Political Regions of South America
Continent Overview

- South America made up of 12 independent countries
  - Also 3 dependencies
    - Falkland Islands (UK)
    - South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands (UK)
    - French Guiana (France)
  - Main languages are Spanish, Portuguese, Quechua, Dutch, French, and English
Colonial Heritage

- South America colonized by Britain, France, Netherlands, Portugal, and Spain
  - Most gained independence in 1800s
  - Culture still has evidence of colonialism
- Catholicism and Language
Relations with the United States

• The Monroe Doctrine
  – United States declared Americas under their sphere of influence, Europe should stay out

• The Roosevelt Corollary
  – Imposition of American interest in the Americas

• The Good Neighbor Policy
  – Non-Intervention and Non-Interference in Domestic Issues
Mercosur

• Economic union designed to promote trade and political cooperation
  – Largest Trading Bloc in South America

• Comprised of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Venezuela
The Union of South America States (UNASUR)

- Comprised of all 12 sovereign South American States
  - Constitutive Treaty went into force in 2011
  - Headquarters in Quito, Ecuador
- Modeled after European Union
  - Goal for a common currency, parliament, and passport
The Amazon Basin and Eastern Lowlands

- Most developed areas of South America
  - Good agricultural base
  - Heavy economic connections to North America and Europe
- Comprised of Brazil, Uruguay, and Argentina
  - Large population centers and very large cities
Andean Highlands Countries

• Western States of South America
  – Colombia, Venezuela, Peru, Ecuador, Chile, Bolivia

• Diverse Economy
  – Modern Urban Economic Centers
  – Development of Commercial Agriculture
  – Subsistence agriculture in highlands
The Northern Lowlands

- Culturally different than rest of South America
  - Primarily Dutch and French areas
  - Large percentage of Mulattos
- Comprised of Guyana, Suriname, and French Guiana (Fr.)
- Tropical rainforest
  - Good for fishing and sugar plantations
The Falklands/Las Malvinas

• Continuing territorial dispute between Argentina and the United Kingdom
  – Still seen as a continuation of colonization

• Britain and Argentina fought a war over islands in 1982
  – Britain current administrator of islands