
The History & Culture of Ecuador



Friday, September 22, 2006

4.170/4.171

Pre-history to Colonization

- ◆ 16,000 – 18,000 yrs ago
 - First Native Americans arrive: Chorrera, Machalilla, Bahia, La Tolita, Tuncahuan, etc.
- ◆ 1463
 - Inca warrior Pachacuti & his son Topa Yupanqui begin conquering Ecuador
- ◆ 1531
 - Spanish conquistadors under Francisco Pizarro arrive
 - “Encomienda” labor system
- ◆ 1563
 - Quito becomes the seat of a royal audiencia (administrative district) of Spain (Audience of Quito)

Struggle for Independence

- ◆ July 1808
 - Napoleon invades Spain, places brother on the Spanish throne
 - Creole resentment of peninsulares
- ◆ August 10, 1809
 - Quito's leading citizens set up a Junta & seize power
- ◆ August 1810
 - Quito governed by a Creole junta
- ◆ December 1811
 - Junta declares independence, but rebellion is crushed

Struggle for Independence

- ◆ October 1820
 - Guayaquil junta declares independence
 - Simon Bolivar Palacios (Venezuelan) & Jose de San Martin (Argentine)
- ◆ May 24, 1822
 - Victory at the Battle of Pichincha, but Quito becomes part of Colombia & Guayaquil is annexed
- ◆ May 1830
 - State of Ecuador constitution
 - General Juan Jose Flores

Struggle for Stability

- ◆ 1830s-1940s
 - Rise & end of cocoa boom leads to instability
- ◆ 1948-1960s
 - Growth of banana industry leads to prosperity & peace
- ◆ 1970s
 - Discovery of oil in the Amazon
 - Industrialization, land reform
- ◆ 1981
 - Paquisha Incident, Peru/Ecuador border dispute
 - Economic crisis: inflation, mounting debt, etc.

Struggle for Stability

- ◆ 1984
 - President introduces free-market economic policies, pursues close relations with US
 - Kidnapping by military
- ◆ March 1987
 - Earthquake worsens economic problems
- ◆ 1988
 - Ecuador opened to foreign trade, fight against terrorism
- ◆ 1992
 - Modernization initiatives
 - Vice president flees country on corruption charges

Struggle for Stability

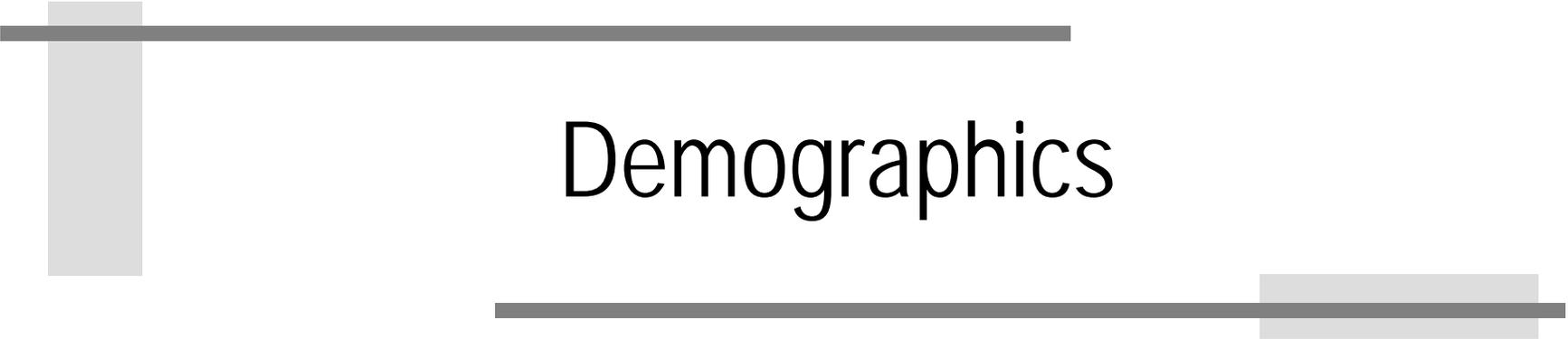
- ◆ 1996
 - President deposed for alleged mental incompetence
- ◆ June 5, 1998
 - New constitution drafted
- ◆ October 26, 1998
 - Peace w/ Peru
 - Dollarization – lower classes lose, upper classes win
- ◆ January 21, 2000
 - Demonstrators enter National Assembly and declare a 3 person junta in charge of the country

Struggle for Stability

- ◆ January 15, 2003
 - Retired Colonel Lucio Gutierrez (member of junta) becomes president
- ◆ April 2005
 - President Gutierrez is overthrown after unconstitutionally dissolving the Supreme Court (and appointing new judges)
 - Ecuadorian Armed Forces “withdraws support” & Gutierrez flees

Politics

- ◆ Presidential Representative Democratic Republic
 - Executive – President Alfredo Palacio
 - 4 yr Presidential term
 - Legislative
 - 100 member Congress
 - Judicial
- ◆ Factionalism
- ◆ Weak Party discipline
- ◆ Strong indigenous population (since 1996)



Demographics

- ◆ 65% Mestizos (mixed Spanish & Amerindian)
- ◆ 25% Amerindians
- ◆ 7% Criollos (unmixed descendants of Spanish colonists)
- ◆ Afro-Ecuadorians, migrants from Peru & Colombia

Education

- ◆ Not tuition-free, but mandatory from ages 6-14
 - In rural areas, only 1/3 complete 6th grade
- ◆ Enrollment in primary schools increasing 4.4% per year (faster than population growth)
- ◆ Public universities have open admissions policy
 - Budget shortages, over population & extreme politicization has led to recent decline

Interesting Points

- ◆ January 2, 1980
 - China & Ecuador formally establish diplomatic relations
- ◆ In 100 yrs, shift from the Sierra (central highlands) to the Costa (coastal lowlands)
- ◆ There is tension & dislike b/t residents of Quito and Guayaquil
- ◆ Ecuador's official motto until 1999:
 - "El Ecuador ha sido, es y sera Pais Amazonico"

Ecuador vs. United States

- ◆ Population: 13,547,510
 - ◆ Age Structure:
 - 0-14 yrs: 33%
 - 15-64 yrs: 61.9%
 - 65+ yrs: 5%
 - ◆ Median Age
 - Total: 23.6 yrs
 - Male: 23.1 yrs
 - Female: 24 yrs
 - ◆ Population Growth Rate
 - 1.5%
- ◆ Population: 298,444,215
 - ◆ Age Structure:
 - 0-14 yrs: 20.4%
 - 15-64 yrs: 67.2%
 - 65+ yrs: 12.5%
 - ◆ Median Age
 - Total: 36.5 yrs
 - Male: 35.1 yrs
 - Female: 37.8 yrs
 - ◆ Population Growth Rate
 - .91%

Ecuador vs. United States

- ◆ Birth Rate: 22.29/1000
 - ◆ Death Rate: 4.23/1000
 - ◆ NMR: -3.11/1000
 - ◆ Life Expectancy: 76.42
 - ◆ HIV/AIDS: 0.3%
 - ◆ Religion: 95% Roman Catholic
 - ◆ Literacy: 92.5%
- ◆ Birth Rate: 14.14/1000
 - ◆ Death Rate: 8.26/1000
 - ◆ NMR: 3.18/1000
 - ◆ Life Expectancy: 77.85
 - ◆ HIV/AIDS: 0.6%
 - ◆ Religion: 24% Roman Catholic
 - ◆ Literacy: 99%



Culture

- ◆ Family structure
 - Importance of family
 - Civil Marriage, Religious Marriage, Free Union
- ◆ Sports
 - Soccer: Ecuador reached knock-out round in Germany
 - Volleyball
 - Bull fighting
 - Fishing

Culture

◆ Food

- Costenos: fish, beans, plantains
- Serranos: meat, rice, potatoes
- Patacones: unripe plantains fried in oil, mashed, refried
- Llapingachos: potato tortillas
- Seco de chivo: goat stew
- Beef jerky from *charqui* (Quechua)

◆ Language

- Spanish
- Kichwa (Ecuadorian dialect of Quechua)