

Foreign Relations between Latin America and the Caribbean States, 1930–1944

This collection sheds light on the interactions between Central American and South American countries in a volatile period of revolution and social change.

- Date Range: 1930-1944
- Content: 105,704 pages
- Source Library: U.S. National Archives



Originally microfilmed as *Records of the Department of State relating to Political Relations, Latin America and the Caribbean States, 1930–1944*, this collection provides unique perspectives for the study of international relations.

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The documents in this collection focus on significant events, people and political movements, including:

Fascism and Falangism. The rise of Fascism and Falangism was due in large part to the success of the Franco revolution in Spain and Italian fascist propaganda. In particular, Getúlio Vargas of Brazil, a supporter of the movement, imitated the Italian government's fascist program

Worldwide Depression. During the Great Depression, the region was challenged to find capital to finance external commerce, pay for imports and service the foreign debt. The combination of severe balance-of-payments difficulties, budget deficits and the dwindling gold reserves led governments to suspend or default on payments to foreign bondholders.

Chaco War. The Chaco War (1932–1935), fought between Bolivia and Paraguay, was the bloodiest international conflict fought in the Americas during the 20th century. At stake: control of the northern part of the Gran Chaco region of South America – a region incorrectly thought to be rich in oil.

Mexican Oil and Nationalization. In 1938 Mexican President Lázaro Cárdenas nationalized the petroleum industry. This monopoly led U.S. producers to lobby for an embargo on Mexican imports. But the U.S. government pressured the oil companies to come to terms with Mexico as a result of Pres. Roosevelt's Good Neighbor Policy and U.S. security needs arising from World War II.

Central America and the American Businessman.

The collection highlights the development of national politics, integration into the world economy, effects of foreign investment and political control exercised by various American businesses, in several Central American countries.

Good Neighbor Policy. As war clouds gathered abroad, Pres. Roosevelt instituted a dramatic shift in U.S./Latin American relations. No longer would armed intervention support American foreign policy goals or to prop up pro-American governments.

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