

Geography of the world

Latin America

- ▶ = Central America (mainland + Caribbean countries) and South America
- ▶ **South America**
- ▶ = dominated by the Andes and tropical/equatorial rainforests.
- ▶ Main features
- ▶ *extremes of wealth and poverty* (Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Venezuela, etc.)
- ▶ *overcrowded cities* (notably in Brazil and Argentina majority of population lives in cities)
- ▶ *illegal drugs trade* (cocaine in Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia ⇔ growing of coca is more profitable than growing food)
- ▶ **Venezuela**
- ▶ = little Venice (Venezia) – by Amerigo Vespucci (1499), Angel Falls (world's highest – 980 m)
- ▶ *oil wealth* => great social polarity (rich vs. poor people living in shantytowns)
- ▶ vast *deforestation* of rainforest (where native tribes live)
- ▶ **Colombia**
- ▶ *oil, coal and nickel reserves* + emeralds
- ▶ growing of *coffee, sugar-cane*, bananas, cotton
- ▶ export of *cocaine* (to US, CAN, EU)
- ▶ **Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia**
- ▶ = Andean countries
- ▶ *agriculture and fishing* = important in Ecuador and Peru
- ▶ *Cotopaxi* volcano (5,897 m) = 1 of the world's tallest active volcanoes
- ▶ lake *Titicaca* = largest lake of South America – located in very high altitude (3,810 m)
- ▶ *Machu Picchu* = lost city of the Incas (remains of temples + homes)
- ▶ *Bolivia* = inland, mountainous country with many native Indians (>50%), wealth of tin, silver, lead
- ▶ **Brazil**
- ▶ = world's major producer and exporter of *coffee* + sugar-cane, cotton and cocoa plantations.
- ▶ = largest country in SA (147 mil.), Roman Catholics and Portuguese language (the only 1 in SA) with very poor rural population => migration to cities (to find a job)
- ▶ *slums* (favelas) in suburbs of large cities, e.g. Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro and Belo Horizonte = main industrial centres (URB = 80%)

- ▶ Amazon – the most important *waterway* (shipping to Manaus), rainforest = area of AUS
- ▶ large foreign (international) *debts*
- ▶ modern city of capital *Brasília* (built in late 1950s)
- ▶ 1/3 of all Brazil cars run on the “green fuel” = ethanol
- ▶ **Chile, Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay**
- ▶ = 1/2 of the continents total area, region of great land contrasts (climate, relief)
- ▶ Many European immigrants (Italians, Spanish, Germans) came here during 1860s-1930s.
- ▶ *pampas* in Paraná and Paraguay lowlands (mainly in Argentina)
- ▶ Chile = dictatorship of Pinochet, nowadays relatively stable political and economic situation
- ▶ Chile = world’s largest producer and exporter of *copper*
- ▶ *cattle and sheep ranching* in Paraguay and Uruguay
- ▶ *Itaipú dam* on Paraná river in Paraguay = 1 of the largest in the world