

Modern Latin America

"These Streets"

*Flocab. Everybody close your eyes right now,
And try to imagine...*

Picture a land where the sun gets hot,
And the rivers get cold, and the locals got shot.
I don't want to sugar-coat the past,
Conquistadors came in fast, and they conquered.
They were Spanish, some Portuguese,
And they set up colonies in the south, it was bonkers.
Now imagine paying dues to a dude,
Who rules you from overseas, that seems rude.

OK, so you wait till your ruler's confused,
By a short man with a short fuse: Napoleon.
You rise up, the king? You overthrowing him,
At least going over him, you're smooth: linoleum.
Independence? You know that's hard,
Up step San Martín and Bolívar.
The ties to Europe, they get cut you see,
Like a kid who's too weak from the wrestling team.

But after independence from Europeans,
Things are still run by European descendants,
Creoles, tanning on their ranch,
By the pool with a handful of Cool Ranch Doritos.
So amigos, if you think race doesn't matter in this caste system,
Then swing again, batter.
There may be teams, but this isn't a game 'cause
The poor stay poor; dictators stay paid.

On these streets, we've seen destruction,
Revolution and corruption,

USA money and Russian,

Yeah we're Latin, making moves, see what happens. (x2)

Fast forward: Cold War, better pick a side kid,

Every superpower needs a sidekick, who you want to ride with?

Right with the USA,

Or go left, yep, that's the Soviet way.

But watch out! 'Cause they might intervene,

Both powers want players on their team.

It's a big game of Risk, and it's as risky as it seems,

Roll the dice; pick a direction to lean.

If you're a communist, the USA's rude,

Castro's Cuba can't trade food.

Castro controls your news like a pawn,

Some flee to Miami just like LeBron.

If you're in Guatemala with leftist reforms,

CIA is gonna make it all go wrong,

You'll get overthrown so bananas stay cheap,

Military junta instead, no peace.

And in Chile, and I don't mean baby back ribs,

You'll be really scared when Pinochet steps in.

A military coup from the USA,

Pinochet violates rights every day.

Perón's dictating in Argentina,

He's married to this ex-actress Evita,

She's loved by the folks who only work,

I mean these dudes so poor, they can't afford a shirt.

But Perón makes his critics "disappear,"

They probably died, but that isn't crystal clear.

In Nicaragua here come the Sandinistas,

Soviet-armed guys like Russian police, huh?

U.S. give guns to the Contras, who beef

With the Sandinistas, now there's blood in the streets.

And when Congress changed its mind,

Reagan gave them guns anyway. Whoa! Is that a crime?

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Yeah we're Latin, making moves, see what happens. (x2)