

1. US policy towards Latin America is shaped by US interests
 - National security, domestic politics and economic dev. as drivers
 - Management of these interests is based on assumption of Latin American inferiority
 - This would be expressed in "underdevelopment" : corruption, authoritarianism, human rights violations, and (today) populism
2. Policy is thus guided by premise that these defects need to be controlled
 - The rise of the hegemonic presumption in US-LA relations
 - 18th century assumptions about the differences between the two Americas permeated policy from the beginning to this day
3. Theodore Roosevelt 's motto: "talk softly, and carry a big stick"
 - Institutionalizing this control through various formal entities
 - Continued during the Depression, World War Two and the Cold War
 - A variety of bureaucracies to promote these interests, of which the OAS and the IADB are at the forefront (and now more than ever)
 - Blending self-interest with what the British call the White Man's Burden, and the French their *mission civilisatrice*
4. Starting off on the wrong note
 - By 1822 most LA countries had achieved their independence
 - Yet , Secretary of State John Quincy Adams was reluctant to recognize this and establish diplomatic relations with them, though he finally did
5. This was immediately followed by the Monroe Doctrine in 1823 in 2 December message to Congress . Four basic points
 - A) US would not interfere in European affairs
 - B) US recognized existing European colonies in the Americas
 - C) Western Hemisphere was closed to any future colonization
 - D) Any attempts by European powers to interfere in the Americas would be considered a hostile act by the US
 - This would become the guiding principle of US policy to this day
 - "America for the Americans", designed to exclude European powers
6. Haiti, the first Black Republic (1804) and its challenges
 - Site of the first successful slave rebellion in the Americas

- The Haitians defeated Napoleon's army
- Out of fear such an example would spread, US did not recognize the Haitian government til the 1860s
- US would later invade and occupy Haiti from 1915 to 1934
- Haiti as the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere

7. The Spanish-American War in 1898 as a milestone

- The sinking of the USS Maine in Havana harbor as a trigger
- Annexing the Philippines, Puerto Rico and Cuba from Spain
- The vexed issue of Cuba and the Platt Amendment
- An issue that would embitter US-Cuban relations to this day

8. The Platt Amendment in perspective

- An amendment to a US Army Appropriations bill
- Set out the conditions under which US troops would leave Cuba after the Spanish-American War.
- 7 clauses, limiting the role of Cuba in signing international treaties, taking out loans, ceding land for 4 US military bases (negotiated down to two) including Guantanamo.
- Severely limited Cuban sovereignty

9. The strange fate of Puerto Rico

- Cuba managed to shake off the Platt Amendment, and the Philippines became independent in 1945, but Puerto Rico remained in limbo
- From colony to Commonwealth to bankruptcy
- From industrialization by invitation to the current predicament
- Promoted as a successful model of US-based capitalist development in the sixties, and now left abandoned to its fate (14 years of negative economic growth)

10.. The Roosevelt Corollary (1904)

- In it, President T. Roosevelt argued that the US had the right to intervene militarily in Latin American countries for various reasons
- It essentially turned the Monroe Doctrine on its head
- Was applied very actively until 1930

11. Dollar and gunboat diplomacy in the Caribbean Basin

- Occupying countries to run them and manage their finances
- The Dominican Republic, Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua
- An era that would only come to an end with FDR's Good Neighbor Policy