THE CAMBRIDGE HISTORY OF
LATIN AMERICA

VOLUME X

Latin America since 1930:
Ideas, culture and society
THE CAMBRIDGE HISTORY OF LATIN AMERICA

VOLUME I  Colonial Latin America
VOLUME II  Colonial Latin America
VOLUME III  From Independence to c.1870
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THE CAMBRIDGE HISTORY OF LATIN AMERICA

VOLUME X

Latin America since 1930
Ideas, Culture and Society

edited by

LESLIE BETHELL
Emeritus Professor of Latin American History
University of London
and
Senior Research Fellow
St. Antony’s College, Oxford
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GENERAL PREFACE

Since *The Cambridge Modern History*, edited by Lord Acton, appeared in sixteen volumes between 1902 and 1912 multi-volume Cambridge Histories, planned and edited by historians of established reputation, with individual chapters written by leading specialists in their fields, have set the highest standards of collaborative international scholarship. *The Cambridge Modern History* was followed by *The Cambridge Ancient History*, *The Cambridge Medieval History* and others. The *Modern History* has been replaced by *The New Cambridge Modern History* in fourteen volumes. *The Cambridge Economic History of Europe* and Cambridge Histories of Iran, of Southeast Asia and of Africa have been published; in progress are Histories of China, of Japan, of India and of Latin America.

Cambridge University Press decided the time was ripe to embark on a Cambridge History of Latin America early in the 1970s. Since the Second World War and particularly since 1960 research and writing on Latin American history had been developing, and have continued to develop, at an unprecedented rate – in the United States (by American historians in particular, but also by British, European and Latin American historians resident in the United States), in Britain and continental Europe, and increasingly in Latin America itself (where a new generation of young professional historians, many of them trained in the United States, Britain or continental Europe, had begun to emerge). Perspectives had changed as political, economic and social realities in Latin America – and Latin America’s role in the world – had changed. Methodological innovations and new conceptual models drawn from the social sciences (economics, political science, historical demography, sociology, anthropology) as well as from other fields of historical research were increasingly being adopted by historians of Latin America. The Latin American Studies monograph series and the *Journal of Latin American Studies* had already been established by
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the Press and were beginning to publish the results of this new historical thinking and research.

Dr. Leslie Bethell, then Reader in Hispanic American and Brazilian History at University College London, accepted an invitation to edit The Cambridge History of Latin America. He was given sole responsibility for the planning, co-ordination and editing of the entire History and began work on the project in the late 1970s.

The Cambridge History of Latin America, to be published in ten volumes, is the first large-scale, authoritative survey of Latin America’s unique historical experience during the five centuries since the first contacts between the native American Indians and Europeans (and the beginnings of the African slave trade) in the late fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries. (The Press will publish separately a three-volume Cambridge History of the Native Peoples of the Americas — North, Middle and South — which will give proper consideration to the evolution of the region’s peoples, societies and civilizations, in isolation from the rest of the world, during several millennia before the arrival of the Europeans, as well as a fuller treatment than will be found here of the history of the indigenous peoples of Latin America under European colonial rule and during the national period to the present day.) Latin America is taken to comprise the predominantly Spanish- and Portuguese-speaking areas of continental America south of the United States — Mexico, Central America and South America — together with the Spanish-speaking Caribbean — Cuba, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic — and, by convention, Haiti. (The vast territories in North America lost to the United States by treaty and by war, first by Spain, then by Mexico, during the first half of the nineteenth century are for the most part excluded. Neither the British, French and Dutch Caribbean islands nor the Guianas are included, even though Jamaica and Trinidad, for example, have early Hispanic antecedents and are now members of the Organization of American States.) The aim is to produce a high-level synthesis of existing knowledge which will provide historians of Latin America with a solid base for future research, which students of Latin American history will find useful and which will be of interest to historians of other areas of the world. It is also hoped that the History will contribute more generally to a deeper understanding of Latin America through its history in the United States, Europe and elsewhere and, not least, to a greater awareness of its own history in Latin America.

The volumes of The Cambridge History of Latin America have been published in chronological order: Volumes I and II (Colonial Latin Amer-
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Arica, with an introductory section on the native American peoples and civilizations on the eve of the European invasion) were published in 1984; Volume III (From Independence to c. 1870) in 1985; Volumes IV and V (c. 1870 to 1930) in 1986. The publication of volumes VI–X (1930 to the present) began in 1990. Each volume or set of volumes examines a period in the economic, social, political, intellectual and cultural history of Latin America.

While recognizing the decisive impact on Latin America of external forces, of developments within the world system, and the fundamental importance of its economic, political and cultural ties first with Spain and Portugal, then with Britain, France and Germany and finally with the United States, The Cambridge History of Latin America emphasizes the evolution of internal structures. Furthermore, the emphasis is clearly on the modern period, that is to say, the period since the establishment of all but two (Cuba and Panama) of the independent Latin American states during the first decades of the nineteenth century. The eight volumes of the History devoted to the nineteenth and twentieth centuries consist of a mixture of general, comparative chapters built around major themes in Latin American history and chapters on the individual histories of the twenty independent Latin American countries (plus Puerto Rico).

An important feature of the History is the bibliographical essays which accompany each chapter. These give special emphasis to books and articles which have appeared since Charles C. Griffin (ed.), Latin America: A Guide to the Historical Literature (published for the Conference on Latin American History by the University of Texas Press in 1971). Griffin's Guide was prepared between 1962 and 1969 and included few works published after 1966. All the essays from Volumes I–X of The Cambridge History of Latin America — where necessary revised, expanded and updated (to c. 1992) — are brought together in a single bibliographical volume, Volume XI, published in 1995.
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The Cambridge History of Latin America Volumes I and II began with a survey of native American peoples and civilizations on the eve of the European ‘discovery’, conquest and settlement of the ‘New World’ in the late fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries, but were largely devoted to the economic, social, political, intellectual and cultural history of Latin America under Spanish and (in the case of Brazil) Portuguese colonial rule from the sixteenth to the eighteenth centuries. Volume III examined the breakdown and overthrow of colonial rule throughout Latin America (except Cuba and Puerto Rico) at the beginning of the nineteenth century and the economic, social and political history of the independent Spanish American republics and the independent Empire of Brazil during the half century from c.1820 to c.1870/80. Volumes IV and V concentrated on the half century from c.1870/80 to 1930 – for most of Latin America a ‘Golden Age’ of predominantly export-led economic growth as the region became more fully incorporated into the expanding international economy and a period of material prosperity (at least for the dominant classes), significant social change (both rural and urban), political stability (with some notable exceptions such as Mexico during the revolution), ideological consensus (at least until the 1920s), and notable achievements in intellectual and cultural life.

Volumes VI–X of The Cambridge History of Latin America are devoted to Latin America during the six decades from 1930 to c.1990. Volume VI (published in 1994 – in two Parts) brings together general essays on major themes in the economic, social and political history of the region as a whole: the fourfold increase in population (from 110 to 450 million); the impact of the 1929 Depression and the Second World War on the Latin American economies; the second ‘Golden Age’ of economic growth (1950–80), this time largely ISI (import substitution industrialization)-
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led, followed, however, by the so-called ‘lost decade’ of the 1980s; rapid urbanization (less than 20 per cent of Latin America’s population was classified as urban in 1930, almost 70 per cent in 1990) and urban social change; the transformation of agrarian structures; the development of state organization and, in the 1980s, the beginnings of ‘state shrinkage’; the advance of (as well as the setbacks suffered by) democracy in Latin America; the (few) successes and (many) failures of the Latin American left, both democratic and non-democratic; the military in Latin American politics: military interventions and coups, military regimes, and the problem of transition to civilian rule; the urban working class and urban labour movements; rural mobilizations and rural violence; changes in the economic, social and political role of women; and, finally, the persistence of the Catholic church as a major force in political as well as religious and social life throughout the region, and the rapidly growing Protestant churches. Volume VII (published in 1990) is a history of Mexico, the five Central American republics (Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Costa Rica), Panama and the Panama Canal Zone, the Hispanic Caribbean (Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic) and Haiti. Volume VII (published in 1991) is a history of the nine republics of Spanish South America (Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, Chile, Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador, Colombia and Venezuela). Volume IX (now the only volume still in progress) will be a history of Brazil and of Latin America’s international relations – predominantly relations with Britain, continental Europe (in particular Germany), and above all the United States. Volume X is devoted to the history of ideas and culture in Latin America since c. 1920 (which is for this volume a more appropriate starting point than 1930).

The Cambridge History of Latin America Volume X, Latin America since 1930: Ideas, Culture and Society opens with a long chapter – the longest of any in the entire History – by Richard Morse that explores the ‘multiverse of identity’ (both national and regional identity) in Latin America from the 1920s to the 1960s through the writings of novelists, essayists, philosophers, historians and sociologists. It should be read alongside the chapters on economic ideas and ideologies in Latin America since 1930 (by Joseph Love) and science and society in twentieth century Latin America (by Thomas Glick) already published in CHLA Volume VI Part 1, as well as the chapters that immediately follow it in this volume, those by Gerald Martin on Latin American narrative, by Jaime Concha and by Jason Wilson on Latin American poetry, and by Gordon Brotherston on
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indigenous literatures and cultures. The volume also includes chapters on Latin American music (for the most part 'art music', but with a note on popular music) by Gerard Béhague, on Latin American architecture by Damián Bayón, and on Latin American art also by Damián Bayón. It concludes with chapters on the history of the Latin American cinema by John King and on the history of radio and television (the mass media) in Latin America by Elizabeth Fox. The early sections of some of the chapters in this volume to some extent overlap with the later sections of Gerald Martin’s chapter on the literature, music and art (and early cinema) of Latin America from 1870 to 1930 in CHLA Volume IV.

Like Volume VI, this volume was an unusually long time in the writing and editing. Some chapters were commissioned more than a decade and a half ago. Many have been extensively revised and rewritten over the years. I am grateful to the authors of these chapters for their patience, especially Richard Morse. His chapter was one of the first ever to be discussed (on the beach at Leblon in Rio de Janeiro sometime in the late 1970s, as he cruelly likes to remind me) and is one of the last to be published. Gordon Brotherston, on the other hand, accepted an invitation to contribute a chapter when the rest of the volume was already largely written. John King generously agreed to write the chapter on cinema when Julianne Burton was forced to withdraw. Jason Wilson at a late stage agreed not only to contribute a chapter on poetry after 1950 (to complement Jaime Concha’s chapter on poetry in the first half of the twentieth century) but also to supply the bibliographical essay that accompanies both. Sadly, Damián Bayón died during the final stages of the editing of the volume.

A conference held at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Washington, D.C. in May 1986 offered an early opportunity for a number of contributors to CHLA Volume X to present preliminary drafts of their chapters to each other and to a group of distinguished non-contributors. I am grateful to Richard Morse, Director of the Wilson Center’s Latin American Program at the time and himself a contributor to the volume, for the support he gave in the organization of this conference. It was, like the conference on CHLA Volume VI held at the University of California, San Diego earlier in the same year, in part funded by the Tinker Foundation.

Several contributors to this volume – four British (two resident in the United States), three North American, one Chilean (resident in the United States) and one Argentine (resident in France) – commented on the chapters of their colleagues. I am especially grateful in this respect to Richard
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Morse, Gerald Martin and John King. James Dunkerley, who served as an associate editor on CHLA Volumes VII and VIII, offered support and encouragement in the editing of Volume X as well as Volume VI.

Secretarial assistance was provided by Hazel Aitken at the Institute of Latin American Studies, University of London (in the period 1987–1992) and Linnea Cameron at the Department of History, University of Chicago (in 1992–93).