

Puerto Rico

- ◆ Visited by Columbus on 2nd voyage
- ◆ Taino population died out during the early colonial period
- ◆ Some gold discovered, but ran out after a few decades
- ◆ With the flotilla system, Puerto Rico was marginalized - off the main shipping route
- ◆ Economy based on sugar (and rum), ginger, tobacco, and cattle

History and economy

- ◆ The fortress at San Juan defended against English and Dutch raids
- ◆ Stagnant economy - sustained by semi-legal trade with the Canaries
- ◆ Sugar plantations developed in the 19th century with illegal-slave trade (including Papiamento and Haitian slaves)
- ◆ Between free Blacks and slaves, Africans made up majority of the population

As a US territory

- ◆ Puerto Rico was generally neglected by US after Spanish-American war (focus was on Cuba and the Philippines)
- ◆ After ten years of possession, Puerto Ricans gained US citizenship

Spanish vs. English

- ◆ All education was mandated in English - as a result, the school system collapsed
- ◆ After extensive English borrowings and English-only schools, Spanish eventually acknowledged
- ◆ Spanish media was overshadowed by official English attempts
- ◆ Fear of Anglicization spurred Spanish-only movement - Spanish was recently declared the only official language
- ◆ Nevertheless, many English borrowings ('Spanglish')

Puerto Ricans in diaspora

- ◆ Significant Puerto Rican population in Eastern industrial cities
- ◆ A good deal of movement between States and Puerto Rico, increasing social ties between the two communities
- ◆ Nevertheless, Spanish language attrition is common in States

Phonology

- ◆ s-aspiration
- ◆ d-weakening
- ◆ velar /n/
- ◆ r > l
- ◆ *yeísmo*, but strong /y/
- ◆ /rr/ > /x/ - not African, more common among rural whites

Syntax

- ◆ High use of subject pronouns
- ◆ Non-inversion in questions: 'Que tú quieres?'
- ◆ Pronoun+infinitive 'Para yo hacer eso.'
- ◆ English constructions:
 - Como te gustó?
 - El problema esta siendo considerado
 - Te llamo pa'tras
 - Sabe como hablar ingles

Borrowings

◆ From Taino:

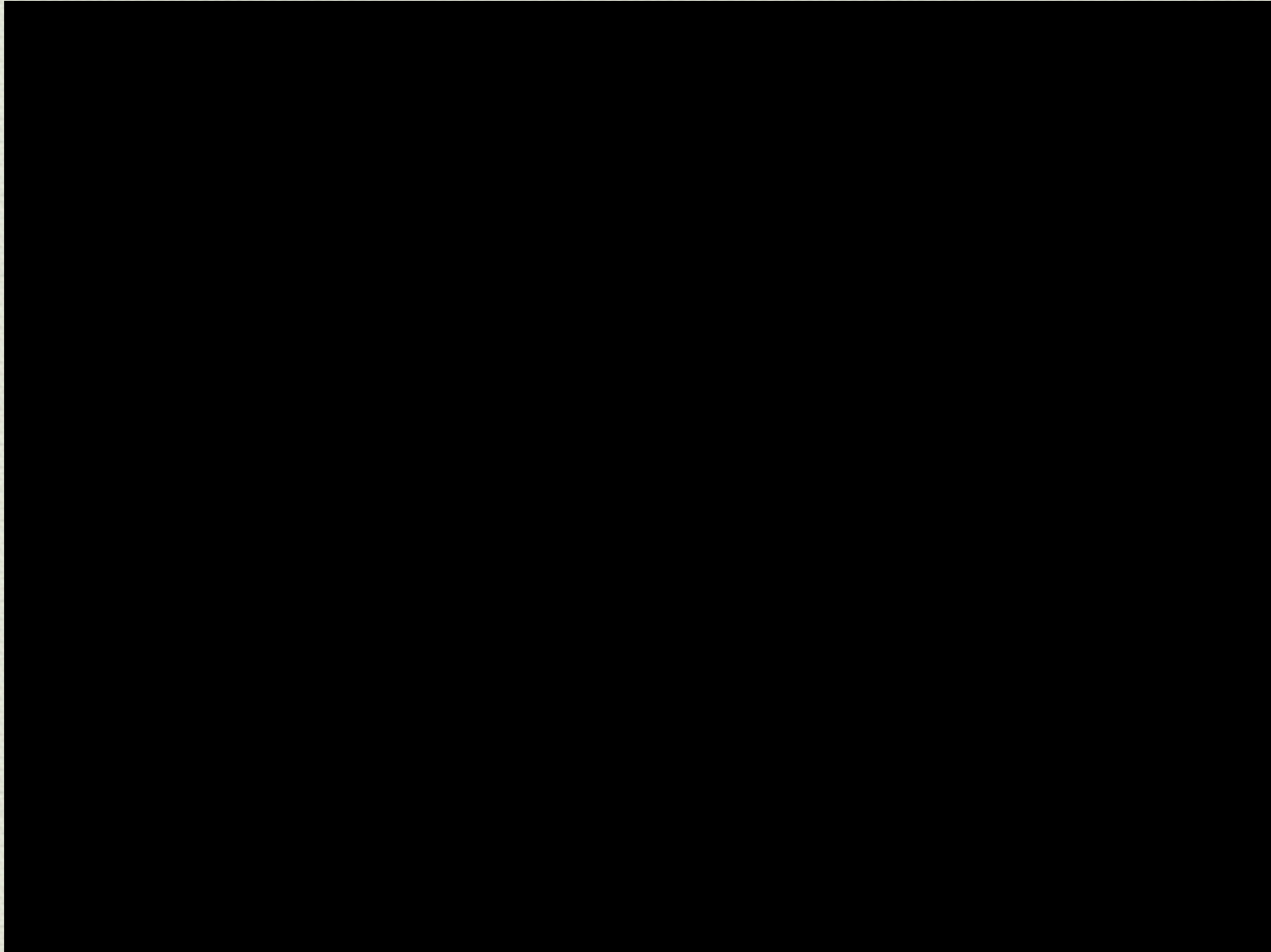
- batey 'yard'
- caoba 'mahogoney'
- guayaba 'guayava'

◆ Africanisms:

- congo, mafafo, fotococo, guineo 'banana'
- guandul 'pea'
- matungo 'old horse'
- jorotongo 'far away place'
- chevere 'great'

Brujerías

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The Dominican Republic

- ◆ Columbus visited on first voyage, leaving small settlement
- ◆ He returned on his 2nd voyage to find they had all died out
- ◆ 1000 settlers were left from second voyage, including his brother Bartolomo in charge.
- ◆ Taino attacks and internal strife led Bartolomo to found a new town Nueva Isabela, which later became Santo Domingo

History - continued

- ◆ The Spanish tried to enslave Taino - didn't work
- ◆ There was a little gold, but it was quickly mined out
- ◆ When Mexico and Peru were discovered, it became a backwater

Demographics

- ◆ Settlers were brought in from Canaries in 18th century to counter French in West
- ◆ The French prevailed, beginning a plantation economy with a population that was 90% African slaves
- ◆ After the Haitian slave revolution, the sugar production fell due to proximity with Haiti
- ◆ Conflicts with France and Haiti persisted
- ◆ The Dominican reunited w/Spain in 1861, with influx of Spanish settlers
- ◆ There was string of dictatorships, culminating in Trujillo 1930-1961

Language

- ◆ Similar Taino loanwords as in the rest of the Caribbean
- ◆ Since there was not an upsurge in slavery during the 19th century (as in Cuba and Puerto Rico), the African influence is not as great - Afro-Dominicans go back much further and have assimilated to Spanish for much longer

Phonology

- ◆ /h/, not /x/
- ◆ strong /y/
- ◆ d-deletion, except in African-influenced areas, where d > r
- ◆ velar /n/
- ◆ devoiced /rr/
- ◆ s-aspiration, leading to hypercorrection '*hablar fisno*'
- ◆ r > l, or in some places > y [áy γ o] (*algo*)

Morphology

- ◆ 'extra plural' e.g., *cafeses, cásase*
- ◆ Use of subjunctive in main clauses: *vengamos, tengamos*
- ◆ *dicele*

Syntax

- ◆ Lack of pro-drop:
 - Cuando tú acabe tú me avisa.
- ◆ Inanimate subject pronouns:
 - Cómprala - ella es muy bonita.
- ◆ *ello* as a pleonastic
 - Ello hay maize; Ello sí.
- ◆ Non-inverted questions
- ◆ 'Extra' *no* (*Nosotros no vamos no*)
- ◆ *su merced* - not only formal

Lexical Items

- *basú* 'bad luck'
- *cocolo* 'Black person'
- *facú* 'evil spirit'
- *gandú* 'green bean'
- *mangú* 'mashed plantain dish'
- *mofongo* 'mashed plantain dish'

Dominicano



Panama

- ◆ 1513 - Balboa discovered the narrow crossing to Pacific
- ◆ Panama became important route to Pacific, and access to the the gold and silver from Peru
- ◆ First Caribbean port was Nobre de Dios
- ◆ Lacked natural harbor, and hard to defend against pirates
- ◆ Portobelo a better and more defensible harbor

Shipping in Portobelo

- ◆ Once a year, ships from Spain arrived with goods to sell and to load up with treasure
- ◆ People came from all over - normal population of 500 grew to several thousand
- ◆ This became a source of linguistic and cultural exchange in an otherwise marginal colony
- ◆ Major port of slave imports
- ◆ As Andean gold waned, Portobelo lost importance and was concerned mainly with illegal intracolonial trade. Panama was incorporated into Colombia

US interest

- ◆ US interests, combined with banana growers' interests, led to the development of the canal, but Portobelo was passed by
- ◆ Problems with negotiations over the canal between US and Colombia led to a revolt against Colombia (with T. Roosevelt's aid) in 1903
- ◆ US negotiated perpetual sovereign rights over the canal zone. Canal opened in 1914
- ◆ Zone returned to Panama in 2000

African influence

- ◆ Fairly minimal contact with most Native groups, as cities tended to be in costal areas
- ◆ Large African influence
- ◆ Two groups: afro-coloniales and afro-congos; the latter are associated with the fiestas and have a way of speaking 'hablar congo' which is based on bozal Spanish, used mainly as a fiesta language

Congo



English and Creole

- ◆ Due to canal construction there is considerable English influence
- ◆ Also, Many West Indian English Creole speaking workers were recruited during the canal construction
- ◆ There were strained relations with Panamanians, but improved recently, as these 'afroantillanos' have been granted citizenship

Phonology

- ◆ č > š in Panama City
- ◆ d-weakening; d > t in final position
- ◆ velar /n/
- ◆ /l/ and /r/ lost in syllable-final position
- ◆ s-aspiration, subject to social variables

Morphology

- ◆ *voseo* in some western rural regions
- ◆ *-ve* in imperatives: *oyeve, andave*

Syntax

- ◆ Non-inverted questions, but less so than elsewhere in Caribbean (Cuban refugees?)
- ◆ Subject pronoun+infinitive: *Antes de yo venir aquí.*
- ◆ Pleonastic *ser*:
 - Lo conocí fue en la fiesta.
 - Trabajo es en la universidad.
 - Me fijaba era en la luz.

Lexical Items

- *buchi* 'hick'
- *chicha* 'juice'
- *chichipate* 'worthless'
- *chingongo* 'gum'
- *chiva* 'bus'
- *chombo* 'Afro-Antillean (derogatory)'
- *fulo* 'blonde'
- *pelado* 'child'

Corpus Christi



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Venezuela

- ◆ Columbus reached Venezuela on 3rd voyage - he believed he had reached the garden of Eden
- ◆ First settlements on islands in 1510 - pearls were found and the Indians were enslaved to gather them
- ◆ Fertile lowlands attracted more settlers - first mainland settlement in 1523
- ◆ Andean and central highlands settled in mid-16th century
- ◆ The canals of the Quiquire lake dwellers reminded settlers of canals of Venice - hence, Venezuela (formally *Tierra Firme*)

Demographics

- ◆ Native population in costal areas died off quickly
- ◆ Large importation of African slaves - Africans outnumbered Euopeans
- ◆ Cattle and cacao were major products
- ◆ 19th century immigration from Canary Islands
- ◆ 20th century immigration from Colombia with discovery and development of oilfields

Language influences

- ◆ Very little Native American influence - native population either died or retreated to the the interior
- ◆ Heavy African influence
- ◆ Caribbean-style Spanish varieties (African and Canario)

Phonology

- ◆ Weak /d/
- ◆ *yeísta* - strong /y/
- ◆ /rr/ is a trill
- ◆ r-loss, $r > l$, or, sometimes $l > r$
- ◆ velar /n/
- ◆ s-aspiration or deletion (socially determined)

Morphology

- ◆ *Voseo* in the Andes region (*sos, cantás, etc.*)
- ◆ *Vos* used with inferiors, *usted* with family members
- ◆ In Maracaibo, the *-ais, -eis*, forms are used - stigmatized

Syntax

- ◆ Overt pronouns common
- ◆ Non-inverted questions
- ◆ 'Antes de yo venir a Caracas.'
- ◆ Emphatic *ser*: 'Yo vivo es en Caracas.'

Hugo Chávez

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