

Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Venezuela

Brazil

Capital: Brasília

Population: 150,000,000

GDP/capita: 10,100 (2006)

1960s-1970s = huge industrial growth, after that Brazil became the world's greatest debtor.

- *Mining of gold and iron* = main industries => deforestation of rainforests in Amazon
- *coffee, minerals and cars* are exported the most
- the industrial triangle = Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo and Belo Horizonte
- enormous social polarity = few rich landowners and businessmen vs. poor rural population
- *corruption* is still the main problem in the society
- *Brazilian carnivals* = street parties, contests for the best costumes, etc. (Rio de Janeiro)
- *Green fuel* = ethanol from fermented sugar cane, cheaper and less polluting, 1/3 of all the cars run on this alternative fuel.

Argentina

Capital: Buenos Aires

Population: 38,000,000

GDP/capita: 13,000 (2007)

Buenos Aires = almost 30% of the Argentinians live in or near the capital, important harbour (portenos)

- 1914 – about 2 million people went to start a new life in Argentina to run escape from the poverty in southern Europe (Italy)
- *Falkland Islands* – occupied by Spain in 1800s (Islas Malvinas), invaded by Britain, Argentinian invasion was repelled and the UK has a military garrison there since 1982
- *Tierra del Fuego* – (1520) Magellan saw fires lit by the Fuegian Indians, windswept, wet and glacial valleys
- *gauchos* = cowboys of pampas, self-reliant, tough, legendary heroes, symbols of Argentina
- *tango* = traditional dance

Chile

Capital: Santiago de Chile

Population: 15,500,000

GDP/capita: 12,800 (2006)

= *the longest and the thinnest country* of the world, the greatest producer of *copper* in the world

- since the end of cruel military dictatorship that lasted from 1973-1990 (Pinochet), the country has a stable political life
- *Santiago de Chile* + *Valparaíso* = the greatest population clusters
- *Punta Arenas* = the southernmost city of the world, Antarctic research + fishing
- *Chilean wine* ⇔ one of the best vineyards on the American continent

Venezuela

Capital: Caracas

Population: 25,000,000

GDP/capita: 12,800 (2007)

= country of immense natural wealth, however many people live in shantytowns

- *Caracas* = modern city (4 mil.), glass architecture, extensive highway and subway system
- oil = it has transformed Venezuela from 1 of the poorest to the 1 of the wealthiest countries
- *Chávez* = communist regime => public services have been neglected
- Very young population – 8,000,000 people are younger than 15.

Keywords

debtor, social polarity, carnivals, ethanol, sugar cane, gauchos, copper, oil, Pinochet, Chávez