The Caribbean Islands

Major issues and factors of the Caribbean Islands
The divided Island

• Island divided in 1692
  – Dominican Republic had Spanish Influence
  – Haiti had French Influence

• Long standing animosity between two countries
  – Refugees from Haiti seek better life in Dominican Republic
Hispaniola Issues

• Racial tensions between Dominicans and Haitians
  – Both cultures have heavy influence from Africa, Natives, and Europeans
  – Antihaitianismo – Dominican hatred of Haitians

• Dominican Republic receives more rain
  – Better agricultural base
Differences in Policy

- Resources allow Dominican Republic to be more protective while Haiti needs as many resources as possible.
The 2010 Earth Quake

• In January 2010 a massive earthquake hit the capital of Haiti Port-au-Prince
  – Estimated 300,000 dead

• Dominican Republic offered help at beginning
  – More Haitian refugees sought out help
Socio-Economic Divides

• Dominican Republic Economically better off
  – GDP Per Capita (PPP) of $15,000 vs. $1,800

• Dominican Republic socially better off
  – Life expectancy of 63 years in Haiti, 78 in Dominican Republic
  – Literacy is 91.8% in Dominican Republic vs. 60.7% in Haiti

*2015 CIA World Factbook
LA HISPANIOLA: ONE ISLAND, TWO TALES

REPUBLIC OF HAITI vs. DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

URBAN POPULATION
- Haiti: 56%
- Dominican Republic: 77%

INTERNET USERS
- Haiti: 10.6%
- Dominican Republic: 45.9%

GDP PER CAPITA (US $)
- Haiti: $819.9
- Dominican Republic: $5,879

INFANT MORTALITY RATE (PER 1,000)
- Haiti: 73
- Dominican Republic: 28

UNEMPLOYMENT
- Haiti: 7%
- Dominican Republic: 14.9%

ADULT LITERACY RATE
- Haiti: 49%
- Dominican Republic: 91%
The Lesser Antilles

• Division of smaller islands of Eastern Caribbean
  – 8 States and 16 dependencies
  • Owned by the United States, France, Netherlands, the UK, and Venezuela
Religious Influence

Percent Christian
- 56% - 84%
- 85% - 94%
- 95% - 96%

Map showing religious influence in the Caribbean and Central America, with color coding indicating percentage of Christians.
Linguistic Influence
Tourism

- Beautiful beaches attract tourists from all over and account for large amounts of Islands’ economies

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Table 4. Revenues of tourism (in % of exports of each independent country in the Lesser Antilles).

Nota: Data from independent countries are only recorded by the World Bank.
Hurricanes

• Warm winds from Africa develop into Hurricanes over the Atlantic Ocean and frequently hit Caribbean Islands
  – Southern Caribbean in earlier Summer,
  Northern Caribbean in late Summer