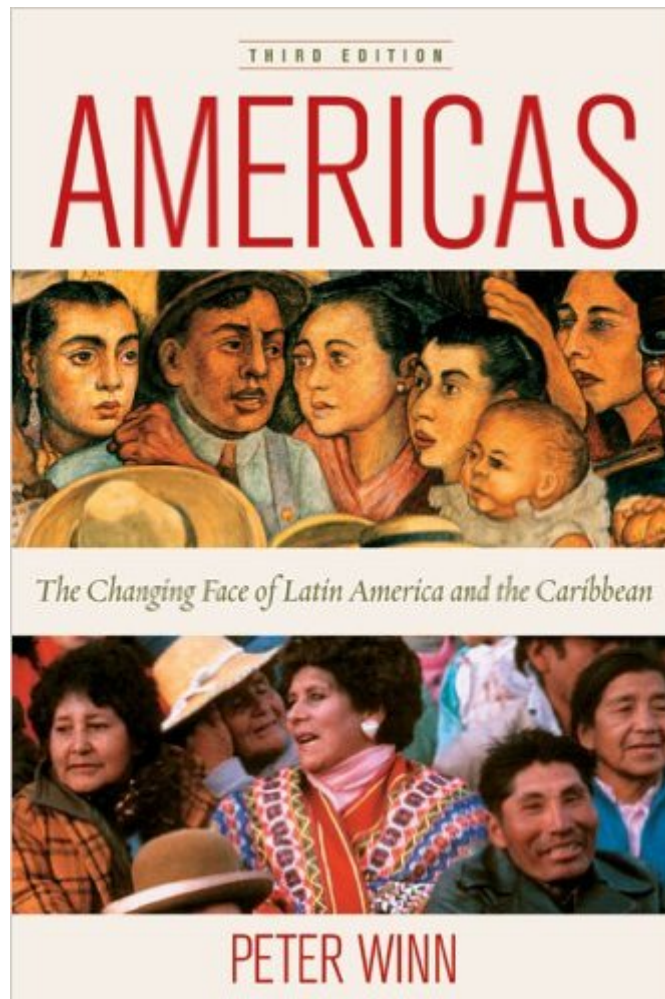


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Americas: The Changing Face Of Latin America And The Caribbean, 3rd Edition



Synopsis

Stunning in its sweep, *Americas* is the most authoritative history available of contemporary Latin America and the Caribbean. From Mexico to Tierra del Fuego, and from Cuba to Trinidad and Tobago, *Americas* examines the historical, demographic, political, social, cultural, religious, and economic trends in the region. For this new edition Peter Winn has provided a new preface and made revisions throughout to include the most up-to-date information on changes and developments in Latin America since the last revised edition of 1999.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Americas by Peter Winn is a massive (600 page) overview of Latin America and the Caribbean, a good introduction to the region for those unfamiliar with it. While a bit dry at times, it is nonetheless informative and interesting. The first chapter introduces the region to the reader and provides a few interesting facts. The author noted for instance that the region is far from Spanish-speaking only; while over 300 million (in 1992) speak Spanish, there are 150 million Portuguese speakers, English, Dutch, and French is also spoken in the Caribbean and northeastern South America, as well as five major indigenous languages or language groups (Nahuatl, the language of the Aztecs, by over one million people, over 2 million speakers of the various Mayan languages, 8 million speakers of Quechua, the language of the Incas, half a million speakers of the highland language of the Aymara, and large numbers of Guaraní speakers in Paraguay). The second chapter discusses the legacy of colonial times, focusing particularly on the legacy of Spain's New World empire. Much of the region was shaped by Spain's division of the region under viceroys and "mini-viceroyalties" (which provided the

territorial basis of most of today's republics), its people's intermarriage with people of different races (which they called castas and are today called mestizo - mixed Amerindian and European - and mulatto - mixed African and European), the Church's coming to terms with indigenous religions (as a "social safety valve and an aid to conversion," producing a complex layering of beliefs), and (along with the Portuguese in Brazil), the planting of labor-intensive crops like sugar that required the importation of African slaves.

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