

Latino/as

History to 1900

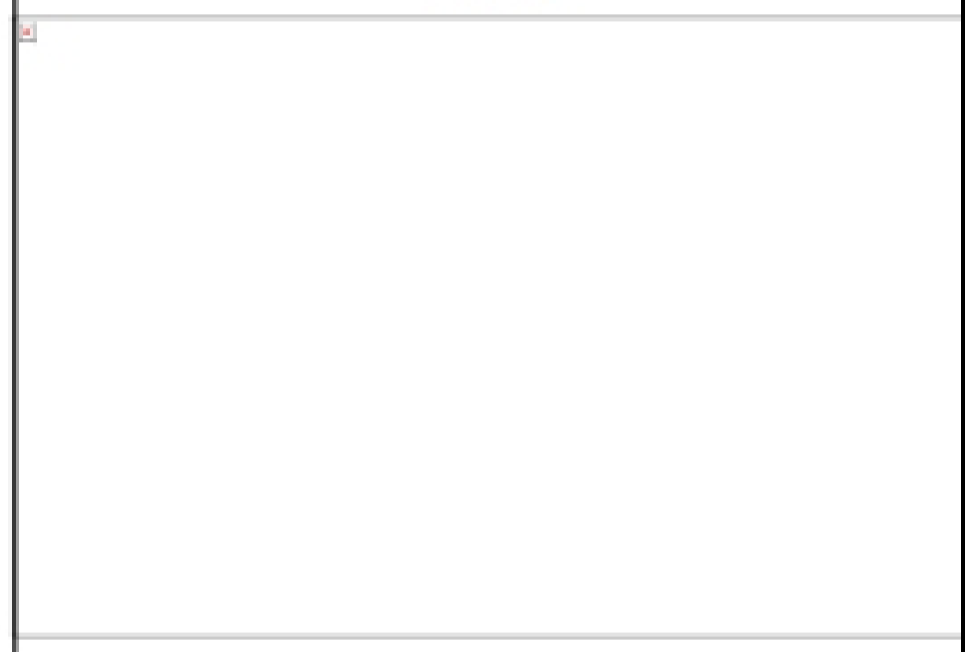
Before Columbus

- Indigenous peoples in the Americas 10,000 years or more
- Years of historical change
- Empires rise and fall, especially in the Andes in South America and in southern Mexico
- [There are still 10 million + "Indios" in Central & South America, PLUS a huge number of mixed ancestry people who identify as Spanish or mixed rather than as Indio]

1500-1800's Colonial Era

- European governments "claim" America and divide it among themselves.
- Enslavement, pestilence and plagues, economic disruptions, warfare for the Americans.
- South America: Spanish conquerors put a new layer on American [indio] populations. Plus intermarriage, concubinage & rape -> mixed populations
- African slavery + some free Africans. African descent a major part of heritage in some areas, esp. along Atlantic & Caribbean shores

World Map

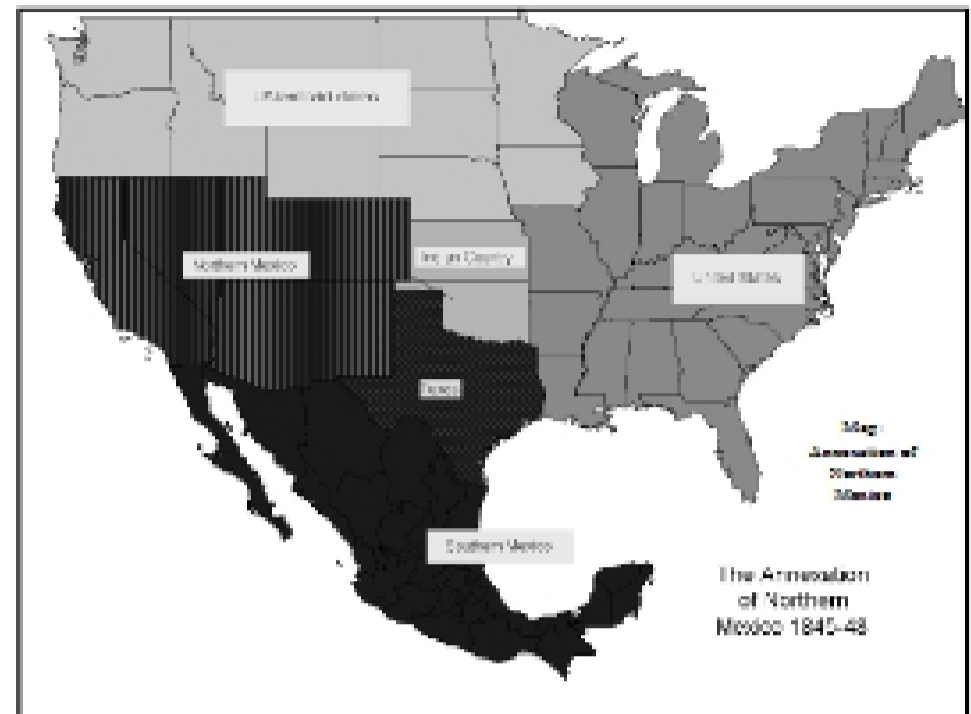


European Claims in North America 1750



New Spain

- Spanish colony 1521-1821 (300 years)
- Creation of “Mexicans”: mixed indigenous & Spanish ancestry, Spanish culture.
- “Indios” resist, remain separate in some areas
- Most of northern New Spain never heavily settled by Spanish, strong resistance from indigenous Americans
- Mexican independence 1821, Mexican Republic 1824. Political turmoil.



Texas

- 30,000 Anglo-Americans had moved into Texas, greatly outnumbering the Spanish-Mexicans; generally slaveholders
- 1824 Mexican republic abolishes slavery
- 1830 Mexico attempts to stop Anglo immigration, enforce laws against slavery
- 1836 new Mexican constitution restricts “states rights” (over slavery, among others); Anglo-Texans backed by some Tejanos (Spanish-Texans) secede from Mexico and create Texas as an independent white state
- 1845 fearing Texas expansion west, the US annexes Texas as a slave state

Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo

- 1848 US provokes a war with Mexico, easily wins
- Cedes northern Mexico to the US
- Guarantees to Mexican citizens living in the area:
 - US citizenship
 - Recognition of property titles from Spain/Mexico
 - Right to be Catholic
 - Right to speak Spanish

Annexed Mexicans

- About 7% of Mexican Americans today are direct descendants of those covered by the treaty
- Mixed experiences
 - Some Mexicans retained land & economic status, some intermarried with Anglos.
 - Many others defrauded of land, chased across the border by Anglo mobs.
 - For those who remained, no consistent protection of citizenship, language, property rights.

California Gold Rush 1848

- Anglo-American immigrants rapidly overwhelm Mexicans in northern California, drive them out
- Fewer Anglos in desert southern California, Mexican landowners retain much of their land in large rancharos.
- First entry of significant numbers of Chinese – initially into gold fields, then as laborers to support growing western economy [more later]

Spanish-American War 1898

- Cubans fighting independence war against Spain
- The battleship "Maine" blown up under mysterious circumstances in Havana harbor
- US declares war, wins easily in 10 weeks (more US-ians die from malaria than warfare)
- Puerto Rico, Philippines, Guam, Wake, become US possessions.
- Cuba "permitted" to be independent under US oversight, 1901, still controlled by US after
- Independence wars raging against Spain become wars against US, take time to subdue, especially in Philippines