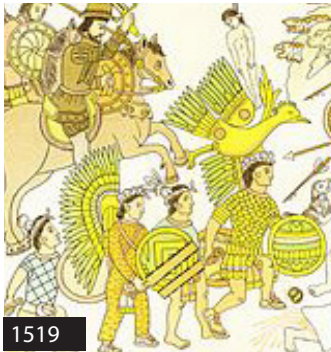


Timeline



1494



1519



1898



1922

- 1494 After Columbus reaches the Americas, the Treaty of Tordesillas divides conquered areas overseas between Portugal and Spain.

- 1501 The encomienda system brings Indigenous people to Spanish encomenderos as slaves. The Spanish settlers are tasked with converting them to Christianity. Abuses are rampant.

- 1519 Spanish conquistador Hernán Cortéz captures the Aztec city of Tenochtitlan and conquers it in 1521. The area will later become Mexico.

- 1532 Francisco Pizarro invades the Incan empire in Peru.

- 1565 Saint Augustine becomes the first European settlement in the U.S.

- 1691 Texas becomes a Spanish province.

- 1776 Spanish found San Francisco.

- 1810 Separatist movements begin in Latin America.

- 1821 Mexico declares independence.

- 1846 Mexico and the U.S. go to war over Texas. In 1848, Mexico surrenders.

- 1868 Cubans revolt 300 years of Spanish rule. Many leave for the U.S. 14th Amendment declares all people of Hispanic origin born in the U.S. as citizens.

- 1878 General Antonio Maceo Grajales, second-in-command of the Cuban army of independence, refuses to surrender without winning Cuban independence from Spain and the abolition of slavery, but is ultimately forced out of Cuba.

- 1897 Spanish government grants Cuba and Puerto Rico autonomy and home rule.

- 1898 The U.S. declares war on Spain over Cuba. The Cuban Revolutionary Party strikes a deal with the U.S.: In return for Cuban rebels' cooperation, the U.S. agrees to leave Cuba at the end of the war. The U.S. usurps Puerto Rico as a territory through war.

- 1901 Under the Platt Amendment, the U.S. government declares the right to build a naval base on Cuba and dictates that Cuba cannot sign treaties with other countries or borrow money without U.S. approval. With these parameters, the U.S. government grants the government of Cuba to its people.

- 1902 The Reclamation Act is passed, taking land away from many Hispanic Americans. Cuba declares independence.

- 1917 Puerto Ricans granted U.S. citizenship. Congress imposes a literacy requirement on immigrants. "Temporary" Mexican workers are permitted into the U.S. to work during WWI. The Selective Service Act becomes law and Mexicans, among others, are forced to register for the draft even though they are not citizens.

- 1922 Arturo Alfonso Schomburg, a Black Puerto Rican-American writer, activist and collector becomes president of the American Negro Society.

- 1925 The U.S. creates Border Patrol.

- 1932 The U.S. government begins deporting Mexicans.

- 1933 Roosevelt reverses the policy of English as the official language in Puerto Rico.

- 1940s Many Latino-Americans enlist in WWII. The Fair Employment Practices Act is passed.

1943 Racial tensions in California become apparent as the Zoot Suit riots take place. Authorities view young Chicanos wearing loose “zoot suits” as criminals. Anglo Sailors beat several young Chicano men.

1944 Mexican-American veterans struggle to receive settlements for veterans. Operation Bootstrap, a program Puerto Rico initiates to encourage industrialization and to meet U.S. labor demands, fuels a large wave of migrant workers to the United States.

1947 Puerto Rico becomes a U.S. commonwealth. Sylvia Mendez sues — and wins — after being turned away from a “whites only” public school in California. Her case, *Mendez v. Westminster* paves the way for the later *Brown v. Board of Education*.

1954 The case *Hernandez v. The State of Texas* becomes the first Supreme Court case Mexican-American attorneys brief and argue. The Supreme Court recognizes that Latinos are suffering discrimination, paving the way for Hispanic Americans to fight for their equality in court. The U.S. government puts “Operation Wetback” into place to locate and deport undocumented workers. Ultimately, 3.8 million people of Mexican descent are deported.

1956 Nearly a dozen bills are introduced into the Senate to preserve segregation. Henry B. Gonzalez stages an effective filibuster, speaking for 22 straight hours in an effort to stop them.

1958 “West Side Story” premieres on Broadway, highlighting racial tensions in the U.S.

1960 After Fidel Castro takes over Cuba, many Cubans begin fleeing to the U.S. The Young Lords, a Puerto Rican activist movement, launches in Chicago. The Mirabal sisters, three Dominican sisters remembered as political and feminist icons for their resistance of corrupt leader Generalissimo Rafael Leonidas Trujillo Molina, are assassinated for their activism.

1961 U.S. is defeated in Bay of Pigs invasion in Cuba.

1962 César Chávez and Dolores Huerta found National Farm Workers Association to advocate for migrant worker rights. It later becomes the United Farm Workers of America.

1963 President John F. Kennedy is assassinated, leaving Lyndon B. Johnson as successor. Johnson appoints more Mexican-Americans to positions in government than any president before and passes landmark legislation advocating desegregation.

1964 Congress passes the Civil Rights Act.

1965 The Delano Grape Strike begins as workers in Delano, California, along with the National Farmworkers Association lead protests.

1966 Striking Delano grape workers face attacks. The Senate Sub-Committee on Migratory Labor holds hearings in Delano. On the morning following the hearings, César Chávez gathers 100 farm workers to march to the San Joaquin Valley. The number of demonstrators rises into the thousands.

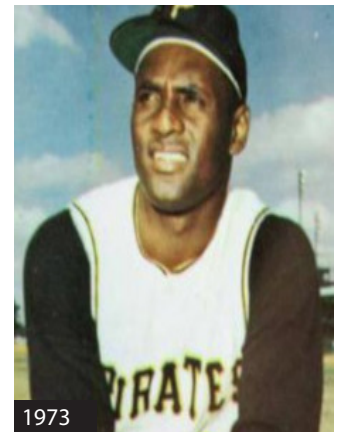
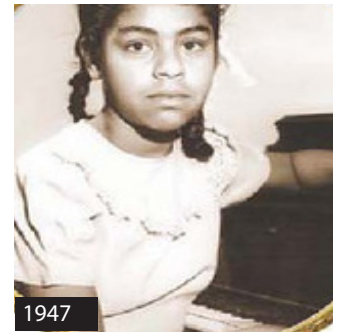
1968 Hispanic and Latino students walk out of high schools in L.A. and San Antonio to protest inequalities. President Lyndon B. Johnson creates Hispanic Heritage Week starting Sept. 15. It later becomes Hispanic Heritage Month, running from Sept. 15–Oct. 15, encompassing many dates significant to various Latin American countries.

1970 Herman Badillo becomes the first Puerto Rican American to serve in Congress. In Texas, Jose Angel Gutierrez is elected county judge.

1973 U.S. government officially recognizes the term “Hispanic.” Roberto Clemente becomes the first Black Latino/Caribbean athlete to be inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame.

1974 Congress passes the Equal Educational Opportunity Act, offering bilingual education to Hispanic students.

1975 Voting Rights Act of 1975 makes bilingual ballots a requirement in many areas.



1986 President Ronald Reagan signs the Immigration Reform and Control Act that puts three million people on the path to citizenship.

1987 The National Hispanic Leadership Institute addresses lack of representation of Latinas in corporations, politics and nonprofits.

1988 Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept. 15–Oct. 15) becomes official under President Reagan.

1989 Ileana Ros-Lehtinen becomes first Hispanic woman elected to Congress.

1990 Antonia C. Novello becomes the first woman and Hispanic surgeon general of the U.S.

1993 Ellen Ochoa becomes the first Hispanic woman to go to space. President Bill Clinton appoints Federico Peña as Secretary of Transportation and Henry Cisneros as Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, making them both the first Hispanics to hold those positions. He also appoints Norma Cantú, former Director of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund, to the position of Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights within the Department of Education. Twenty-five other Hispanics are appointed to positions needing Senate confirmation under this presidency.

1994 Californians pass Proposition 187, which bans undocumented immigrants from receiving public education and other public benefits. The U.S., Mexico and Canada sign NAFTA that allows money to cross borders but not people, hurting Mexican farm workers as cheap U.S. imports put them out of business..

1995 Proposition 187 deemed unconstitutional.

1997 The U.S. government officially adopts the term Latino.

1998 Carlos Santana becomes first Hispanic musician to be inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame.

2001 Representative Luis Gutiérrez proposes the first version of the DREAM Act, which would grant citizenship to those who entered the

U.S. undocumented as children.

2003 Hispanics become the nation's largest minority group.

2004 In Arizona, an anti-immigration group called "The Minutemen" take patrolling the border into their own hands, reporting unauthorized border crossings to the Border Patrol.

2009 Puerto Rican Sonia Sotomayor becomes the first Latina Supreme Court Justice.

2010 Marco Rubio, a second-generation Cuban-American becomes Florida U.S. Senator.

2012 The Deferred Action of Childhood Arrivals (DACA) begins under President Obama. It allows those who entered the U.S. undocumented as children to have a two-year deferred action from deportation and eligibility for a work permit.

2015 Afro-Mexicans are finally included in the Mexican Census.

2016 The term "Latinx" becomes more widely used as a gender-neutral alternative to "Latina" or "Latino," making more space for LGBTQ members of the community.

2017 "Day Without Immigrants" protests take place across the nation with the intention of showing businesses how valuable immigrants are to the economy

2018 Epsy Alejandra Campell Barr becomes Costa Rica's first Black Vice President.

2019 Puerto Rican American Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez joins the House of Representatives, representing a district in NY. Her outspokenness earns her hate from Republicans, especially President Trump. More people are in custody at the U.S./ Mexico border than ever before, raising human rights concerns for the facilities' inhuman conditions. Puerto Rican protesters lead Governor Ricardo Rosselló to resign over corruption and the leak of thousands of offensive text messages between him and his cabinet. Activists consider the unprecedented resignation a victory.



1993



2009



2017



2019