



## NEOCOLONIALISM

### Definition

Neo (new) + colonialism

political independence, but economically, still like the colonial days (along with military interventions from the US)

exports: raw materials, just like in colonial days

Between 1850 and 1910, Latin American exports increased by a factor of 10; from \$155 million to \$1.6 billion a year.

**Often, Latin American economies would depend on one or two main exports.** In the pre-World War I era, 71% of Chile's exports were nitrates (used for fertilizer); coffee made up over half the exports from both Brazil and Venezuela.

**liberals came to power in later 1800s**

### stability

Mexico had a constitution in 1857 that lasted for 60 years. Argentina in 1853 had a constitution that has been in effect ever since, apart from the regime of Juan Peron from 1949-1955.

Brazil had one in 1824, another in 1891, and the next in 1934.

What drove the increased stability of the Neocolonial period?

By WWI, the US was the major importer of Latin American exports, and major source for Latin American imports. Increased American investment drove US military intervention into Latin American politics.

Elites increased shares of land ownership: by 1910, 800 wealthy *hacendados* owned 90% of the rural land. 96 million acres, one fifth of the entire country, was owned by only 17 people.

Decreased living standards for Latin American poor: by the pre-WWI era, the poor in Mexico could only buy one-fourth the amount of corn, that their ancestors could buy a century earlier.