5. Suggested Readings

Our listings are arranged by the chapter sequence in the text, which necessarily leads to overlap in coverage. Titles have been chosen to provide interesting, accessible, and profitable reading for novice students of modern Latin America. Only books in English are included, with an emphasis on recently published titles. Readers seeking more detail will find further leads in the suggested books.

Scholarly journals offer outstanding and up-to-date articles about the history, politics, and culture of Latin America. The *Hispanic American Historical Review* publishes studies on both the colonial and national periods. Noteworthy interdisciplinary journals include the *Journal of Latin American Studies, Latin American Research Review, Latin American Perspectives,* and *Latin American Research Review.* Several publications have a country-specific focus: *Cuban Studies,* *Luso-Brazilian Review,* and *Mexican Studies.* The journal *Latin American Politics and Society* concentrates on the social sciences, whereas *NACLA: Report on the Americas* offers analyses of contemporary issues. In addition, *Current History* devotes one issue per year to coverage of Latin American topics.

Several nongovernmental organizations produce regular on-line commentaries and syntheses of economic, political, and social issues facing Latin America. Among them are the Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA) and the Council on Hemispheric Affairs (COHA). A more extensive list of helpful websites can be found at the end of this section.
Part One. Questions and Contexts

Chapter 1. Why Latin America?


the Politics of (Re)Presentation in the United States (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1995).


Chapter 2. The Colonial Foundations


Part Two. Case Studies: Change over Time

Chapter 3. Mexico: The Taming of a Revolution


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**Chapter 4. Central America and the Caribbean: Within the U.S. Orbit**

The best starting point for understanding Central America is Ralph Lee Woodward, Jr., *Central America: A Nation Divided*, 3rd ed. (New York: Oxford University Press, 1999), which includes a lengthy guide to relevant scholarly and historical literature. For the modern period, see James Dunkerley, *Power in the Isthmus: A Political History of Modern Central America* (London: Verso, 1988), and his *The Pacification of Central America* (London: Verso, 1994), as


Nicaragua’s recent history has been dominated by the legacy of the Somoza dynasty, whose origins are depicted in Knut Walter, *The Regime of Anastasio Somoza, 1936–1956* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1993). Among the many books describing contemporary Nicaragua are Rose J. Spalding, *Capitalists and Revolution in Nicaragua:*


Among the classic works on Caribbean history is C. L. R. James, The Black Jacobins: Toussaint-L’Ouverture and the San Domingo Revolution, 2nd ed., rev. (New York: Vintage

**Chapter 5. Cuba: Key Colony, Socialist State**


**Chapter 6. The Andes: Soldiers, Oligarchs, and Indians**


Another recent and important socioeconomic influence on contemporary Peru has been international drug trafficking. In *Andean Cocaine: The Making of a Global Drug* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2008), Paul Gootenberg traces cocaine’s history from its origins as a medical commodity in the nineteenth century to its emergence as an illicit good.


Chapter 7. Colombia: Civility and Violence

Colombia has received less attention from U.S. scholars than have most other countries of the region, perhaps because it does not comply with preconceived stereotypes about Latin America. But it has a fascinating history, as shown by two excellent texts: David Bushnell, The Making of Modern Colombia: A Nation in Spite of Itself (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1993), a highly readable account of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and Frank Safford and Marco Palacios, Colombia: Fragmented Land, Divided Society (New York: Oxford University Press, 2002), with an emphasis on socioeconomic trends from the colonial era to the present.

Agrarian conflict is ably explored in Catherine Legrand, Frontier Expansion and Peasant Protest in Colombia, 1850–1936 (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1986), while


**Chapter 8. Venezuela: The Perils of Prosperity**


Hugo Chávez has emerged as one of Latin America’s most controversial leaders, and his rule has generated a plethora of studies on contemporary Venezuela. An excellent starting point is Steve Ellner, *Rethinking Venezuelan Politics: Class, Conflict, and the Chávez Phenomenon* (Boulder, Colo.: Lynne Rienner, 2008), which offers an insightful overview of the factors that led to Chávez’s multiple electoral victories and his ongoing popularity in the country. In *The Unraveling of Representative Democracy in Venezuela* (Baltimore, Md.: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2004), editors Jennifer L. McCoy and David J. Myers proffer multiple views on the collapse of traditional democracy and the rise of a new regime under Chávez. Veteran Venezuelan journalists Cristina Marcano and Alberto Barrera Tyszka present a balanced

Chapter 9. Argentina: Progress and Stalemate


One of the most persistent questions about Argentina is why such an economically developed country has been plagued by authoritarian regimes since 1945. The horrors of repression under the military government are given a stunning analysis in Diana Taylor, Disappearing Acts: Spectacles of Gender and Nationalism in Argentina’s “Dirty War” (Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press, 1997). A firsthand account of the killing under the military can be found in Horacio Verbitsky, The Flight: Confessions of an Argentine Dirty Warrior (New York: New Press, 1996).


Chapter 10. Chile: Repression and Democracy

Brian Loveman has produced a general history in Chile: The Legacy of Hispanic Capitalism, 3rd ed. (New York: Oxford University Press, 1999). For a rather different approach, see Simon


of relations between the United States and Chile is assessed in David R. Mares and Francisco Rojas, *The United States and Chile: Coming in Out of the Cold* (New York: Routledge, 2001).

**Chapter 11. Brazil: The Awakening Giant**


“Silent”: Opposition to the Brazilian Military Dictatorship in the United States, 1964–85


**Part Three. Themes and Reflections**

**Chapter 12. Strategies for Economic Development**


Scholars have paid close attention to the recent efforts of Latin American nations to achieve regional economic integration. Such works include Victor Bulmer-Thomas, ed., Regional Integration in Latin America and the Caribbean (London: Institute of Latin American Studies, 2001); Antoni Estevadeordal, et al., eds., Integrating the Americas: FTAA and Beyond (Cambridge, Mass.: David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies, Harvard University, 2004); and Philippe de Lombaerde, Antoni Estevadeordal, and Kati Suominen, eds., Governing Regional Integration for Development (Aldershot, U.K.: Ashgate, 2008).
Chapter 13. Dynamics of Political Transformation


Antonio Garretón, a leading sociologist, examines Chile as a case study for understanding the consolidation of democracy in Latin America.


Chapter 14. Culture and Society


The creation of national identities through literature is traced in Doris Sommer, *Foundational Fictions: The National Romances of Latin America* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1991). Jean Franco presents the political context of post–War War II literature in *The Decline and Fall of the Lettered City: Latin America in the Cold War* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2002). The interaction between art and popular culture is considered in


Soccer and baseball, two imported sports from outside the region, have become passionate pastimes for players and spectators alike. They have also shaped national identities throughout Latin America. On these and other recreational activities, see J. A. Mangan and Lamartine Pereira da Costa, *Sport in Latin American Society: Past and Present* (London: Frank Cass, 2001) and Joseph Arbeta and David G. LaFrance, *Sport in Latin America and the Caribbean* (Wilmington, Del.: Scholarly Resources, 2002).
