

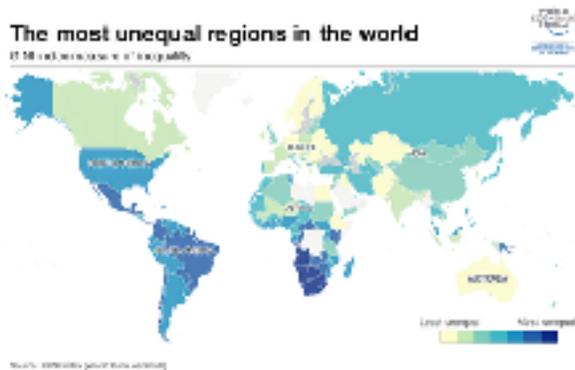
# *Prisoners of Geography*

## Reading Guides for Chapter 9, Latin America

“Nature and history have dealt Latin America a difficult hand.” (p. 231)

230 The physical geography of Latin America impeded its chances of economic or political emergence....

How did **economic inequality** increase in Latin America? Why are the coasts populated but not the interior?



231-233. Know the important physical features of Latin America.

233. The Treaty of Tordesillas of 1494 is VERY important.



Demarcation Line of the Treaty of Tordesillas



Simon Bolivar



Jose de San Martin

234 What is the **Bolivarian Ideology**? Is it anti-colonialist? pro-socialist? Where has it survived today?

<https://www.trtworld.com/americas/what-is-venezuela-s-bolivarian-revolution-23587>

234-235 There are several ongoing border disputes in Latin America: **Belize & Guatemala, Chile & Argentina, Venezuela & Guiana, Ecuador & Peru**

Bolivia's and Chile's bitter border relationship. – what is has meant to Bolivia... Who is **Evo Morales**? What is the “gas for coastline” deal?

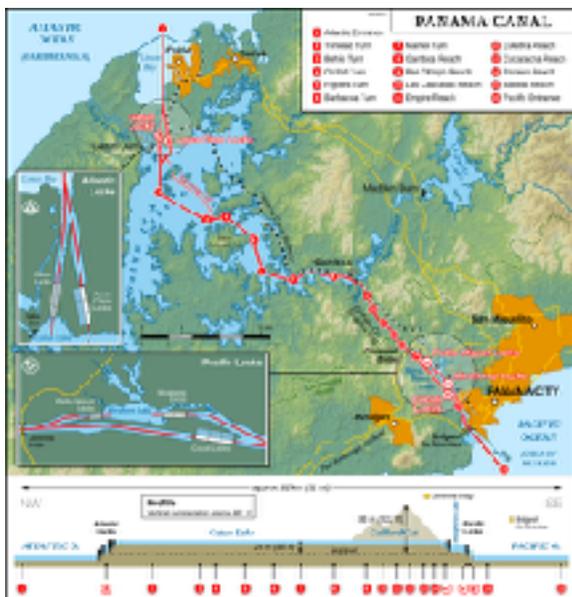
1946-1991 What does it mean that **Latin America** was a “proxy battlefield for the Cold War”?

Watch this Crash Course History video for a quick history of the Cold War: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9C72ISMF\\_D0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9C72ISMF_D0)

236-239 Know the relationship of Mexico to the USA, how geography determines Mexico's history and development...

Understand the drug trade with the US in a different context & why it is so important.

240-243. Be able to understand the importance of the Panama Canal, opened in 1914.



Why does China have an interest in the **Nicaragua Grand Canal Project** funded by Wang Jing for an estimated \$50 billion?

<https://todaynicaragua.com/is-the-gran-canal-de-nicaragua-dead-in-the-water/>

Know why Nicaraguan President **Daniel Ortega** finds himself in a different position than when he was a **Sandinista Revolutionary** in the 1980s.



243 Why is China investing so much in Latin America? See Ch. 2 on China & Ch 5 on Africa.

243-245 What is the **Monroe Doctrine of 1823**? Read the next page carefully to understand the United States' dominant position in Latin America.



245. Venezuela is a country that is in deep, deep crisis right now.

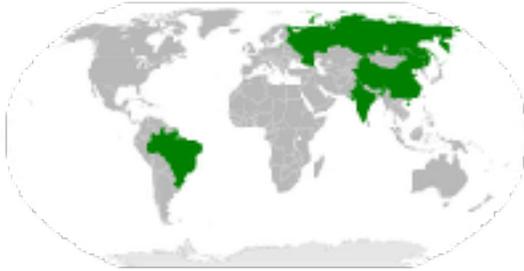
China is using “**soft power**” in the region because soft power is all they can really do.

245-249. Then there's **Brazil**. Potential and challenge and geography and poverty...

247-249 **Mercosur** is a South American trading bloc designed to create free trade among the member nations. **UNASUR** (Union of South American Nations) is an intergovernmental body modeled after the European Union (EU) and designed for trade promotion & political interaction. It is the world's fourth largest economy after the United States, China, & Japan.



249 Know what the **BRICS** are. They are another important bloc of countries.



China, and South Africa, which are all deemed to be at a similar stage of newly advanced economic development. It is typically rendered as "the BRICs." There are arguments that Indonesia should also be included, effectively turning it into **BRIC** or **BRICS**.

**BRICS** is an acronym that refers to the countries of Brazil, Russia, India,

249-253. Understand why Argentina is the best positioned nation in Latin America for growth, and know why they have underachieved.

**The Vaca Muerta** (*Dead Cow*) is a geologic [formation](#) located in the [Neuquén Basin](#) in northern [Patagonia](#), [Argentina](#). It is well known as the host rock for major deposits of [shale oil](#) and [shale gas](#). This is important for Argentina's economic development.

Who fought the **1982 war** over the **Falkland Islands/Islas Malvinas**? Why? Why do aircraft carriers matter in the modern age?

