



Latin America

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Robyn Neice

Page 258 of the text discusses the Amazon River Basin, Latin America's most distinctive regional landscape. It talks about the networks of new roads resulting in the clearing of forests. Fires are set in this area to clear land, and they produce thick layers of smoke that close airports and cause harm to citizens. <http://www.worldwildlife.org/amazon/>

The World Wild Life Organization's website talks specifically about this region and what one governor in the area is doing to help. Jorge Viana, governor of the Brazilian state of Acre is working to preserve his section of the global treasure before it is gone.

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Based on the text on page (p.249) Green Revolution in Mexico that is about the increased crop production in parts of Latin America, and how the success of it is increasing inequality and environmental degradation. According to *Business Week*; New York; April 12, 1999; [Richard A. Melcher in Chicago and Amy Barrett in Philadelphia, with John Carey in Washington, Geri Smith in Mexico](#) City, Jack Ewing in Frankfurt, and bureau reports; article <http://proquest.umi.com/pgdweb?Did=000000040403091&Fmt=3&Deli=1&Mtd=1&Idx=6&Sid=2&ROT=309> believe that As farmers rush to adopt the first commercially available bioengineered crops, researchers are developing others that could dramatically change farming, health treatment, and manufacturing of the better .

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The book discusses the importance of the Mayan Culture to the Latin American subregion. On page 230 the book explains that the Mayas built raised fields which were methods for growing crops in wetland areas. These types of fields lifted plants above flooding and also took advantage of the rich soils in the wetlands. This website, <http://www.jaguar-sun.com/maya.html>, discusses another type of farming called slash and burn farming which leaves a field uncultivated for 5 to 15 years after only 2 to 5 years of cultivation. The website also mentions the evidence of raised fields in the Maya culture. This website is very good at explaining some basic things about the Maya culture. It primarily discusses the social structure, architecture, and agriculture and diet as well as giving a few key traits of the culture.

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Columbia's drug trade is discussed on pages 252-253 of the text book. The web site www.aei.org/lao/lao11476.htm also talks about this topic. The United States is the principal market for the illicit substances produced and processed there. Nearly 80 percent of the cocaine and 70 percent of the heroin consumed on the U.S. east coast comes from Colombia. This destructive drug trading costs the United States about \$100 billion a year in detection, criminal proceedings, and treatment, but it costs Colombia even more, nearly six percent of its gross national product. Analysts claim that unless the United States does not attempt to control the drugtrade, then the farmers in Columbia will continue to harvest and produce it.

Late...but technically on time for East Asia

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According to the text, China's increased participation in world trade has created an entirely new situation within the world economy, causing a deflationary trend in world prices for manufacturers. China's economy is already the third largest in the world, and will remain largely agrarian for some time yet. However, the economy has slipped slightly according to <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A9121-2001Oct29.html>, who stated: Banking on vibrant domestic demand, China plans to keep economic growth at 7 percent or more, although the global downturn after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks will take an increasing toll on exports.

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