

CANADA AND THE COUNTRIES OF THE SOUTH

For years Canada's relations with Latin America were cordial but remote.

Few Latin Americans spoke English or French, few Canadians Spanish or Portuguese.

In recent years the world has shrunk. South and Central America are often in turmoil and though Ellesmere Island and Tierra del Fuego are still almost literally poles apart, Canada is involved. Its exchange of goods, most notably with Venezuela, Mexico and Brazil, has increased spectacularly in recent decades, and it is committed to helping the island countries of the Caribbean find their place in the sun.

In this issue CANADA TODAY/D'AUJOURD'HUI looks at Canada's policies and ventures, past and present, with the countries south of the 30th parallel.

The Sum of Many Parts

"Latin America is . . . roughly the same size as Canada and the United States combined. It stretches 7,000 miles from Cape Horn to the United States border. The population exceeds 220,000,000: almost half of that number are Portuguese-speaking Brazilians; about 5,000,000 are Haitians, citizens of the most African country in the Americas; the remainder live in the eighteen republics that emerged from the Spanish colonial empire. Each of the twenty countries has its own historical past and its own particular view of the world. It is important to remember this distinctiveness—it has always been easier for foreigners to lump Latin America together than to recognize its individual parts." J.C.M. Ogelsby in *Gringos from the Far North: Essays in the History of Canadian-Latin American Relations 1866-1968*.



Is the Hemisphere Really a Region?

"If there is one region . . . to which Canada does not naturally belong, it is the so-called Western Hemisphere . . . the Western Hemisphere, as I understand it, begins in the east end of London, includes most of England, all of Ireland, and then goes westward into Siberia." From *The Better Part of Valour: Essays on Canadian Diplomacy*, by John Holmes.