



LATIN AMERICAN HISTORY POVERTY

Standard: SS6H1 – Explain
conflict and change in Latin
America

Element: d. Explain the impact of
poverty, the war on drugs, and
migration to the United States on
Latin America.

IMPACT OF POVERTY

Latin America faces some of the worst **poverty** in the World.

Poverty is the state of extreme **poor** having little or no money for **goods** and **services**.

As a whole, one out of five Latin Americans live in chronic poverty.

Even in Latin America's fastest growing country "**Brazil**", the level of rural poverty is over **50%**.

BRICS is a political science term used for the world's five fastest-growing economies: Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South America.

IMPACT OF POVERTY

Latin America's poverty is largely due to a regional lack of **high-quality**, high **skill** employment opportunities as well as insufficient investment in **human capital**.



IMPACT OF POVERTY

When countries lack in their investment in **human capital** the people suffer through a lack of **employment opportunities**.

The more money a country spends on **human capital** the more likely their citizens will create businesses for others to be employed at and fill much needed positions that require a **higher** education.





IMPACT OF POVERTY

Along with an increase in **human capital**, increasing labor **income** is among the few ways to lift many Latin Americans out of poverty.

Compared to the United States, Latin America get paid only a fraction of what they would be paid if they worked in the United States.

While this helps attract many **businesses** to Latin America due to the **low** cost of labor, it hurts the **poverty rate** by paying its citizens so little.



IMPACT OF POVERTY

Unlike the United States, over **half** of 15-year-olds in Latin America are functionally illiterate.

Subjects which are very important to human capital such as **math** and **science** are especially low.

Most of Latin America was once dubbed the “**Third World**”; however, since the end of the Cold War, the term “**developing nation**” is more commonly used to describe many of the countries found in this region.

IMPACT OF POVERTY

Developing VS Developed Countries

Do not get confused with a developing country and a developed country. A developing country is in the process of improving its standard of living while a developed country has a high standard of living.

IMPACT OF POVERTY

Because of the lack of employment opportunities in Latin America, many resort to make money in the **drug** industry.

Cocaine production is most pronounced in the **Andean** region of South America (i.e.; **Colombia**, **Peru**, and **Bolivia**), with Central America (particularly Guatemala) and **Mexico** serving as the corridor through which the trade is funneled into the United States.

Through various means, **drug traffickers** pass the border where they illegally smuggle drugs into the United States for higher profits compared to selling in their own country.

IMPACT OF POVERTY

DRUG ROUTES IN MEXICO





IMPACT OF POVERTY

U.S.-backed efforts to inhibit regional drug **trafficking**, such as the **Central American Regional Security Initiative** (CARSI) and Plan Columbia, have only been marginally successful against Drug Gangs.

Trafficking refers to the illegal smuggling of people or products (especially drugs or weapons).

Drug **gangs** create communities of fear where gangs are effectively in control.



IMPACT OF POVERTY

Organized crime—from extortion to corrupt acts by government officials—robs citizens of confidence in their ability to earn a livelihood and provide for their families.

Government **corruption** is also to blame for the failed attempts to fix **drug trafficking**.

Some **government** officials have been found working with various drug cartels of the Latin America.

A **cartel** is a group which dominates the trade of a specific product or service.

IMPACT OF POVERTY



Weapons confiscated
from one cartel!!!

IMPACT OF POVERTY

Tens of thousands of civilian casualties are associated with **narco-terrorism**.

Narco-terrorism is violent extremism associated with the illegal drug trade, particularly as related to cocaine or heroin.



IMPACT OF POVERTY



Many Cartels try to lure young civilians to join for the return of money. Sadly those who join have a higher death rate than those who join the Taliban in the Middle East.

IMPACT OF POVERTY

Between the war on **drugs** and the general lack of **economic** opportunities in the region, many **Latinos** have **emigrated** to the United States in search of safer living conditions and stable work environments.

Emigrate means to relocate to a new country for the purpose of employment.



Many Latinos go to desperate measures to try to get to the United States in search for a better lifestyle.

IMPACT OF POVERTY

Over the past 2 decades' illegal immigration along with drug trafficking, has occurred both through legal **naturalization** as well as **illegal** immigration via the nearly **2,000-mile** long U.S. Mexico border.



IMPACT OF POVERTY

Many Latino Americans apply for **Naturalization**.

Naturalization is the process by which a citizen of one country may become a legal citizen of another country.



These people became U.S. citizens through the legal process of naturalization.



IMPACT OF POVERTY

Government corruption, minimal **job** and **education** opportunities, and **narcotics**-driven **gang** violence has contributed to an unprecedented surge Latino Americans entering the U.S. via illegal and legal means.

Latinos at present make up the largest minority group in the United States.

IMPACT OF POVERTY

