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978-0-521-29070-8 - Economic Development of Latin America: Historical
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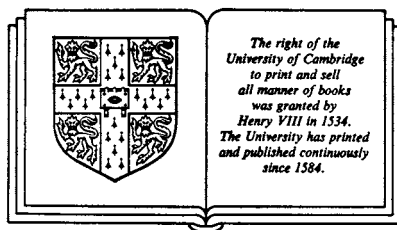
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CELSO FURTADO
Translated by Suzette Macedo



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To my students at the University of Paris

A meus alunos da Universidade de Paris

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PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION

The success of the first edition of this book¹ confirmed my impression that there was a growing interest, both in University circles and among the general public, in Latin American economic issues and in interpretations of these issues originating from within the region itself.

This new edition has been kept more or less to the same length as the first, but many chapters have been extensively rewritten to give greater depth to the study of the institutional framework which is the basis of the structural matrix prevailing in the region, as well as to include up to date information on recent economic developments.

In the six years since the first edition was written, Latin America has emerged from a phase of slackening economic growth to enter an expansionary cycle comparable to that of the first half of the 1950s. Moreover, there has been an intensification of the effort to bring about structural change, particularly in the agrarian sector; at the same time, new economic policy *models* have been introduced, and the ideological bases of these policies have been widened.

The richness of Latin America's historical experience, stemming from a wide variety of situations, which cover the full range of contemporary underdevelopment and the entire spectrum of ideological approaches, accounts for the interest which the region arouses in the so-called developed countries as well as in the countries of the Third World. One of my intentions is to stimulate this interest in Latin American realities and in the view of these realities that has been emerging in the region.

It would be impractical to list all the names of the many individuals whose ideas have helped to form the view of Latin America which this book seeks to communicate. In any case, it is a view developed by writers contemporary with the realities they write of, and I claim no more than to be one of the interpreters of this contemporary generation.

Sao Paulo

C.F.

¹ Spanish, French and English translations came out one year after the publication of the original in 1969; Italian, Swedish and Japanese translations followed in the next two years.

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PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION

The study of the economic development of the Latin American countries has been attracting increasing interest, both in Europe and in the United States and in the countries of the Third World generally. An independent political life, which began practically at the same time as the Industrial Revolution, and an even longer experience of the international division of labour system as exporters of raw materials, single out this group of countries from among the now numerous family of nations with so-called underdeveloped economies. To these reasons must be added the growing awareness that, to a greater extent in Latin America than in any other important areas, obstacles to development are mainly of an institutional nature, a circumstance that makes it doubly difficult to try to identify evolutionary trends in the region. Moreover, the problems posed by economic development at its present stage are leading Latin American peoples to see their situation in more truthful terms and to value those aspects that constitute the features of a common cultural personality.

This book was written with the dual purpose of helping students outside the area to form some idea of the socio-economic profile of the region and of contributing to the provision of a wider perspective for studies of the development of individual Latin American countries. In seeking to avoid dealing with each country in isolation – which would be to ignore the existence of a cultural reality in process of becoming homogeneous – I have also tried to avoid giving the false impression that there is a Latin American *economic system*, which would be the result of manipulating aggregate data for the region as a whole. So far as possible, each country is dealt with as an autonomous economic reality, whose experience, at a given historical moment, can be regarded as typical of regional evolutionary trends.

C.F.

Paris, April 1969

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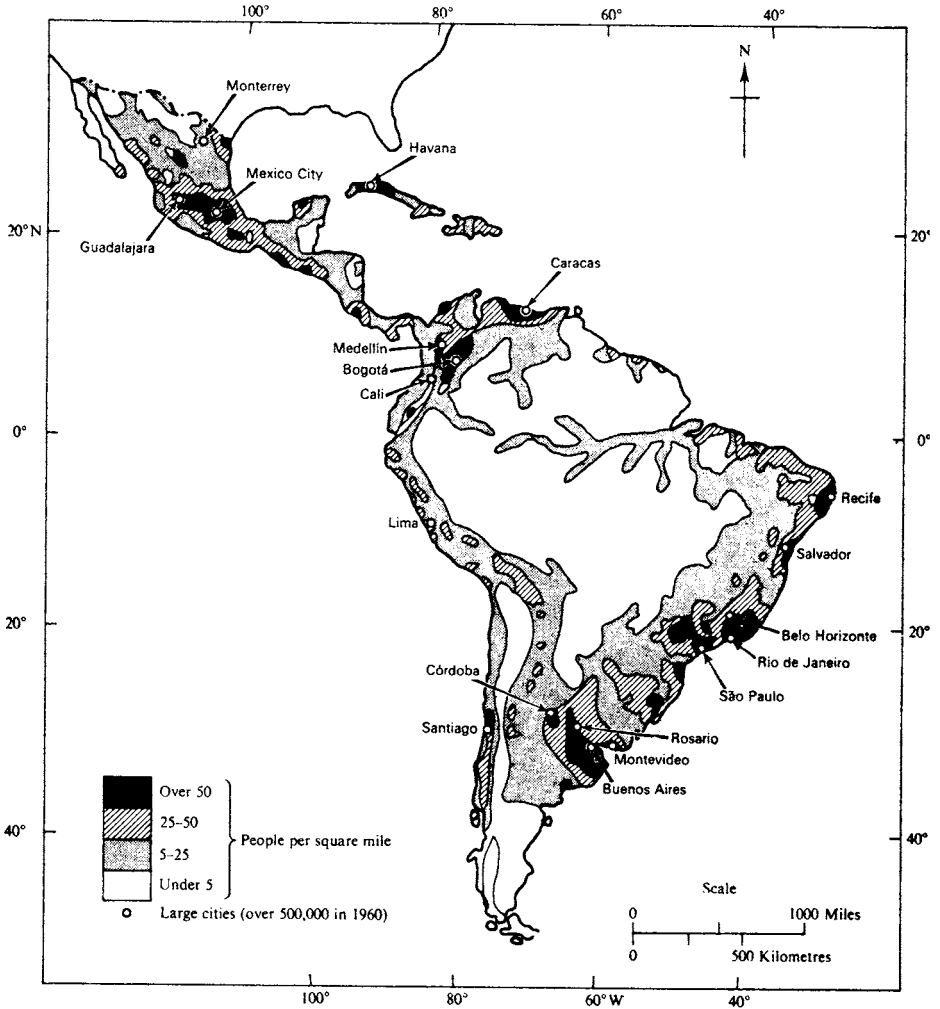
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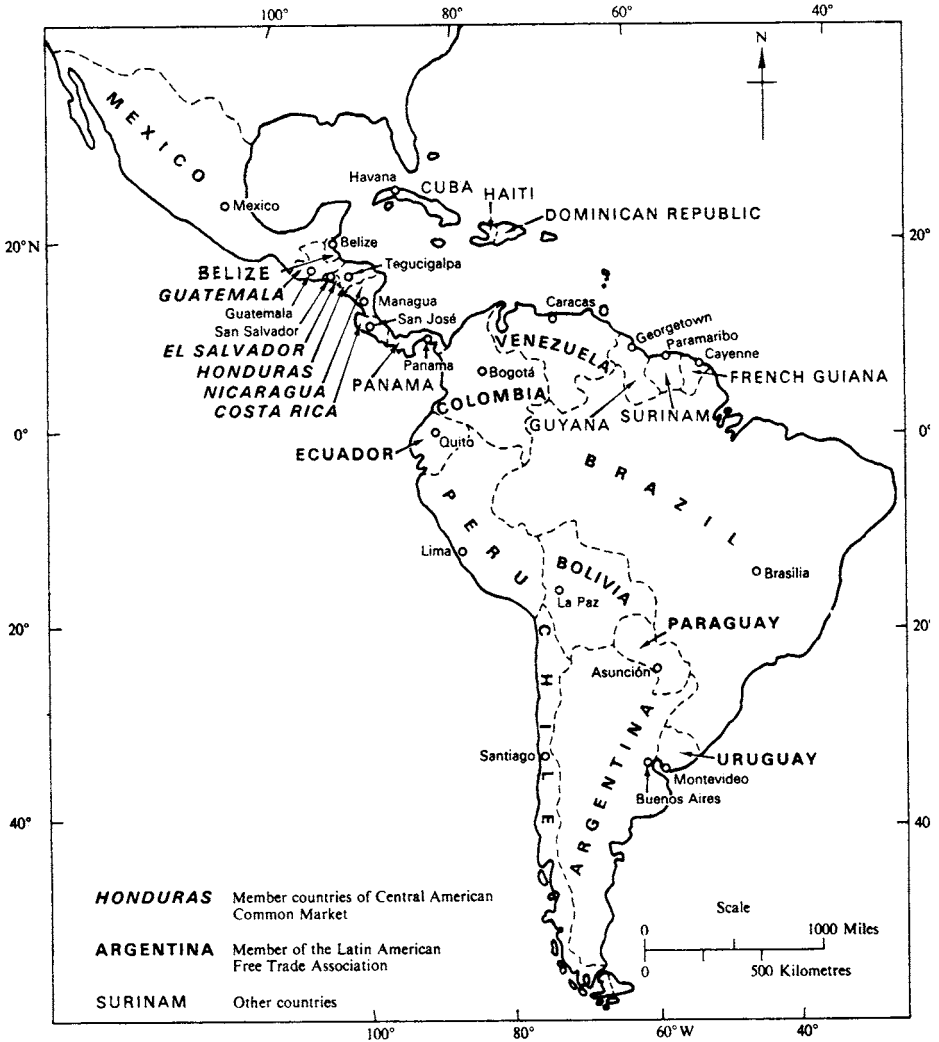
BNDE	Banco Nacional de Desenvolvimento Economico
CIDA	Interamerican Committee for Agricultural Development
ECLA	United Nations, Economic Commission for Latin America
FAO	United Nations, Food and Agriculture Organisation
IDB	Interamerican Development Bank
IMF	International Monetary Fund
INTAL	Instituto para la Integración de América Latina
LAFTA	Latin American Free Trade Area

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Map A *Latin America: population distribution*

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Map B *Latin America: political divisions*