

Central America – Isthmus region – land
bridge connecting larger areas of land

8 countries – similar history, environment,
economy

Caribbean islands – Greater and Lesser
Antilles

GA – Cuba, Hispaniola, Puerto Rico,
Jamaica



CA and Caribbean:

Marks of colonial past

Inequality of wealth

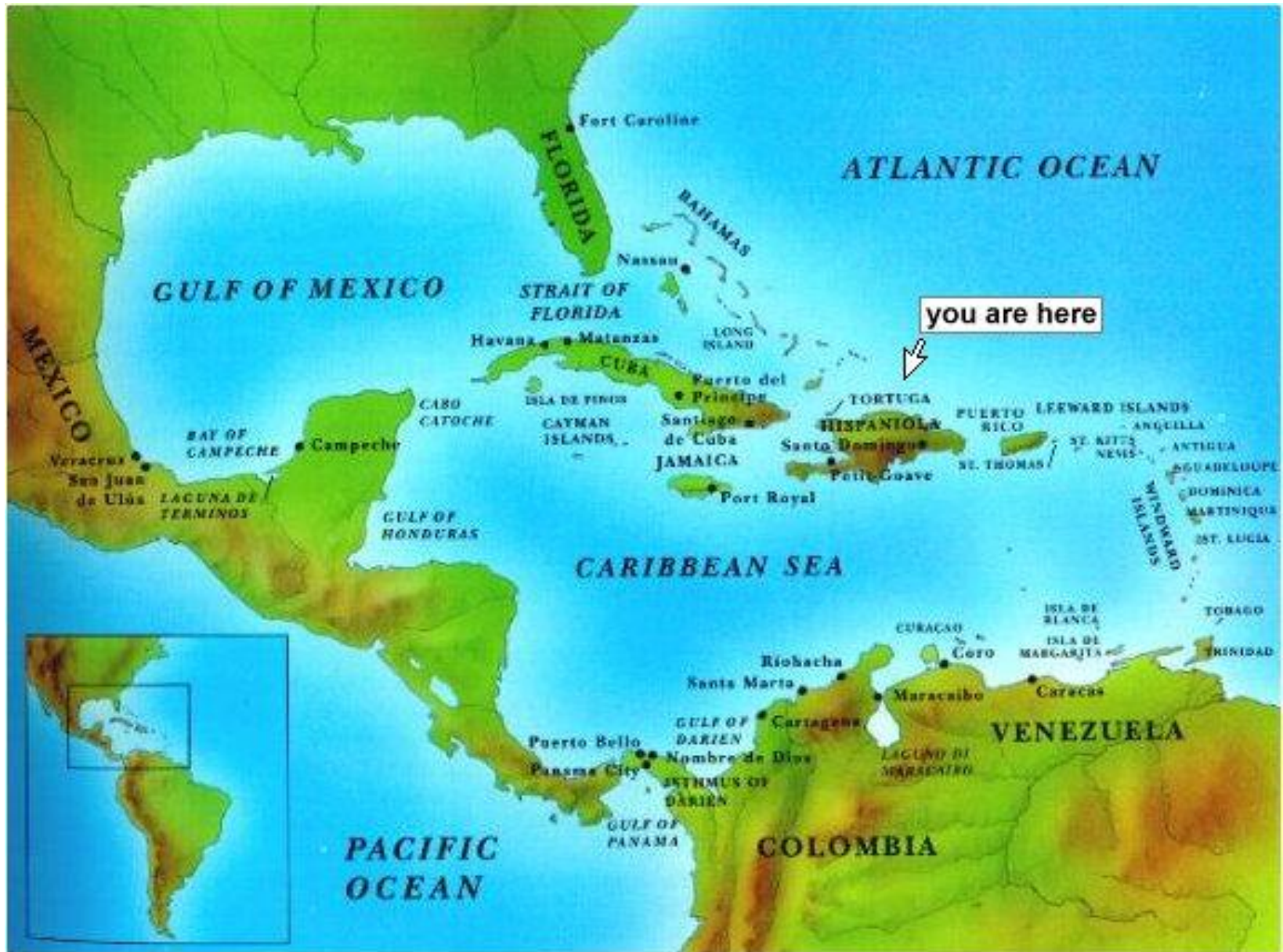
History of political instability/unrest

Poverty

Tourism

Economically dependent on others

Hispaniola – Haiti and Dominican Republic



Hispaniola



Haiti – mountainous, Western Hispaniola

Poorest/most densely populated in
Americas

Extreme poverty

Agrarian economy – plantains and yams

Capital: Port-au-Prince

Roman Catholic and voodoo elements
French and **Creole** – mostly French with
Spanish, English, and African words

Former French colony – sugar
Political instability – corruption, financial
disorder, trafficking

1791 slave uprising – independence

Toussaint, former slave leads guerilla
rebellion against colonial forces

1795 – peace made with Revolutionary
France after slavery abolished

1801 – Spanish section conquered

1802 Napoleon invades, Toussaint arrested,
plans slavery

1803 – Dessalines, former slave, with help
of British expel French – declares himself
Emperor Jacques I

Long history of poverty, racism, crime

32 coups in 200-year history

Semi-Presidential Republic

President (head of state) elected by popular vote; chooses Prime Minister (head of government) from majority party in National Assembly

Constitution of March 29, 1987.

National Assembly of Haiti – 2 chamber

President – Michel Martelly – May 2011

PM – Laurent Lamothe – May 2012













Dominican Republic

Eastern Hispaniola

Spain's earliest colony

Strong Spanish culture

Tourism

Capital: Santo Domingo

Representative Democracy

3 branches of govt

Legislative: 32 Senate, 178 House

Elections – every two years, alternating
between Executive and Legislative

2010 – Legislative 6 year terms

2016 – Elections for both simultaneous



Mexico

31 states, 1 capital district – Mexico City

Spanish and some indigenous languages

Roman Catholic

Major industries: tourism, agriculture,
mining (gold and silver)

Resources: petroleum, oil



Very diverse landscape

Central Plateau – Plateau of Mexico

Baja California

Mountain Ranges: **Sierra Madre Occidental** (West) and **Sierra Madre Oriental** (East)

Yucatan Peninsula – very flat

Subtropical, Desert, Steppe, Savanna
(grasslands)

México mapa en español



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Mexican Government

Very similar to US – 3 branches

President – head of state and head of govt

Enrique Peña Nieto – 2012 Institutional
Revolutionary Party



President – 6 yr term, no reelection

Senate – 6 year terms

Chamber of Deputies – 3 year terms

Aztecs – religious, violent

Searched for place to build their home –
looked for “a sign from the gods”

Hawk on cactus eating snake

Tenochtitlán - Capital city of Aztecs







Spanish heard of cities of gold in New World

Cortes and 600 conquistadores conquered the Aztec – believed he was a god



THE INCA ATAHUALPA BEFORE PIZARRO.

Tenochtitlán – Mexico city

Urbanization – growth of cities

Mexico City – 1 of largest in world

Mexicans seeking jobs, city can't keep up

Sinking into soft earth

Crime, corruption

Economy

NAFTA – North American Free Trade Agreement

Helps economy

US businesses in border cities –
Maquiladoras