The Cultural Landscape: South America
Colonial Heritage: Language

- The cultural landscape of South America reveals the heavy influence of European Colonization
  - Linguistically South America is primarily divided between Spanish, Portuguese, French, English, and Native Languages
Native Language Divisions

- Many regional native languages still exist
  - Largest language families are Quechua, Guarani, and Aymara
  - Estimated 448 languages as part of 37 different language families
Colonial Heritage: Catholicism

- 70%-80% of South Americans identify as members of the Catholic Church
  - Other major religions are Protestant Christian, Hindu, and Islam
Catholicism in Latin America

• Catholicism diffused to South America by the Spanish, Portuguese, and French
  – Estimated 480 million Catholics in Latin America

• In 2013 Jorge Mario Bergoglio of Argentina became the first Pope ever from Latin America
  – Chose the Regnum name of Pope Francis
The Beautiful Game

- Soccer diffused to South America in 1800s
  - Most likely in 1860 by British sailors in Buenos Aires
- Especially popular due to limited amount of equipment needed to play
South American Urban Growth

- Cities consist of central market and modern CBD
- Wealthier residents live close to central “mall” of businesses
- Informal squatter settlements develop along fringes of the city
Case Study: Buenos Aires, Argentina

Central Business District

Villa Miseria
Case Study: Brazilian Favelas

- Favelas are Brazil’s informal settlements, often growing outside the control of the government.
South American Racial Divisions

- Population influenced by European colonization, and Africans brought as slaves
  - Amerindian - Term for Native Americans
  - Mestizo – Combined Amerindian and European descent
  - Mullato – Combined African and Amerindian or European descent
Caballerismo and Machismo

• Contrasting Gender Norms in South America
  – Caballerismo – translates to Knightliness, refers to South American mentality of being a gentleman towards women
  – Machismo – Refers to the attitude of “manliness”
    • Perceived as highly sexist by Western cultures
    • Not as common anymore, especially in urban areas
Sources

Native Languages Map

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A previous version of the map was published in printed form in H. Glück (ed.), Metzler Lexikon Sprache, Stuttgart / Weimar: Metzler 1993, and later editions.