insurrections led to war in 1868, when Carlos Manuel de Céspedes issued the Proclamation of Independence. The war ended ten years later without the Cubans having obtained their freedom. In 1895, the independence spirit, inspired by José Martí, stirred the country to war. Generals Máximo Gómez and Antonio Maceo were its great heroes. The intervention of the United States in the conflict led to the liberation of Cuba.

Tomás Estrada Palma, the first President of the new Republic, took office in 1902. Despite political conflicts its economic and social development raised the country to one of the highest levels in America. In 1959 Fidel Castro swept to power, carrying out a revolution that brought the country into the sphere of influence of the Soviet Union.

11 Modern Havana, an attractive blend of old and new, is studded with ancient plazas, churches, and fortresses

12 El Templete marks the site where the first Mass was celebrated in Havana on November 16, 1519

13 Formidable El Morro Castle guards the entrance to the harbor of Havana



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Owing to Cuba's intervention in the internal affairs of other American republics, the Eighth Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs excluded the Government of Cuba from participation in the organs and activities of the OAS.

Culture. The determining factor in Cuba's cultural evolution has been its close ties to Spain. Contributing to the cultural complex of the nation were African slaves who added distinctive features to the arts.

The University of Havana, founded in 1704, and the Economic Society of Friends of the Country produced many thinkers and writers, including Felipe Poey and José Antonio Saco. Cuban poetry contributed to Spanish letters such famous names as José María de Heredia, Gertrudis Gómez de Avellaneda, and Cirilo Villaverde. The end of the nineteenth century felt the imprint of the philosophers Enrique José Varona, Julián del Casal, and José Martí, a forerunner of the Modernist movement in the Americas. The scientist Carlos J. Finlay made a decisive contribution to the eradication of yellow fever by discovering its vector.

In this century, the sociologist Fernando Ortiz, the composers Sánchez de Fuente and Amadeo Roldán, the painter Leopoldo Romañach, the poets Augustín Acosta, Emilio Ballagas, and Nicolás Guillén, the historian Emeterio Santovenia, the essayists Jorge Mañach, Juan J. Remos, and José María Chacón y Calvo, and the novelists Alejo Carpentier, José Lezama Lima, and Guillermo Cabrera Infante won international acclaim. Among the outstanding contemporary artists are Fidelio Ponce, Amelia Peláez, Wifredo Lam, and the sculptor Juan José Sicre. Popular musicians Ernesto Lecuona and Gonzalo Roig made Cuban music world famous.

Economy. Cuba is basically an agricultural country. It has rich deposits of nickel and other minerals. Sugar, nickel, and tobacco are the chief exports.

JAMAICA

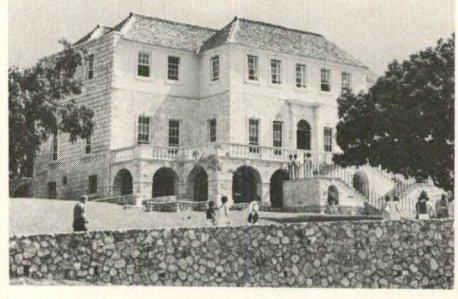
DESCRIBED BY COLUMBUS as "the fairest island that eyes have beheld," lush tropical Jamaica still remains curiously unspoiled despite the island's intense development—a noteworthy example of modern society's ability to grow and prosper in harmony with nature.

Cities and Landscapes. Called "Xamayca," or the land of woods and streams, by its original Arawak inhabitants, Jamaica lies approximately ninety miles south of Cuba. Glorious white sand beaches surround the island and the Blue Mountains, which rise to over seven thousand feet above sea level, dominate the eastern end of the country. Generally, however, Jamaica's mountains are low and gently sloping, well suited to farming.

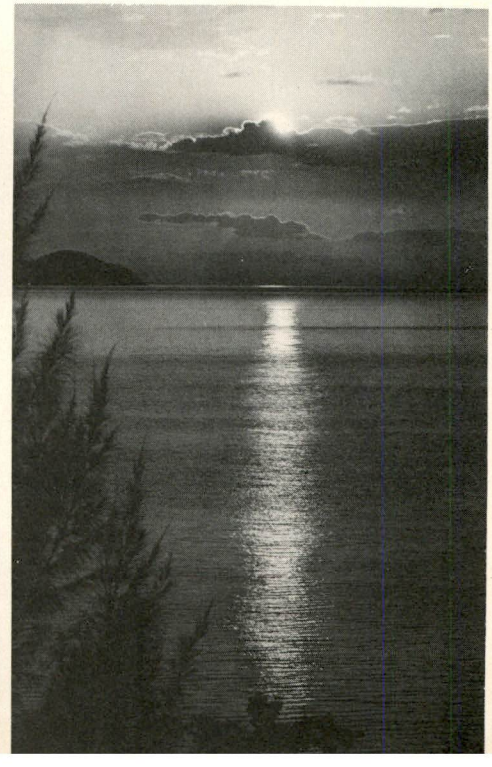
Kingston, the nation's capital, is the largest English-speaking city south of Miami. An interesting blend of shuttered old buildings and modern skycrapers, it is also the center of commercial and industrial activity. Cruise ships and freighters from all over the world enter Kingston's great natural harbor, well protected by the sandbar on which early Port Royal stood. Montego Bay is a tourist mecca on the northern coast, a twenty-mile stretch of splendid beaches.

National Background. Diego Columbus, the explorer's eldest son, administered the island after the Arawak were subdued and

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14 Rose Hall Great House near Montego Bay

15 Modern buildings in Kingston

16 Tropical sunset in all its splendor



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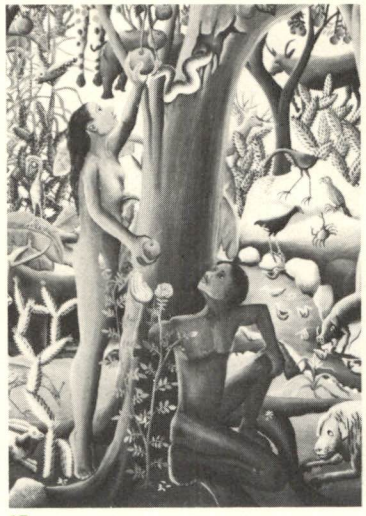
the country was brought under the authority of Hispaniola in 1509. Eclipsed by more important discoveries elsewhere, Jamaica was little more than a supply base under Spanish rule, and eventually fell into English hands despite resistance from the Maroons, escaped slaves who continued to wage guerilla warfare for many years. After the English founded Port Royal in 1655, the island became a center for buccaneer operations against the Spanish Empire. Following an earthquake that destroyed Port Royal in 1688, Kingston was established on the other side of the bay. While it crushed the island's economy, the abolition of the slave trade in 1807 and slavery in 1833 launched a new free nation that was to demand its civil and political rights. A heroic rebellion was led in 1865 by black leader Paul Bogle, who was later executed along with Assemblyman George William Gordon and several hundred other blacks. Nevertheless, their outcry paved the way for improvements made later through the efforts of Dr. Robert Love. By the late 1930's Jamaica began to achieve a semblance of local political control, as Alexander Bustamante founded the Labor Party and Norman Washington Manley established the People's National Party. From 1958 to 1961 the nation was a member of the Federation of the West Indies. Jamaica attained its independence from Great Britain in 1962, remaining a member of the British Commonwealth of Nations. Alexander Bustamante served as the first prime minister.

Culture. Historical events have contributed significantly to Jamaica's cultural development and the formation of a national identity. Other than a few words and place names, scant traces remain of the native Indians or the Spanish settlers. On the other hand, the population of African descent, a majority on the island since the eighteenth century, has been the determining factor in the social process, shaping the country's social evolution and decisively influencing all of its folk expressions. Prior to 1930 there was little intellectual or artistic activity in Jamaica. However, as the modern nation emerged, creative efforts began to flourish. The island's accelerated economic development has brought about improvements in education centers and cultural institutions, such as the Kingston-based Institute of Jamaica, which operates a number of museums and schools of art, music, dance, and drama. Another of the country's outstanding institutions is the famous botanical garden of Kingston, the finest in the Caribbean area.

Economy. Although it was traditionally based on plantation agriculture—primarily sugar and bananas—Jamaica's economic prosperity has depended chiefly upon the export of bauxite following the discovery of vast deposits of this "red gold" in the 1950's. Tourism is the island's second largest earner of foreign exchange.

17 Garden of Eden, *oil on masonite by Wilson Bigaud of Haiti. Museum of Haitian Art, Haiti*

18 The grandiose Citadel, built in the early 1800's against possible French invasion



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HAITI

THE FIRST FREE black republic in the world and the second sovereign nation in the New World—this is Haiti, the only French-speaking independent nation in the Caribbean, whose independence marked the first successful rebellion against European colonial government in Latin America. It is a land whose history, setting, folkways, and people all combine to give it a mysterious and picturesque enchantment.

Cities and Landscapes. Haiti occupies the western third of the island of Hispaniola. Two mountainous peninsulas stretch westward like tongs partially enclosing the Gulf of Gonaives. Peaks rise 8,000 to 9,000 feet above sea level. Although tropical, the country is generally semiarid because the moist trade winds are cut off by the ranges that separate Haiti from the neighboring Dominican Republic. The longest river, the Artibonite, flows through the rich agricultural valley of the same name and supplies water for irrigation. Humidity and temperatures are high in the coastal areas.

The country is a display of exotic flowers, plants, and palms, and boasts a wealth of timber, including mahogany, in the forested mountains. The mountain terraces are dotted with coffee plantations, while sugar cane plantations spread over the lowlands.

The present capital, Port-au-Prince, is the largest city and is situated on the Gulf of Gonaives at the hinge of the tongs. Cap-Haïtien, called Le Cap by local residents, is bathed by the Atlantic on the north coast. It was the colonial capital and is now the country's second city in size and commercial importance.

National Background. By virtue of incredible human endurance and an unconquerable will to attain freedom Haiti survived three centuries of chained slavery, violent conquest, and fratricidal warfare before achieving independence. First claimed by Christopher Columbus in 1492, the entire island of Hispaniola was under Spanish rule until the French established themselves and were ceded the western portion, which they called Saint-Domingue. The burgeoning prosperity of the coffee plantations of the white aristocracy did not extend to the thousands of slaves. Intolerable conditions of slavery and brutality created a caldron of unrest out of which boiled the revolt of the slaves in the late eighteenth century, spewing death and destruction over the land. The name of Toussaint L'Ouverture is legendary as a precursor of Haitian independence. Following his treacherous capture the war was carried on by others.

On January 1, 1804, Jean Jacques Dessalines proclaimed the country's independence and adopted for it the name of Haiti. He was appointed governor general for life and took the title of emperor in September 1805. However, the next century was one of political corruption and violent overthrow. Waves of terrorism debilitated the country. In 1915 the U.S. Marines intervened and assumed temporary authority. They were withdrawn in 1934 and control of the country returned to Haitian hands. In 1959 François Duvalier was elected President, and continued in office until his death in 1971.

Culture. A blend of French and African traditions and customs with a dash of Indian and Spanish gives Haiti a unique cultural heritage and bestows on her an aura of fascination for devotees of the arts.

Out of the turbulence of her past Haiti has produced many outstanding intellectuals, writers, sculptors, architects, and painters, especially the primitive painters who have given us such beautiful murals. Haitian music and dance are world famous for their African element of voodoo,which exists side by side with Catholicism, the official religion. French is the official language but almost everyone speaks Creole, a rich patois.

Economy. Haiti is densely populated and most of the population is rural and engaged in agriculture. Light manufacturing, ore processing, and handicrafts are the main industries. Leading exports include coffee, sugar, bauxite, essential oils, and handicrafts.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

AS THE LAUNCHING point for the conquest and colonization of the Indies, the Dominican Republic is of paramount importance to the history of the Americas. Its capital, Santo Domingo, was the first Spanish settlement in the New World and was vital to the shaping of political and administrative policies that were to become the pattern for all new colonies established by Spain in the Hemisphere. Firmly based on its history, the modern Dominican nation is ready to face twentieth century challenges of economic development and social justice.

Cities and Landscapes. The Dominican Republic and neighboring Haiti share the island of Hispaniola, a rugged land mass in the Greater Antilles, midway between Puerto Rico and Cuba. The country, which occupies the eastern two thirds of the island, is crossed from east to west by four nearly parallel mountain ranges covered with dense vegetation. The Central Cordillera, largest of these ranges, divides the republic into two equal parts and one of its peaks, Pico Duarte, is, at 10,206 feet, the highest point in the West Indies. Located between the Central Cordillera and the most northerly range are two heavily populated valleys—the Cibao and the Vega Real—one of the country's chief sources of agricultural wealth.

Santo Domingo, the nation's capital and its main city and port, is a study in contrasts, for while it is a completely modern city it retains historic landmarks from the days of Columbus. Santiago de los Caballeros, second in size and importance, is the hub of the productive Cibao Valley. The principal northern seaport is Puerto Plata, a modern, progressive city.

National Background. The first colonists on Hispaniola, which was discovered by Columbus in 1492, built many sugar mills and cultivated the fertile valleys. However, the island's population declined as the Conquest progressed on the mainland and early settlers were lured away by discoveries of gold and silver In 1692 the western end of the island was ceded to France. A long period of turbulence and uncertainty included invasion of Dominican territory by Haitian troops, its recovery by Spain, the expulsion of the Spanish governor and the movement to incorporate the country into Gran Colombia, and, finally, a second Haitian occupation that lasted twenty-two years. In the mid-nineteenth century three independence leaders, Juan Pablo Duarte, Francisco Rosario Sánchez, and Ramón Matías Mella, appealed to the patriotism of the people and succeeded in winning the sovereignty of the Dominican nation. Although independence was proclaimed in 1844, internal political rivalries prevented development of the country, and a new movement toward annexation briefly reestablished Spanish rule. In 1865, Spain definitely surrendered its claim to the Dominican Republic. After successive episodes of U.S. intervention, free elections in 1924 restored full sovereignty to the nation, although circumstances later favored a dictatorship by Rafael L. Trujillo, which lasted until his assassination in 1961.

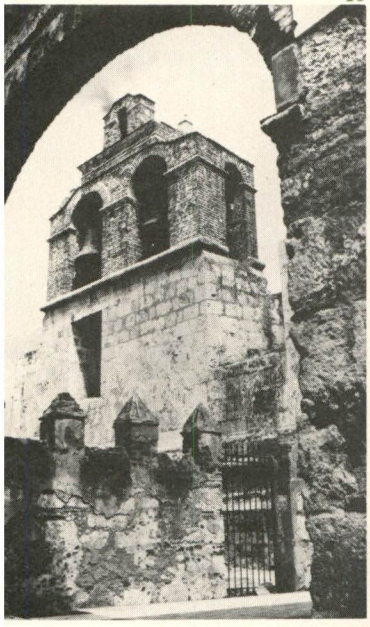
Political developments in the mid-1960's led to the presence of an Inter-American Peace Force, formed by the OAS, which was withdrawn in 1966. Economic development policies and programs under President Joaquín Balaguer have brought a remarkable, sustained period of growth.

Culture. The Dominican nation is exceptionally rich in cultural heritage. Santo Domingo, cradle of western civilization in the New World, preserves the first cathedral in America, which contains the remains of Columbus. It is also proud of the historic ruins of the first university, the first customs house, and the first hospital.

Against the background of their turbulent history, the Dominican people have proved their extraordinary strength and vitality. Félix María del Monte, Federico Henríquez Carvajal, Pedro Enríquez Ureña and Salome Ureña, Gastón F. Deligne, Manuel Galván, and Manuel Peña Battle are the pioneers of an admirable generation of intellectuals. Dominican popular music shares many of the common characteristics of an Afro-Caribbean heritage. The African influence, combined with elements from European popular and religious music, produced a Creole folk art and laid the foundation for national music. As in other Caribbean islands, carvings of the precious woods native to the region predominate in Dominican crafts.

Economy. The Dominican economy is chiefly agricultural, with sugar, cacao, and coffee the most important export crops. Salt, gypsum, bauxite, and iron are the principal mineral resources. Manufacturing is limited to refining nickel and processing agricultural commodities, including sugar, chocolate, fruit, and meat. Other industrial enterprises include textiles, beverages, and cement. Large-scale foreign investment in mining and oil refining provide good prospects for future economic growth.

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19 Santa María la Menor, America's first cathedral

20 Façade of Santo Domingo's National Library

21 Caribbean bathes beach near Santo Domingo

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22 Morgan Lewis Windmill, St. Andrew's Parish

23 Panoramic view of historic Trafalgar Square in Bridgetown, the capital

24 White sandy beach on Barbados' west coast



24

BARBADOS

"THE LITTLE ENGLAND of the tropics" is a lush island paradise with a unique historical cultural heritage. It is the only one of the Antilles never subject to Spanish or French rule.

Cities and Landscapes. Barbados is a tiny pear-shaped island in the Atlantic, the most easterly of the Caribbean islands. Its land gently undulates from white coral sand beaches with their fascinating flying fish through rolling sugar cane fields to Mt. Hillaby in mid-island, the highest point, at 1,104 feet above sea level. There is little natural vegetation. The climate is pleasant and healthful and the humidity is tempered by the constantly blowing northeast trade winds. There are no navigable rivers and no natural ports. The Careenage serves as the inlet from the sea to picturesque Bridgetown, the island's capital and major population center located in the southwest overlooking Carlisle Bay. The city has an Old World charm reflecting its heritage of three and a half centuries. Its main street leads to Trafalgar Square in the center of the city, which boasts a statue of Lord Nelson that predates London's own. Just west of Bridgetown is a deep-draft artificial harbor that has become a vital link in world shipping and a favorite stopover for cruise ships and pleasure yachts. The island has eight hundred miles of excellent roads leading to a variety of old towns and villages as well as to stately mansions such as Sam Lord's Castle, built by privateer Samuel Hall Lord in 1820. There are numerous sites of historical and geographical interest along these roads.

National Background. Originally inhabited by Arawak Indians believed to have been destroyed by Carib Indians who then departed, Barbados was first claimed in 1624 when an English trading ship touched on the west coast and took possession in the name of King James I of England. Colonization began immediately and the population grew rapidly. By 1639 the first Parliament had been established. From that date there was a continuing evolution of representative government culminating in the attainment of independence within the British Commonwealth of Nations on November 30, 1966. Barbados is a parliamentary democracy headed by a Governor-General appointed by the British crown. There are two Houses of Parliament. The Prime Minister and his Cabinet of Ministers exercise the functions of government.

Culture. Barbadians embody their country's motto, "Pride and Industry." They are justifiably proud of their 97 per cent literacy rate, one of the highest in the world and a tribute to their system of universal free education, to which a high proportion of their budget is allotted. The national free education system embraces all educational levels from public primary and secondary schools through higher education, technical schools, and teachers' and liberal arts colleges. The language spoken is English but the Barbadian dialect is often heard among the Bajans, as the islanders are called. The Barbados National Trust is dedicated to the preservation of national monuments. The Barbados Museum, outside of Bridgetown, is one of the finest in the West Indies. Responsibility for promoting various forms of art on the island rests with the Barbados Arts Council. Music, theater, and literature are all actively promoted and reflect the heritage of the island. The predominant religion is the Church of England, but most other faiths are represented. Cricket is the national game and has produced an overwhelming number of cricketeers of international repute.

Economy. Sugar production remains the island's key industry and occupies most of the arable land. Tourism is also important to the economy. Light industry development is increasing, a result of government incentives to attract investment.

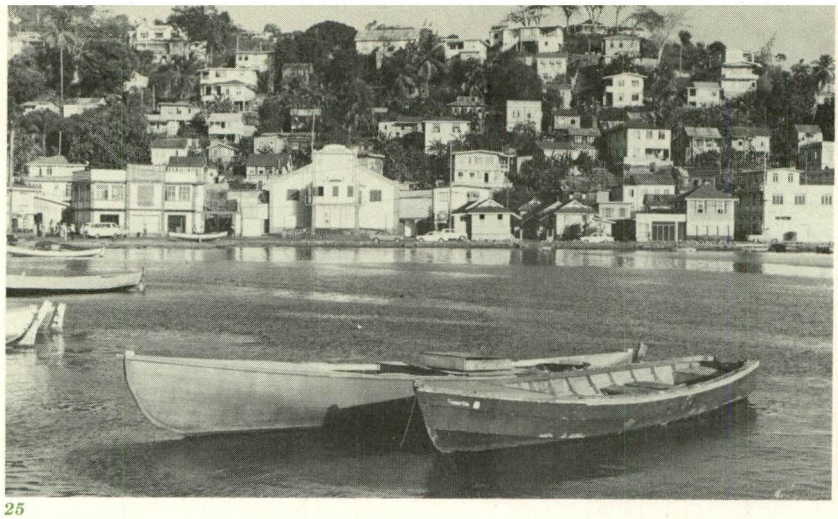
GRENADA

KNOWN AS THE isle of spice, Grenada provides nearly a third of the world's supply of nutmeg, as well as great quantities of cinnamon, cacao, ginger, and other condiments. Such production is all the more astounding when one considers that the island measures barely twenty-one miles long by twelve wide. While also blessed with magnificent mountains, lush green valleys, and superb white beaches, perhaps Grenada's greatest assest is its people—independent yet gracious islanders whose genuine hospitality is sensed immediately by visitors.

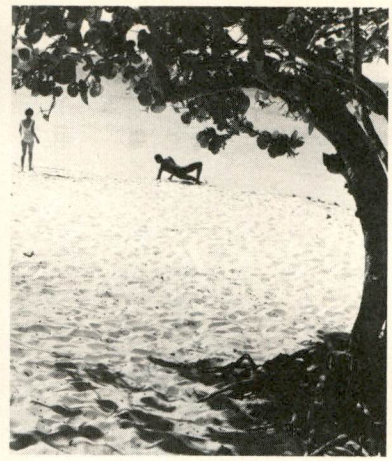
Cities and Landscapes. Located about one hundred miles north of Venezuela, Grenada is the most southerly of the Windward Islands and has a total area of only 133 square miles, including its dependencies of Carriacou and Petit Martinique. The island is volcanic in origin, with rich dark soil and abundant rainfall well suited to tropical agriculture. Lakes have formed in three extinct volcanoes, part of a mountain ridge traversing the length of the country. At the center of the island is Grand Étang Lake, in a verdant rain forest. Nearby towers Mount Saint Catherine, the island's tallest, rising over 2,750 feet above the surrounding turquoise sea.

St. George's, Grenada's capital city, clings picturesquely to steep hills surrounding its sparkling blue harbor, one of the loveliest in the Caribbean. Minutes away from the capital, world famous Grand Anse beach beckons to sunseekers with its two-mile stretch of glistening sand bordered by fine hotels. Other points of interest include Fort George and Fort Frederick, which offer spectacular panoramas of the island.

National Background. Changes in Grenada's name over the centuries reveal much about the course of its history. Discovered by Columbus in 1498, the island was originally called Concepción. Later, Span-



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25 Houses cling picturesquely to hills surrounding St. George's harbor

26 The tropical sea grape tree thrives on Grenada's secluded beaches

ish sailors referred to it as Granada, after the city in Spain. The French who followed preferred Grenade, and then the English varied it again to its present Grenada (pronounced Gre-nay-dah).

Although the Spanish discovered it, the British were the first to colonize the island over a hundred years later. The warlike Carib Indians drove them off, however, and the island was not permanently settled until the mid-seventeenth century, when the French finally managed to subdue the Indian population. Throughout most of the eighteenth century England and France clashed over control of the island, which —after changing hands many times— was restored to Great Britain in 1783 by the Treaty of Versailles. Following the abolition of slavery in 1834, large sugar plantations were replaced by smaller land tenantries that eventually gave rise to a yeoman farmer class, still the basis of contemporary Grenadian society. From 1833 to 1958, Grenada was part of the Windward Islands Administration. The country then became a member of the short-lived Federation of the West Indies and was a British Associated State before attaining its independence in 1974.

Culture. While English is the nation's official language, the French patois heard occasionally reveals the influence of France in the island's cultural development. The mingled heritage is evident in the capital city of St. George's, too, where eighteenth century French provincial houses are found alongside classic examples of English Georgian. However, while such traditions as cricket are an inheritance from the British and the strength of the Roman Catholic church is a legacy from the French, Africa contributed far more to the population than did Europe.

Economy. Agriculture has traditionally sustained Grenada's economy, with nutmeg, cacao, and bananas as the chief exports. In recent years, however, tourism has come to play a more important role than agriculture as a source of foreign exchange.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

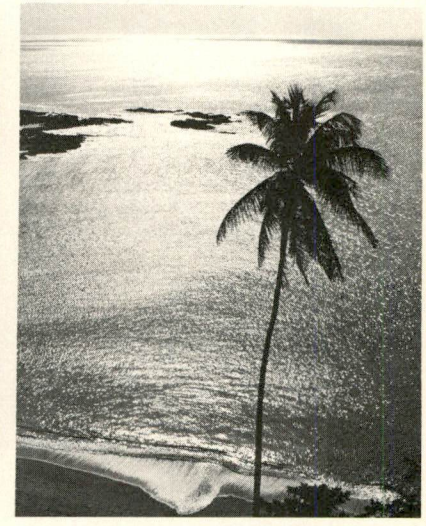
DESCRIBED AS British in character, Latin in disposition, and cosmopolitan in appearance, modern-day Trinidadians and Tobagans present an exception to the rule that the whole can be no greater than the sum of its parts. While the culture of the two-island nation has been unmistakably shaped by African and East Indian, as well as Chinese, Portuguese, Irish, and many other peoples who have settled there, all these influences have been adapted precisely to fit the country's own particular way of life. The product is a multiracial society that is truly unique in the Americas.

Cities and Landscapes. The southernmost island in the Caribbean, Trinidad is separated from Venezuela by the seven-mile-wide Gulf of Paria. Some forty-eight miles long and thirty-five wide, the island is crossed by low mountains, an extension of the Venezuelan cordillera. The beauty of the

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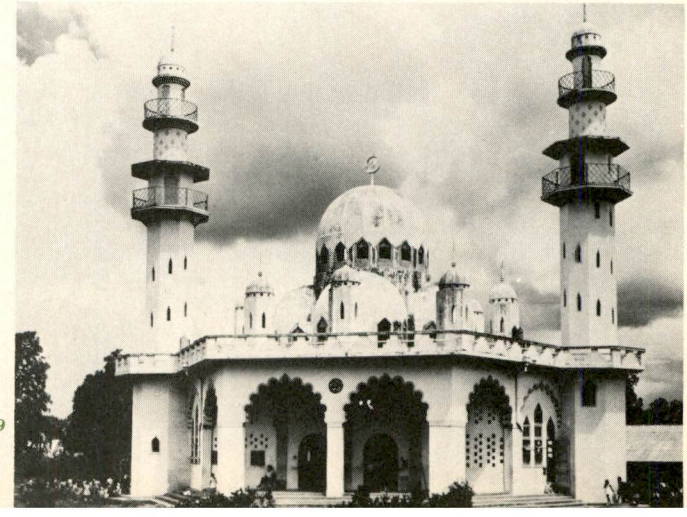
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27 Sparkling costumes dazzle spectators during annual Carnival in Trinidad

28 Silvery waters glisten as sun sets over tranquil Tobago

29 Mohammed Ali Jinnah Memorial Mosque, evidence of Trinidad's varied religious heritage



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landscape is enhanced by many rivers, and the Maracas Falls are one of its most outstanding physical features. Famous Pitch Lake, an industrial resource, has been supplying asphalt for almost four hundred years.

Tranquil Tobago differs greatly from commercial Trinidad, which lies only twenty-seven miles to the southwest. The island, with an area of 116 square miles, is volcanic in origin and has a completely tropical vegetation. Formed by a single mountain mass, it rises in gentle slopes from coral beaches to a height of nearly 1,800 feet. The nearby isle of Tobaguito, an enchanting bird sanctuary, is the only place outside New Guinea where the Bird of Paradise can be seen in the wild.

An attractive city located on the Bay of Trinidad, Port-of-Spain is the nation's capital. The next largest cities are San Fernando and Arima. Except for Scarborough, its principal city and port, most of the towns on Tobago are quite small. The ruins of seventeenth century forts dot the countryside and serve as reminders that the island was long a prized port of call for English seamen.

National Background. After first glimpsing three peaks on the horizon, Columbus called the island Trinidad, in honor of the Holy Trinity, when it was discovered in 1498. It was inhabited at that time by the Carib, a very warlike tribe, and by the more peaceful Arawak. Dutch and French pirates attacked in the seventeenth century, and many families emigrated to Trinidad from Haiti and other Caribbean settlements during the French Revolution. Occupied by a British expedition during the Napoleonic Wars, the island was ceded to Great Britain in 1802. Tobago, first ceded by Spain to England, later passed through Dutch and French hands before returning to English possession again in 1814. It became an administrative unit of Trinidad in 1899.

The two islands were governed as a Crown Colony until 1958, when, with several other Caribbean nations, they formed the Federation of the West Indies. After the Federation dissolved in 1962, Trinidad and Tobago became an independent country within the British Commonwealth.

Culture. More of a crossroads than a melting pot, Trinidad and Tobago has one of the most cosmopolitan populations in the world, as peoples from the east and west live together in perfect harmony. Mosques, Hindu temples, and Victorian mansions lend the urban architecture a picturesque and characteristic appeal. The colorful blending of cultures is most evident during Carnival, a spectacle in which virtually everyone participates.

Afro-Caribbean music in Trinidad and Tobago acquires a special accent, as world-famous limbo dancing and steel bands accompany the improvised rhythms of calypso tunes.

Economy. While still relying on export markets for its principal products, petroleum and sugar, the nation has attracted a continuing influx of foreign private investment in recent years through its political and economic stability. Trinidad and Tobago has a good fiscal system with a progressive tax structure, and manufacturing is expanding favorably as the country makes a determined effort to diversify the economy. Tourism is also an important source of income.



Central America

Guatemala • Honduras • El Salvador • Nicaragua • Costa Rica • Panama

GUATEMALA

GUATEMALA POSSESSES a truly amazing wealth of natural and archaeological treasures within its borders. While taking pride in their pleasant climate, beautiful scenery, and striking historical monuments, contemporary Guatemalans have also set an eye toward future growth through active involvement in development programs and regional trade organizations.

Cities and Landscapes. Land of the quetzal—a rare bird of brilliant plumage that dies in captivity—Guatemala has two distinct geographic zones. Tropical coastal lowlands edge the temperate plateaus, and mountain chains cover the central two thirds of the country. Lake Atitlán is one of the most beautiful bodies of water in the world. The Department of Petén, a sparsely populated but richly wooded plain to the north, and some thirty-three volcanoes add an untamed element to the Guatemalan landscape and enhance its exotic beauty.

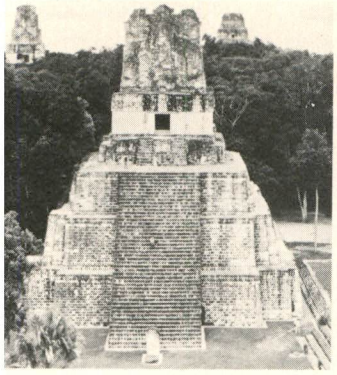
Guatemala City, the fourth capital, is a cosmopolitan metropolis that dates from 1776, when it was founded to supersede Antigua—then known as Santiago de los Caballeros de Goathemala—which had been partly destroyed by earthquake. Lovely parks, broad avenues, and attractive buildings grace the modern capital, which was itself almost completely rebuilt in contemporary and Spanish colonial style following the devastating earthquakes of 1917-1918; damage to the city caused by the 1976 earthquake has been largely repaired. Antigua, thirty miles away, is a museum city of colonial architecture, religious and domestic. Quetzaltenango, Guatemala's second industrial and trading center, was established by the Spaniards on the site of an Indian town that had been inhabited for at least a thousand years. The finest port, Santo Tomas de Castilla (formerly Puerto Barrios), is on the Atlantic and is famous among deep-sea fishing enthusiasts.

National Background. Many hundreds of years before the Spanish conquest the Maya built some of their greatest cities in Guatemala. Most of them, including magnificent Tikal in the Petén, were mysteriously abandoned around A.D. 900. However, the decendants of that civilization, including the Maya-Quiché, form a major part of the modern population.

Pedro de Alvarado conquered the territory in 1524 and established the first two Spanish capitals, which fell victim to earthquakes and floods. Present-day Antigua, the third capital, was the headquarters of the Captaincy-General and seat of the Audiencia for all Central America.

After gaining independence from Spain in 1821 and coming briefly under the Mexican Empire, Guatemala joined with its neighboring countries in 1823 to form the Federal Republic of Central America with its capital in Guatemala City. The federation was eventually dissolved, and the country became an independent republic in 1839. President Justo Rufino Barrios' inaugura-

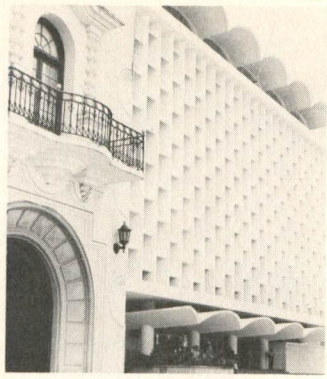
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30 Restored Maya temples rise above jungle at Tikal, Guatemala

31 Ancient copal incense drifts across church in Chichicastenango

32 Colonial and modern styles side by side in Guatemala City

33 Soaring volcanoes keep vigil over Lake Atitlán



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tion in 1873 marked the beginning of the reformist process that contributed decisively to the development of the modern nation. A series of authoritarian governments interspersed with periods of representative government has marked the succeeding decades.

Culture. Guatemala is doubly rich in cultural heritage: its outstanding examples of pre-Columbian art and architecture stand alongside the masterpieces of colonial builders and craftsmen. The Pontifical University of San Carlos Borromeo, founded in 1681, and the Economic Society of Friends of Guatemala, established in 1797, provided fertile ground for the growth of contemporary thought and literature. Among the writers who generated a strong intellectual movement were Antonio José de Irisarri, José Batres Montúfar, and Enrique Gómez Carrillo. From the ancient *Popol Vuh,* the sacred book of the Maya-Quiché, to the works of twentieth century Nobel Laureate Miguel Ángel Asturias, Guatemalan writers and thinkers have made a number of significant contributions to Latin American culture.

The Maya heritage marks the music, dance, and crafts of the nation with distinction. Cities like Chichicastenango are transformed into living folk museums on market and fiesta days, when Indians from surrounding areas come to town much as their ancestors did centuries ago. Women in each town have perfected their own distinctive style of weaving, and the variety and quality of the fabric they produce is unsurpassed. The costumes, worn with great pride, are unique to each Indian village.

Economy. Like the other Central American republics, Guatemala's economy is based largely on agriculture, with coffee, bananas, sugar, cotton, meat, and timber as principal exports. The development of nickel and possibly petroleum resources is a prospect for future economic growth. The nation has taken an active role in the Central American Common Market, while at the same time concentrating on domestic problems. Assisting the rural poor and narrowing the large social gaps are current development aims.

HONDURAS

ONCE AN IMPORTANT Maya region, this mountainous nation claimed by Columbus for the Spanish crown in 1502 has taken its place in twentieth century affairs, while at the same time preserving its great cultural and ethnic heritage.

Cities and Landscapes. The population of Honduras is concentrated mainly in the western half of the country, where coffee, sugar cane, corn, and bananas are grown. In contrast, modern civilization has made few inroads into the dense swamps, mountains, and jungles of the largely uninhabited eastern coastal area of Mosquitia.

Tegucigalpa, small, conservative, and charming, is one of the few Central American capital cities that has not suffered earthquake devastation. While retaining its original architectural style of low adobe buildings and attractive terraced streets, it is now becoming a headquarters for numerous Central American organizations. Honduras' second largest city, San Pedro Sula, situated near the Caribbean coast, is the industrial center of the nation. It also provides an excellent point of departure for tourists who wish to visit the dramatic Maya ruins of Copán. Beautiful, unspoiled Lake Yojoa lies halfway between Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula in the Jicoque Mountains. Picturesque Bay Island off the Caribbean coast can be reached from La Ceiba, Honduras' largest port. The only port on the Pacific, Amapala, is located on Tigre Island in the Gulf of Fonseca.

National Background. Following Columbus' discovery of Honduras, the city of Comayagua was founded by the Spaniards as capital of the province. European buccaneers frequently attacked Honduras after silver deposits were found in 1578. During the eighteenth century British forces intervened in defense of the Mosquito Indians, and Great Britain became the dominant power until 1859, when a treaty waiving rights to the territory was signed.

Honduras joined the Federal Republic of Central America, formed in 1823 after the collapse of Iturbide's Mexican Empire. Despite the unifying efforts of Francisco Morazán, Honduras' national hero, the federation was dissolved in 1838 and the sovereign Honduran nation was proclaimed.

While revolutions have not been uncommon in the country's history, lengthy periods of relative stability have also been enjoyed. In July 1969 a brief but bitter war broke out with neighboring El Salvador; after five days the OAS negotiated a cease-fire, and good progress is being made on a firm peace agreement.

Culture. The history of Honduras is re-

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34 Statue of Morazán greets visitors to San Miguel Cathedral in Tegucigalpa

35 Elaborately carved stelae commemorate Maya rulers of Copán, Honduras

vealed in the ethnic heritage of its people. Most Hondurans are mestizos—offspring of the Spanish colonists and the native Indians. Blacks descended from former slaves show the African influence, while the period of British dominance is reflected by the numerous descendants of Englishmen found along the northern coast and by the English language spoken there.

In 1632 Central America's first university was founded in Comayagua and it became the intellectual center of the nation. Honduras has produced such influential philosphers as José Cecilio del Valle, Ramón Rosa, and Alberto Membreño, as well as intellectuals Juan Ramón Molina and Rafael Heliodoro Valle.

The ruins of ancient Copán are among the most photogenic of Maya sites, and the Cathedral of Comayagua, dating from the seventeenth century, is an excellent example of early colonial architecture.

Economy. After Ecuador, Honduras is the largest banana-exporting country in the world, and this export crop is essential to its economic well-being. Next in importance are coffee, lumber, frozen meat, silver, lead, zinc, cotton, and beans. Based mainly on agricultural products, the economy is recovering from the damage caused by Hurricane Fifi in 1974 and the severe drought in 1975. There have been significant advances in industrial, mining, and construction activities.

EL SALVADOR

THE SMALLEST Central American country in square miles, El Salvador is the region's largest coffee exporter, as well as one of its most heavily industrialized countries. Imposing volcanoes and ancient Maya ruins provide a link with the past.

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Cities and Landscapes. A mountainous country, El Salvador is traversed by two east-west cordilleras, one along the Pacific coast and the other along the Honduran border. Between them are subtropical plateaus crisscrossed by fertile valleys. Sugar cane is grown in the narrow sun-drenched Pacific plain, while coffee is cultivated on the fertile mountain slopes east of the Lempa River and in the western region.

Fourteen volcanoes line the southern coastal region. The most famous is the active Izalco, the Lighthouse of the Pacific. Lake Guija, the nation's largest, occupies the crater of an old volcano and has ancient ruins on its islands and shores. San Salvador, the capital, is a modern city that was rebuilt after the 1854 earthquake. Santa Ana, the hub of the western region of the Republic, and Santa Tecla (officially renamed Nueva San Salvador) are located in the coffee-growing area. Other cities of note include San Vicente, at the foot of Chinchontepec Volcano, and Cojutepeque, cotton and sugar center famous for its annual fair. La Unión, in the easternmost part of the country, is El Salvador's major port.

National Background. Conquistador Pedro de Alvarado reached El Salvador in 1524, and founded the city of San Salvador the following year. Although there were earlier attempts to achieve independence from Spain, led by such heroes as Father José Matías Delgado, it was not until 1821 that El Salvador, along with the other Central American republics, successfully proclaimed its freedom. When other nations briefly came under Mexican Emperor Agustín Iturbide, El Salvador resisted, and published its own constitution in 1824, the first to be adopted in Central America. It played an active role in the Federal Republic of Central America, which lasted until 1838. Although late nineteenth century political life was characterized by power struggles and intrigues, twentieth century administrations have, in general, maintained order and peace. There has been no recurrence of hostilities following the brief 1969 war with Honduras, and a firm peace agreement is being negotiated. El Salvador is today the seat of the Organization of Central American States (ODECA).

Culture. Among the original inhabitants of El Salvador were many Maya groups, as well as the Pipil, whose advanced civilization was probably related to that of the Aztec. Spanish settlers intermarried with the Indians, and a genuine fusion of the two peoples took place.

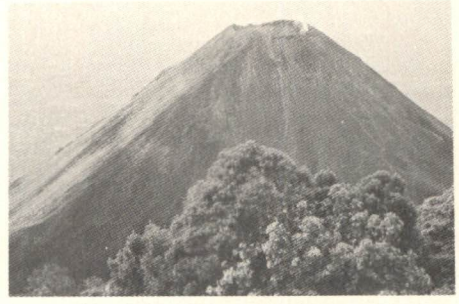
Surviving Spanish colonial architecture, simple and well proportioned, is almost entirely religious. The constant danger of earthquakes has produced interesting local architectural features, including low roofs, massive walls, and smaller domes in place of lofty vaults.

Public education was fostered by Francisco Morazán soon after independence, and a university was established in 1841. Salvadorian culture gained momentum under President Francisco Dueñas (1863-71), which continued under such intellectuals as Francisco Gavida and Alberto Masferrer.

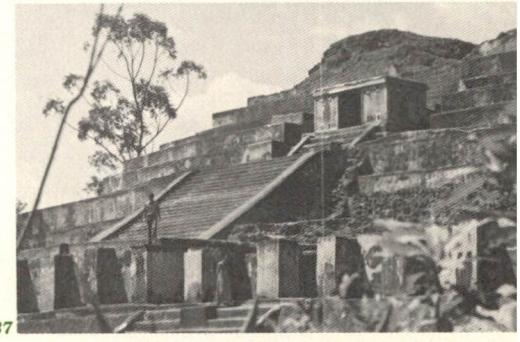
Salvadorian folkways often reveal greater Indian than Spanish influence, as is shown by the charm and color of village costumes worn on fiesta days.

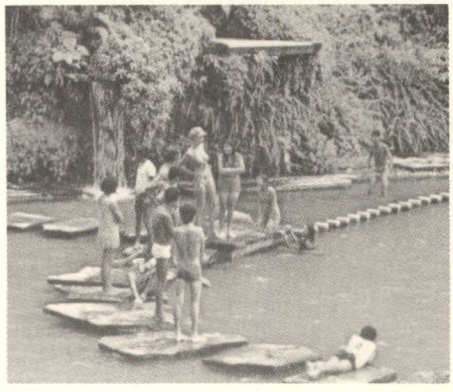
Economy. While agriculture remains the foundation of El Salvador's economy, industrialization is encouraged by government policies that attract investment. The Salvadorian textile industry is the largest in the region; other important industries include food products, shoes, and clothing. Principal exports are coffee, manufactured goods, cotton, sugar, and shrimp.

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36 El Salvador's Izalco Volcano is known as the "Lighthouse of the Pacific"

37 Stately Maya temple at Tazumal

38 Pools and lush foliage grace public parks

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39 Cathedral of León, the largest in Central America

40 Managua's National Theater, with monument to Rubén Darío

41 Cotton loading at Corinto on Nicaragua's Pacific coast

NICARAGUA

STRIKEN BY an earthquake that destroyed their capital city in 1972, Nicaraguans have risen above disaster not only to rebuild but to improve their homes, schools, and commercial centers. Such resiliency is characteristic of a people who know both the beauty and the fury of Nature.

Cities and Landscapes. A country of lakes, volcanoes, and sweltering sun, Nicaragua is the largest in area of the Central American republics. Diversity of climate results from two mountain ranges that cross the nation diagonally from northwest to southeast. Most of the population is concentrated along the Pacific coast, a tropical lowland where industrial and agricultural centers are located. Lake Nicaragua, one of the largest fresh water bodies in the world, and Lake Managua are bordered by numerous volcanoes and provide breathtaking vistas. The mountainous central region has a milder climate in which coffee plantations and cattle ranches flourish. Dense forests cover the low, swampy eastern coast, which is sparsely inhabited.

Five square miles of downtown Managua, the capital city, were destroyed by the 1972 earthquake. The monumental task of rebuilding is well under way, with decentralization the key word. Other cities include León, the country's intellectual capital; Granada, in the heart of a fertile region that produces coffee and sugar; and Metagalpa, chief city of the north, which offers a cool retreat from the warm lowlands. Corinto is the major Pacific port, while Bluefields is the largest on the Caribbean.

National Background. Although Columbus claimed the territory in 1502, it was not until twenty years later that Gil González Dávila explored the interior and encountered the Indian chief Nicarao, from whom the name Nicaragua is derived. Granada and León were founded soon after. The colonial period was marked by wars between the Mosquito Indians on the east coast and Spanish settlers on the Pacific side, by piracy, and by disputes with British settlers along the Caribbean. From 1823 to 1838 Nicaragua was a part of the Federal Republic of Central America, before becoming an independent republic. Patriot Miguel Larreynaga—eminent teacher, author, and jurist—emerged as a national hero during the troubled period that followed the federation's dissolution. The weakened national unity allowed William Walker, a U.S. adventurer, to seize power and declare himself president in 1856. He was soon expelled. A period of relative peace followed during which the country made substantial progress. However, by the beginning of the twentieth century there was great political unrest, and in 1912, at Nicaragua's request, U.S. Marines landed to restore order. Active U.S. involvement lasted until 1933, when the Good Neighbor Policy and the principle of nonintervention were adopted. Anastasio Somoza García assumed the presidency in 1936, and remained in office until his assassination in 1956. His son Luis Somoza Debayle held the office until 1963; the younger son, Anastasio Somoza Debayle was elected President in 1967.

Culture. Many archaeological relics, such as the pre-Columbian statues from Zapatera Island in Lake Nicaragua, attest to the advanced civilization of the original Indian cultures. León and Granada are noted for their colonial architecture. The former is also the boyhood home of poet Rubén Darío, through whom Nicaragua achieved international literary fame; the city's magnificent Cathedral, one of the largest in Latin America, contains his impressive tomb. After Darío, Santiago Argüello is the most outstanding Nicaraguan representative of Modernism—a style that emphasized art for art's sake. Contemporary poets Ernesto Cardenal and Ernesto Mejía Sánchez maintain that literary excellence.

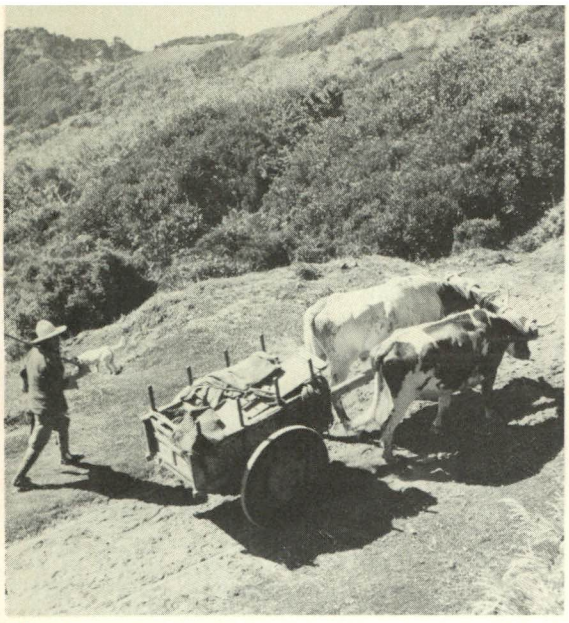
The School of Fine Arts in Managua, founded by sculptor Genaro Amador Lira and painter Rodrigo Peñalba, brought new life to the creative arts in Nicaragua.

Economy. Although Nicaragua lost almost 40 per cent of its national income in the year following the 1972 earthquake, valuable agricultural products were unaffected. Production of cotton—the most important export commodity—has increased in recent years, and coffee and sugar have also shown gains. Other principal exports include meat, timber, sesame, and shrimp. The development of industries, especially those related to construction and food processing, has been stimulated through the activities of the Central American Common Market, and the National Reconstruction and Development Plan, approved in 1975, is aimed at improving living conditions, continuing the reconstruction of Managua, reducing dependence on foreign trade, and encouraging regional growth.

COSTA RICA

FROM ITS colonial beginnings, Costa Rica has enjoyed the distinction of being a strikingly beautiful and highly stable nation. Although rich in fertile soil for agriculture, the country lacks the gold and silver deposits that attracted fortune seekers and gave rise to the problems of slavery in other areas. Thus spared the difficulties faced by many of its fellow American nations, Costa Rica developed into a country famous for its order and freedom and for its high level of public education.

Cities and Landscapes. Despite its tropical location on a narrow strip of land in southern Central America, Costa Rica's three volcanic mountain ranges provide it with a variety of climates. Bananas and



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42 Brightly painted Costa Rican oxcart, a unique native craft

43 Exquisite baroque National Theater in San José was inspired by the Paris Opera House

44 Orosi Mission, built in 1745, is still in use today

cacao thrive in the abundant rains that fall on the hot lowlands along the Caribbean coast, while the cooler regions are excellent for the cultivation of coffee. Nine volcanoes lend a primitive note to the landscape the government hopes to protect by setting aside nature reserves.

San José, the capital and center of business and cultural activities, is situated on the lovely central plateau where most of the population is concentrated. An attractive, hospitable city, it is the home of the National Theater, considered one of the most beautiful in Latin America. Nearby Heredia is the center of the coffee district. Alajuela is renowned for its beautiful flowers and invigorating climate, as well as for its sugar growing and intensive ranching activity. Many Spanish customs and traditions are still observed in the ancient city of Cartago, the first capital. Puerto Limón is the largest port on the Caribbean coast, while Puntarenas on the Gulf of Nicoya is the chief Pacific port.

National Background. In 1502, when a tempest drove his ship into Cariarí Bay, Columbus discovered what is now Costa Rica. His brother Bartolomé, sent to explore the land, found it inhabited by the Chorotega, Boruca, and Huetar.

Juan Vázquez de Coronado founded Cartago in 1564 and brought over the first Basque colonists, a realization of his dream of seeing the fertile land populated by peaceful homesteaders and cattle ranchers.

In 1821 Costa Rica, along with the other Spanish colonies of Central America, declared its independence and soon joined the new Federal Republic of Central America. The national constitution was proclaimed in 1824 and Costa Rica became an independent republic in 1838. In 1857 President Juan Rafael Mora arose as the national hero when he defeated William Walker, a U.S. adventurer who tried to take over the region.

Costa Rica began its tradition of economic stability soon after independence, with the development of its coffee crop. Seeking a revenue-producing product, the government made free land available to anyone who would raise coffee on it. By 1850, coffee exports were successful, and Costa Rica's future prosperity was well established.

The elections of 1889, the first truly free elections in the nation's history, are generally considered to mark the beginning of the modern political era and signal a turning point in the development of democracy. The army was abolished in 1948 and a small National Guard maintains public order.

Culture. The people of Costa Rica are predominantly of European descent. While nearly half have some Indian ancestors, a mere 2 per cent are of pure Indian descent; only a slightly larger number are blacks, descendants of Jamaican immigrants who arrived in the late nineteenth century.

Costa Rica's folk crafts differ somewhat from those of its neighbors. The famous Costa Rican carts, decorated with intricate geometric designs in vivid colors, are assumed to be the contribution of nineteenth century Italian immigrants.

The country's history of stability and prosperity has favored the evolution of intellectual activity and the advancement of public education. Well known throughout the Spanish-speaking world, its writers, poets, and novelists have included Manuel González Zeledón, Aquileo J. Echeverría, Alfredo Cardona Peña, and Fabián Dobles.

Created in 1970 to promote culture in all its aspects, the Ministry of Culture, Youth, and Sports sponsors free concerts and art exhibits in towns and cities remote from the cultural centers. Top priority has also been given to developing music education and creating an interest in music among the youth.

Headquartered in San José are the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences, an important center for agricultural research and development, and the Inter-American Center for Music Education.

Economy. Costa Rica has the highest per capita gross national product in Central America, as well as the most evenly distributed national income. While the economy is based primarily on agriculture—coffee and bananas constitute the majority of all exports—light industry is also expanding rapidly.

PANAMA

THE CONGRESS of Panama, which represents the earliest expression of the concept of inter-American cooperation, was convoked by Simón Bolívar and took place in 1826. As both the link between Atlantic and Pacific Oceans and the land bridge joining North and South America, Panama still plays an important role in inter-American affairs today.

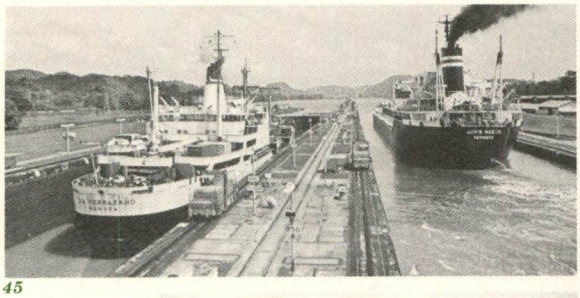
Cities and Landscapes. The Isthmus of Panama is crossed by two mountain ranges, which form a series of fertile valleys and plains. Heavily forested hills and dense jungles cover much of the country. The last unfinished section of the Pan American Highway is in the Darién region, an area of vast swamps and impenetrable jungle. Numerous islands dot the Panamanian coastline.

Completed in 1914 on land leased by the United States, the Panama Canal divides the nation into two nearly equal parts. Near the Pacific entrance to the Canal is cosmopolitan Panama City, the country's capital and leading political, commercial, and cultural center. Colón, Atlantic gateway to the Canal, is a port city of great importance as a distribution center for Latin American trade. David, in the extreme western section of the country, is the commercial center for all of Chiriqui Province, Panama's richest farming region.

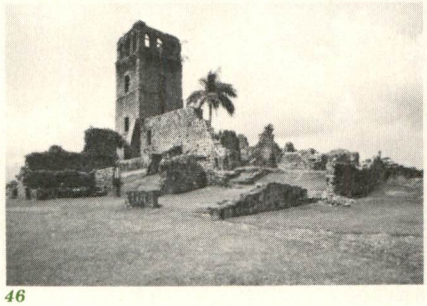
45 Fifty-five-foot water level difference between oceans is dramatized by two ships in the Panama Canal

46 Ruins of Old Panama City, on the outskirts of the present capital, are now being restored

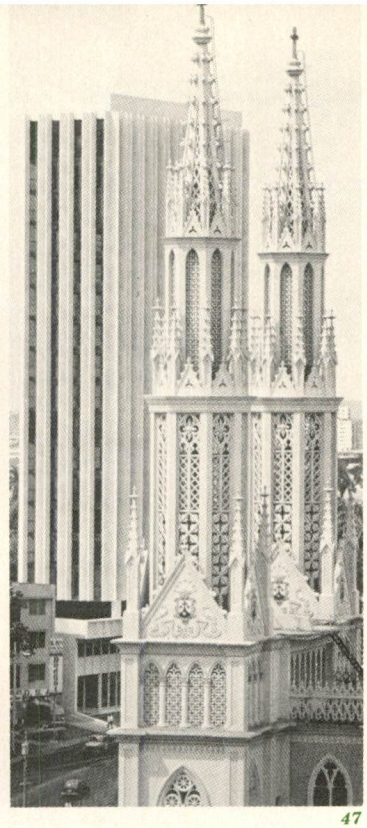
47 El Carmen Church against skyscraper in Panama City



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National Background. Columbus sighted Panama in 1502 as he explored the Caribbean coastline. Later, in 1513, Vasco Núñez de Balboa crossed the isthmus and discovered the Pacific Ocean. The Spanish then established ports and strongholds on both sides of the isthmus. Portobelo on the Atlantic served as the terminal for fleets sailing to the New World, as well as being Spain's major customs post for over a century, during which period it suffered repeated attacks from daring buccaneers such as Francis Drake and Henry Morgan.

Following independence from Spain in 1821, Panama, as a part of Colombia, and Venezuela and Ecuador formed the Republic of Gran Colombia. Although separatist demands brought about brief periods of secession in 1841 and 1857, Panama otherwise remained part of Colombia until 1903. Immediately after independence, an agreement negotiated with the United States provided for the building of the Canal, a masterpiece of engineering that, at the height of construction activity, employed more than 43,000 persons. Panamanian political and economic affairs were dominated by a relatively small elite group until 1968, when the National Guard overthrew newly elected President Arnulfo Arias and established a provisional junta government. Elected constitutional government was restored in 1972.

Culture. While Panamanians have adopted certain ideas, concepts, and tastes from the widely varied transient and immigrant peoples who have crossed their land, the basic underlying cultural values are traditional Hispanic ones.

The Spanish cultural heritage is seen in the ruins of Old Panama City, on the outskirts of the present capital, and in Portobelo, the colonial fortress. Both are being restored, and will soon be important tourist attractions.

Significant contributions to the intellectual life were made by such thinkers as Justo Arosemena and poets Gil Colunje, Darío Herrera, and Ricardo Miró. More recent writers include Belisario Porras, Ricardo Alfaro, and A. Menéndez Pereira. When the modern University of Panama opened in 1935, all social, economic, and cultural aspects of society began to progress rapidly.

Popular music and dance reveal the strong African influences in Panamanian folk culture. Differing ethnic backgrounds can also be noted during Carnival, when regional costumes from each part of the country are worn. The Cuna of the San Blas Archipelago, who make the beautiful appliquéd *molas,* have maintained their cultural identity to a high degree.

Economy. Although Panama's economy has been directed for centuries toward international commerce and providing services for transit trade, recent efforts have been made to bridge the gap between urban and rural standards of living through the expansion of agricultural production. Leading exports include bananas, shrimp, and petroleum. Since Panama's liberal banking law went into effect in 1970, the nation has become a major international financial center, especially attractive for its location and good communications and transportation facilities.



Andean South America

Venezuela • Colombia • Ecuador • Peru • Bolivia • Chile

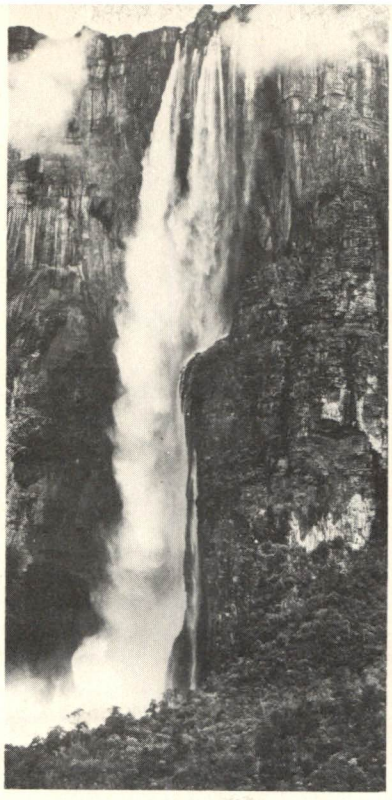
VENEZUELA

VENEZUELA IS exceptionally rich in natural resources, and is endowed with abundant deposits of gold, diamonds, iron, bauxite, and copper, but above all, petroleum—of which it is one of the major world exporters. The country claims the great historical honor of being the birthplace of the Liberator, Simón Bolívar.

Cities and Landscapes. Six distinct areas make up the territory of Venezuela: the torrid Caribbean coast, where tropical fruits grow in profusion, stretching from Lake Maracaibo to the peninsula of Paria; the Sierra Nevada, forming the border with Colombia and dominated by Bolívar peak, which rises sixteen thousand feet above sea level; the humid and extremely hot region of Lake Maracaibo, an apparently inexhaustible source of petroleum; the vast *llanos,* which account for one third of the country and extend as far as the Orinoco delta; the great southeastern plain; and, finally, the superb agricultural area between the coast-

al zone and the *llanos*. The Orinoco River curves around the dense jungle of the unexplored Guiana highlands. Angel Falls, at more than 3,200 feet, is the highest waterfall in the world, while Cerro Bolívar, also in the sprawling State of Bolívar, is an incredible mountain of almost pure iron ore. The island of Margarita, off the northern coast, is a popular resort spot that became famous for its pearl-rich oyster beds.

Six cities in Venezuela have more than one hundred thousand inhabitants, but none has equaled the fantastic level of urban development achieved in only a few decades by Caracas, the capital. The other major cities are Maracaibo, the oil metropolis; Maracay, center of a rich farming area; Valencia, the most highly industrialized city; Ciudad Bolívar, formerly Angostura, site of the Congress of that name; La Guaira, the country's major port; Ciudad Guayana, a new metropolis on the Orinoco River; and the progressive city of Barquisimeto.



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48 Angel Falls, the highest in the world, bursts from the face of Devil's Mountain in Venezuela and drops a sheer 3,212 feet into the gorge below

49 Caracas' Pantheon, a national shrine, houses the remains of Simón Bolívar, the Liberator

50 Bolívar Center in the capital city of Caracas, one of Latin America's fastest growing cities

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National Background. In 1498, Columbus discovered the territory later to be called Venezuela, finding various tribes of Caribs and Arawaks who were ill-prepared to resist the Spaniards. The shores of Venezuela soon became famous for their pearls. One of the first European communities in the New World was Cumaná, founded in 1523 on the Caribbean.

Caracas, founded in 1567, became the capital in 1577. In 1777, the Captaincy General of the United Provinces of Venezuela was established with the same boundaries as the present republic, and in 1786 the Royal Audiencia of Caracas was formed. Of the many civilian and military leaders contributed by Venezuela to the cause of emancipation, two are outstanding: Francisco de Miranda, the forefather of the independence movement, and Simón Bolívar, the Liberator. In 1811, the Constituent Congress of Venezuela declared its independence from Spain, and enacted a new constitution. Shortly thereafter, the royalist forces regained control until 1821, when they were decisively defeated by the patriots at the Battle of Carabobo. The political genius of Bolívar then forged Gran Colombia from Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, and what is today Panama, with the Liberator as President. In 1830, Venezuela seceded to become a sovereign state with its own constitution. Bolívar died later the same year, in Santa Marta, Colombia, while en route to his native Caracas. His remains rest in the National Pantheon in Caracas. Since 1864, Venezuela has been a federal republic.

Venezuela gave to America not only a great general whose military genius won the freedom of half a continent, but also a statesman who was a century ahead of his time in the field of international relations. As early as 1815, Bolívar promoted the idea of a "league of nations of the New World," and to this end he convoked the now historic Congress of Panama in 1826, which supported his concepts of collective security and the peaceful settlement of dispute by arbitration and conciliation.

Venezuela's nineteenth century history was marked by frequent periods of political instability and revolutionary turbulence, while the present century has seen long periods of authoritarian rule. During the presidency of Rómulo Betancourt (1959-64), the first popularly elected president in Venezuelan history to complete his term in office, Venezuela embarked on its present course of an orderly succession of democratic administrations.

Culture. Venezuela does not have a significant archaeological past nor does its present population include any appreciable component of Indian descent. As in other parts of the Caribbean, the colonial economy imported contingents of African slaves, while the rising prosperity of the past few decades attracted a wave of immigrants. The *llanero* is perhaps the most authentic figure in the country's past. His participation in the

struggles for independence was both heroic and decisive.

It was Bolívar's teacher, Simón Rodríguez, who marked the emergence of a liberal and enlightened trend that, despite the economic and political conditions prevailing during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, was to produce such notable exponents as the educator Andrés Bello, Rufino Blanco Fombona, the poet Antonio Pérez Bonalde, and Cecilio Acosta. A strong movement toward national identity is apparent in both literature and art. Novelists Arturo Uslar Pietri and especially Rómulo Gallegos, author of *Doña Barbara,* achieved international fame. Mariano Picón Salas made an impressive contribution to historical criticism, while in the field of science Arnoldo Babaldón helped to eradicate malaria from the country. Martín Tovar y Tovar and Arturo Michelena promoted the national school of painting, carried on by many fine artists such as Federico Brandt and Armando Reverón, and, more recently, by Héctor Poleo, Alejandro Otero, Marisol, and Jesús Rafael Soto.

Venezuelan folk arts are derived from the nation's three cultural sources: Indian, Spanish, and African. Music and dance in particular cover a wide range of typical forms. The rhythmic *joropo* is popular throughout the Americas.

Economy. Oil accounts for over 95 per cent of Venezuela's foreign exchange earnings. Revenue from petroleum, which gives Venezuela the highest per capita gross national product in Latin America, is used to finance public works and industrial programs, and as a result the country has a well-developed infrastructure. Venezuela is also a major producer of iron ore and one of the top producers of electric power in Latin America. The agricultural sector (principal crops are coffee and cacao) has lagged considerably in recent years due to massive rural to urban migration. Manufacturing, largely of textiles, paper products, food and drink, furniture, steel, petrochemicals, and aluminum, is growing steadily.

COLOMBIA

COLOMBIA IS distinguished for its wealth of natural resources—it is the ranking producer of gold in Latin America and a major world source of emeralds; for its richly varied landscapes; and for its well-deserved reputation as a cultured nation, where intellectual pursuits are esteemed and the purity of Castilian Spanish is proudly preserved. After Brazil it is the second largest coffee grower in the world.

Cities and Landcapes. Colombia is the only South American nation with both Atlantic and Pacific ports. Ninety-eight per cent of the population is concentrated in the west central mountain region, in the deep, fertile valleys and broad plateaus—each with a distinctive soil, climate, and way of life—formed by three parallel ranges of the Andes chain. The remaining 55 per cent of the land—largely uninhabited—is made up of coastal lowlands lining the Caribbean and Pacific and, in the east, the vast stretches of plains, or *llanos,* and the jungle of the Amazon basin.

Bogotá, the capital, a city of over three and a half million people, is located on the plateau of the eastern cordillera in the center of the country. In its characteristic colonial architecture and tall, modern buildings it projects the essence of Colombian tradition and culture as well as of the nation's rapid progress over the last four centuries. Energetic Medellín, with a delightful climate, is the second largest city and the industrial capital of the country, as well as a leading intellectual and commercial center famous for its textile industry, high quality coffee production, and excellent universities. Cali, a rapidly growing agricultural and industrial center, is a warm, inviting city in the lush Cauca Valley, the principal sugar-producing region. Tropical Barranquilla, at the mouth of the Magdalena River on the Caribbean, is the principal port and an important commercial city. The fortified city of Cartagena, also on the Caribbean coast, was among the richest colonial commercial centers and Spain's main stronghold in northern South America. Colombia's third Caribbean port, Santa Marta, is the oldest permanent settlement on the continent. Historic Popayán, birthplace of numerous national heroes, boasts treasures of colonial art and architecture and one of the oldest universities in South America. Manizales, Pereira, and Armenia are progressive industrial and agricultural zones. Bucaramanga, in the east, is a large coffee and tobacco producer. Cúcuta, near the Venezuelan border, owes much of its prosperity to ranching and to its proximity to the Catatumbo oil fields. The country's main port on the Pacific is Buenaventura.

National Background. Colombia, the only country whose name honors the great explorer, was not discovered by Columbus but by Alonso de Ojeda, who accompanied him on his second voyage to the New World. Gonzalo Jiménez de Quesada, founder of New Granada and of Santa Fe de Bogotá, dominated the first half-century of colonial rule, becoming a national symbol of justice. The discovery of gold and the land's strategic location brought frequent pirate attacks yet the colony flourished as a result of Spanish organization, a well-established legal system, and agricultural prosperity. In 1717 it was made a viceroyalty.

An intellectual awakening set the stage for the independence movement—touched off by a translation of *The Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen* into Spanish by Antonio Nariño. On July 20, 1810, the Creoles, eager for self-government, established the Supreme Junta of the Kingdom of New Granada, Colombia's first elective body. Independence was proclaimed on July 16, 1813, but Spain recaptured New Granada and restored the viceroyalty in 1817. In 1819, after freeing Venezuela, Simón Bolívar and his general, Francisco de Paula Santander, won a decisive victory over the Spaniards at Boyacá, thereby assuring independence. New Granada, Venezuela, and Ecuador then united to form Gran Colombia, realizing Bolívar's cherished dream. The federation was dissolved in 1830. In 1832, a new Colombian constitution established the federal form of government. The first President, General Santander, transformed Colombia into a democratic nation devoted to the principles of legality.

Colombia's history has been marred by repeated civil strife between the Conservative (centralist) and Liberal (federalist) political parties. One such conflict, the 1855 revolution, put an end to the federal system. Since 1886 Colombia has been a unitary, or centralized, republic.

In 1930 a long period of Conservative party rule ended, and a series of Liberal presidents ended when the assassination of the leftist leader Jorge Eliecer Gaitán in 1948 triggered a mass uprising known as the *bogotazo* and a decade of instability and bitter rivalry known as *La Violencia.* The country's only modern military ruler rose to power during this time. To end civil strife, a 1957 plebiscite created the National Front, which determined that the two political parties would alternate in power for sixteen years. Liberal leader Alberto Lleras Camargo was elected President in 1958. Having one of the most stable democratic governments in Latin America, Colombia has recently enjoyed a period of rapid economic and social development.

Culture. There are really two Colombias culturally—that of the coast, sharing the characteristics and ethnic composition of the Caribbean peoples, with particularly strong black influence in popular music and dance; and that of the Andes, a blend of Indian—especially Quimbaya, Chibcha, and Chiriqui—and Hispanic cultures. Archaeologically, Colombia can take pride in the impressive stone sculptures of San Agustín and the dazzling gold objects in Bogotá's Gold Museum. Colonial architecture, sculpture, and art treasures abound in Bogotá, Popayán, Cartagena, and Tunja.

Colombia's extraordinary cultural attainment is in part the result of its impressive literary tradition. Literature and journalism—freedom of the press is zealously guarded—have been characterized by a classic purity of language. Such masters of the language as Miguel Antonio Caro and Rufino José Cuervo and poets and writers Julio Arboleda, Porfirio Barba Jacob, José Asunción Silva, José Eustasio Rivera, Jorge Isaac, and Guillermo Valencia bring honor







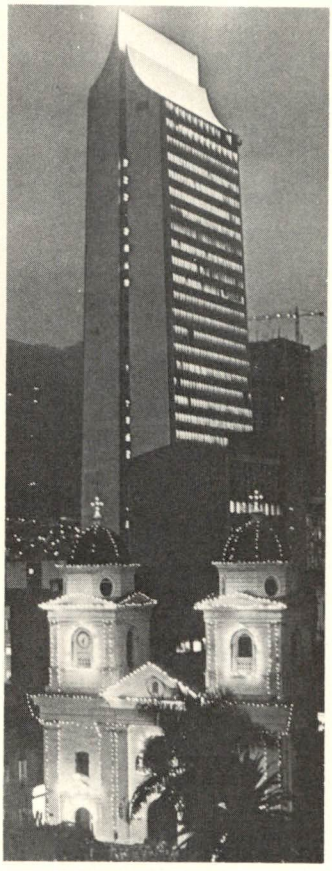
51 Modern apartments tower over Bogotá's famous bullring

52 Colonial balconies grace typical Cartagena street

53 Gold ceremonial knife shows skill of ancient craftsmen

54 Lights twinkle as night falls over Medellín

55 Farmer chats with priest in rural San Pablo, Nariño





to Colombia, home of the Caro and Cuervo Institute, a true sanctuary of the Spanish language. Contemporary Colombian figures in literature and the arts are a legitimate source of pride for the Hemisphere; among them are the novelist Gabriel García Márquez, the essayist Germán Arciniegas, and painters Alejandro Obregón, Fernando Botero, and Omar Rayo.

Economy. Coffee is Colombia's principal export commodity, accounting for 45 per cent of export income. Other important crops are bananas, tobacco, rice, cacao, sugar cane, grains, and cotton. Livestock-raising has long been an important activity. Colombia has Latin America's largest coal reserves. It is outstanding for its minerals, the most important being gold, silver, emeralds, and platinum. The country is rapidly industrializing and manufactured goods now account for some 30 per cent of total export income.

ECUADOR

THE COAST, the Sierra, and the jungle, with their diverse characteristics and sharp contrasts, make Ecuador a multifaceted country despite its clearly defined historical individuality and strong national unity. The nation named for the equator that it straddles is equally famous for the architectural and artistic heritage of its great colonial past.

Cities and Landscapes. Two parallel Andes ranges form the backbone of the country, linked by small spurs that create the fertile, temperate valleys known collectively as the Central Valley. Dominating the plateaus are twenty-two mountains, many of them active volcanoes, that reach heights of as much as twenty thousand feet. Chimborazo is the highest peak, and Cotopaxi at 19,347 feet is the highest active volcano in the world. A fertile lowland rich in tropical crops stretches between the Sierra and the Pacific coast, while east of the mountains, toward the great Amazon basin, the land becomes a humid jungle.

The Galápagos Islands, on the equator five hundred miles off shore, are renowned for their flora and fauna and their volcanic composition. They have fascinated the men of science who have visited them, including Charles Darwin.

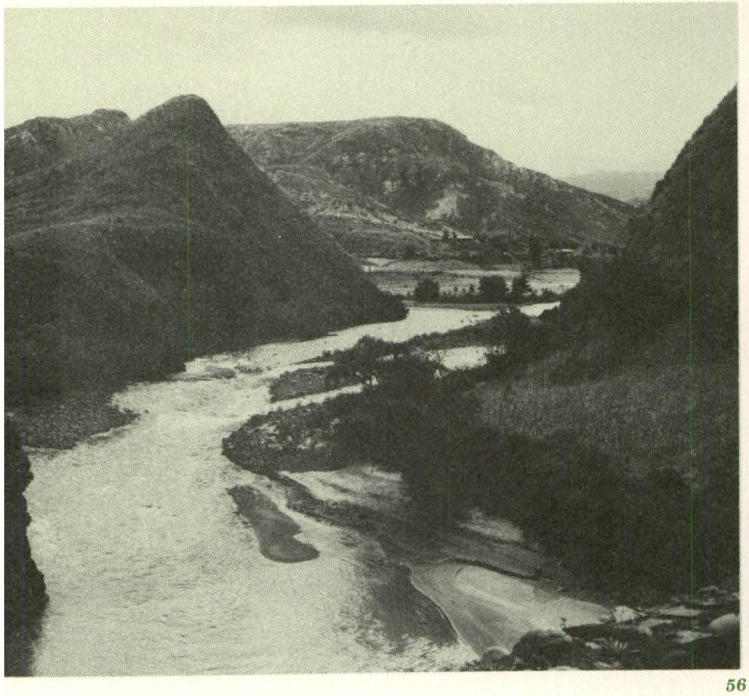
Quito, the capital, is picturesquely set at the foot of Pichincha Volcano. It preserves an invaluable architectural and artistic heritage as one of Spain's most beautiful New World cities. Rivaling Quito in beauty and historical interest is Guayaquil, the chief seaport and center of commercial and industrial activity. Cuenca, with its colonial air, and Riobamba, Ambato, and Portoviejo

56 River slices through fertile valley in Ecuador's mountainous southern Province of Azuay

57 Independencia Plaza, in the heart of Quito

58 Richly sculptured ornate façade of the Church of La Compañía, a fine example of Spanish baroque

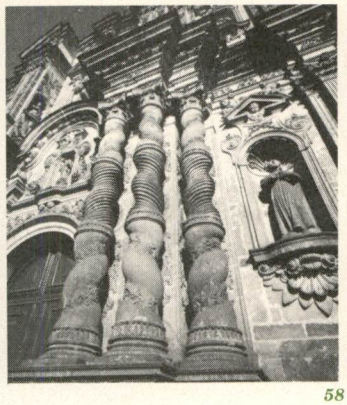
59 Sea lions and gulls on a Galápagos island, a natural zoo



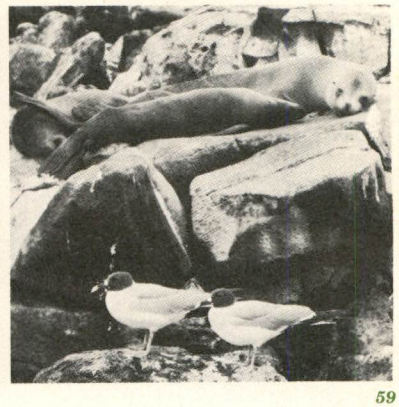
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are also major centers. Otavalo, famous for its Indian fairs, is in the north.

National Background. The oldest New World textiles yet found were woven on the Ecuadorian coast five thousand years ago. At the end of the fifteenth century the region was conquered by the Inca. A power struggle between the brothers Atahualpa in Quito and Huáscar in Cuzco facilitated its conquest by the Spaniards in 1532. In 1534, Sebastián de Benalcázar founded the city of San Francisco de Quito on the site of the capital of the old kingdom of Quitu. In 1563 the area was named the Royal Audiencia of Quito and remained part of the Viceroyalty of Peru until 1718, when it was incorporated into the Viceroyalty of New Granada.

The political writings of Eugenio de Santa Cruz Espejo, a national hero, lighted the path to freedom. There was an abortive attempt at independence in 1809, but it was not until 1822, when General Antonio José de Sucre defeated the Spanish forces at Pichincha, that independence was won.

Ecuador, Colombia, and Venezuela formed Gran Colombia, a long-held dream of Bolívar's, but in 1830 Ecuador seceded to become a sovereign state, adopted its first constitution, and elected General Juan José Flores as the first President.

During the first unstable century of its independence Ecuador witnessed a rapid succession of leaders. Four key figures left their imprints during the period: the conservative Flores, who was opposed by the liberal, enlightened Vicente Rocafuerte, and the authoritarian Gabriel García Moreno, who was countered by the liberal Eloy Alfaro. Periods of fierce struggle were followed by interludes of constructive peace. Under its various constitutions, the Ecuadorian nation has given proof of its firm commitment to democracy.

Culture. Ecuador's present population represents a rich mosaic of racial and cultural elements from various Indian tribes, the Spanish conquerors, and black slaves. Communities of pure Indian descent still exist, such as the Otavalos, excellent artisans; the Colorados; the Jivaros; and the Aucas. From the start, the Spanish colony was distinguished by its masterful artistry. Its school of sculptors, led by Caspicara, has no peer in the Americas. The altarpieces of Quito and Cuenca, together with the incomparable pulpit of Guápulo, are genuine masterpieces of carving. Miguel de Santiago and Bernardo Legarda made painting of the Quito School famous. The churches of La Compañía, San Francisco, Santo Domingo, and La Merced are magnificent examples of Quito baroque.

Gaspar de Villaroel and Eugenio Espejo formed the vanguard of the country's finest men of letters in the eighteenth century. At the beginning of the nineteenth century Ecuadorian poetry was represented by José Joaquín Olmedo, and in the Romantic period by Remigio Crespo-Toral, among others. But the outstanding figure of the era was Juan Montalvo, the symbol of liberal ideas. Contemporary novelists Jorge Icaza and Benjamín Carrión and poet Jorge Carrera-Andrade are notable. Among the numerous painters in Ecuador today, Oswaldo Guayasamín has attained international renown.

Inevitably, the Sierra and coast have left their own special impression on the rich variety of Ecuadorian folk arts, which display a blend of pre-Columbian and early European as well as contemporary motifs.

Economy. Ecuador has recently become the second largest oil exporting country in South America, with petroleum replacing bananas as the most important export commodity. The country's agricultural wealth remains undeveloped, with only 5 per cent of the land cultivated. The chief crops are bananas, coffee, cacao, and sugar, all exported. Other exports include balsa and plywood, Panama hats (yes—from Ecuador), ivory nuts, and rice. Two new deposits of gold and silver and a widespread deposit of copper were recently discovered. Ecuador's industrial products include textiles, cement, pharmaceuticals, and ceramics.

PERU

THIRD LARGEST of the South American countries, Peru, land of the Inca, is unsurpassed in the variety and magnificence of its architectural heritage and the splendor of its pre-Columbian and colonial areas.

Cities and Landscapes. Peru, in western South America, has a Pacific coastline 1,410 miles long and a maximum width, from western coast to eastern jungle, of about eight hundred miles. The country is vertically divided into three topographic and climatic regions, defined by ranges of the Andean mountains running north to south.

The coastal desert, though it seldom sees rain, is crossed by more than sixty rivers, which irrigate the valleys. Much of the industrial, commercial, and agricultural activity is centered in this region, where 40 per cent of the population lives.

The central sierra contains high Andean peaks, ravines, tablelands, and fertile valleys, as well as the country's major mineral deposits. The mountains—culminating in snow-clad Mt. Huascarán, 22,200 feet above sea level—are the principal barrier to communications between the coast and the interior. About 50 per cent of the country's inhabitants, mostly Indian, live here.

The isolated eastern lowlands, or *montaña,* occupy more than half of Peru's land area. They are made up of vast, uncharted hills, forests, and tropical jungle through which numerous rivers—the only transportation routes in the area—wind to the Amazon River. Mahogany and cedar are grown commercially in this very sparsely populated, largely undeveloped area, and oil exploration and production are increasing.

Lake Titicaca, on Peru's southeastern border with Bolivia, is the highest navigable lake in the world.

Lima, City of Kings, in the coastal region, is the capital of the republic and its most important industrial, cultural, and commercial center. Callao, the major industrial port, is seven miles west of Lima. Highland Cuzco, the ancient capital of the Inca Empire, has a unique complex of colonial buildings as well as pre-Columbian temples, fortresses, and palaces. Not far away are the ruins of Machu Picchu, the long lost Inca city. Cerro de Pasco is the center of one of the oldest mining communities in South America. Arequipa, at the foot of majestic El Misti Volcano, is the second largest city in the country and the economic axis of the south's rich agricultural zone. Pisco, Chimbote, Trujillo, and Talara, on the Pacific; Iquitos, on the Amazon; and colonial Ayacucho are other important cities.

National Background. When conquistador Francisco Pizarro reached Peru in 1532 the Inca Empire, centered at Cuzco, extended from northern Ecuador to central Chile. Pizarro arrived in the midst of a civil war between the Inca brothers Atahualpa and Huáscar; he overcame Atahualpa at Cajamarca and condemned him to death, greatly facilitating the conquest.

Gold and silver from the Andes enriched the conquerors, and Peru became a major source of Spanish wealth and power in South America—and the last viceroyalty to secure independence from Spain. José de San Martín, at the head of the Argentine-Chilean liberation army, proclaimed Peruvian independence from Spain on July 28, 1821, and its emancipation was completed in December 1824 when troops of the Liberator Simón Bolívar defeated the Spaniards at the Battle of Ayacucho. Spain made several futile attempts to regain its former colonies, but in 1879 finally recognized Peru's independence.

The nineteenth century saw periods of political crisis that threatened Peru's economic development and social progress. The loss of the nitrate-rich provinces of Tarapacá and Arica to Chile was a result of the 1879-83 War of the Pacific. In this century Peruvian governments have alternated between constitutional civilian and extra-constitutional military regimes; military governments have ruled Peru since 1968.

Culture. Peru's historical and artistic heritage reflects the glory of its pre-Columbian civilizations, among them the Chavín, Mochica, Paracas, Nazca, and

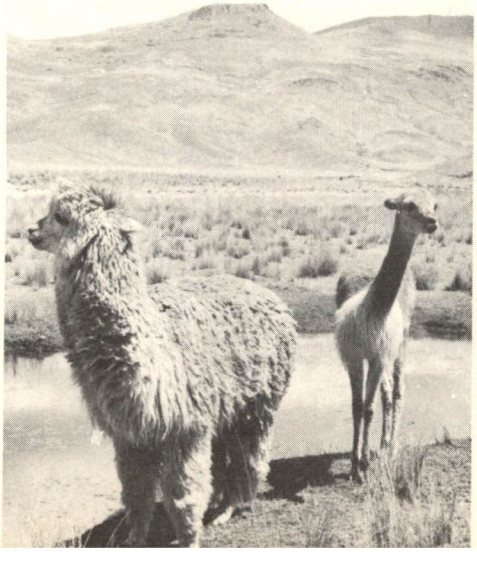


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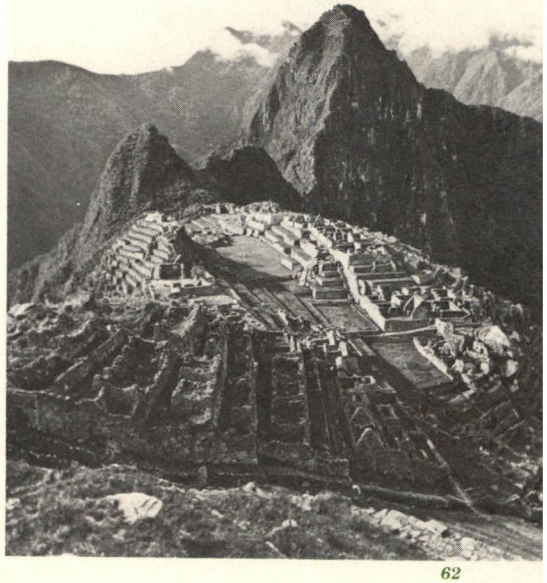
60 Magnificent baroque façade of the Archbishop's Palace in the Plaza de Armas, the center of colonial Lima

61 Furry alpaca and vicuña grace a barren plateau of the Peruvian Andes

62 Machu Picchu, the lost city of the Inca, crowns a high mountain saddle in southern Peru. It was discovered in 1911



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Inca. Spanish contributions were no less impressive; splendid examples of the Cuzco School of painting and sculpture abound, and its influence spread through the entire continent during the height of Spanish rule.

The University of San Marcos in Lima was founded in 1551, and later in that century the Inca Garcilaso de la Vega wrote his famous *Royal Commentaries*. In 1583 the first printing press arrived. Dr. José Hipólito Unanue, physician, statesman, and head of the first Government Council was a foremost leader in the colony's intellectual awakening in the late eighteenth century. The second half of the nineteenth century produced two of Peru's greatest writers, Ricardo Palma, author of *Tradiciones Peruanas*, and Manuel González Prada, and after the turn of the century authors Francisco García Calderón, José Santos Chocano, and César Vallejo and symbolist poet José M. Eguren achieved recognition. Other twentieth century writers include essayists Luis Alberto Sánchez and José Carlos Mariátegui, historian Jorge Basadre, archaeologist Julio Tello, and novelists Ciro Alegría and Mario Vargas Llosa. There is a lively school of modern art today.

Peruvian folk arts are particularly rich in painting and sculpture, with many a unique form and design. Exquisite fabrics continue today the tradition of excellent textiles from Paracas, and the musical repertory is no less varied and interesting, reflecting the Indian influence. Though Spanish is the official language, many Indians speak only their native Quechua or Aymara.

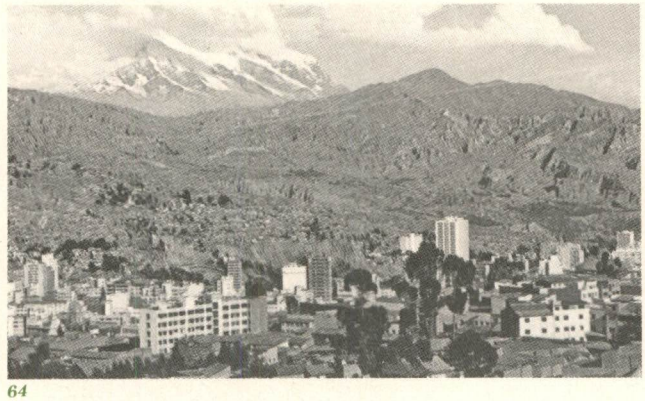
Economy. Nearly half of Peru's labor force works in agriculture, with cotton, sugar, coffee, and wool being the major exports. The mining industry accounts for about 40 per cent of the country's total exports, with copper, lead, zinc, and iron ore the principal metals. Petroleum is the most valuable of the numerous nonmetallic minerals produced. Fishing activities have expanded notably, and a varied industrial development is under way.



63 The new and the old side by side on Lake Titicaca

64 Set in the Andes, La Paz is the world's highest capital city

65 Devil Dancer from Oruro's annual pageant, the Diablada



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BOLIVIA

ESSENTIALLY AN Andean country despite a large tropical region, Bolivia is a land whose austere and dramatic landscape has shaped the life style of the people and the evolution of the country. Proud to bear the name of the Liberator, Bolivia also honors its great pre-Columbian past.

Cities and Landscapes. Landlocked Bolivia has three distinct regions: the barren, windswept, twelve-thousand-foot altiplano sprawling between two parallel ranges of the Andes; the verdant *yungas*, a region of rugged relief along the eastern Andean slopes; and the fertile plains and forests of the eastern lowlands. Most of the population and industrial activity is concentrated in the mineral-rich altiplano.

Three of the highest mountains in the New World—perpetually snow-capped Illampú, Illimani, and Sajama (all over twenty thousand feet)—are in Bolivia, while Lake Titicaca, the world's highest navigable body of water at 12,500 feet above sea level, is shared by Bolivia and Peru.

La Paz, the highest capital in the world, is the seat of government and center of the country's political and economic life. The aristocratic city of Sucre, founded in 1624, is the legal capital of Bolivia, which has the rare distinction of maintaining two capital cities. Scenic Cochabamba, in the heart of the farming region, is second in population and importance. Potosí, the one-time silver capital of the world, with its famous Cerro Rico (Rich Hill), is a fascinating historic town with narrow, twisting streets and fine colonial architecture. Santa Cruz, a hot, dusty boom town whose population has doubled since 1968, is an agricultural and economic center in the eastern plains. The principal mining and transportation city is Oruro, on the altiplano.

National Background. Bolivia carries the imprint of the Tiahuanaco civilization that flourished beside Lake Titicaca (A.D. 600-900). Centuries later it came under Inca control until the Spaniards, under Hernando Pizarro, took possession in 1538. By 1559 what is now Bolivia became the Audiencia of Charcas, part of the Viceroyalty of Peru, and was known as Upper Peru, but in 1776 it was transferred to the new Viceroyalty of the River Plate. The colonial period was intimately linked to the discovery, exploitation, and eventual decline of the bountiful silver deposits in Potosí, the economic center of the Spanish Empire in America.

Although brief revolts in 1809 asserted the country's right to independence, it was not until 1825, after General Antonio José de Sucre won the decisive Battle of Ayacucho, that Bolivia attained its freedom. Simón Bolívar drafted the Constitution of the republic, and Sucre was its first President.

In a century and a half of unsettled history, Bolivia has suffered a painful contraction of its territory. In the War of the Pacific (1879-1883) Bolivia joined Peru to fight Chile over the Atacama coast and its rich nitrate deposits, then belonging to Bolivia. As a result, Bolivia lost its access to the sea. In 1938, following the Chaco War with Paraguay, Bolivia lost its claim to the Chaco Boreal, an undeveloped plains area

with unexploited petroleum deposits, but gained access to the Paraguay River. Soon thereafter, Bolivia embarked on a profound social revolution that resulted in realization of the long-sought ideals of universal suffrage, agrarian reform, and nationalization of the largest tin mines during the presidency of Víctor Paz Estenssoro (1952-1956), founder and leader of the National Revolutionary Movement. Successive governments have been committed to the country's orderly development, and have worked to overcome both geographic and historical obstacles.

Culture. The two factors of the Bolivian cultural complex—the predominant Indian (Aymara and Quechua) and the Spanish—blended to form a rich cultural heritage. Bolivians take pride in the Tiahuanaco ruins and the splendid masterpieces of Hispanic art created by Indian artists.

In the field of letters, Gabriel René Moreno is, perhaps, the most notable nineteenth century literary figure, and Nataniel Aguirre a prominent novelist. In the present century, key figures include Ricardo Jaime Freyre and Alcides Arguedas, and, more recently, Fernando Díez de Medina. The country has many fine modern artists.

Bolivian folk expression is one of the richest and most attractive in the Hemisphere. Its music is gay in the valleys, melancholic on the plateau, and its crafts show great originality and charm.

Economy. Tin mining and petroleum production are the basis of the economy. Silver, lead, tungsten, zinc, antimony, and copper are also mined. Agricultural output and manufacturing are expanding.

CHILE

TUCKED IN between the magnificent Andes Mountains to the east and the Pacific Ocean to the west is a 2,650-mile-long ribbon of land known as Chile, occupying the extreme southwest coast of South America. Though only one hundred miles wide on the average, Chile offers some of the world's most spectacular contrasts in scenery.

Cities and Landscapes. The northern portion of the country is the Atacama Desert, so dry that in some areas no rainfall has ever been recorded. It contains the world's largest deposits of nitrate and abundant supplies of copper, Chile's principal export. The port of Antofagasta is the region's major city.

The relatively small central portion—from Coquimbo to Concepción—dominates the economy in terms of population and agricultural resources. Here are the largest and richest farms and vineyards (producing world-famous Chilean wines) and the industrial centers. The mineral rich Andes reach dazzling heights (over 21,000 feet) in this area.

The southern lakes region is dotted with emerald lakes and graceful, snow-capped volcanoes; its spectacular scenery has made it one of South America's most popular resort and tourist areas. Farther south is Patagonia, one of the world's finest sheep-raising regions; it is a labyrinth of virgin forests, fjords, and islands that extend to the Strait of Magellan, location of the area's principal city, Punta Arenas, a shipping port for wool, mutton, crude oil, and coal. South of the Strait of Magellan lies the group of rugged islands known as Tierra del Fuego (shared by Chile and Argentina), with their huge population of sheep.

Pacific Ocean possessions include the Juan Fernández Islands, scene of the shipwreck of Alexander Selkirk, the model for Daniel Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe,* and Easter Island, with its huge mysterious stone images.

The capital of the republic, Santiago, is the political, economic, and artistic center of the nation. Valparaíso, the first port and second city, is one of the major seaports on the west coast of South America. Nearby Viña del Mar, with its renowned casino, is a famous seaside resort. All three are located in the central region. Other leading commercial and industrial cities include Concepción and Valdivia, both south of Santiago.

National Background. After the conquest of the Inca Empire by Francisco Pizarro and

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66 Chilean sheep rancher guides his flock homeward after a long day on the range

67 Reerected stone giant from prehistoric civilization stands guard over Easter Island

68 Spectacular view of Lake Inca in the Chilean Andes at Portillo

69 Santa Lucia Hill provides a romantic spot from which to view busy metropolitan Santiago

his partner Diego de Almagro, the King of Spain named Almagro Captain-General of New Toledo, now northern Chile. But it was not until 1541 that Pedro de Valdivia founded Santiago and laid the foundation of a new colony. Fierce resistance from the Araucanian Indians, led by Lautaro and Caupolicán, slowed colonization; the struggle was recorded by Spanish captain Alonso de Ercilla in the epic poem *La Araucana*.

Though among the most neglected of Spain's colonies, Chile remained loyal to the Crown until 1810, when a self-governing junta was established. Under the leadership of Bernardo O'Higgins and José M. Carrera, a congress was convoked in Santiago on July 4, 1811, and the first republican constitution adopted. Spanish royalist forces from Peru regained possession of the country, but Chile was finally liberated from Spanish rule in decisive battles won by the Army of the Andes, led by José de San Martín and O'Higgins, in 1817-1818. O'Higgins, the national hero, was the independent republic's first President.

Following a border war with Bolivia and Peru (1879-83), Chile secured prosperous territories in the far north, and the twentieth century ushered in industrial development and social reforms under a democratic system. The 1970 presidential elections gave a plurality to Salvador Allende, the first Marxist to be elected to power in Latin America, and a period of abrupt economic and social changes followed, marked by nationalization of industries and inflation. A coup d'etat overthrew Allende in September 1973 and a military government was instituted.

Culture. Chile is the homeland of two Nobel Laureates—poets Gabriela Mistral and Pablo Neruda—and is well known for its high level of learning. It has given the world such renowned figures as painters Pedro Lira and Roberto Matta, composer Domingo Santa Cruz, pianist Claudio Arrau, and historians and essayists Miguel Luis Amunátegui, Vicuña Mackenna, José Toribio Medina, and José V. Lastarria.

The education system dates back to the very beginning of independence, when Venezuelan scholar Andrés Bello, Spanish writer José Joaquín de Mora, and Argentine educator and statesman Domingo Faustino Sarmiento aided in establishing the country's centralized school system. In 1842 the old University of San Felipe was reorganized as the University of Chile, and at the same time an intellectual movement began, strengthened by a wave of European immigration, which was to bring forward ou standing figures in all fields. Today ther are seven public and private universitie and the country has an 89.6 per cent literac rate.

Chile's current population is in large pa of Spanish-Indian or Spanish ancestry, a European immigration during the colonia period was limited almost entirely to Spar iards. Later influxes of Irish, Englis German, Italian, Yugoslav, French, an Arab immigrants have left a strong imprin and there are over three hundred thousan Indians in the south-central area, mostl descendants of the legendary Araucanian

Economy. Copper, nitrates, and other mir ing products play a dominant role in Chile' international trade and constitute 80 to 9 per cent of its total exports. Iron ore is th second most valuable mineral export, wit 90 per cent of production going abroa Chile is Latin America's second larges wine producer, with a total output of nearl a hundred million gallons. Other nonmine al exports include fishmeal, barley, oat wool, onions, garlic, leather, lentils, fruit seafood, cellulose, newsprint, and woo Industrial development has been undertak en, and manufacturing is now the mos important factor in the national economy



Atlantic South America

Argentina • Uruguay • Paraguay • Brazil • Surinam

ARGENTINA

ALTHOUGH never rich in silver as its Spanish name would imply, Argentina is vast and well endowed with natural resources, and it takes pride in possessing one of the most beautiful capitals of the world, Buenos Aires.

Cities and Landscapes. In the temperate region of the northeast are the fertile Mesopotamia zone, where fruit and rice are grown, and the Chaco plains, whose dense quebracho forests are the major source of tannin used in leather tanning.

The pampas, heartland of Argentina, fan out almost five hundred miles from Buenos Aires in the east-central portion of the country. This great plain has some of the richest topsoil in the world, and is cultivated extensively in wheat, corn, and sorghum, while also providing year-round pasturage for many of Argentina's beef cattle.

In the Andean mountain area, site of Mt. Aconcagua, the highest peak in the Hemisphere, there are wide salt plains, arid tablelands, and luxuriant valleys where grapes, olives, and citrus fruit are cultivated. A magnificent lake region surrounded by heavily forested national parks separates the tablelands from the foothills of the Andes. The Patagonian plateau, a dry windy region south of the Colorado River, is devoted to raising sheep and producing wool. Comodoro Rivadavia, the most important oil field, is also located in this area. Tierra del Fuego, south of the Strait of Magellan, is owned in part by each of Chile and Argentina. Ushuaia, capital of the Argentine sector, is the southernmost sea of organized government in the world.

Almost one third of Argentina's tota population lives in Greater Buenos Aires the vast urban center of the nation' government, commercial, and financia activities. Its busy port is one of the larges in the world. Many literary and artisti trends have originated in this great city and it occupies a major place in all Lati American cultural life.

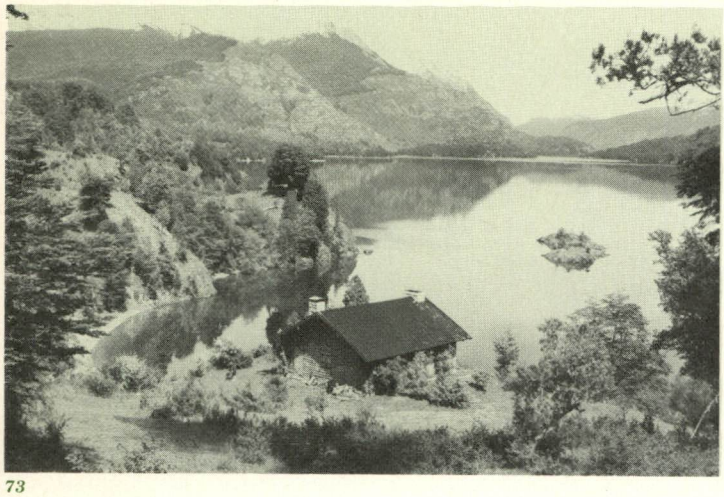
Rosario, second city of the republic, is th major industrial and commercial center an is also noted for its modernity and for it river port. Spanish cultural influences ar still apparent in the colonial cities of th northwest: in aristocratic Córdoba, with it tradition of learning; in Tucumán, known a the "garden of the republic"; in histori Salta; and in beautiful Mendoza, headqua ters of the wine-making industry. The fines examples of colonial art and architectur are found in these cities.

National Background. In 1516 Juan Día de Solís anchored in the great estuary late called the River Plate and took possession c these lands for the Spanish Crown. Tales c









70 *Plaza del Congreso in Buenos Aires*

71 *Argentine love of polo attests to a European heritage*

72 *Argentines like their fine beef roasted at open fires. Beef and wool are major exports*

73 *Crystal lakes and snowclad peaks abound in Bariloche region*

74 *Andean mountain ranges offer great slopes for skiing enthusiasts*



the fabulous riches of the Inca empire inspired expeditions by other conquistadors and adventurers, but not until 1580 was Juan de Garay able to found the city of Buenos Aires on a permanent basis.

The territory was of little importance to Spain at that time, and the Viceroyalty of the River Plate was not established until 1777, with Buenos Aires as its capital. Soon after, Spain permitted freer trade, and the prosperity of the colony was assured.

In 1810 the people demanded their own government, forced the Viceroy to resign, and set up a board of patriots known as the "First Junta." After winning freedom for Argentina, national hero José de San Martín continued the struggle to obtain freedom for Chile and Peru, and in 1816 the Congress of Tucumán proclaimed the Declaration of National Independence. Decades of instability followed while the Unitary Party, supported by Buenos Aires, fought the Federalists, supported by the provinces, until the latter won control of the country. In 1853, the Congress of Santa Fe adopted the federal constitution, which marked the beginning of the modern republican period.

Adding to the original population of Spanish descent, a steady wave of European immigrants, mostly Italian, as well as many Spaniards, English, Germans, and French, gradually shaped the present-day nation, whose high literacy rate is the best index of its characteristic enlightenment.

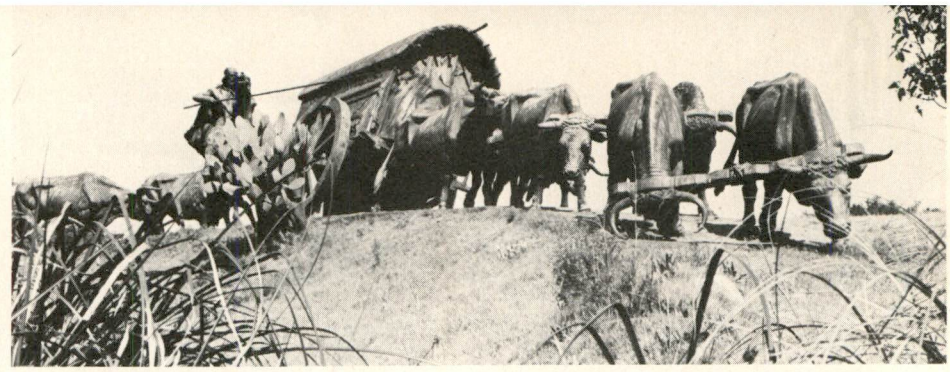
A national identity began to emerge during the first period of the Argentine *caudillismo,* an era distinguished by the presidencies of two great statesmen, Bartolomé Mitre and Domingo Faustino Sarmiento. A more liberal democratic and representative organization was introduced in 1912 as a result of the struggles of popular leader Leandro Alem, and in 1916 Hipólito Irigoyen became chief of state. Despite political disputes between radicals and conservatives, social reforms and rapid industrial expansion characterized the ensuing years. In 1946, Juan Domingo Perón, a military officer, was elected President with the support of the Labor Party and remained in power until his overthrow by the army in 1955. Perón returned to the presidency in 1973. Upon his death the following year his wife, María Estela Martínez de Perón, took the office, becoming the first woman president in the Western Hemisphere.

Culture. The total Indian population of Argentina was comparatively small, yet the more warlike tribes stoutly resisted the Spaniards and continued to be a serious obstacle to settlement and development of the country as late as the 1800's. A few descendants of the original Quechua, Guaraní, Araucanian, and Patagonian tribes still inhabit isolated regions of the country.

Religious art and architecture are the greatest cultural heritage from the colonial era. Such outstanding Argentine statesmen as President Sarmiento, Bartolomé Mitre, and Juan Bautista Alberdi are also noted as men of ideas and letters and authored works on education, sociology, and history. The first of the great poets and writers of the nineenth century was Esteban Echevarría. Gaucho literature, which stressed local values and problems, reached its highest expression in the epic poem *Martín Fierro,* by José Hernández. Among the finest Argentine philosophers and essayists were José Ingenieros and Alejandro Korn, and today, Victoria Ocampo and Jorge Luis Borges, the latter also a poet and world renowned short-story writer. In poetry Leopoldo Lugones and Alfonsina Storni stand out. Excellent prose writers abound, such as Ricardo Güiraldes, author of *Don Segundo Sombra,* and recently, Ernesto Sábato, Eduardo Mallea, and Julio Cortázar. Among scientists Bernardo A. Houssay won the Nobel Prize in 1947, and Luis F. Leloir in 1970. One of the first artistic expressions of nationalism was produced by the painter Prilidiano Pueyrredón; since that time, Argentina has consistently held a major place in the world of art because of the caliber and number of its painters, sculptors, and sketchers. Throughout the republic, there are some ninety-eight museums under the auspices of the national government. The modern art movement began about the time of World War I and has grown steadily. The country's many outstanding twentieth century painters include S. Eugenio Daneri, Emilio Pettoruti, Raquel Forner, and Antonio Berni. Argentine music boasts such composers as José Castro and Alberto Ginastera, and has one of the

finest theaters in the world, the Colón Theater of Buenos Aires. The distinctive Argentine tango, a modern Creole dance, evolved from the old *tango andaluz* into a ballroom dance after the turn of the century, and is popular in America and in Europe.

Economy. The national economy is based on agriculture, stock raising, and manufacturing. Good farmland is Argentina's richest natural resource, and the crops and livestock of the fertile pampas have long provided the country with abundant food for domestic consumption, in addition to plentiful exports. Since 1967, industrial growth has increased dynamically, especially in chemical and metal products, automotive vehicles, and electrical machinery and appliances. The value of manufactures is three times that of agriculture. In 1976 the Government announced a new economic program designed to create the conditions needed for sustained development, with promotion of basic industries, expansion of production of petroleum, and increase of mining output among the major points. Argentina's leading exports are grain and cereals, meat, wool, hides, tannin, minerals, and manufactured articles.



75 Famous La Carreta monument is a tribute to the courage of Uruguayan pioneers

76 Montevideo, on a lovely bay north of the River Plate, is known for its magnificent beaches and resort hotels

77 Statue of a Gaucho in modern Montevideo symbolizes Uruguayan love of freedom



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URUGUAY

CRADLED BETWEEN the giants Argentina and Brazil, Uruguay is a land of rolling, grassy plains, abundant pastureland, lovely sandy beaches, and delightful temperate climate. It is especially outstanding for its high literacy rate, and for the charm of its beautiful capital, Montevideo, one of the principal cities of the continent.

Cities and Landscapes. Except for the mountainous area in the north, Uruguay's topography is generally level and its natural waterways evenly distributed. The black, potash-rich soil is extremely well suited for agriculture, while the lush grass cover is ideal for grazing.

Montevideo, a modern city with broad avenues, handsome buildings, and many splendid parks, is the capital and economic and cultural hub of the country. Many fine bathing beaches extend along the waterfront toward the region's greatest tourist attraction, Punta del Este, whose name is synonymous with landmark inter-American meetings. Salto is the second most important city and the center of the citrus production and wine-making industries, followed by Paysandú, a bustling industrial and commercial community; Mercedes, on the banks of the Negro River; Fray Bento, a Uruguay River port that exports much of the country's meat output; and Colonia, one of the oldest of its cities.

National Background. In 1680 the Portuguese founded Nova Colonia do Sacramento (now Colonia) as an outpost against Spanish penetration from Buenos Aires. The Spaniards founded Montevideo in 1726 as a bastion against the advances of the enormous Portuguese colony of Brazil. The Banda Oriental, as the territory of Uruguay was called because it is on the eastern shore of the Uruguay River, became a battlefield in the long struggle for possession between Buenos Aires and Rio de Janeiro. Finally the Portuguese were expelled from Colonia by the Spaniards, and in 1777 the Banda Oriental became part of the new Spanish Viceroyalty of the River Plate. In 1806 the British captured Montevideo but were driven out by the settlers the next year.

The Banda Oriental was annexed by the Portuguese colony of Brazil in 1821. While José Artigas is recognized as the hero of Uruguayan independence his goal of autonomy was actually achieved by his countryman and follower, Juan Antonio Lavalleja, who in 1825 led a band of patriots across the River Plate to free the country. It was not until 1828, after a three-year war between Uruguayan patriots and Argentina on one side and Brazil on the other, that independence was finally won when the two nations signed a peace treaty.

Large-scale immigration, primarily of Spaniards and Italians, began after independence. But the predominantly pastoral way of life changed little, even up to the present. Internal political struggle and Uruguay's participation, with Argentina and Brazil, in the War of the Triple Alliance against Paraguay prevented rapid progress until 1903, when José Batlle y Ordóñez, the great statesman and reformer, was elected President. The reforms initiated by him created Uruguay's broad and extensive social security system, which made Uruguay the first welfare state in America. Uruguay was also the first country in South America to grant suffrage to women, to legalize divorce, and to grant legal status to illegitimate children, including the right to inherit. It was one of the first to put into practice the eight-hour work day as well as other workers' benefits.

Culture. Contemporary Uruguayan culture reflects the predominantly European composition of its population. An authentic national hero is the Uruguayan Gaucho, whose struggle for independence and moral integrity and bravery became favorite topics of nineteenth century Uruguayan literature. Bartolomé Hidalgo is the greatest of the Gaucho poets. Another subject of interest was the Charrua Indians, chosen by

Juan Zorrilla de San Martín, one of the great poets of the Hemisphere, as the heroes of his epic *Tabaré*. Uruguay is also proud of the philosopher José Enrique Rodó and the poets Delmira Agustini and Juana de Ibarbourou. Among the artists, Joaquín Torres-García is an outstanding pioneer of the contemporary abstract movement, and Carlos Páez Vilaró is a well-known painter and muralist.

Uruguayan folk life contributes its own native accent in both music and crafts.

Economy. Livestock production continues to be the backbone of the national economy, with 90 per cent of the land being devoted to stock-raising. Uruguay is one of the world's largest producers of wool, which, together with meat, provides the bulk of the country's export revenue. Meat packing, food processing, and production of other consumer goods for the local market are the chief industrial enterprises.

PARAGUAY

TWO PEOPLES, the Indian and the Spanish, each with its own distinct language, have come together in Paraguay to create one nation, characterized by great heroism, generosity, and hospitality.

Cities and Landscapes. Though it is classified as landlocked, the Paraná and Paraguay rivers provide the country with a direct outlet to the sea. East of the Paraguay River, which divides the nation in half, are tropical forests, lowland plateaus, and prairies. The extremely fertile land produces cassava, tobacco, sugar cane, maté, and a great variety of fruits, and is the home of most of the population and much of the commercial activity. The sparsely populated Chaco Boreal to the west consists of savannas, rivers, and dense forests. A third important river, the Pilcomayo, which rises in Bolivia and runs through the Chaco, forms the national boundary on the southwest.

Asunción, the capital and center of economic and cultural activities, has many factories along the banks of the Paraguay River. The next largest cities are Villarrica, in the midst of hills and orange trees; Concepción, a northern colonial city; Villeta, port of embarkation for fruits, cotton, and tobacco; and Puerto Stroessner, on the Paraná, connected to the city of Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil, by a monumental bridge.

National Background. Exploring in the name of Portugal, Alejo García went from Brazil to Bolivia about 1520; and among the many Indian tribes he encountered in the region now known as Paraguay the most important was the Guarani. Asunción was founded in 1537 and served as the colonial capital until that function was transferred to Buenos Aires in 1580.

Paraguay was an independent colony governed by the first high-ranking Creole in Latin America, Hernando Arias de Saavedra (Hernandarias). It was he who pleaded successfully with the Spanish rulers to send monks to teach the Indians and thus brought about the famous Jesuit missions, which organized a unique communal society. The expulsion of the Jesuit order from all Spanish territories by King Charles III in 1767 put an end to the social experiment.

Paraguay and Argentina were under the Viceroyalty of Peru from 1617 to 1776, when the Viceroyalty of the River Plate was established to govern those two colonies. The nation became independent in 1811, when the Spanish governor resigned and a consular government took his place. In 1814, José Gaspar Rodríguez de Francia was proclaimed head of the government. Known as "El Supremo," Francia ruled with an iron hand, isolating the country from the outside world. Carlos Antonio López, President from 1844 to 1862, built roads and railroads, introduced many reforms, and promoted public education. He was succeeded by his son, Francisco Solano López, under whose leadership Paraguay initiated the disastrous War of the Triple Alliance, in which Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay allied themselves against Paraguay in a five-year struggle. The war ended with the death of López in 1870, and left the country in ruins.

The Chaco War between Bolivia and Paraguay, costly to both in lives and money, began in 1932. The peace treaty, signed in 1938, awarded Paraguay some two thirds of the disputed area, while Bolivia received an outlet on the Paraguay River.

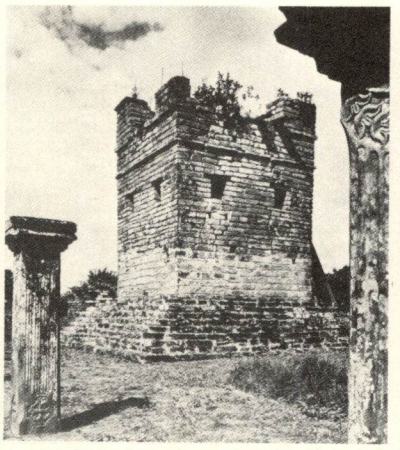
In 1940, military leader José Félix Estigarribia was elected President and a new Constitution was adopted. A period of institutional instability and struggle followed that ended when Alfredo Stroessner became President after World War II.

Culture. The Paraguayan people use both

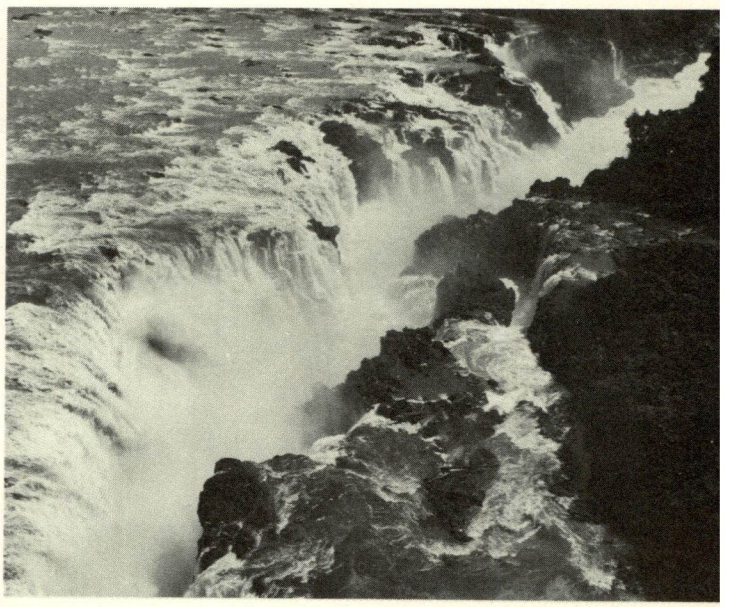
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78 Tablecloths made with ñandutí lace, a Paraguayan handicraft

79 Remains of Trinidad Mission, built by the Jesuits

80 Guairá Falls, on the Upper Paraná River

81 Downtown Asunción, on the banks of the Paraguay River

the Spanish and Guarani languages to express their dual cultural heritage. The long period of isolation helped to affirm native values, and the nation's bloody armed struggles exalted patriotic feelings that were reflected from the beginning in its intellectual efforts. History and legend are contained in the nineteenth century works of Blas Garay, Juan E. O'Leary, and well-known jurist Cecilio Báez. Eugenio Garay, J. Natalicio González, and Eloy Fariña Nuñez continue this literary tradition, expressed in the Guarani language through such outstanding poets as Manuel Ortiz Guerrero and writers like Narciso Colman and Moisés S. Bertoni. Augusto Roa Bastos, author of *Hijo del Hombre,* has received world recognition for his novels.

The old missions embody the tradition of craftsmanship that survives in Paraguay. Justly world famous is the delicate *ñandutí* lace, fashioned in circular design like a cobweb, which is the origin of its name in Guarani. The folk music, particularly the *guaranías,* became a part of the typical repertory during the Chaco War and represents the first distinctive variation of Hispanic colonial traditions.

Economy. Employing about 60 per cent of the labor force, agriculture and livestock-raising dominate Paraguay's economy and generate nearly 95 per cent of export earnings, if processed agricultural products are included. The Government is presently engaged in an ambitious program to develop hydroelectric capacity.

BRAZIL

BRAZIL IS THE largest of the Latin American nations, and the fifth largest in area in the world, after the Soviet Union, Canada, the Peoples Republic of China, and the United States. It occupies the east-central part of South America, covering nearly half of its territory, and having a common boundary with every country except Chile and Ecuador.

In many aspects the normal scale of values cannot be applied to Brazil without giving the impression that one has suddenly entered the realm of fantasy. In truth, concepts of time and space seem to take on a new dimension when one becomes aware of the surprising reality of this country of gigantic proportions where—given its rapid rate of development—a decade is equivalent to a century.

Cities and Landscapes. The Northern region accounts for almost half of the total area of the country, encompasses a large section of the Amazon basin, and is still largely covered by forests. The two Amazonian capitals are Manaus and Belém.

The Northeast region, with its major oil fields, is considered by many the very soul of the country. Pernambuco and Bahia, the major centers of Brazilian life in colonial times, still exert a strong cultural influence. Much of what is specifically Brazilian in music, folkways, cookery, and popular art comes from this region. The two regional capitals are Recife (Pernambuco), a fast-growing city built on a beautiful location along palm-lined tropical beaches, and Salvador (Bahia), Brazil's capital for its first two centuries. Constructed on two levels, Salvador boasts a most impressive ensemble of colonial architecture where one may find old baroque churches with resplendent gold interiors, ancient military forts, and picturesque, steep streets lined with multicolored houses. It is the most African of all Brazilian cities, where the rhythm of life is animated by festivities, chief among them Carnival.

The Southeast region is the most developed and industrialized of Brazil. The cities of São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, and Belo Horizonte form the economic hub of the nation, and the majority of the population is concentrated there.

Rio de Janeiro, the second largest city, has a majestic beauty that combines sea, tropical forests, and mountains. It has some of the most impressive examples of baroque architecture in Brazil, and modern architecture achieved its first triumph here with the Ministry of Education and Culture building. Its magnificent beaches—Copacabana, Ipanema, Leblon—give life in Rio a special flavor.

The wealth created by coffee, the abundance of labor, and the spirit of enterprise of many immigrants (mainly Italian) have all contributed to make São Paulo the largest industrial center in Latin America. It is a modern city that has lost much of its original colonial character; its skyline is being constantly changed by intensive building activity. The country's best university is in São Paulo, as well as the best endowed museums and galleries of ancient and modern art, and its Biennial of modern art enjoys a worldwide reputation.

Belo Horizonte, capital of the important mining state of Minas Gerais, was the first Brazilian city to spring from an architect's drawing board, in 1895. This carefully planned city is also undergoing changes. Pampulha, a residential suburb, was planned by Oscar Niemeyer, who also designed its chapel, with murals by Cândido Portinari.

Many of Brazil's most charming colonial towns dot the outskirts of Belo Horizonte. Ouro Prêto, Sabará, São João del Rey, Tiradentes, and Congonhas do Campo remain exactly as they were in old times.

The South is also highly developed. Its temperate climate attracted many European immigrants whose influence is still noticeable. Porto Alegre, capital of Rio Grande do Sul, stands near the southernmost tip of Brazil, on the Guaiba River estuary where the scenery is magnificent. Over one million people live in this important industrial center.

The inland states of Mato Grosso and Goiás form the west central region, covered with extensive savannahs and tropical grassland. The inauguration of Brasília, the new capital, in 1960, in the middle of this area has given tremendous impetus to agricultural and industrial development. In less than two decades the Federal District has become a full-grown city with a well-established school and hospital system, universities, and its own newspapers and radio and television stations.

Brasília has attracted worldwide attention as a pioneer project, a revolutionary architectural concept, and a successful experiment in combining today's urban requirements with the needs for future expansion. It was also a deliberate move to occupy, settle, and develop the great open spaces of the west central region.

National Background. Brazil was discovered in 1500 by the Portuguese navigator Pedro Alvares Cabral, who claimed it in the name of King Manuel of Portugal. It was ruled from Lisbon as a colony until 1807, when the Portuguese royal family fled from Napoleon's army and established its seat of government at Rio de Janeiro.

In 1815 Brazil became part of the kingdom of Dom João VII of Portugal, whose son, Dom Pedro, was appointed regent of Brazil in 1821. On September 7, 1822, Pedro I declared the independence of Brazil and, after being proclaimed Constitutional Emperor, named as Prime Minister José Bonifácio de Andrade e Silva, national hero and Patriarch of Independence. The emergence of a republican spirit over the next fifty years brought the abolition of slavery in 1888 and the end of the monarchy. In November 1889 the republic was proclaimed without bloodshed.

The great political and economic centers of the country, Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo, have been rivals during the republican period. As a result of the 1929 economic crisis, Gertulio Vargas came into power, and his strong personality exercised a decisive influence on Brazilian political life until he left office in 1945. Five years later, Vargas was reelected, and in 1954 the nation was stirred by his suicide. Two principal events marked the term of office of his successor, President Juscelino Kubitschek. Nationally, there was the beginning of the new capital, Brasília, which became the seat of government in 1960; on the inter-American level, there was Operation Pan America, the forerunner of the Alliance for Progress. Despite economic and political difficulties, the succeeding governments have pledged themselves to further the social progress and development of the nation.

Culture. Four periods distinguish Brazil's literary development, each related to different stages in its political and social history: the colonial period, until Independence; the romantic period, coinciding with the years

2 Each year Carnival explodes in the streets of Rio de Janeiro with a tremendous display of pageantry and color

3 Statue of Christ, atop jagged Corcovado peak, dominates the majestic panorama of Rio de Janeiro and its natural harbor

4 Dramatic skyscrapers in São Paulo, the fastest growing city in the world, and most populous center in South America

5 Twin office towers of the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate in Brasília, the seventeen-year-old capital city, where new architectural forms blend with imaginative landscape design

6 Coffee harvesting in Brazil, the world's largest producer of this crop

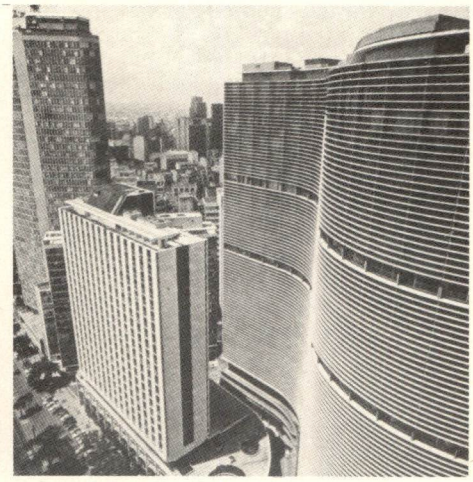
7 Sanctuary of Bom Jesus do Matozinhos, Congonhas do Campo, is a masterpiece of Brazilian baroque architecture



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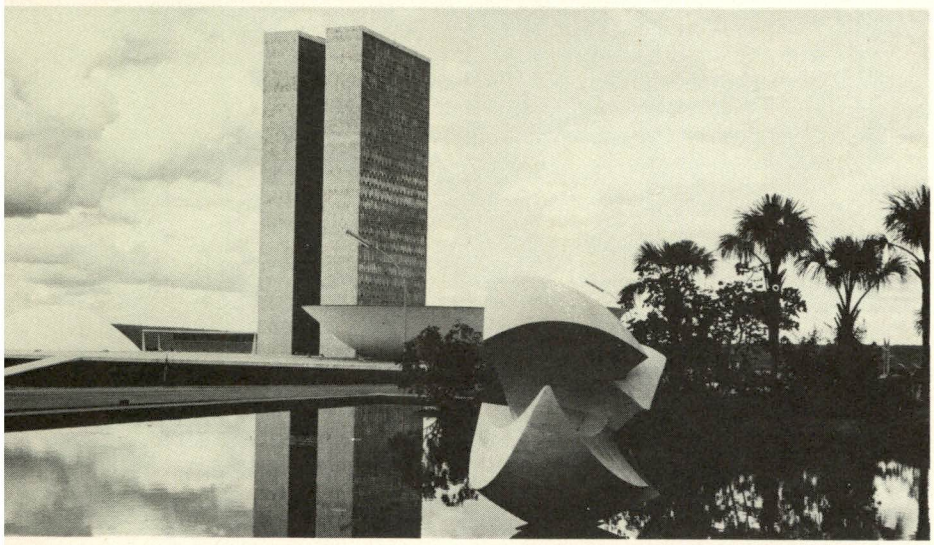
of the Empire; the post-romantic period of the first few decades of the Republic, and finally the modernist period, which followed the Modern Art Week held in São Paulo in 1922 and which came to exercise a profound influence on Brazilian literary and artistic development. Among the outstanding Brazilian figures in literature are, José de Alencar, Aluísio de Azevedo, Joaquim Maria Machado de Assis, Castro Alves, Euclides da Cunha, Jorge Amado, João Guimarais Rosa, Octávio de Faria, and Erico Veríssimo; in art, O Aleijadinho, Emilio de Cavalcanti, Tarsila de Amaral, Cândido Portinari; in modern architecture, Lucio Costa and Oscar Niemeyer; in music, Fray José Maurício, Carlos Gomes, Heitor Villa-Lobos; in popular music, Chico Buarque and Tom Jobim.





84

Economy. As the result of the brisk industrial development of this traditionally agricultural country, for the last fifteen years the value of the national industrial product has been greater than the total agricultural output, and is now nearly double. Coffee remains the principal export commodity. The Federal Government has given special attention to the development of the Northeast region through SUDENE (Superintendency for the Development of the Northeast) and the growth rate of that region's economy has exceded that of the rest of the country.



SURINAM

FORMERLY KNOWN as Dutch Guiana, Surinam is among the newest states in the Americas, having attained full independence in 1975. The only Dutch-speaking independent nation in the Hemisphere, it probably has one of the most ethnically varied populations in the world.

Cities and Landscapes. Surinam is located on the northeastern coast of South America. Hot, humid lowlands, which require diking, cover the northern coast of the country; scattered savannahs overgrown with grass and shrubs mark the central zone; and, in the largely unexplored south, densely forested hills rise gradually to form the Wilhelmina Mountains. Seven rivers, forming the main avenues of transportation, dissect the land from south to north.





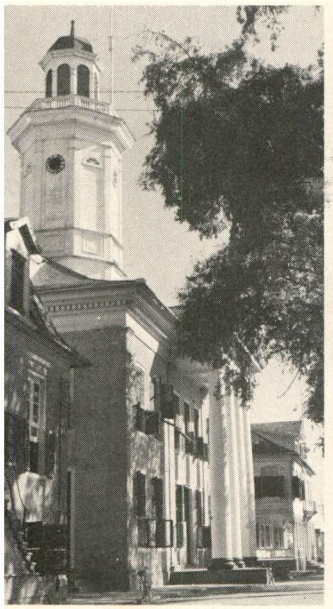
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Paramaribo, the capital and chief port, is at the mouth of the Suriname River. About 90 per cent of the population lives in or around this city, noted for its lovely Dutch eighteenth and nineteenth century buildings, and, in parts, its Asian flavor. Nieuw Nickerie, near the Guyana border, is a pleasant colonial town. Wageningen, located in the heart of the rice-growing region, has one of the largest fully mechanized rice farms in the world.

88 Government administration buildings in Surinam's capital, Paramaribo, show European colonial influence

89 Surinamese beauties display Javanese national costumes. Large numbers of Javanese, Chinese, and Indian contract laborers came to Surinam in the late 1800's

90 Djukas, among the world's finest canoemen, are descended from runaway slaves and maintain a scarcely changed form of West African tribal life



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National Background. Although Columbus discovered the Guiana coast in 1498, the lack of gold failed to attract subsequent Spanish and Portuguese explorers. The first permanent settlement was founded by the British Lord Francis Willoughby in 1651. Willoughbyland, as it was called, prospered as an agricultural colony based on African slave labor and settled by people from Caribbean and other South American colonies. The most notable immigrants were Jews from Holland, Italy, and Brazil, who in 1665 erected the first synagogue in the Western Hemisphere.

According to the Treaty of Breda, in 1667, the Dutch received possession of Surinam from the English in exchange for the Dutch colony of New Amsterdam (New York). Surinam suffered political and economic unrest in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries as a result of Indian and slave uprisings. The colony was conquered by the British in 1799, returned to the Netherlands in 1802, again became a British colony in 1804, and was finally restored to the Dutch in 1814. With the abolition of slavery in 1863, contract laborers from China, Java, and India were recruited.

In 1954 Surinam achieved internal autonomy yet remained an integral part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands until 1975 when it became an independent republic with a new constitution and a new flag.

Culture. Surinam's racial potpourri includes Creoles, or locally born persons of Afro-European descent; East Indians known locally as Hindustanis; Javanese; Chinese; Europeans; Carib and Arawak Indians; and Bushnegroes, descendants of escaped slaves. Each group preserves its own culture and religion, yet shares the land in harmony. Although the official language is Dutch, English is widely used; the lingua franca, spoken by almost all groups, is a sing-song language called Sranang Tongo or taki-taki.

The Dutch imprint can be appreciated in many picturesque colonial buildings, churches, and synagogues, while the local primitive art of the Bushnegroes is noted for its distinctive style.

Economy. Surinam's bauxite deposits are considered among the richest in the world and form the cornerstone of the economy. The main food crop and most important agricultural export is rice, followed by sugar, citrus fruits, and bananas. Coffee, cacao, peanuts, corn, coconuts, and pulses are grown mainly for local consumption. The land's timber resources are considerable and a forestry development program is being implemented to tap them.

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Front cover: *Soaring snow-capped peaks dominate a barren Andean plateau adorned with graceful llamas.*
Photograph by Loren A. McIntyre

Inside front cover: *Still, strange forms, sculptured by nature, take on their own special beauty in the deserts of the North American countries.*
Photograph by Philip Hyde.
Color separations courtesy Sierra Club

Inside back cover: *The brilliant, aquamarine waters and ivory-colored beaches of the Caribbean islands attract local residents and tourists alike.*
Photograph by Arbon Jack Lowe

Back cover: *Picturesque cobbled streets and red-roofed houses climb the gentle slopes in many a Central American mountain village.*
Photograph by Chadwick R. Wyatt



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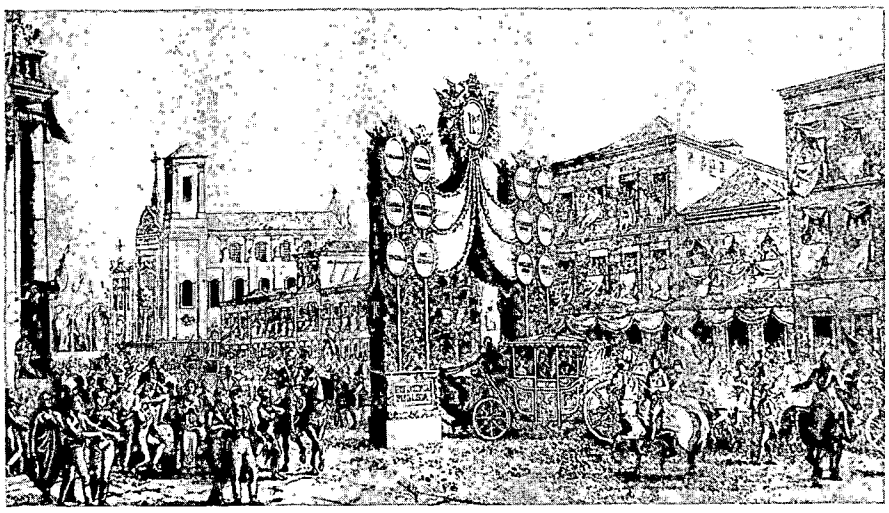
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COLONIAL ART: IV

Early Visions of IMPERIAL BRAZIL







1817 engraving by Hippolyte Taunay, son of Nicolai Antoine Taunay of the French artistic mission, shows the wedding procession of Royal Princess Leopoldina on its way to the Royal Chapel. Arches along the street were built by Auguste-Henri-Victor Grandjean de Montigny and decorated by Jean-Baptiste Debret, both of the French mission

Early Visions of IMPERIAL BRAZIL

ISABEL A. STRIKER

Cultural and Scientific Missions

The arrival of Dom João VI of Portugal and his Court in Brazil in 1808 marked the beginning of a new era for his domains in America. He became concerned with almost every aspect of life in Brazil, and several changes and innovations were put into practice soon after his arrival. From the start the ideas were in his mind, or in the minds of his advisors. They were all art lovers. To them, it was essential to promote cultural life in Rio de Janeiro.

The transfer of the Court from Lisbon to Rio opened Brazil to a continual flood of adventurers, travelers, and scientists from many nations. Some were looking for new opportunity in life. Others had a scientific purpose in mind: to study tropical nature, Brazil's people and their culture, or the land's natural resources.

The artists illustrated what most impressed them in Brazil. To several of them, an Indian's hut deep in the forest was as important to depict as the Palace of São Cristovão in Rio. Equally worthy of attention were the lovely garments of ladies in the capital and the well-coordinated lines marked on the bodies of the Mundurucú Indian women in central Brazil, not far from the Tapajós River, who seemed to be covered with beautiful dresses but in reality were nude. It was a fascinating world for the Europeans. Their eyes, thoughts, and hands rolled beautifully upon the new scenery and left a splendid legacy to Brazilian posterity. Some of them came on their own to the New Kingdom proclaimed by Dom João. A few arrived with scientific expeditions sponsored by European governments.

Shortly before the Court moved to Brazil, Czar Alexander I of Russia sent such an expedition around the world, under the leadership of Captain A. J. von Krusenstern. One member of the expedition, which sailed in 1803, was Freiher von Langsdorff, a German physician who was more interested in natural history than in medicine. Langsdorff wrote a good description of life on the Brazilian island of Santa Catarina, where the expedition paused for five weeks in 1803-04. Only one painting, published in 1817, illustrates his account of his stay on Santa Catarina. It depicts two black women sitting on the floor, separating cotton seeds. Their physical features are more European than African, which leads one to believe the painting was done outside Brazil, probably by someone who had never visited the country. However, the simplicity of the

Front cover: Freitas Lagoon, *detail of painting by English artist Lieutenant Henry Chamberlain, from his 1822 book* Views and Customs of the City and Neighbourhood of Rio de Janeiro. **Inside front cover:** *Detail of* A Market Stall, *also from Chamberlain's book.* **Inside back cover:** *Two of French artist Jean-Baptiste Debret's watercolors of life in Rio in the 1820's—a Brazilian lady in her quarters, surrounded by her slaves* (above) *and the arrival of guests at a country estates* (below). *From* A Muito Leal e Heróica Cidade de São Sebastião do Rio de Janeiro, *1965.* **Back cover:** *One form of transportation in early Imperial Brazil was depicted by Portuguese-born artist Joaquim Cândido Guillobel in this charming miniature. From* A Muito Leal...

room is typical of the region of Santa Catarina. In this matter, at least, the anonymous illustrator faithfully reproduces the impressions of the eyewitness. This painting can be considered the first of hundreds and hundreds that were to follow. It is interesting to note that Langsdorff contracted several artists to accompany his later expedition to the interior of Brazil.

Between Langsdorff's first expedition and his second, in 1821, a series of important events occurred in Brazil, the most significant being the transfer of the Portuguese Court there. While previously Brazil had not welcomed outsiders, Dom João VI and his advisers Conde de Linhares and Conde da Barca—the latter Minister for the Protection of Science—opened the doors for individuals, cultural missions, and scientific expeditions, permitting them to travel in Brazil without restriction.

French Artistic Mission

While Dom João and his ministers and advisers were concerned mostly with economic and political reform, they also envisioned improvements in the fields of education and culture. Conde da Barca had the idea for a school of art, science, and crafts, which was welcomed and supported by the King and Linhares. In 1815 they decided to contract a group of artists in Europe who would be willing to come to Brazil and establish that school in Rio. Linhares, a well-educated man and friend of the Marques de Marialva, Ambassador of Portugal in the Court of French King Louis XVIII, asked Marialva to make the selection. The ambassador consulted the great scientist and traveler Alexander von Humboldt, who recommended Joachim Lebreton, former Secretary of the Fine Arts Academy of the Institute of France.

The mission was organized with Lebreton as its head. Carefully he selected the most notable artists in his country. After reaching Rio de Janeiro they faced all kinds of opposition, as a group and as individuals, from local artists. But men like the painter Nicolai Antoine Taunay, his brother Auguste, a great sculptor, the architect Auguste-Henri-Victor Grandjean de Montigny, and the painter Jean-Baptiste Debret were strong-willed and did not give up. They fought to fulfill their contract and gave Brazil a fine treasure of artistic production while contributing greatly to the foundation of the Academy of Fine Arts in Rio.

Perhaps the most celebrated member of the French mission was Debret. Born in Paris on April 18, 1768, he had an excellent artistic family background, with many relatives outstanding figures in the arts. After studing painting in

Debret chronicled Brazil's popular celebrations, as in this 1823 watercolor Dia do Entrudo—*later known as Carnaval*





A great richness of color pervades Nicolai Antoine Taunay's oil painting View of São Jose in 1816. *Collection of Brazil's National Museum of Fine Arts*

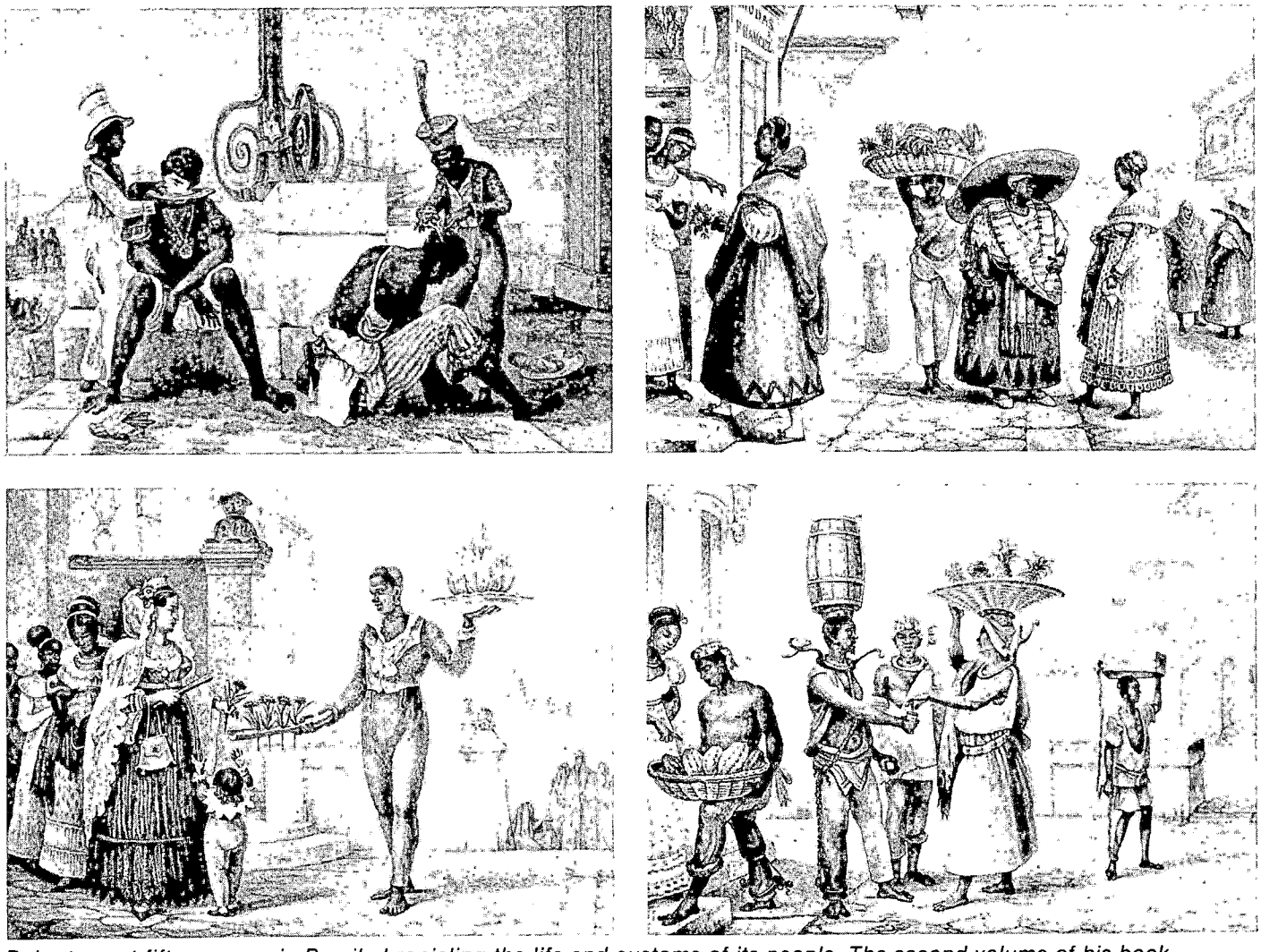
France and Italy, he enrolled at the Fine Arts Academy in Paris when he was only seventeen years old. The pictures he painted in the early years of his life were based on historical themes and won him several prizes. He was later to change his motif and became more modern.

The loss of his nineteen-year-old son affected Debret deeply. He became indifferent. Then his friend Grandjean learned about two French scientific expeditions that were being organized, one proposed by Czar Alexander I and the other requested by Dom João VI. Grandjean and Debret decided to go to Brazil with the mission recruited for Dom João, and arrived there with it on March 26, 1816. Already forty-eight years old and with much sorrow in his heart, Debret threw himself into his work. His first task was to paint portraits of the Royal Family, which include Dom João in his royal robe and a profile of Dona Leopoldina. Debret also worked with Taunay and Grandjean in decorating the city for special royal ceremonies. He worked at the São João Theater as stage manager for seven years.

Debret was to spend fifteen years in Brazil, during which time he produced a multitude of paintings on the history and customs of its people—always his main theme. Engravings of 156 of these were published in his three-volume book, *Voyage Pittoresque et Historique au Brésil, ou Sejour d'un Artiste Français au Brésil.* The first volume was published in Paris in 1834; it has thirty-six Indian paintings. The second was published in 1835; it includes forty-eight paintings of well-to-do families in Brazil, and is considered one of the most beautiful illustrations of Brazilian society in those years. The third volume came out in 1839. Most of the paintings in it refer to the history, religion, and customs of Brazil.

Debret felt it was important to begin with the history of the native Indian. Thus his book begins with a portrait of a Camaca Indian and includes paintings of Indians from twelve other tribes, showing them fighting, hunting, dancing, eating, traveling, and relaxing. Debret also sketched their different kinds of homes, weapons, utensils, ornaments, useful plants, musical instruments, and a large variety of ceremonial masks.

In logical order of what Debret learned of Brazil, the



Debret spent fifteen years in Brazil chronicling the life and customs of its people. The second volume of his book concentrates on the occupations of blacks. **Clockwise, from upper left:** *Barbers at work on the street; freedwomen at work; runaway slaves wearing iron collars as punishment; flower vendor and aristocratic lady at entrance of church*

paintings of Indians are followed by pictures of people of African racial background. The illustrations show many of the occupations of blacks in Brazil. There are black street vendors, sawmill workers, sugar mill laborers, and blacks serving as transportation of every kind. For wheeled vehicles were substituted the legs, shoulders, and heads of slaves. Other scenes by Debret show how whites with good incomes could enjoy a pleasant life. Churches and festivals are well illustrated in the second volume as well.

The third volume contains his historical, political, and religious paintings. One of them is *Embarkation in Praia Grande of Troops Destined for the Siege of Montevideo.* Another scene, which was also painted by Franz Frühbeck, is *Landing of the Royal Princess Leopoldina;* the two artists saw the event from different angles. Other historical scenes painted by Debret include *The Acclamation of Dom João* and *Dom Pedro and the Departure of the Royal Family.* One of the last scenes Debret painted in Brazil was *The Acclamation of Dom Pedro II* in 1831, the year the artist returned to France.

Nicolai Antoine Taunay, another member of the French artistic mission of 1816, was accompanied by his wife and five children and his brother Auguste Marie. Nicolai Antoine painted most of his life and his paintings were sold at high prices in Europe, where they are scattered in different museums. According to the historian Afonso de E. Taunay, there are 576 of his oil paintings in existence today, a few of which are at the National Museum of Fine Arts in Rio de Janeiro.

Austro-German Scientific Expedition

A scientific mission from Austria and Bavaria came to Brazil in 1817. It was jointly sponsored by the governments of those two states and was to conduct research in natural science in the vast interior of Brazil. Karl F. P. von Martius, a twenty-two-year-old botanist, was in charge of the mission. Zoologist Johann B. von Spix, his good friend, was also a member of the group, which made the trip from Europe in one of the ships that escorted Dona Leopoldina to Brazil to marry Dom Pedro. Martius, like Langsdorff, had studied medicine, but was more interested in botany, natural science, and ethnography. Accompanying Martius and Spix were Thomas Ender, a painter, and Johann Buchberger, who was hired to sketch plants.

Ender, unable to adjust to the tropical climate, could not fulfill his job in the expedition and separated from it in São Paulo. In spite of the fact that Ender and later Buchberger left the mission, Martius managed to illustrate his book *Reise in*

Brasilien auf Behehl Sr. Majestat Maximilian Joseph I with maps and pictures, including twenty-one pictures related to his study of the culture of several Indian tribes he met during the trip. Peter von Cornelius, the famous German artist, became very interested in those illustrations of Brazil and painted the front cover of the atlas himself.

Martius developed considerable artistic talent, vying successfully with Spix in the matter of drawings, as verified by his three albums devoted to palm trees. In his volume *Genera et Species Palmarum* Martius produces 245 beautiful drawings. His study of Brazilian palms, begun in 1823, was not published until 1850; it is not only a brilliant production of German science, but also of book publishing art. Martius' later publications were well illustrated; such is the case of the *Flora Brasiliense,* which already had 1400 engravings when he died in 1868, at the age of seventy-four.

Martius was especially concerned with the aboriginal inhabitants of Brazil. He observed and studied the Indian social condition and physical aspects, making a great contribution for further studies in science. In the atlas of *Viagem Pelo Brasil,* Martius presents no less than twenty-two paintings of members of different tribes.

Spix and Martius had not intended to use their own art work to illustrate their research; for that they had contracted Thomas Ender, a twenty-four-year-old artist and musician. At the age of seventeen he started his career, painting watercolors of the country near Vienna. Later he studied oil painting and painted mountains and other beautiful landscapes in Austria. He won prizes and the admiration and respect of Prince Metternich and Salomon Rothschild, the financier. Ender practically became the protégé of Metternich. Through his influence Ender was chosen as a member of the Austro-German scientific expedition to Brazil.

Ender stayed only seven months in Brazil. He could not get used to the climate and wrote to his friends about its bad effects on his health. As a landscaper, Ender was very interested in Rio de Janeiro and its surroundings. He went with the Spix-Martius expedition only as far as São Paulo. Along the way, he sketched many interesting scenes, including towns, villages, fields, mountains, forests, and all the spells of nature.

In his short stay in Brazil, Ender was able to produce a great volume of art—more than seven hundred drawings and watercolors—covering most aspects of Rio and São Paulo. (Most of these works are in the Library of the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna.) He sketched a large number of churches, chapels, palaces, convents, houses, and other buildings. He added color to these drawings, many of which are now at the Akademia of Vienna. Most of the buildings were sketched from different angles, showing their simple style and plain façades. (Brazilian colonial architecture was not very elaborate, though changes began to take place after Dom João established his residence there.) Several of Ender's sketches illustrate the simplicity of the interior of homes in Rio: large and spacious rooms with practically no furniture, while his paintings of homes in São Paulo show many rooms.

The way people dressed is also illustrated in Ender's numerous drawings. The ladies of São Paulo wore long and dark tailored dresses. They displayed big hats—another touch of elegance—when they dressed up for church or a trip. Lower class women—the vast majority—wore white cotton tunics of the kind imposed by the Jesuits in earlier years.

The usual man's costume in São Paulo was a long blue poncho that hung almost to the ground. In a sketch Ender illustrates its semicircular form, which eliminated the four corners and made the poncho very graceful and attractive. In time of rain the poncho could cover, as Ender shows, both the man and his horse. Otherwise, the wearer could fold it back on the shoulder, leaving his arm and hand free. This outfit was used among the *tropeiros,* or male drivers. The quality of the poncho indicated the social prestige of the individual. In the province of São Paulo, both men and women wore big felt hats shaped into various forms, as Ender's sketches show.

Ender was an outside painter and preferred to sketch buildings. Most of his views of buildings show no movement, but in a few paintings Ender combines buildings, landscapes, and people coming and going, as in *Panorama of Rio de Janeiro.*

Another Austrian with the mission was Franz Frühbeck. Born in Vienna in 1795, he was an amateur artist who was contracted as an assistant librarian. After he finished helping

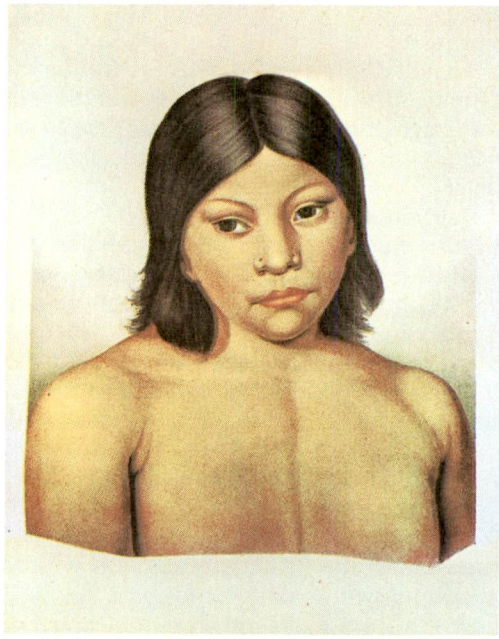
Debret's portrait of Dom João VI in His Royal Robe

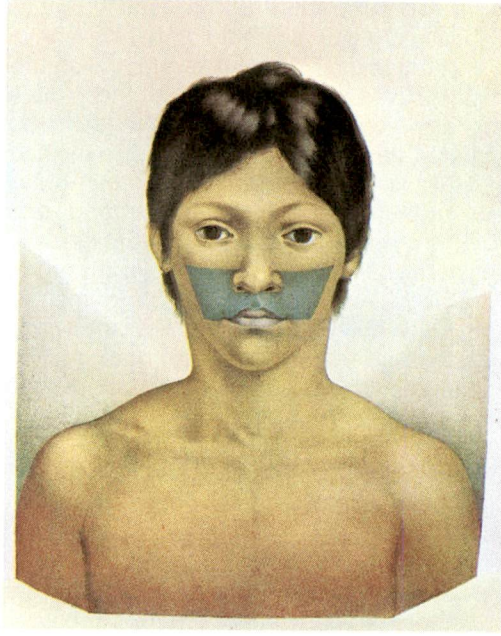


The Acclamation of Dom João, *from the third volume of Debret's book, which contains his historical, political, and religious paintings*

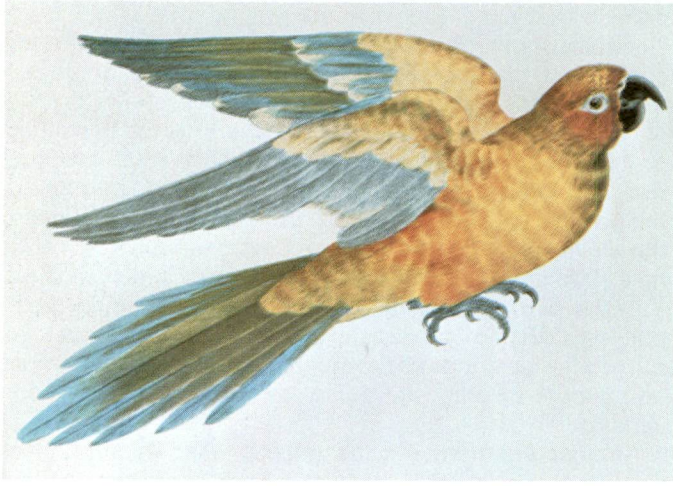


These lovely portraits of Brazilian Indians were first reproduced in the book Reise in Brasilien *by Karl F. P. von Martius, head of the Austro-German scientific expedition*





Zoologist Johann B. von Spix, also of the Austro-German mission, made many detailed drawings of the exotic birds of Brazil. The collection was later published in his book Avium Species Novae



with the installation of Dona Leopoldina's library, he found himself without a job and plenty of time to do what he really liked: painting. During the time he was in Rio he painted seven pictures and made two rough outlines. Among these are four that illustrate different aspects of the buildings, squares, and streets of the city.

Robert Smith and Gilberto Ferrez, in *Franz Frühbeck's Brazilian Journey* (Philadelphia, 1960), survey his artistic production and reproduce in their book sixteen of his paintings and drawings, including the nine he did in Rio. They were obtained in an auction in Vienna and today are part of the collection of the Hispanic Society of America in New York. *Landing in Rio de Janeiro* is the only painting reproduced in color in the book on Frühbeck. It is a view of a historical event: the arrival of Dona Leopoldina in Rio. It shows the formality of the ceremony; it is a solemn occasion and nothing seems to be out of place. Red, blue, gold, light blue, and white were the colors of the uniforms, the carriage, the sky, the sea, and the horses.

Russian Scientific Mission

In 1824 Czar Alexander I decided to send a scientific mission to Brazil. He requested that Georg Heinrich Langsdorff, Russian Consul in Brazil and expert traveler, organize the expedition. Langsdorff selected the scientists and the sketcher, the German Johann Moritz Rugendas. Rugendas, however, decided to separate himself from Langsdorff's expedition once he was in Brazil. The head of the mission thought it was important to have an artist and hired two Frenchmen, already living there: Amado Adriano Taunay (son of Nicolai Antoine of the 1816 mission) and Hercules Florence. Unfortunately, the young Taunay died on the trip.

Hercules Florence was born in Nice, France, in 1804. He was twenty years old, an artist by profession, when he arrived in Brazil. After working in Rio in a store owned by a Frenchman, he found a better job in the typography shop of Pierre Plancher, the founder of the *Journal do Comercio do Rio de Janeiro*. A few months later he learned about an opening for an artist at the Russian Consulate and was hired for the expedition.

The main objective of Langsdorff's scientific expedition was to study different aspects of botany and zoology in Brazil. The expedition left Rio in September 1825 and returned in March 1829, crossing the heart of Brazil. They used canoes and mules in their four long years of traveling. Florence made the entire journey. He recorded his experiences and observations in a diary, in which he also made his sketches. For some unexplained reason, the book remained undiscovered until 1874, and was finally translated and published in the *Revista do Instituto Historico y Geografico de Rio de Janeiro* in 1875.

The book was highly praised by several scientists who recognized its content as very valuable to their fields. Among them was Theodor Koch-Grünberg, who considered it a great contribution to the ethnology and geography of Brazil.

In Florence's book there are 115 pictures, fifty-one of which are related to the Indians' life in the interior of Brazil. The Indian paintings are valuable as ethnological documents, as they express reality among the Indian tribes in those years. Florence outlined most of his drawings in pencil, using little shading, but expressing what he saw quite clearly.



Panorama of Rio de Janeiro, *oil, by Thomas Ender, was one of the few paintings in which the Viennese artist combined buildings, landscapes, and people. In only seven months in Brazil Ender produced more than seven hundred works*

Amado Adriano Taunay, the first artist of the Russian scientific expedition, was already famous as an artist when he took the job with Langsdorff. Unfortunately, he drowned in the Guaporé River at the age of twenty-five. At the time of his death, one hundred of his drawings had been sent to St. Petersburg, and 130 more were kept by Florence while the expedition remained in the interior.

Independent Artists and Travelers

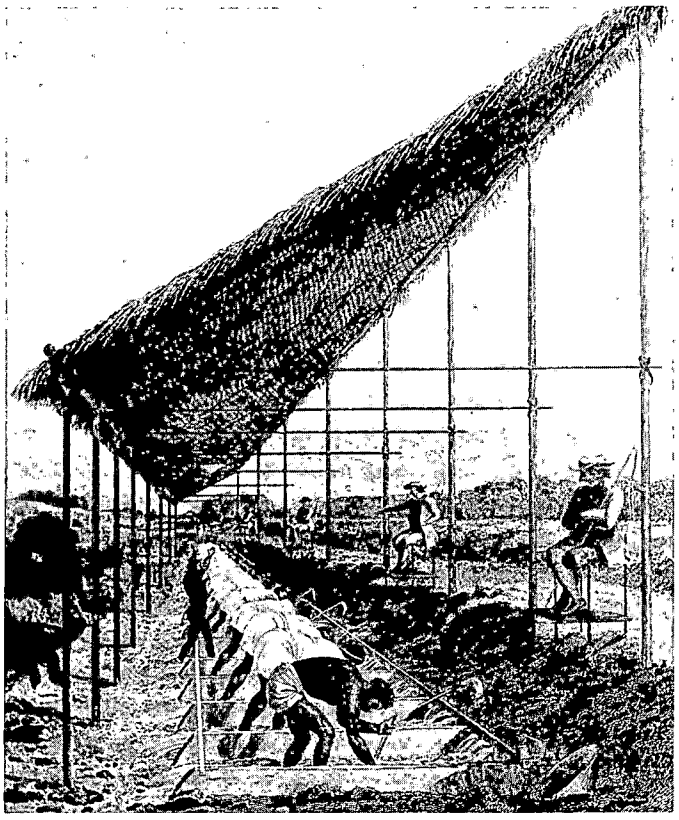
The three missions were in Brazil between 1816 and 1829. Each had its own purpose and left a contribution to science. The Academy of Fine Arts of Rio de Janeiro was the result of the efforts of the French artistic mission of 1816. Before these missions came to Brazil, however, there were European travelers, among them artists, who had arrived soon after Dom João.

Among the first to come, in 1809, was John Mawe. He was perhaps the first foreigner to travel in the interior of Brazil in the nineteenth century—a privilege not normally granted foreigners before the arrival of Dom João. A mineralogist, Mawe traveled to Minas Gerais to study, observe, and write about the exploitation of diamonds, topaz, aquamarine, and gold mines in the region. Some illustrations appear in his book, *Travels in the Interior of Brazil,* which was published in London in 1812. Mawe did not use many paintings, but the few in his book gave the reader a clear concept of the mining operations. The painting that appears on the first page of the book illustrates a well-organized working group in the diamond mines. Another shows the bed of the Jequitinhonha River completely dry, its water having been diverted to make the removal of gravel easier. It is a very interesting painting for people today who are concerned for the conservation of our natural environment, as it gives a feeling of devastating desolation.

In the Portuguese edition appears a picture published first in the Italian edition—a very interesting painting of a Paulista in the typical outfit of the province. The Paulista is wearing a long robe, open in front, with an elaborate white lace, about four inches wide, around his shoulders. Something white is under the robe. He wears a black hat and is holding a big white handkerchief. His face is young, handsome, pleasant, and proud. His left hand rests calmly on his side.

Mawe's paintings of the mines are clear. He illustrates what he wanted. Very precisely he described the region's houses: all had circular form. The precious stones were symmetrically sketched. The mines of topaz and gold are represented. Mawe's pictures are few, but they bring a historical communication between the past and the present.

Henry Koster was another of the independent travelers; he came to Pernambuco for the first time in 1809. After several trips back to England, Koster returned to Bahia in 1817 and died there in 1820. In his book *Travels in Brazil,* Koster reveals his experiences on a trip to the *sertão* of northeastern Brazil.



View of slaves washing for diamonds, from John Mawe's 1812 book Travels in the Interior of Brazil

Like the others, Koster felt the need of illustrating what he saw. There are six paintings in his book. They were painted not by him, but by some of his relatives in London. They painted the things that most impressed him, as he expressed himself in his book: a long canoe with sixteen fishermen rowing at great speed, a mule transporting cotton, a sugar mill in operation, and so on.

Some unusual paintings were produced by Joaquim Cândido Guillobel, who was born in Lisbon in 1787 and came to Rio de Janeiro in 1811. His artistic production is considered among the best. An artist by profession, Guillobel taught art at the military academy for several years. As a painter he had his own style and, unlike other artists in those years, he worked in small sizes; he was a perfect miniaturist. His paintings are less than five inches in length, and all have a touch of purple, green, gold, black, and pink.

Guillobel's art work deals with people of all types and of diverse economic and social conditions. He seems to have especially enjoyed observing the street vendors, as did Koster, although the latter did not illustrate their customs in his book. These small scale and daily commercial activities were carried out mostly by blacks. Guillobel painted many of the motifs that were popular among painters. Few artists missed the scene of the barber at work on the street, or of big barrels being transported by several slaves, sometimes using a rudimentary four-wheeled wagon, or of chickens for sale in big baskets, or of a vendor playing a musical instrument to announce his products. And Guillobel also painted portraits of people of the upper class, which illustrate the fashions of these years.

The total number of miniatures is more than fifty. In 1941 Brazilian Minister Caio de Melo Franco bought the collection in Bristol, England. It had been the property of Robert Southey. All of Guillobel's Brazilian paintings were done in 1814.

A noble traveler to Brazil was the German Prince Maximilian Wied-Neuwied. He was interested in science and art and visited Brazil in 1815 and 1817. He traveled between Rio de Janeiro and Bahia through a region of dense forest, where he pursued his interests in ornithology and zoology. Many of his zoological works, a series of colorful animal paintings, are now in the American Museum of Natural History in New York. In his book, *Reise nach Brasilien in den Jahren 1815 bis 1817,* are reproduced several portraits of Indians and many landscapes. After Prince Maximilian returned to Europe many German painters worked on his sketches. It is curious that he did not paint any portrait or scene involving blacks.

Another amateur painter was Lieutenant Henry Chamberlain, the oldest son of the British General Consul in Rio de Janeiro during the period 1815 to 1829. He visited São Paulo, Rio, Santos, Minas Gerais, and other parts of the interior, where he did a lot of painting. Some of his city paintings are quite revealing, for example those titled *Convicts* and *Food for Criminals.* In both scenes the convicts are tied by the leg with a long chain; in both of them there was a white prisoner. In *The Peddler and His Slaves,* the slaves carried everything except a big umbrella that the peddler carried to protect himself from the sun or rain. Some critics have charged that Chamberlain copied some of the paintings of others. He certainly copied Guillobel's beggar miniature, and so did Ender.

Because painting was not considered an honorable profession for the English nobility, many of Chamberlain's watercolors were never published. Chamberlain was not a scientist or a writer; he painted for pleasure. He simply wanted to show his friends back home what he had seen in Brazil. For each painting he wrote an explanation. All of them were translated into Portuguese and published by Rubens Borba de Morales. In the volume there are forty-one engravings in color, six of which were published for the first time. The others were first reproduced in Chamberlain's time, in *Views and Customs of the City* and *Neighbourhood of Rio de Janeiro,* published in London in 1822.

Engraving of Brazilian jungle scene by German Prince Maximilian Wied-Neuwied, from his 1821 book





Entrudo, *1824 watercolor by English painter August Earle, depicts a typical Rio Carnaval celebration. The painting is explained in detail in the text*

Of the English painters, the one with the most extensive artistic background was August Earle. Born in England in 1793, Earle came from a family that for generations had been in the art profession. At the age of fourteen, he attended the Royal Academy in London and became acquainted with many outstanding American and English artists.

Earle was an adventurer as well as a painter. In 1815, at the age of twenty-two, out he went from London to Malta to stay with his brother. He visited the whole Mediterranean area before returning to England two years later. A few months later he sailed for the United States, where he traveled widely for two years. Rio de Janeiro was the next place on his mind and there he arrived on April 20, 1820. He stayed only two months and it is not known if he did any painting during that short visit. After traveling to Chile, Peru, and back to London, Earle returned to Rio de Janeiro for almost four years. He painted with dedication, all the time planning a way to get to India. He ended up in Australia instead.

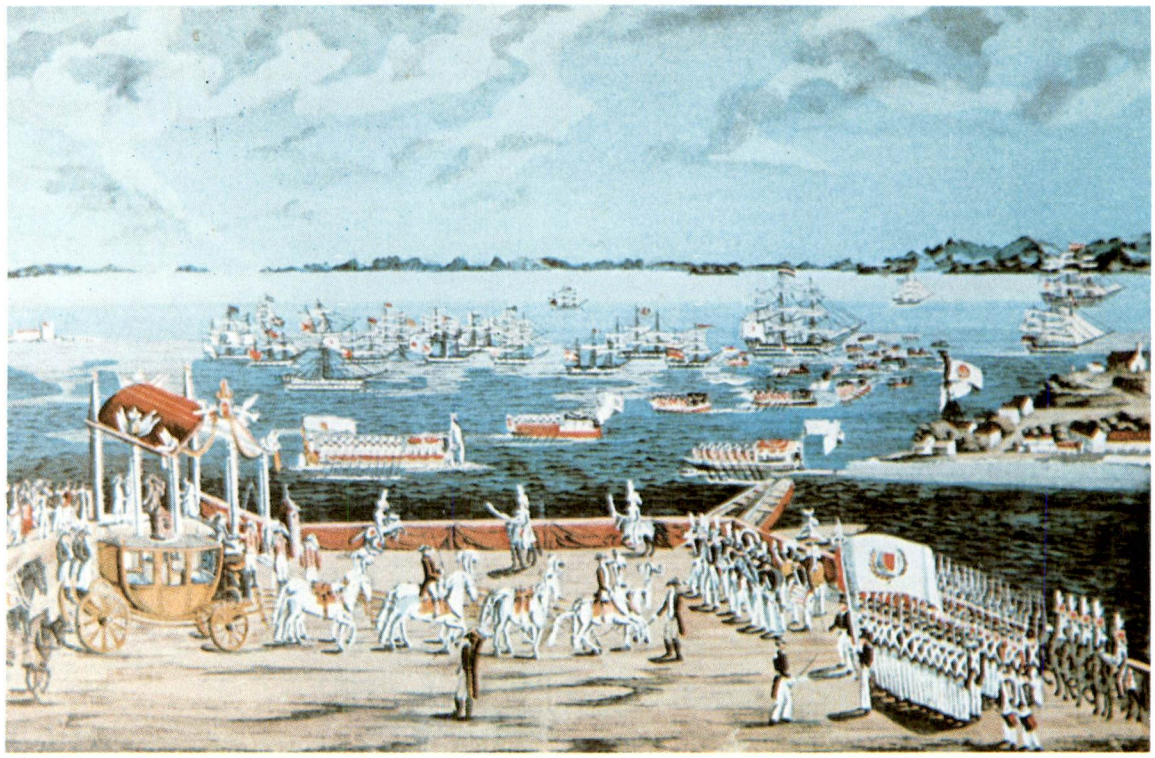
Although he was a great traveler, there is no evidence that Earle ever visited the interior of Brazil. Apparently, he stopped in Pernambuco on one of his two trips and painted some scenes of Recife. He was also interested in the customs of the ordinary people, and his paintings where actions are illustrated create a variety of feelings of joy, sadness, and amusement. He painted several portraits and did some watercolors of fruit-bearing trees and plants, such as the coconut and banana.

One of Earle's watercolors depicts a scene in the interior of a home that is like nothing painted by the other artists. The painting is called *Pulling a Parasite Out of His Foot.* The event, which Earle probably witnessed, took place in a kitchen. Another unique painting by Earle shows a place where men went to have a good time, to drink and play cards. The building next door has a similar business. The two structures are separated by a narrow corridor. It is the carnival season and the traditional water fight is taking place. Men and women are throwing perfumed lemons to the people in the other house, and vice-versa. Black servants supply the lemons in large trays. There are eleven well-dressed men and three women in long white dresses, with low-cut necks. The cards, a jug of wine, hats and coats are all over the floor and the lemons are flying. All the faces look amused. The sight is rather exciting and wild for someone from a different culture.

Earle's outside sketches reveal customs among the blacks: the beat of the drums, the clap of the hands, the rhythm that was typical on the street. They all seemed to forget their hard life and enjoy the moment, in the best way possible.

Engraving by German artist Johann Moritz Rugendas portrays capitão do matto *with captured runaway slave*





Landing in Rio de Janeiro, *goauche, by Franz Frühbeck of Austria, depicts the arrival of Dona Leopoldina in Brazil. The same scene was painted from another angle by Debret*

Earle did two paintings of slave markets, one in Pernambuco and the other in Rio. Also among his works are eight small paintings that show ladies' fashions, the vendors on the street, a priest, miners, and a man on horseback. They are all very good.

Earle left Brazil in 1824 and returned in 1832 for a short visit. In those days he painted more watercolors and took them back to London. Only three were reproduced—all landscapes —and nobody knows where the other paintings are at the present time. Maria Graham used four of his earlier paintings to illustrate her *Journal of a Voyage to Brazil.* The rest of his Brazilian paintings and watercolors are in the far away city of Canberra, Australia.

Johann Moritz Rugendas was born in 1802 in Augsburg, Germany. Several members of his family were well-known artists. He came to Brazil as the artist of the Russian scientific expedition, but soon separated from the mission. His father, who was the director of the Fine Arts Academy in Augsburg was obligated to honor the contract broken by his son, then nineteen years old. Rugendas was a rather good-looking young man, distinguished, and with fine taste, which he expressed in many of his portraits. The Brazilians considered him the artist of people and nature, and so he was.

Rugendas' *Das merkwü digsts aus dar malerischen reise in Brazilien* was published by Engelmann in Paris, between 1827 and 1835. It has about one hundred Brazilian paintings, the originals of which have disappeared. According to the contract signed by his father, Langsdorff had certain rights to Rugendas' works of art in Brazil, and was given one group of his paintings. Another lot was sent to St. Petersburg, Russia. Several hundred paintings were kept in Austria, and the rest of his surviving Brazilian artistic work wound up in Brazil.

With the help of the U.S. Ambassador in Russia, Rugendas' biographer David James found the ones in Leningrad. He reproduced fifteen of them for the first time in 1956. Some of them are simple outlines: the artist's pencil catches the features of the people, their actions, and the meaning.

The Rugendas drawings and watercolors in Vienna were bought by Clovis Ribeiro Washington Rodrigues in 1928. Some of them are now in Brazilian private collections in Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo. Three oil paintings of the Royal Family are in the Imperial Museum in Petrópolis. The rest are in the National Library in Rio de Janeiro. Fifty paintings were kept at the Staatliche Summlung in Munich until 1944, when they were lent to the Volkerkunde Museum in the same city. All of them were destroyed in a World War II air raid.

Rugendas' book was translated into Portuguese by Sergio Milliet and published in São Paulo in 1941. It has 110 engravings, which can be classified according to the motifs. Rugendas painted many landscapes, as well as many portraits of Indians and blacks. Unlike Ender, he was more concerned with people than with architecture. He was inclined toward the field of anthropology. His portraits of representatives of Indian and African ethnic groups are remarkable. He vividly illustrates the features of the Indians, giving each face a touch of great dignity. Rugendas carefully emphasizes the beauty of human nature regardless of the social or racial position of his subjects.

Seventeen of his Indian portraits show their physical appearance very clearly. Their handsome eyes have a genuine look, and, to a certain degree, a sort of sadness. Since the Indians generally were nude, Rugendas painted them from above the chest, giving a touch of perfect beauty to the Indian women especially. Rugendas looked for the beauty and grace of the Indians, which was not always the case with the other artists. Rugendas was equally attracted to the blacks. They were dressed, so he could take the whole view of them. The blacks in his pictures look handsome albeit perhaps too serious. There are twenty-one individual portraits of blacks, some of whom have their faces painted; Rugendas identifies the region of Brazil or Africa from which each came.

Rugendas calls the next section of his book "The Life of the European." It illustrates various activities among Europeans

and their descendants in the cities of Brazil. The paintings show streets and people; churches and parishioners; the square and soldiers parading; homes and relaxing moments; travelers; mules and other transportation; parties and dancing; a little store and its customers; the Junta of Pernambuco and some politicians; the interior of a church, the priest, the mass, and the people. Each painting is very clear, with people and nature in the foreground and buildings in the background. Movement is present at all times, even in the landscapes.

Rugendas was fascinated by what he saw in Brazil. His search for beauty is the main theme of his artistic performance. None of his paintings bring on unpleasant feelings. He seemed to reject the ugly part of life.

Many European artists of all ages came to Brazil; all were men except for two distinguished ladies who loved art as much as the males already mentioned. One of them was Maria Graham from England, and the other was the Austrian Princess Dona Leopoldina. The former was in Brazil from 1821 to 1824. She came to teach Dona Maria da Gloria, the future queen of Portugal. A great traveler, Miss Graham was also an accomplished artist. To a degree, her work is similar to Ender's. Her paintings focus on buildings, topography, and vegetation; the human factor is practically absent. There is no action; everything is static.

Maria Graham was a good friend of Dona Leopoldina. The Princess started to paint in 1805, in Vienna, when she was only eight years old. She used the pencil and outlined simple features. It is hard to believe that she did not paint in Brazil, and, in fact, historian Ritter von Schaffer states that the Empress was occupied with reading, writing, and painting. In letters she wrote to her aunt in 1818-1820, Dona Leopoldina mentioned that she was doing some drawings. She probably did both portraits and landscapes. Unfortunately, nothing she did in Brazil has been found.

■

Art in Brazil in the early nineteenth century provides a remarkable historical documentation. It is clear, beautiful, and easy to comprehend. It reveals the different characteristics and activities of the inhabitants of the various parts of Brazil. Travelers like Mawe, a mineralogist, could not resist visiting the land of topaz, gold, and diamonds; Koster wanted to see and feel the country through his own observations; Prince Maximilian Wied-Neuwied crossed the Atlantic to persue his scientific hobbies in Brazil; Lieutenant Chamberlain painted just for the pleasure of showing Brazil to his friends. Debret and Taunay were professional artists and founders of the Academy of Fine Arts. Guillobel left a treasure of miniatures. Ender, in a short period of seven months, sketched and painted several hundred pieces. The scientists also were fine artists: Spix and Martius, who crisscrossed the Northeast and journeyed west on the

Black Porters, *color engraving by Lieutenant Henry Chamberlain, shows two different methods used by slaves to transport heavy barrels. Like many of Chamberlain's other themes, this one was first used in Guillobel's miniatures*



Amazon as far as Colombia and Peru, illustrated all they could. Rugendas and Florence, with delight, painted the Indians and blacks, as did Earle, the young English "wandering artist," and Frühbeck, the assistant librarian. All of them painted part of the life of Brazil. Progress has eliminated many typical scenes of those years. These paintings, watercolors, and drawings are the only visual testimony of that particular period. It is a small and meaningful link between the past and the present of Brazil.

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Panning for Gold *and* View of the Coast Near Bahia, *two of the hundreds of engravings that resulted from Rugendas' stay in Brazil. "His search for beauty is the main theme of his artistic performance"*

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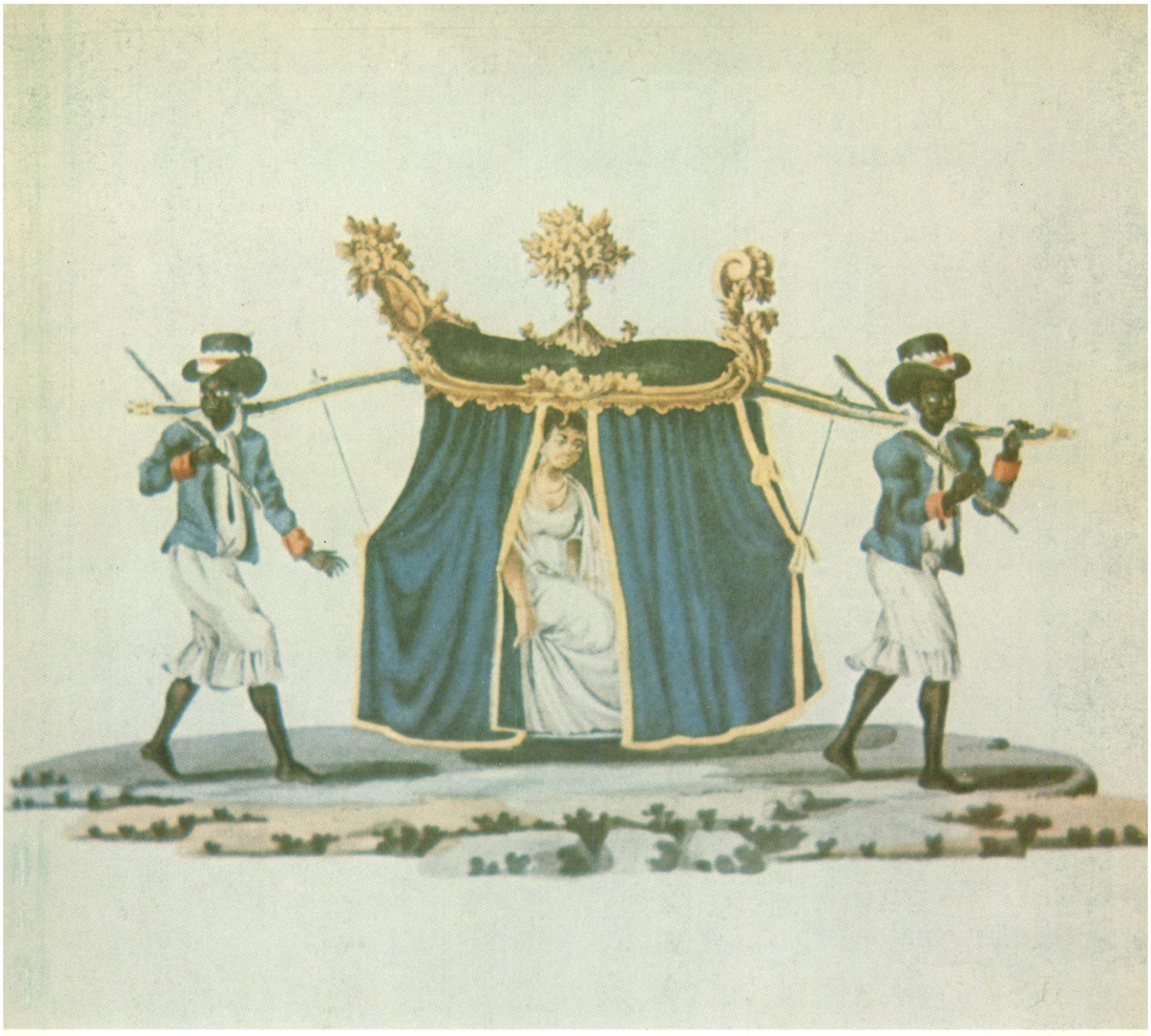
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