Guano, Henequen, and Export-oriented Development in Latin America

by Prof. Soto-Laveaga, UCSB
May 15, 2008

Migrant workers picking lettuce

Map of colonial possessions

Guano - fertilizer

Shipwrecked guano vessel off the coast of Peru.

Human exports

Shakira - Colombia
Shakira: Colombia

Mana - Mexico
Mana: Mexico

Selena: Texas

Ricky Martin: Puerto Rico

Chavo: Mexico
Chavo: Mexico
Henequen plants in the Yucatan Peninsula

In 1931 an estimated 2,500 miles of private tramways connected plantations.

Henequen mill (desfibradora) with henequen blades (pencas) stacked in front.

Henequen (sisal) products

Hacienda Yaxcocoil
Pax Porfírina – meant use of brutal force to bring peace to Mexico. A firm believer in "order and progress," Diaz believed that through foreign investment Mexico could modernize.

The outcome of the Mexican American War, 1846-1848

Spanish Empire

Successful vodka campaign in Mexico
Pulled vodka campaign in the U.S.A., April 2008