

500 YEARS OF HISPANIC HERITAGE - 1492-1992: A CULTURAL MOSAIC

PREFACE

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FOREWORD

On September 17, 1968, the United States Congress passed a joint resolution requesting that President Lyndon B. Johnson issue an annual proclamation designating the week of September 15 as National Hispanic Heritage Week. After twenty-one years, including nearly two years of lobbying Congress by Hispanic activists, the bill to change Hispanic Heritage Week to a month became effective January 1, 1989. (29:38) The theme for the 1991 celebration is, "500 Years of Hispanic Heritage, 1492-1992--A Cultural Mosaic."

This proclamation was a symbolic recognition of the major role assumed by Hispanic groups of the past and present, from early days of exploration and colonization of the Americas to the modern technological world of today as it approaches the 21st century. This document is dedicated to recognizing the many contributions of Hispanic citizens and their ancestors to this nation.

INTRODUCTION

Cultures within a culture. The United States of America is a "land of immigrants." The struggles of these groups of immigrants with economic hardship, ethnic stereotyping, and blatant discrimination, and the clashes between new and old world values are well documented segments of our history. Within the last several decades, new immigrations have permanently changed both the racial and ethnic composition of this country. The immigration from Mexico, and Central and South American countries, coupled with a relatively high birth rate, is increasing the number of Hispanics in this country so rapidly

that it is predicted that by the year 2020, this group will become the U.S.'s largest cultural minority, accounting for approximately 15 percent of the population.

America's face will not change through the "melting pot" approach, but through cultural pluralism. In the "melting pot," immigrants are Americanized through the educational system and other societal influences, giving up their old identity and replacing it with the values, perceptions, and customs of the new country. In the newer version of acculturation, cultural pluralism, an immigrant does not surrender ethnic and cultural identity in order to become an American. With this approach, America is viewed more realistically, with many diverse ethnic and cultural groups. This view recognizes that one of America's strengths is in its cultural diversity and that this diversity should not be denied but highly valued.

A MOSAIC: HISPANIC PEOPLE IN THE UNITED STATES

The word "mosaic" is defined as a surface decoration made by inlaying small pieces of variously colored material to form pictures or patterns. (42:773) The diversity among Hispanics in nationality, lifestyle, and interests indeed forms a unique and rich "mosaic" within the American picture.

Terminology to describe this "mosaic" of people is sometimes difficult to understand. The terms Hispanic, Spanish-origin, Spanish-speaking, Hispano, Hispanic-Americans, Spanish-Americans, Latinos/Latins, Latin-Americans, and others, have been used by a number of writers. Of these terms, the first three are used the most. The terms Hispanic and Spanish-origin are used by writers of government documents. Spanish-speaking lacks accuracy, because not all households identified use Spanish as their usual language. Overall, 80 percent of Hispanic persons live in households where Spanish is spoken in one of the 12 dialects. (15:16)

Moreover, the differences among the Hispanic groups themselves make the Hispanic community a very elusive and heterogeneous community. For example, the term "Hispanic" can apply to a first generation Guatemalan who has just arrived from Central America as well as to someone who lives where his ancestors have lived for centuries. In any case, Hispanics are citizens of the United States who trace their ancestry to Latin America and Spain. (44:10-11)

Why is it important to know about Hispanic Americans? First, Hispanic-Americans are often labeled as "one kind of people." That perception is stereotypical and is simply not a fact. American Hispanics are not a homogeneous group. Although united by a common language and origin in Spanish colonization, they maintain distinct ethnic groups. Each sub-group has its own proud and unique heritage; may be White, Black, Indian, or a mixture of races; has its own religion such as Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, African, or Indian spiritualist; reflects its own folklore, myths, holiday celebrations, artistic expressions, culinary specialities, style of dress, and social structure. Second, Hispanic-Americans should be understood as they really are and for the valuable contributions--people, places, and things--of lasting historical and cultural significance they continue to offer American culture. (13:3)

In addition, knowing something about the Hispanic culture is necessary if some level of true understanding, acceptance, and appreciation is to develop. Although it is interesting and enlightening to learn about the traditional and historical culture of the Hispanic-American, this publication will focus on the present day transition of Hispanics and other Americans as they adapt to the multiple ethnic society in the United States.

Though Hispanics are a prominent group in America, few of their contributions to American society are mentioned in most history texts. One possible reason is offered by a Hispanic researcher. According to Gary Archuleta, during the Mexican-American War, which started in 1846, and the Spanish-American War of 1898, propaganda was used to turn popular sentiment against the enemy. Hispanic people were characterized as notoriously criminal, "banditos," lazy, and stupid. A negative public image of Hispanic people was needed to justify the wars. The propaganda campaign was effective on two fronts: Americans believed it, but many Hispanic-Americans did as well, and they began to feel the negative stereotypes were true. This led to poor Hispanic self-images. Unfortunately, these stereotypes linger in society at large and may be factors in Hispanic school and employment dropouts. (45:359-360; 23:339-365)

MEXICAN-AMERICANS

The largest and oldest of the Hispanic groups in America is

the Mexican-Americans. Except for Native Americans, no other ethnic group can claim longer residence in America, accounting for over four centuries. (47:--)

Early inhabitants lived mainly in the Southwest (present day California, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, and Nevada). (48:xiii) The ancestors of a few present-day Mexican-Americans settled in this region, and one need only look at the names of states, cities, and towns (e.g., Los Angeles, San Diego, San Antonio) to understand the scope of their influence. Most of the present-day Mexican-American population derives from immigration from Mexico since the end of the Mexican-American War in 1848. (25:17-19)

Because of the strong connection to Mexico in the past and the continuing relationships that exist for Mexican-Americans, it is appropriate to briefly examine their unique culture and history.

By 1521, Hernando Cortez and his army conquered the Aztec Empire (Mexico) and took control of the land from the southern tip of South America to the southwest United States. It is estimated that 300,000 Spaniards came to Mexico during the following centuries of settlement. Many married or lived with Indian women and created a new nationality in the Americas. As the ruling group, the Spaniards imposed their religion and culture on the Indian nations, but many elements of the Indian culture survived and exerted a strong influence on Mexican culture. (5:279)

In 1810, the New World (Mexican/Indian) colonies began their revolt against Spain and gained independence by 1821. In 1824, California, New Mexico, and Arizona accepted the Mexican Constitution. However, in 1836, Texas revolted against Mexico and joined the United States, leading to war between the two countries. (13:8)

In 1848, the United States and Mexico signed the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, in which the United States acquired one-half of Mexico's territory. (13:8)

Over the years, hundreds of thousands of Mexican-Americans have overcome many forms of discrimination as they sought to improve their standard of living. Many found that the majority population was prejudiced against people who were largely of

Native American origin, were relatively poor, did not speak English, and were not familiar with a competitive and acquisitive society. (45:359-360)

Even after Mexican-Americans had established stable communities in the Southwest, and even though many had served in the armed forces during World War II and the Korean Conflict, degrees of misunderstanding and lack of acceptance continued. Many Mexican-Americans were decorated for bravery in World War II, and received the Medal of Honor. (55:52-57)

Ties that bind. There are many distinctions within this group, but what ties bind them and give them common identity and purpose? Pride in being of Mexican heritage is a uniting factor maintained through educational organizations. This pride in background receives further support through Spanish-language radio and television programs, newspapers, and magazines as well as Mexican-American political organizations. Maintaining a sense of belonging and cultural identity through these various influences also provides a way to assimilate new cultural influences from Mexico. Thus, they may preserve their rich culture. (10:14)

Contributions to the American Culture. Many Americans have not had the opportunity to give proper recognition and credit to the ancestors of contemporary Mexican-Americans. The list of cultural contributions of Mexican-Americans and their ancestors is long, yet their contributions have often been lost or omitted in the pages of history books.

For example, one of the most colorful eras of American history is that of the cowboy. However, it is rarely mentioned that almost everything that the cowboy used, including utensils, methods, and equipment, was adapted from the Mexican cowboy (vaquero). Some of the many examples include lasso, chaps, stirrup tips, rope halter, ranches, rodeo, ten gallon hat, roping, and horse breaking techniques. Even the branding and registration of cattle is of Mexican origin and developed before the first permanent English settlement in Jamestown. (47:43; 40:153-156)

Another interesting and important contribution, which has aided the rights of women for years, is the right of community property, based on Spanish/Mexican law. This legacy of the

Southwest, which recognizes the economic contributions of a wife during a marriage, has been called "one of the most important landmarks of Spanish civilization in America." (40:160)

PUERTO RICANS

This is the second largest Hispanic group in the United States. Before the Spanish, Puerto Rico was inhabited by Indians known as Tainos. They were a peace-loving people with a farming-based society. Claimed for Spain by Christopher Columbus in 1493, the island was controlled by the Spanish for more than four hundred years (from 1493 to 1897). The Tainos were virtually wiped out as a people due to war with the Spanish, disease, and migration to other islands. (13:10)

The origin of Puerto Ricans in the United States has some similarity to that of the Mexican-Americans. Both groups were part of the territorial acquisition of this country following wars. In 1898, the Treaty of Paris, after the Spanish-American War, made Puerto Rico an American territory. (13:10)

The Jones Act of 1917 made Puerto Ricans citizens of the United States and subject to military draft. (13:10) Until 1947, the governor of the island was appointed by the President of the United States, but since then, governors have been elected. In 1952, Puerto Rico became a commonwealth, giving it some governmental autonomy while maintaining ties with the United States.

Like Mexican-Americans, political stresses, coupled with the impact of social and economic forces, pose serious problems for Puerto Ricans in the United States in their attempts to establish an identity and be upwardly mobile. Although some Puerto Ricans assimilate and others attempt to live a bicultural life, many avoid cultural conflict by confining their activities mainly to the ethnic community. For immigrants of the past, retreat to the security of the family has been a haven, but for new Puerto Rican immigrants, the frequent instability of the family structure in the United States makes this difficult. Change in family roles is a serious problem. There is little support for the traditional "machismo" of the father role.

Community organizations which attempt to enrich the lives of Puerto Ricans on the mainland U.S. include Puerto Rican community development, political groups, athletic leagues, cultural

organizations, social clubs, and parent action groups (see Appendix A). In addition, increased awareness of and participation in city and state elections by the Puerto Rican community (in New York, for example) have indicated their growing importance in the electoral process. (14:685-686)

Currently, Puerto Ricans are different from Mexican and Cuban-Americans because they are able to easily go back and forth to Puerto Rico, thereby strengthening family and cultural ties.

CUBAN AMERICANS

In terms of numbers, Cubans are the third largest of the diverse group of Hispanic-Americans. Since the Spanish-American War (1898), the United States has had a direct relationship with Cuba, assisting in the independence of Cuba from Spain. It has, moreover, retained some control through the United States Naval base at Guantanamo Bay. For many years Cuban immigrants were included with those from the West Indies, so that there is no accurate count from the early years of immigration.

Although a Cuban community in northern New Jersey dates back to 1850, Cuban immigrants did not arrive in large numbers until Fidel Castro seized control of the Cuban government in 1959. (37:299) In the beginning, Cuban refugees hoped that the Castro regime would be overthrown so that they could return to Cuba; many organized to work for this end. Today, however, few people belong to such political groups. (13:13)

Cuban refugees of the 1960's tended to be mostly middle- and upper-class people with training and education in professional and technical fields. These early immigrants were those who were most threatened by the revolution and had the means to escape. Even though many immigrants found that their skills and training were not recognized in the United States, they were a determined and enterprising people. They were often viewed as successful immigrants and a positive model for other Hispanic groups. (49:43-45)

The largest single migration of Cubans occurred in the 1980's, when the Mariel boatlift brought an estimated 125,000 Cubans to the United States over the course of several months. One consequence of the boatlift was that it took place after the

1980 U.S. Census, which compromised the accuracy of the Cuban population count. (59:25,151; 1:94)

Cuban immigrants suffer the common problems of cultural clash, as do most other Hispanic immigrants. The English language remains a barrier for some. Other problems of acculturation include increased freedom for women, and a breakdown of the traditional Cuban custom which accords much attention and respect to the elderly. Against family tradition, thousands of elderly Cubans live alone in Florida today. (6:--)

In 1989, Cubans numbered approximately 1.1 million in the United States, with the largest concentration in the Miami area. New York City also has a sizable population, as does the Los Angeles area. (53:1)

Cubans are predominantly metropolitan, with virtually 100 percent living in metropolitan areas, especially in Florida, New York, New Jersey, and California. (45:375) In the 1980's, approximately 83 percent of all Cubans in the United States were first-generation Americans. (45:370)

OTHER HISPANIC AMERICANS

In addition to the groups previously discussed, a number of other Hispanic groups exist, which share common elements, yet are distinct in their own ways.

Spanish. Since 1820, approximately 250,000 immigrants have come to the United States from Spain. Many have settled in urban areas, finding employment in skilled or semi-skilled occupations. Although they speak the same language, they do not usually interact with other Hispanic people. (45:376)

Dominicans. In 1975, a significant number of people from the Dominican Republic immigrated to the United States and they continue to immigrate. Dominican families suffer from the value clashes and family disruptions common to many Spanish-speaking immigrants. (25:114-118)

Other Latin-Americans. Colombia, Ecuador, Nicaragua, and El Salvador are the next largest sources of Hispanic immigrants. It is estimated that over 300,000 Colombians live in the United States. Overpopulation, political turmoil, and poverty motivate many of these people from Central and South America to seek

residence in the United States. Many prefer to live in large urban areas such as New York City. (45:377)

Filipino-Americans. Filipinos are a growing identifiable ethnic group. Most are English-speaking with Spanish surnames, and they often speak Tagalog as a second language. Although generally considered Asian-American, in some reports and books Filipinos are included as part of the Hispanic-American contribution to the American culture. (47:46; 11:Ch.5)

POPULATION

The past decade was one of unprecedented growth for the Hispanic community. Recently released census figures reveal that the Hispanic population in the United States grew approximately 53 percent, to 22.4 million, in the last decade (46:2), five times faster than the rest of the population. (7:35) Over the next decade their numbers are expected to grow to nearly 30 million. They represent the second fastest growing cultural/minority group in the country, following Asian-Americans. (15:14)

Interestingly, this population remains one of the most difficult to define or quantify, since many Americans of Hispanic descent do not identify themselves as Hispanic-Americans (for political and undocumented immigration reasons). (50:--)

The U.S. Census Bureau predicts that shortly after the year 2000 the number of Hispanic-Americans may double the 1987 population. (22:36) This forecast is based on a one million person increase per year in the Hispanic-American population between 1987 and 2000. Hispanics will replace African-Americans as the largest minority group by the year 2020. (30:7)

In other census findings:

- In 1980, Hispanics made up 6.4 percent of the United States population. In 1990 they are approximately 9 percent of this population, which is approximately 250 million. (46:2)

- Hispanics are clustered in nine states, with over 50 percent living in California and Texas. Hispanics in California increased from 4.5 million to 7.7 million.

- Mexican-American women are the mothers of two-thirds of all Hispanic babies, but in Florida most Hispanic babies are of

Cuban descent, and in New York most are of Puerto Rican descent.

- Hispanic families, on the average, are larger than non-Hispanic families. The average Mexican-American family has 4.1 members; the Puerto Rican family has 3.27 members; and the Cuban-American family has 2.9 members; Central and South American families have 3.57 members; and other Hispanic families have 3.11 members. The average non-Hispanic family has 3.1 members. (52:16-17)

- The average age of Hispanics is younger than the average U.S. age, 25.1 years and 31.9 years, respectively. (49:43; 30:6) Among subgroups, Mexican-Americans and Puerto Ricans are the youngest, and Cuban-Americans are the oldest. (49:45)

- Factors influencing the lower median age of Hispanics are the immigration of younger Hispanics and a higher fertility rate among Hispanic women compared to African-American and Euro-American women. (30:6)

- Immigration accounted for about half of the overall increase. Since 1982, the Central and South American population in the United States has grown by 67 percent. (32:7)

- Hispanic households are more likely to be in urban areas than non-Hispanic households. In March 1989, about 92 percent of Hispanic households were in urban areas, compared with 73 percent of non-Hispanic households. (53:1)

- Hispanics tend to marry other Hispanics. In 1989, 85 percent of Hispanic husbands in married couples were married to Hispanic wives, and 82 percent of Hispanic wives in married couples had Hispanic husbands. Hispanics marrying outside their subgroups were more likely to marry a non-Hispanic than a member of any other specific Hispanic group. (53:7)

- Hispanic families were less likely to live in homes they owned or were purchasing in 1989 than were non-Hispanic households (42 percent and 66 percent, respectively).

ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS

It is estimated that Hispanics represent a consumer market of between \$140 and \$190 billion, and that market will be responsible for much of the consumer market growth in the United

States in the next 10 years. (15:14; 7:35) In addition, revenues of Hispanic-owned businesses were estimated to be \$29.6 billion in 1990, up 48 percent from 1987. (17:4b) Many experts believe that there will be an upward surge in Hispanic economic growth and development during the 1990's. (61:a5)

Currently, however, Hispanics as a whole suffer from high poverty levels compared with non-Hispanics. For example:

- As determined by assets owned, income, employment status, education and other factors, White households' average net worth is about eight times that of Hispanics (\$43,279 as opposed to \$5,524). (33:1-2)

- In 1986, the median income was \$19,326 for Mexican-Americans, \$14,584 for Puerto Ricans, and \$19,995 for other Hispanic subgroups, compared to \$29,458 for the total population. (54:38)

- In 1988, 26.8 percent of Hispanics had incomes at or below the poverty level, compared to the overall figure of 13.1 percent. (36:808) However, while poverty is generally associated with unstable families and young, single mothers, many of the poor Hispanics are found in two-parent working families. (57:A10)

EMPLOYMENT

It has been over a quarter of a century since Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 banned employment decisions that discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. (14:123) Moreover, affirmative action has added variety to parts of the workforce. Workforce 2000, an important study conducted by the Hudson Institute and released by the Department of Labor, predicted that Hispanics (and other minorities) will constitute 29 percent of the entering workforce by the year 2000, and will represent 15 percent of the workforce by 2000. Private sector companies and the federal government are becoming aware of the need to recruit Hispanics and advance them through the ranks. (34:89)

For Hispanics there remain definite barriers to breaking into senior management. They are disproportionately affected as they seem to reach a forced plateau on the rungs of the corporate

ladder. As of 1988, only one company listed in the "Fortune 500" is headed by a Hispanic. (31:50)

Private sector. Hispanic workers are active members in the nation's workforce. Hispanics have had some degree of occupational upgrading during the past decade, but they are more likely than the overall workforce to be employed in lower-skilled, lower-paid occupations. Most of the increase in the employment of approximately 60 percent of Hispanic women was in mid-level occupations (technical, sales, and administrative support) and the generally lower-paid service occupations. Another 15 percent of Hispanic women were employed in management and professional positions.

The occupational levels among Hispanic men were stable in the managerial, professional, technical, sales, and administrative support positions. Occupational growth for Hispanic men was concentrated in occupations requiring intermediate skills (operators, laborers, and fabricators) which accounted for nearly one third of their employment. (12:9,13)

- Overall labor force participation of Hispanic youth is high; 66 percent of Hispanic youth are active in the labor force, compared to 57 percent of Black youth and 71 percent of White youth.

- The unemployment rate for Hispanics increased to 8.7 percent in the fourth quarter of 1990, up 0.7 percent from the previous year. (27:7,13)

Federal government. Hispanic input to the federal government is in evidence throughout all departments and agencies. They are no longer limited to the social service sector of government-- Department of Education, Health and Human Services, Housing and Development. They are also in the Commerce, Labor, Interior, and State Departments, the Pentagon, even in the White House. During the last two decades, Hispanics have been ambassadors to numerous Central and South American countries. (59:226; 47:25,29)

- Hispanics, however, continue to be underrepresented in the federal government work force. As of 1988, Hispanics represented 7.8 percent of the U.S. work force, but 4.8 percent in government jobs. (56:2)

EDUCATION

On September 24, 1990, President George Bush signed an Executive Order calling for Education Excellence for Hispanic-Americans. (21:32) (see Appendix B) The signing of this order comes after a long history of Hispanic interest groups working to ensure the educational opportunities to which they are entitled.

Poor school performance is rooted in poverty, an endemic Hispanic condition that deeply influences Hispanic lifestyle in the United States, and in language acquisition. Organized efforts to resolve the language problem began in the 1940's. For example, a 1947 study in New York suggested "segregated" classes for Puerto Rican children to teach them English. (This concept had been developed at the U.S. Army language school where students were immersed into a rigorous curriculum.) (59:53)

By the 1950's the movement to do more for Hispanic children had spread. However, programs to teach mathematics, science, and English in Spanish to Hispanic children were mainly do-it-yourself operations. (59:53)

Educational reforms led by Senators Montoya and Yarborough during the Johnson administration eased the learning problem of Hispanic-Americans in many school districts. Bilingual education was promoted and the use of Spanish to help Hispanic children learn to speak English was initiated. (47:27)

By the 1960's many bilingual programs were in place across the country and educators met regularly to develop new and broader programs. Puerto Rican leaders in New York demanded that schools include language and cultural programs in the curriculum. Language was seen as a civil right. And it was as a civil rights issue that bilingual education became federal law.

The Bilingual Education Bill President Johnson signed on January 2, 1968, as Title VII of the Comprehensive 1965 Education Act, was an action to address the problem. (59:56) Subsequently, the efforts to ensure bilingual education have been a slow, yet progressive, struggle through the Carter, Reagan, and Bush administrations.

Political action continues in many school districts over such issues as the need for bilingual education, lack of Hispanic teachers, and relevant guidance instructors and methods. (30:--;

39:1,12-13)

According to a recent study, the Hispanic population in the United States is growing, but the number of Hispanic youths who finish high school is decreasing. (28)

Highlights of the report include:

- High school completion rates for Hispanics aged 18 to 24 dropped from 62.8 percent in 1985 to 56 percent in 1989. Mexican-Americans had the highest dropout rate, 57.3 percent, followed by Puerto Ricans with a 46 percent dropout rate and Cubans at 37 percent. (28)

- Only 24.5 percent of Hispanics ages 3 and 4 years are enrolled in pre-school programs; 78.7 percent of 16 and 17-year-olds are in school, compared with 91.6 percent of the total population. (28)

Another report by National Council of La Raza states that only 3 percent of the nation's 2.3 million public school teachers are Hispanic; the ratio of Hispanic students to Hispanic teachers is 64-to-1. (41:1)

The report also indicated that the long term costs of failing to adequately educate large numbers of Hispanics is enormous. Hispanics as a whole may be limited to lives of low skills, minimal employment opportunities, continued poverty, and limited participation in society. Without immediate intervention to educate and train Hispanics, they will face serious obstacles to full participation in the national economy. (41:1-2)

MILITARY

The military history of Hispanics contains a full scope of duty and dedication. In the tradition of defending the country, Hispanics have done so with honor, pride, and courage. No less than 37 Hispanic-Americans have received the Medal of Honor--America's highest military decoration. (55:3)

One of the most notable Hispanic-American Naval officers in history was Admiral David G. Farragut, USN. A veteran of the War of 1812 and the Civil War, Admiral Farragut is known for his brilliant leadership and bravery during his victorious assault of Mobile Bay where he is known to have shouted to his crew, "Damn

the torpedoes! Full speed ahead!" (55:17)

Spanish troops assisted the American colonies during their struggle for independence. Although not acknowledged in many textbooks, Hispanic-Americans played a major role in the Gulf of Mexico and Mississippi River Valley area during the American Revolution. Bernardo de Galvez was Governor of Louisiana in 1777, and with permission from the Spanish court, he supported the American defenses against the British. In addition, military units from Spain, allied with battalions of mulattoes and Blacks, attacked the British along the Gulf of Mexico. (47:13)

As many as 9,900 Mexican-Americans fought in the Civil War on both sides of the Mason-Dixon line. Two Navy seamen, John Ortega and Philip Bazaar, made history by earning the Medal of Honor for their contributions to the Union cause.

During the Spanish-American War, Hispanic soldiers rode with Captain Maximiliano Luno as members of Theodore Roosevelt's "Rough Riders."

During World War I, David Barkley became the first Hispanic U.S. Army soldier to be awarded the Medal of Honor, but his heritage was not recognized until 71 years after his death. (43:51)

Military historians estimate that a quarter to a half million Hispanics served in the armed forces during World War II. (55:27) Eight Hispanics received the Medal of Honor for actions during the Korean War, and 13 were decorated for actions in the Vietnam Conflict. (55:58-69)

Hispanics played active roles during United States operations in Grenada, Panama, and Saudi Arabia. Enlisted Recruiting and Retention. As the predicted largest minority in the nation, Hispanics are seen as valuable contributors to the Armed Forces of the future. All enlisted recruiting programs are making progressive efforts (e.g., recruiter incentive programs) to increase Hispanic participation in the enlisted ranks.

During the last 10 years, Hispanic representation in the Army has been approximately 4 percent--a percentage considered by defense planners to be artificially low, but one they are working to increase through recruiting and retention programs. (43:50) As of September 1990, Hispanics accounted for 4.8 percent of all

Department of Defense (DoD) enlisted personnel. Hispanic representation in the Army enlisted ranks was 4.4 percent, the Navy had 6.0 percent, the Marine Corps had 7.3 percent, the Air Force had 3.8 percent, and the Coast Guard had 4.6 percent. (16:24-29)

Officer Recruiting and Retention. Association of Naval Service Officers (ANSO) is an organization dedicated to improve the recruiting and retention of Hispanic officers in the United States Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard. A similar association, the National Naval Officers Association (NNOA), also encourages Hispanic officer membership.

Both groups have worked within the Minority Officer Recruiting Effort (MORE) Program. MORE's goals are to increase the number of entering Hispanic (and other minority) officers, encourage high potential Hispanic enlisted personnel to prepare for Officer Candidate School, and focus on recruiting and retention at the sea service academies.

MORE is designed to recruit Hispanics and other minorities into the sea services in order to match their representation in the officer ranks with that of the general population.

In the program, volunteer officers brief national and community-based organizations to solicit support for the program and interview potential officer candidates from high school and college. Due to the efforts of MORE, there has been an increase of the number of Hispanic officers.

As of September 1990, Hispanics accounted for 2.1 percent of all active DoD officers. The Army officer ranks had 1.9 percent Hispanic representation, the Navy had 2.4 percent, the Marine Corps 2.4 percent, the Air Force 2.0 percent, and the Coast Guard 1.7 percent. (16:24-29)

POLITICS

Hispanic-Americans are extremely aware that their increased numbers translate to increased political influence. Hispanics are exerting political power complementing their growing numbers and economic influence. In addition, they are carefully identifying issues that bring a measure of political unity to their diverse population.

Even though each Hispanic group has a different sense of its own identity, they are finding that their commonalities provide them with a more effective political voice.

The diversity among Hispanics separates them from more politically unified minorities such as African- and Jewish-Americans. However, it has become clear in recent years that Hispanic politicians are rallying around points of commonality as their political involvement increases. Hispanics have already made significant political contributions to United States foreign policy in Latin America. Domestic issues such as civil rights, affirmative action, and bilingual education have often brought them together in a unified front.

Three million Hispanic voters are concentrated in six states that together account for 173 of the 270 electoral votes needed to win a presidential election. This fact underscores the importance of Hispanics as a voting bloc, particularly in the Southwest. This potential voting bloc tends to be Democratic. (61:a5)

There has been a significant increase in registered Hispanic voters in recent years. As more young Hispanics reach voting age, Hispanic strength as a political force will increase even more significantly.

Several studies indicate political trends for Hispanics. For example, the size of the Hispanic population in a city is a predominant determinant of Hispanic presence on city councils. (9:665) In addition, data indicate that Mexican-American voter registration during the 1980's has stabilized both in terms of percentage of voting age population registered and total population. Moreover, they are increasingly likely to vote. (38:360-1) In Miami, Cuban-Americans have achieved an unprecedented degree of cultural and political power compared to any other Hispanic group in America. (19:1A) In contrast, many recent immigrants from Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Guatemala, are becoming American citizens, but voting in relatively small numbers and not becoming candidates for office. (44:10)

Hispanic political influence is directed by such organizations as the Mexican-American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF), Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund (PRLDEF), National Council of La Raza, League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), American G.I. Forum, Cuban National Planning Council, Inc., National Image, Inc.,

Puerto Rican/Latinos Voting Rights Network, and many others.

The Future of Hispanic Politics. Mobilization of the Hispanic community is a well-established fact of American politics. Elections of Hispanics to mayoral positions in such large cities as Denver, Miami, and San Antonio symbolize this change. Currently, Hispanics are forming a political leadership base for statewide offices and congressional seats. The 1982 elections indicated a significant change in the number of Hispanic members of Congress. The same results can be expected from elections in the 1990s. Moreover, the aging of the Hispanic population means more voters in many states.

Basic issues are almost sure to be the motivation for primary Hispanic political agendas. Representation is still a problem, both politically and in bureaucratic positions. Hispanics will probably follow the experience of other ethnic groups in entering bureaucratic positions. Many believe that national and state bureaucracies are growing factors in the development and implementation of policy. A common result is that Hispanic organizations and elected officials are forced to respond to complex public policy options without being involved in the development of these options. A key goal of politicians is to work with Hispanics (and other minorities) in the restructuring process currently evolving in state legislatures to try to create congressional districts heavily populated by minorities. (61:a5) Despite this activism, the rate of Hispanics entering the federal bureaucracy is slow with parity projected well into the 21st century.

Other factors that will mobilize the Hispanic community are discrimination against Hispanics and the education of Hispanic youth. At the present time, bilingual education is a controversial political issue in many states because of the lack of resources necessary to provide quality education and the reaction of the larger population which support "English-only" ordinances.

The political future of Hispanics is promising. However, the direction of this future depends, in part, on the reaction of the larger American society.

RELIGION

Catholic Spain brought to America a zeal for spreading their

beliefs to all parts of the world. Religious orders, including the Society of Jesus (Jesuits), Franciscans, and Dominicans, firmly established the Catholic faith in Latin America. (13:4)

Today, Catholicism remains the dominant religion and major institution among Hispanics. Approximately 80 percent of the Hispanics in the United States are Catholics. With the increase in their numbers, they are certain to make a significant impact on this Church, for they are, on the average, more youthful and bear more children than other Catholic ethnic groups. Moreover, Hispanics will influence the future ethnic composition of the Catholic Church as well as its national diversity. (24:10) Likewise, the Catholic Church has had a cultural influence on many Hispanics, even among the growing numbers who are not of the Catholic faith.

Overall, Hispanics know that they are connected to a global organization that commands the allegiance of most professing Christians in Latin America. They follow an organization that has shaped the various cultures of all Latin nations, and one that has increasingly become conscious of its growing membership in the "Third World." The Catholic Church is in a struggle to maintain social conservatism and the commitment to social relevancy and progressive change. (25:270)

SCIENCE AND MEDICINE

The Scientists. One of the most notable of Hispanic scientists is Luis W. Alvarez who was awarded the Nobel Prize for his pioneer work with subatomic particles. Severo Ochoa was also awarded the Nobel prize in medicine for his work to synthesize DNA and RNA. (8:391,393)

The Astronauts. Franklin Chang-Diaz came from Costa Rica in 1969, and after overcoming the obstacles of language he received his doctoral degree in applied plasma physics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1977. Dr. Chang-Diaz was selected by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) for the space program in 1980 and flew aboard the space shuttle Columbia in January, 1986. As a scientist and astronaut, he is currently developing ways to transfer scientific knowledge between America and Latin America. (2:18-23)

Major Sidney Gutierrez, USAF, and Ellen Ochoa have been

selected by NASA for future space shuttle missions. Ms. Ochoa is the first Hispanic woman to be selected for a shuttle mission.

The Medical Doctors. Less than 5 percent of U.S. physicians are of Hispanic origin, yet one of them is the United States Surgeon General in the Public Health Service. Dr. Antonia C. Novello is the first woman and first Hispanic ever to hold this position. (60:2309; 4)

HEALTH ISSUES

Some general demographic characteristics of the Hispanic population can be seen despite the diversity of the group. They are predominantly young, with poor living conditions and relatively low income, and little education when compared to the United States population as a whole. These circumstances can affect the health of Hispanics in the following ways:

- Exposure to infectious diseases through crowded housing and lack of treated drinking water and sewage
- Lack of awareness of preventative measures in disease control
- Restricted access to health care because of an inability to pay for physicians' fees, medicine, and special treatment
- Ethnic discrimination which might prevent a person from receiving health care services (18:1D)
- Inappropriate use of less costly types of health care (e.g., lay curers or midwives)

Hispanics accounted for approximately 14 percent of the reported AIDS cases in the United States. (54:113) They account for nearly 21 percent of AIDS cases among women and 22 percent of AIDS cases among children. (3) AIDS is the third and fourth cause of death among Puerto Ricans and Cubans, respectively. (20:4)

- Hispanics are three times as likely as other groups not to receive prenatal care, which contributes to deaths and illness in newborns. (3)

- Hispanic lack health insurance more often than any other ethnic group in the United States. They also suffer disproportionately higher incidences of diabetes, high blood pressure, kidney disease, certain cancers, and other serious illnesses. (3) Approximately 37 percent of Mexican-Americans, 16 percent of Puerto Ricans, and 20 percent of Cuban Americans lack health insurance, compared with 20 percent of non-Hispanic Blacks and 10 percent of non-Hispanic Whites. (3)

- Mortality information for Hispanics has only been collected in recent years. However, preliminary reports suggest that life expectancy data for Hispanics is closer to that of Whites than Blacks. In 1989, the life expectancy for the total population was 75.2 years, 75.9 years for Whites, and 69.7 years for Blacks. (51)

MEDIA, COMMUNICATIONS & ENTERTAINMENT

Companies in a number of high profile businesses have tested the Hispanic market, including financial services, consumables, and tourism. The number of mass media outlets targeting Hispanics has increased tremendously in recent years.

With the fourth largest Spanish-speaking population in the world, there is an expanding market in the United States for newspapers, magazines, and radio and television programs in Spanish or dealing with Hispanics. Currently, there are 350 Hispanic newspapers in the United States compared with just 60 in 1985. (15:16) In California, 45 weekly Spanish newspapers have been started in recent years. (15:16) The English-language Hispanic Link Weekly Report is one the best sources of information on issues and concerns involving Hispanics. The Los Angeles based La Opinion is the nation's largest Spanish-language daily newspaper. (20:1) According to the New York Times, advertising aimed at Hispanics increased 6 percent in 1989 to \$584 million, mostly in television. (15:16)

The growth of the influential Spanish International Network (SIN) and its increasing number of United States affiliates has played a major role in allowing Hispanics increased media visibility. (1:98) Along with the expansion of cable television has come a number of Spanish-language networks serving an international audience. Two of the largest, Telemundo and Univision, are working with Neilson Media Research to develop a meter-based rating system for measuring Hispanic audiences. (15:16)

In 1987, 91.1 percent of Spanish-speaking adults (18 years and older) viewed television, 77.5 percent watched during prime time, 37.7 percent viewed cable television, 87.6 percent regularly listened to radio, and 78.3 percent read (English and Spanish) newspapers. (54:544)

Stage and Screen. In the movies and television the images of Hispanics are slowly changing from stereotyped caricatures to strong characters portrayed by Hispanic actors and actresses. Some of them are Edward James Olmos, Rita Moreno, Jimmy Smits, Linda Carter, Anthony Quinn, Saundra Santiago, Raul Julia, Elizabeth Pena, Martin Sheen and his sons Charlie Sheen and Emilio Estevez, Ricardo Montalban, Andy Garcia, Raquel Welch, Ruben Blades, and many others. (1:98)

Music and Dance. Hispanic influence and its unique style are major forces in contemporary American music and dance. Just as the term Hispanic embraces many kinds of people, the music comprises many different styles of music from Mexico, Ecuador, Peru, and the Caribbean. However, the "Latin sound" is fundamentally based in 18th century Cuba, where African and Spanish music (Afro-Cuban) were mixed into a distinctive style and rhythm.

Likewise, many dance styles have evolved from the Spanish influence such as the mambo, cha-cha, merengue, rumba, tango, folk dancing, and others. (58:50-52)

Design. Hispanic designers such as Adolfo, from Cuba, and Oscar de la Renta, from the Dominican Republic, enjoy world-wide recognition for their creative fashions, which are reflective of Hispanic culture. In addition, Herrera, Esteban Ramos, Ofelia Montejana, and other designers have built their collections and reputations around traditional Latin styles. (26:69,71)

ART AND THE HUMANITIES

Art. America has no shortage of first-rate Hispanic artists who are motivated by their Latin heritage--ideological, artistic, religious. The Hispanic experience is too complex (a mosaic) for any one artist's vision to encompass it. Their art is similar only in respect to the cultural and social experience of Hispanic-Americans, their history, imagery, and lifestyles. Moreover, Hispanic art provides a "connection" for both the

artists and their public to grasp the meanings and roots (i.e., origin) of their ethnicity.

Carlos Alfonzo, from Havana, lives in Miami and is recognized as a gifted painter influenced by the Afro-Cuban experience. (35:62-64) Luis Jiminez is famous for his images of the Latino cowboy and migrant workers. In contrast, Frank Romero and others are inspired by the urban experience of Hispanics. Puerto Rican artist Arnaldo Roche is known for his impressive self-portraits and other works.

The influence of history is reflected in the art of Hispanics. Felix A. Lopez's religious sculptures are influenced by his experiences in the church. At the other end of the spectrum, Ismael Frigerio, a Chilean who lives in New York City, draws from the Spanish conquest of South America to create his powerful images. Martin Ramirez, a Mexican-American, was an artist who drew on his feelings of isolation as a Hispanic to create some of America's most noted work. (35:62-64)

Humanities. There is no better indication of the cultural and literary continuity of the Hispanic legacy in the United States than the work accomplished by Mexican, Puerto Rican, and Cuban-American writers. Each group has its own brand of literature, reflecting the interactions of the two cultures, Hispanic and American, and languages, and the contacts between the two worlds. These literary works have frequently been ignored by American and Latin American scholars. The language issue as well as the fact that these literary works tend to have working-class themes and are published primarily by small ethnic publishers further limits their distribution, marketing, and readership appreciation. (1:100)

Among Mexican-Americans, the most prominent writers include Oscar Acosta, Rolando Hinojosa, Tomas Rivera, Tino Villanueva, Estela Portillo, Arturo Islas, Octavio Paz, and others. The most prolific Puerto Rican writers include Sandra Estevez, Edward Rivera, Pedro Pietri, Ed Vega, and others. Well known Cuban-American writers include Jose Yglesias and Roberto Fernandez. Colombian novelist and Nobel prize winner Gabriel Garcia Marquez, author of *Love in the Time of Cholera*, enjoys international recognition. (19:1A) Hispanic women are getting increased recognition for their work. Authors such as Isabel Allende, Nancy Morejon, Luisa Valenzuela, and Claribel Alegria reflect a Third World and Hispanic perspective in their work. (1:99)

The Hispanists. The works of United States Hispanists such as George Ticknor, author of *History of Spanish Literature* (1849), and William Prescott, author of *The History of the Conquest of Mexico* (1843) and *The History of the Conquest of Peru* (1847), have become classics in the field. (1:99)

In 1904, Hispanist Archer Huntington founded the Hispanic Society of America and promoted the establishment of a Hispanic Room at the Library of Congress.

In the late nineteenth century, Arturo A. Schomburg arrived in New York City from Puerto Rico as a teenager. A year later he joined other Cuban and Puerto Rican exiles in the founding of the Cuban Revolutionary Party to struggle for independence of the two islands from Spanish rule. A Puerto Rican of African descent, Schomburg became interested in the study of Black history and culture. His efforts led to the establishment of the Negro Society of Historical Research in 1911. Today, it is named the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture and is a prominent research facility. (1:91)

SPORTS

One of the most prominent sports figures in history is Roberto Clemente, a Triple Crown baseball player and humanitarian, who died in a plane crash on his way to help earthquake victims in Nicaragua in 1972.

Hispanics continue to make a significant impact on professional sports. For example, at least 15 percent of U.S. major league baseball players are Hispanic.

Numerous Hispanic boxing champions have won world titles and Olympic medals.

CONCLUSION

It is hoped that one goal of government organizations and the public, in general, will be to study the contributions of every ethnic group to our present way of life. Indeed, knowledge of various ethnic experiences can enrich our total view.

This brief description of the people, history and heritage, and lifestyle of Hispanics in the United States cannot reflect a

complete picture of this diverse and unique population. However, it may hint at the importance of Hispanic culture to this nation over the last 500 years.

Many Hispanics display a special pride in their American heritage, a glowing love of family, a deep devotion to religion, an earnest commitment to hard work, and a sense of duty to defend this nation. Hispanic experience and contributions combine into a "dynamic mosaic," making the total American picture a more vibrant and richer composition.

APPENDICES

Appendix A Hispanic Associations and Organizations in the United States: A Resource List

Appendix B "Executive Order -- Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans"

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SOME HISPANIC ASSOCIATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS IN THE UNITED STATES

A RESOURCE LIST

ASPIRA

22 East 54th Street
New York , New York 10022

Association of Hispanic Arts (AHA)

173 E. 116th Street, 2nd floor
New York, New York 10029
(212) 860-5445

Association of Puerto Rican-

Hispanic Culture
c/o P. Block
83 Park Terrace West
New York, New York 10034
(212) 942-2338

Association of Naval Service

Officers (ANSO)
P.O. Box 23252
Washington, D.C.

Chicano Research Collection

Department of Archives and
Manuscripts
Arizona State University Libraries
Tempe, Arizona 85287-1006
(602) 965-3145

Consortium of National Hispanic Organizations

1030 15th Street, N.W.
Suite 1053
Washington, D.C. 20005
(202) 371-2100

The Hispanic Association of
Colleges and Universities
11 Dupont Circle N.W.
Suite 900
Washington, D.C. 20036

Hispanic Institute
Columbia University
612 West 116th
New York, New York 10027
(212) 854-4187

Hispanic Link News Service, Inc.
1420 "N" Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005
(202) 234-0280 or (202) 234-0737

Hispanic Organization of
Professionals and Executives
1625 "K" Street N.W.
Suite 103
Washington, DC 20006

Hispanic Policy Development Project
250 Park Avenue South
Suite 5000A
New York, New York 10003
and
1001 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Suite 310
Washington, DC 20036

League of United Latin American
Citizens (LULAC)
342 Wilkens
San Antonio, Texas 78210
(512) 533-1976

Los P.A.D.R.E.S. (Padres Asociados para
Derechos, Religious, Educatios y
Sociales)

2216 East 108th Street
Los Angeles, CA 90059
(213) 569-5951

Mexican American Opportunity Foundation
6252 East Telegraph Road
Commerce, CA 90040
(212) 722-7807

Mexican-American Studies and Research
Center
University of Arizona
Tucson, Arizona 85721
(602) 621-7551

National Alliance of Spanish-Speaking
People for Equality
1701 16th N.W. #601
Washington, D.C. 20009
(202) 234-8198

National Association of Latino
Elected and Appointed Officials
(NALEO)
708 "G" Street, SE
Washington, D.C. 20003
(202) 546-2536

NALEO Education Fund
34 Garnet Street
Los Angeles, CA 90023
(213) 262-8503
1-800-44-NALEO

National Council of La Raza
810 First Street, N.E.
Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20002
(202) 289-1380

National Hispanic Council on Aging
2713 Ontario Road, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20009
(202) 265-1288

National Image, Inc.

P.O. Box 895
Austin, Texas 78701

National Puerto Rican Forum
450 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

Network of Educators' Committees
on Central America
1188 22nd Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037
(202) 429-0137

Puerto Rican Association for
Community Affairs
853 Broadway
5th Floor
New York, New York 10003
(213) 673-7320

Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers
5400 East Olympic Blvd
Suite 225
Los Angeles, CA 90022
(213) 725-3970