



*Central America:
A Quest for the Progression of
Economic Value.
Bonus-Season V.*

The origin of Central America political-economy.

Period of study: From 1700 to 1900

Episode 11

**Cattle and Livestock
Haciendas Central America**

Central America: A Quest for the Progression of Economic Value. Season V

From 1700-1900: The origin of Central America political-economy.



Outline Calendar

Season V From January 9th to April 17th, 2026.

| | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|--|
| <p>9-jan-2026</p> <p>Episode 1 </p> <p>Sugar-Sugar America Part I Brazil </p> | <p>16-jan-2026</p> <p>Episode 2 </p> <p>Sugar-Sugar America Part II Dutch islands </p> | <p>23-jan-2026</p> <p>Episode 3 </p> <p>Sugar-Sugar America Part III British West Indies - Production </p> | <p>30-jan-2026</p> <p>Episode 4 </p> <p>Sugar-Sugar America Part IV British West Indies - Barbados </p> | <p>06-Feb-2026</p> <p>Episode 5 </p> <p>Sugar-Sugar America Part V British West Indies - Barbados and Jamaica </p> |
| <p>13-feb-2026</p> <p>Episode 6 </p> <p>Sugar-Sugar America Part VI French Context (St Domingue) </p> | <p>20-feb-2026</p> <p>Episode 7 </p> <p>Sugar-Sugar America Part VII French Business Model Sugar St Domingue Analysis </p> | <p>27-feb-2026</p> <p>Episode 8 </p> <p>Sugar-Sugar America Part VIII La Señorita Cuba Context </p> | <p>06-March-2026</p> <p>Episode 9 </p> <p>Sugar-Sugar America Part IX Cuban Sugar Machine </p> | <p>13-March-2026</p> <p>Episode 10 </p> <p>Sugar-Sugar America Part Cuban Sugar Tycoons </p> |
| <p>20-March-2026</p> <p>Episode 11 </p> <p>Cattle and Livestock - Haciendas Central America </p> | <p>27-mar-2026</p> <p>Episode 12</p> <p>Banana Republics Central America </p> | <p>03-Apr-2026</p> <p>Episode 13</p> <p>Summary and Conclusions Seasons I and II </p> | <p>10-Apr-2026</p> <p>Episode 14</p> <p>Summary and Conclusions Seasons III, IV and V </p> | <p>17-April-2026</p> <p>Episode 15</p> <p>Research Agenda for the future </p> |

Holy Week

Central America: A Quest for the Progression of Economic Value. Season V

A piece of the economic puzzle of Spanish Central America in Four Seasons + Bonus



Big Picture of our Content.

Season V as of January 9th, 2026.

| Season | Start Date | Finish Date | Number of episodes | Historical Timeline to Analyze | Main General themes |
|---|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| One (I) Autumn -Winter 2024 | October 4 th , 2024 | December 27 th , 2024 | 13 episodes | 1492-1558 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Historical foundations Castile & Aragon: Discovery of Spanish America, the Holy Roman Empire Charles V Holy Roman Emperor: his local, personal, regional, religious, and international agenda The Spanish Inquisition |
| Two (II) Winter-Spring 2025 | January 24 th , 2025 | May 2 nd , 2025 | 13 episodes | 1492-1700 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spanish America with a Medieval Allure: Conquest and Colonization Understanding the economic philosophy of the Habsburgs Rulers in Central America: Philip II, Philip III, Philip IV, and Charles II. Commodities: Mining extraction of precious metal reserves |
| Three (III) Spring-Summer 2025 | May 23 rd , 2025 | August 29 th , 2025 | 14 episodes | 1700-1900 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> School of Salamanca The Bourbon era begins. From Philip V (1683-1746) to Alfonso XIII (1886-1941) The War of Spanish Succession The Jesuit Suppression and Restoration (1773-1814) The meaning of the French Revolution in Spanish America The Why of Napoleon Bonaparte |
| Four (IV) Autumn-Winter 2025 | September 19 th , 2025 | December 31 st , 2025 | 15 episodes | 1700-1900 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Independence Bells of Central America (1800-23) United Provinces of Central America (1823-40) Derailement of violence and inner conflicts Charted Urban vs Forgotten Rural Mining + Agricultural Commodities. Never an Industrial Factory Development. Main agriculture production industries: Cacao, Indigo, coffee, Sugar-Introduction |
| Five (V) BONUS Winter Spring 2026 | January 9 th , 2026 | April 10 th , 2026 | 15 episodes | 1700-1900 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis of Main Agriculture plantations. Sugar-Sugar America, Bananas, Cattle and Livestock, Foodstuff Summary and Conclusions Research Agenda for the future. |

Past saga: done

Past saga: done

Past saga: Done

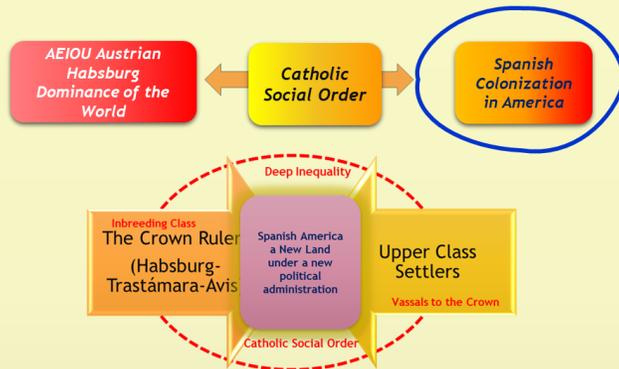
Past saga: Done

We are here

Central America: A Quest for the Progression of Economic Value. Season V. From 1700-1900: The origin of Central America political-economy.



Cattle and Livestock - Haciendas Central America



“Most of good historians are chroniclers of events. A Chronicler narrates, but doesn't explain the facts. Before proceeding further in our civilization, corporate strategists are obliged to understand the different explanations and interpretations of history. Otherwise, history will repeat under new circumstances”.

Eleonora Escalante Strategy. El Salvador

Our agenda for today's master class:

Central America:

1. *Always a Neocolonial Subsistence Oriented-Agriculture Society*
2. *The Spread of Livestock economy in México and Central America*
3. *The Livestock Economy in Central America (1870-1930)*
 - a) *Panama*
 - b) *Guatemala*
 - c) *El Salvador*
 - d) *Honduras*
 - e) *Nicaragua*



Central America: A Quest for the Progression of Economic Value. Season V.

From 1700-1900: The origin of Central America political-economy.



Cattle and Livestock - Haciendas Central America

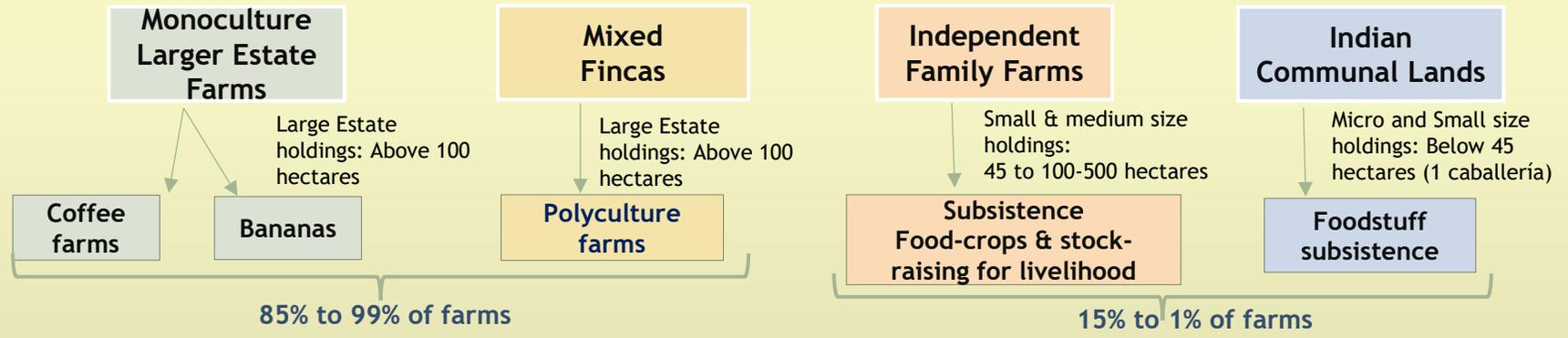
Always a Subsistence Oriented-Agriculture Society

The Types of farms in Central America. 1870-1930

On Season IV, we studied in detail the configuration of the Haciendas of Central America. Today, we will focus on cattle and livestock during the period from 1870 to 1930.

The American model to hold together the United Provinces of Central America was never accepted by the creoles of the former Spanish royal realms. Between 1821 to 1960 more than 25 attempts have been made to revive a political unity in Central America. All these plans have failed.

1 caballería New Spain (Including Central America)=45 hectares



Most of historians believe that Central America was a periphery, a neglected region, forgotten and overlooked by Spain.

This is not correct. We have studied the topic for more than a year. The Kingdom of Guatemala (understood as from Oaxaca to Costa Rica) was the main household of the Habsburg constellation of dynasties that conquered and colonized Spanish America. Over time the royal Spanish Habsburg-Castile descendants relocated to other unnoticed villages in México and South America.

Ever since the Kingdom of Guatemala was a household territory, the economic industrial development was banned until the arrival of the Bourbons. However, the Habsburg culture was so ingrained in the different provincial creoles, that the model of agriculture exports couldn't penetrate until coffee plantations.

The liberal colonization through "las fincas de café" started after 1860s, with the imposition of the coffee larger estates in detriment to the Indian Peasant Communities.

This "new colonization" occurred mainly during the first half of the 20th century.

- **The plantation, haciendas and estancia lands:** The central highlands of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua and the pacific slope of Guatemala started to grow coffee for exports as of 1832.
- As of 1860s, experimented with banana plantations in Puerto Bello Panama, and in Northern Honduras.
- With the establishment of the United Fruit Company (1899) and others, the American demand of banana drove the plantations growth in CA, between 1900-30, reaching a peak of 48 million banana stems in 1930.

- **The mixed fincas properties** were not focusing into commercial exports, but domestic production for the local demand or regional commerce.
- The mixed fincas were estates in which the proprietors grew different horticulture products (the Old Spanish way), a small sugar cane mill, sometimes wheat, livestock, chicken, etc.
- These are the larger self-subsistence haciendas.

- **The Independent isolated family farms** were areas widely separated which swept aside natives, completed total control of the land, kept the Indians within the side of the hacienda as sharecroppers or service tenants or indentured workers.
- Some of these estates could be huge if utilized for livestock for pasture. One horse or cow required a minimum of 1 hectare of pasture.

- **Indian Communal Lands:** Hybrid peasant communities with land around them for native plants production and a large degree of political autonomy.
- In some cases, they held abundant land just until coffee disrupted their life.

Eleonora Escalante Strategy

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Cattle and Livestock - Haciendas Central America

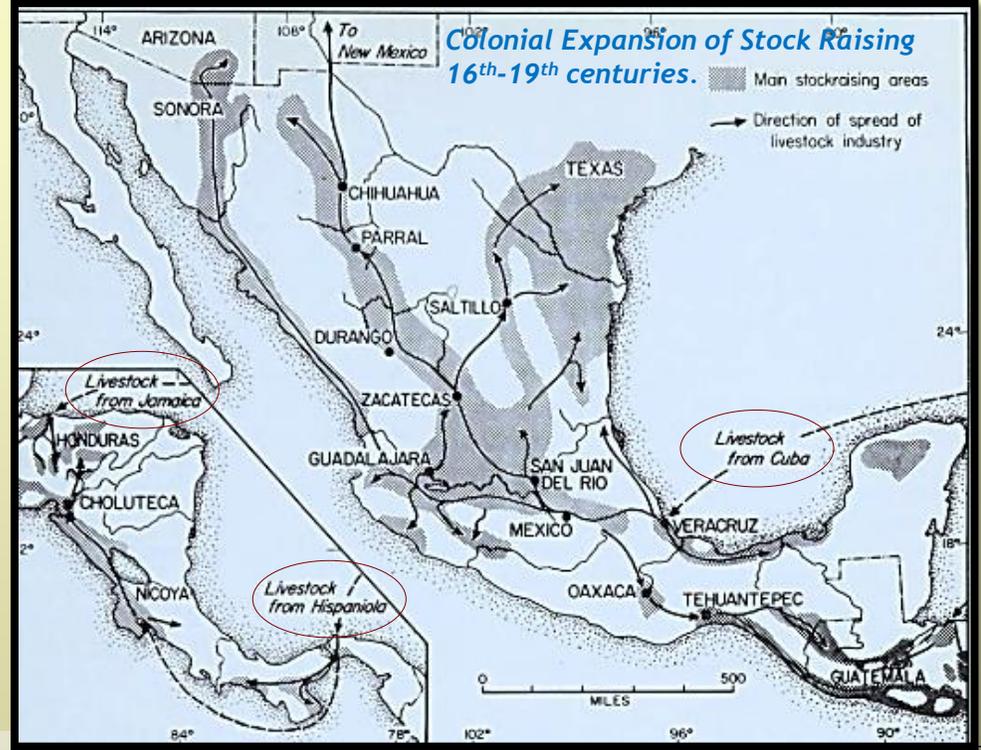
The Spread of Livestock economy in Central America

The introduction of stock raising

Since the 16th century, the Spaniards brought livestock to México and Central America, and these new animals reproduced greatly.

During the colonial times (before 1820s), the ganado mayor stock rising was in the hands of the Spaniards in three main clusters:

1. The highlands territories of the Indian Farmers
2. The tropical lowland savannas of the coastal plains and the interior valleys
3. The steppe land of Northern México.



Stock Raising in Central America

- The first animals that Spanish brought to México and Central America were the horse and the hog.
- The horse was a military weapon, symbol of authority over the Indian natives. The hogs were a ready to eat source of pork meat and lard.
- Later, cattle in dun-colored heavy horned type was coming from Western Europe, primarily for hides (leather) and tallow; secondarily for meat.
- Mules and donkeys were raised for transport
- Sheep and goats for their wool, meat and diary (milk and cheese).
- Indian communities accepted and were taught the art of keeping the Ganado menor in their household-communities, particularly chicken and hogs. The small sheep was adopted in the kingdom of Guatemala for wool-clothing, particularly in the highlands.
- During the colonial era, only native nobility of Indians were allowed to have a horse. All the cattle was raised by Spaniards, not by the Indians.
- The livestock was introduced to MX and Central America from Cuba, Hispaniola and Jamaica. The Spread of the livestock went north to Monterrey, Sonora, and expanded later New Mexico and Texas.



Ganado Mayor:
Cattle, oxen, horses, mules and donkeys.



Ganado Menor:
Sheep, hogs, and hogs



Barnard Fowls:
Chicken, turkey, etc.

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Cattle and Livestock - Haciendas Central America

The Spread of Livestock economy in Central America

Stock Rising right before the Independence from Spain (1820s)

Let's compare the stock-rising situation in each of the main clusters.

1 Highland Basins

- In México by 1555, Spaniards introduced herds of cattle first in Toluca, Puebla and the Valley of Hernán Cortés. At this time, 150,000 cattle and horses disrupted Indian agriculture land.
- The stock herds took over the milpas of the Indians who escaped to the mountains.
- Sheep raising became manageable by the Indian communities who were engaged to raise them by the Spaniards and practiced seasonal migration of sheep flocks from summer to winter pastures, creating a mobility of destruction for overgrazing.
- The strength of the sheep presence as an important revenue source for Spaniards is evident in the textile small wool mills called obrajes in Puebla, highlands of Oaxaca, Chiapas, and Guatemala.

2 Tropical Lowlands

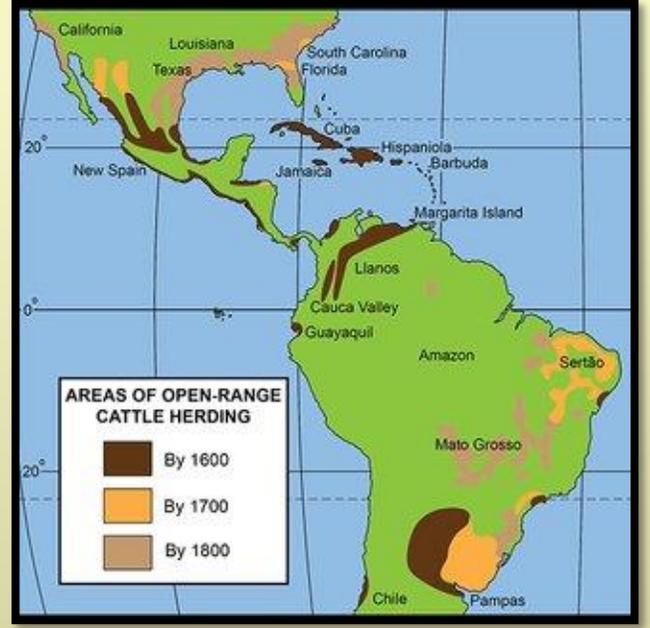
- The tropical areas of New Spain and the kingdom of Guatemala became stock raising areas, particularly for cattle, horses and mules.
- Sheep and goats did not expand, because of the high temperatures of the humid lowlands.
- The central savanna of Panama became the first lowland used for stock-raising, with herds imported from the Caribbean. From there, the Spanish expanded livestock into the lowlands of Lake Nicaragua, the Guanacaste plain of Costa Rica, and the Choluteca area of Honduras.
- The reason of rapid growth of cattle herds occurred because of the availability of unoccupied land (farms abandoned by Indians), and Spanish stockmen usually burned the lowland pastures to clear away the dry stalks, extending the grassy areas at the expense of the tropical woodland.

3 Northern Mexico

- Stock raising in Northern México was naturally and mostly developed from the start of the colonization in this area.
- The climatic and vegetation conditions of this region were grasslands, from Bajío of Guanajuato up to Río Grande: The original grama was highly nutritious for Spanish herds, year-round pasture conditions, and permanent streams of water.
- The first stock raising haciendas of México were established in this region, all together with the Catholic Missionaries, the Spaniards pushed the conquest of current USA territories.
- Any arid grassland not suitable for basic agriculture was considered for grazing, establishing estancias or haciendas, private ranches granted by the Royal Crown, an emerging creole landowning class of robust size.

Cattle establishment occupied native space to enable Spanish colonists to gain footholds in New Spain and Central America. The cattle that overtook the land of the Indias, helped to secure colonial control and increased territory.

• An interesting fact: The haciendas ganaderas in New Spain and the kingdom of Guatemala or Central America were founded in areas where Indians were sparse.



Source: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/370122476_Cattle_in_Latin_American_History

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Cattle and Livestock - Haciendas Central America

The Spread of Livestock economy in Central America

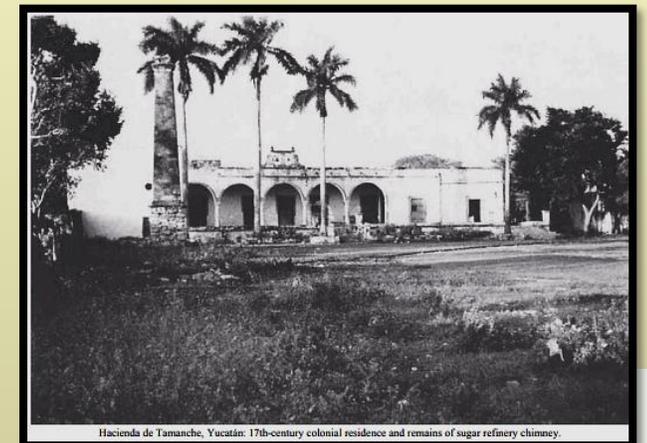
Stock Rising right before the Independence from Spain (1820s)

The mixed hacienda with cattle was maintained by debt peonage and the conditions were totally different than the export plantations.

Mixed fincas and Independent family farms raising cattle were a reaction of Spaniards-Creoles against the linkage to the export economy and against the urban life. They withdrew from the larger economy, to pursue the idea of self-sufficiency.

- The mixed haciendas with huge extension of land were designed to stay “out” of the export economy. They produced their own grains, sugar, vegetables, beef, milk, wheat (if possible). The haciendas had their own church and priest, a tienda (store) for the needs of the whole community. And they minted their own currency (called fichas de finca) to pay their Indian workers as indentured servants.
- The life of the mixed hacienda offered a better life to the Indians than the independent villages, obrajés, mines or urban work. This is why the landless natives supported the farmers to extremes under a feudalist mentality.

| Conditions | Hacienda type | Plantation Type (after abolition of slavery) |
|------------------|---|--|
| GENERAL | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technology adequate to produce a surplus • Class stratification • Production for a local or regional market • Diversified production for self-consumption • Capital accumulation based on low but safe returns • Private system of law and order-physical punishment • Inland, highlands. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technology adequate to produce a surplus • Class stratification • Production for exports, large scale market • Emphasis one major cash crop • Capital accumulation based on low but safe returns • Political legal system • Coastal lowlands, good access to ports and foreign markets |
| INITIATING | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital scarcity • Traditional credit sources: Church credit • Limits or nullifies workforce alternative sources of employment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large-scale investment, foreign capital, capital debt • Foreign secure markets, intl. contracts, tariffs and quotas negotiated • Specialist personnel, administrative management. |
| OPERATIONAL | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low-cost land, sub-utilized. Low capital needs • Animal transport • Workers bound to hacienda (debt). • Labor intensive, few technicians, non specialization • Restricted markets, but stable | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Efficient use of land, labor and capital • Improvement in transportation • Workers relying on low wages, not subsistence production • Specialized tasks according to operations • High risk markets, mitigated by lobbying-political influence |
| DERIVED CULTURAL | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family ownership • Prestige wealth-paternalistic hacienda owner | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate ownership • Profit maximization- no paternalism toward workers |



Hacienda de Tamanché, Yucatán. 17th-century colonial residence and remains of sugar refinery chimney.

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Cattle and Livestock - Haciendas Central America

The Livestock economy in Central America

Stock Rising 1870-1930. Panamá

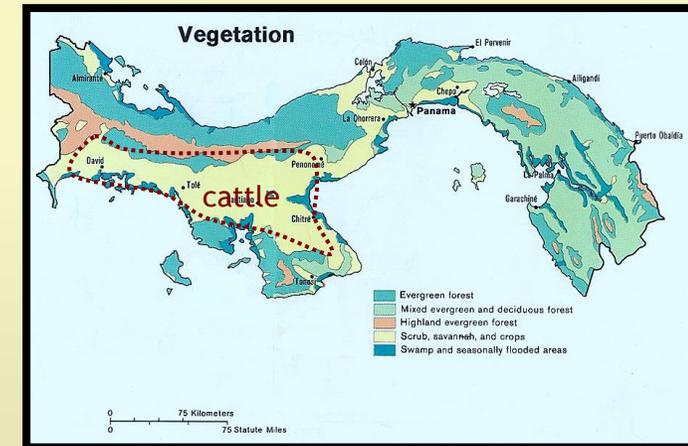
Panamá's western Pacific lowlands.

- The Western Pacific lowland of Panamá, was chosen as the most important farming and stock raising area, supplying meat and subsistence farming for those people in transit to the Viceroyalty of Cartagena.
- During the 16th century, Spanish stock-men occupied the rolling central savannas of El Interior.
- By the end of the 18th century, distinctive mega haciendas were in this region raising the best cattle from Europe. Also, medium-small tracts of mixed polyculture farming raised food and cattle.
- This area (at your map) is the essence of the Panamanian rural life. Most of the small farms are land rented from large owners: they grew rice, beans, pejibaye, small patches of sugar cane, and a variety of root crops.
- The small-scale stock raising happened in parallel to the larger-estate cattle haciendas. Some of these haciendas left mines from Perú and moved to El Interior of Panamá, to raise cattle, and some were coming from Spaniard nobility background.
- With the Panama Canal infrastructure works, the land

- was again transformed, barbed wire enclosed the savanna lands, forcing the small renters to migrate to the remaining forests and the Eastern part of the nation. Some poor peasants bred cattle that then were purchased by intermediary ranchers to sold later to the slaughterhouses.
- The pastures also changed before and during the Panama Canal construction: the demand for beef augmented to feed the workers. The Pará, Guinea and Faragua grass was introduced. New breeds (The Zebu) was imported and crossed with the criollo cimarron cattle.
- By 1903, privatization of communal lands were enclosed by wealthy cattle ranchers, and the small cattle raisers were left landless.
- The most western part of cattle production was in the coastal plain of Chiriqui, near David. There, the cattlemen improved their breeds with the asiatic Brahma strain.
- The markets of the cattle haciendas (small or larger estates) were the slaughterhouses and packing plants of Panama city, Colon and the Canal Zone (after 1914).



Panamá was a province of Colombia until 1903, and since colonial times, it was considered apart of the Kingdom of Guatemala. However, we include it, because Panamá's western pacific lowland has been the most important farming and stock-raising area of the region.



Brahma mixed with Criollo cattle. Panamá.

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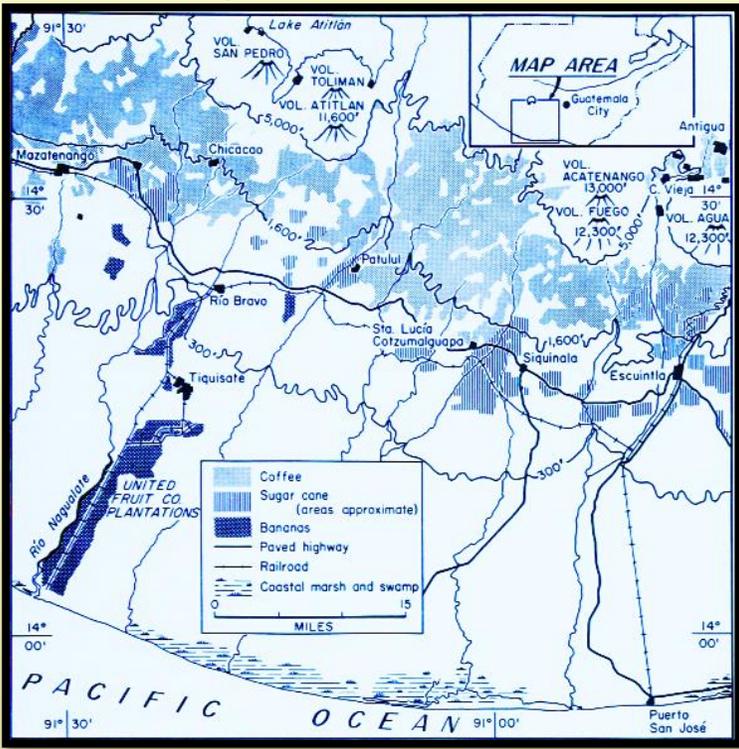


Cattle and Livestock - Haciendas Central America

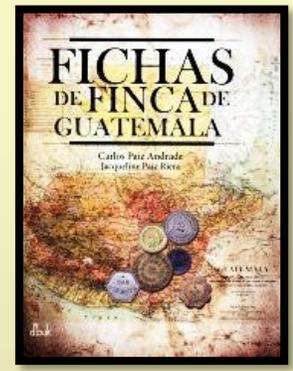
The Livestock economy in Central America

Stock Rising 1870-1930 - Guatemala

Guatemala's pacific lowlands and Peten northern lands



- Most of the Guatemalan Pacific Coast was used for mixed fincas (pastures for cattle, and small tracts of cultivated land for self-sustaining production for the hacendados family and the workers): according to a research done by Carlos Paiz Andrade (1938-2025), he was able to collect the records of 3,503 currency fichas from 549 Guatemalan fincas, used during this liberal period, in agricultural, service or commercial activities (in English). These "fichas" were used for different purposes in each of the fincas, but mainly to pay the workers of the coffee farms. However, the fincas located in the Pacific Coast were not suitable for coffee, and instead they were used for mixed ranching, including cattle.



It is important to acknowledge that during the 16th and 17th centuries, land was "granted" without an ownership right for grazing. All the land belonged to the Spanish Crown. The Spanish stock-men used certain areas in Guatemala (Pacific costa) for self-sustaining cattle raising, not for commercial purposes.

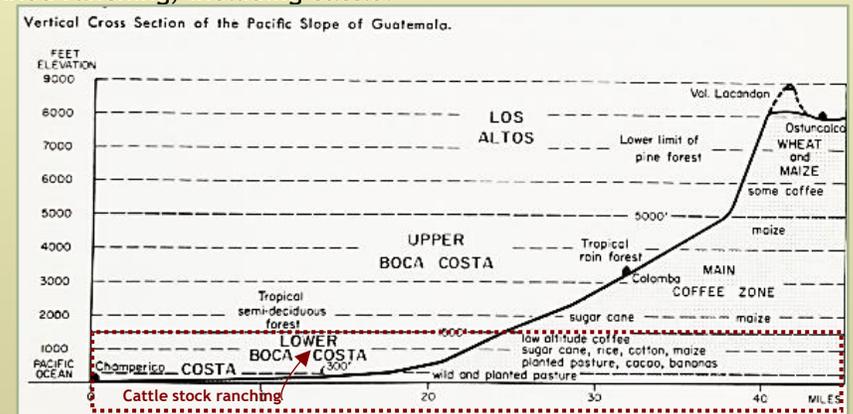
- In Guatemala, Oaxaca, and the Soconusco, the grant of using land for cattle raising mixed with foodstuff production was segmented in two groups:

Estancia de ganado mayor

Usually measured around 5,000 acres (or 2,025 ha), for mules, cattle and horses.

Estancia de ganado menor

Usually measured around 2,500 acres (or 1011 ha), for smallest species.



- When the wealthy Spaniards began to accumulate titles of property (granted by the Spanish crown), we are facing the period of the entrance of the Bourbons into power.
- The largest haciendas for stock-raising were located in México. For example, the estate of the Marquis of Aguayo at Coahuila, was half the size of Texas. Read more <https://www.jstor.org/stable/30237236>

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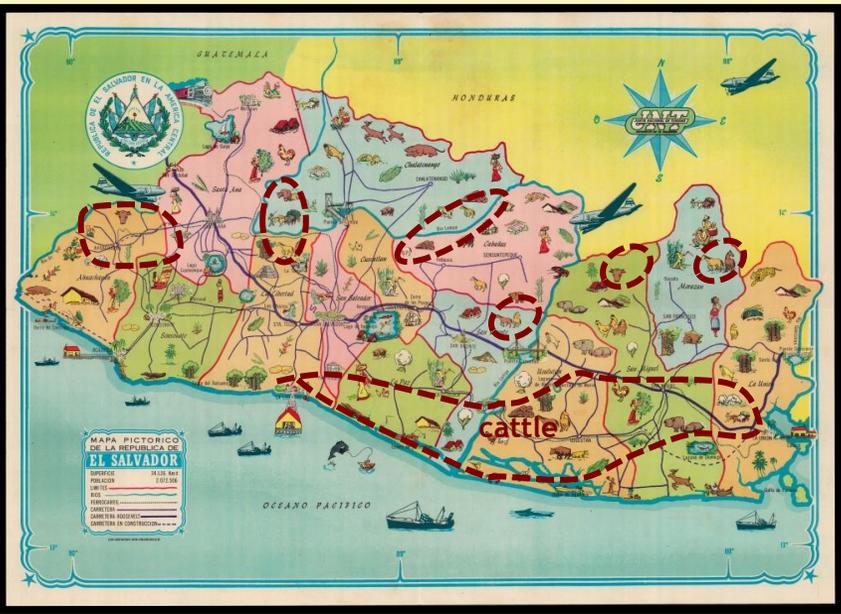
Cattle and Livestock - Haciendas Central America

The Livestock economy in Central America

Stock Rising 1870-1930 - El Salvador

El Salvador developed stock-raising mainly in several departments: Usulután, La Unión, San Miguel, Chalatenango, and some areas of Ahuachapán.

El Salvador is the only country in Central America that doesn't have access to the Caribbean. This province was settled by Spanish stockmen who maintained plantations of cacao, indigo and cattle during the colonial period. Particularly in the coastal Pacific plain lowlands.



- Stock rising was traditionally held by the descendants of the Spaniards since the 16th century. That is why 1/3 of the land of El Salvador was feasible for pastures, or it was used for grazing cattle.
- Cattle was the 85% of the livestock in Salvadoran pastures, the rest 15% was for goat, hogs, and poultry. Cattle has been raised anywhere in the country, even a subsistence tenant renter held one cow or a few head.
- Commercial stock raising was mainly located in the coastal plains of the eastern side (called Oriente). It was concentrated in a few larger estates or haciendas in the coastal lowlands of Usulután, and some of the interior dry basins (upper River Lempa plains).
- Since colonial times, the coast is inundated during the raining season, and the grassy marches lush in the dry season. This is why the herds are moved to the coastal marches from December to April.
- After the WWII, several fincas of cattle shifted to cotton, or mixed the nature of their land.

- The province of San Salvador was always an agrarian type. After 1870, more than half of the population were farmers. However, most of the fertile land was used for commercial exports (coffee), while the smallest plots were cultivating foodstuff.
- By 1930, more than 40% of the cultivated farms were smaller than 2.5 acres (1 ha), but these comprise only 2% of the total farmland. Some of these small-farmers were owners, but the majority were renters
- Most of the subsistence farms were depleted by the large-scale cultivation of indigo during the 17th-18th centuries, making the soils badly eroded and deforested. By 1870, the small farmers lived in municipios or villages, as the old Catholic tradition, but were dispersed throughout the country with the advent of coffee plantations. However, the shift from indigo to coffee was a fortunate destiny, replacing the dying-stuff that was hurting the labor force.

Source.
<https://www.geographicus.com/PI/AntiqueMap/elsalvadorpictorial-juntadeturismo-1950>.

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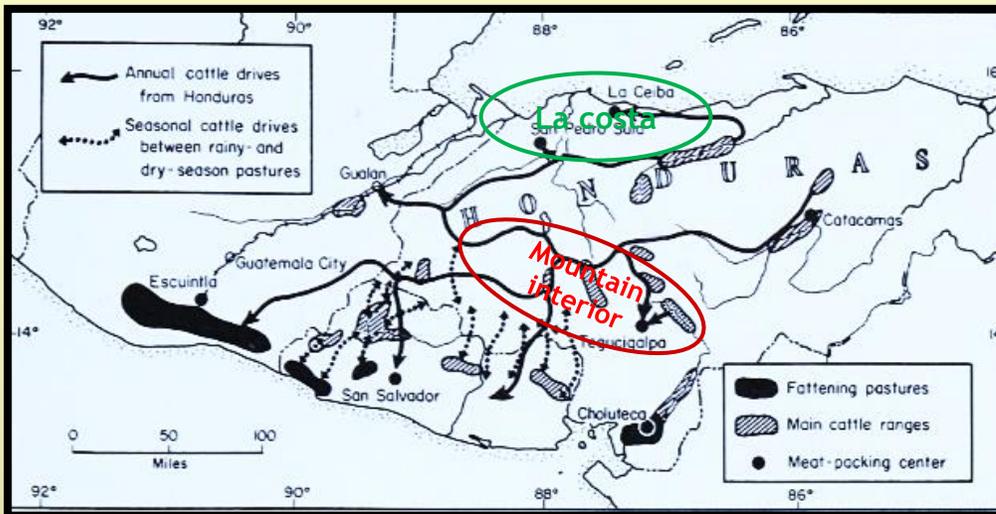
Cattle and Livestock - Haciendas Central America

The Livestock economy in Central America

Stock Rising 1870-1930

Honduras was always a land of livestock ranching and mines.

The banana crops boom triggered the cattle farming in the Caribbean Coast. We will explore the bananas plantations on our next episode.



Source. West, R. & Augelli, J. *Middle America: its lands and peoples*. 1st Edition. Prentice Hall. 1966. Page 421

Mining: After the independence from Spain, Honduras mines were taken by American; British and French in concession. From 1821 to 1890, all the main mines were totally depleted, leaving nothing to the country.

- After the Independence from Spain, the economy of Honduras was segmented in two main zones: (1) The interior upland basin around Comayagua; (2) the Caribbean Lowlands, called la Costa around San Pedro Sula and La Ceiba.
- In the mountainous interior the traditional mining, stock-rising and foodstuff subsistence farming.
- At the Caribbean Costa, the commercial crops with large capital investments in banana plantations took place as of the arrival of the 20th century.
- The mining industry of Honduras promoted and encouraged the stock-rising. Since the 16th century, cattle ranchos occupied the best and larger estates of the different valleys at the interior, as Comayagua, Yoro, the savanna of the Choluteca plains and Catacamas.
- When mining diminished, Honduras introduced cattle to El Salvador and Guatemalan markets.
- From the mid 19th century, cattle was exported to the Caribbean plantations through the Atlantic; and the United Fruit company invested heavily in livestock as of the 1900s.
- Subsistence farming represented more than 80% of working population, cultivating small plots of land between 15 to 25 acres. However, the larger estates remained in the hands of foreign American investors, with meat packing centers exporting to USA from San Pedro Sula, La Ceiba, and Tegucigalpa.
- By 1951, 70.6 % of the land (including cattle ranchos) was in the hands of 0.8% of the farmers.



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Cattle and Livestock - Haciendas Central America

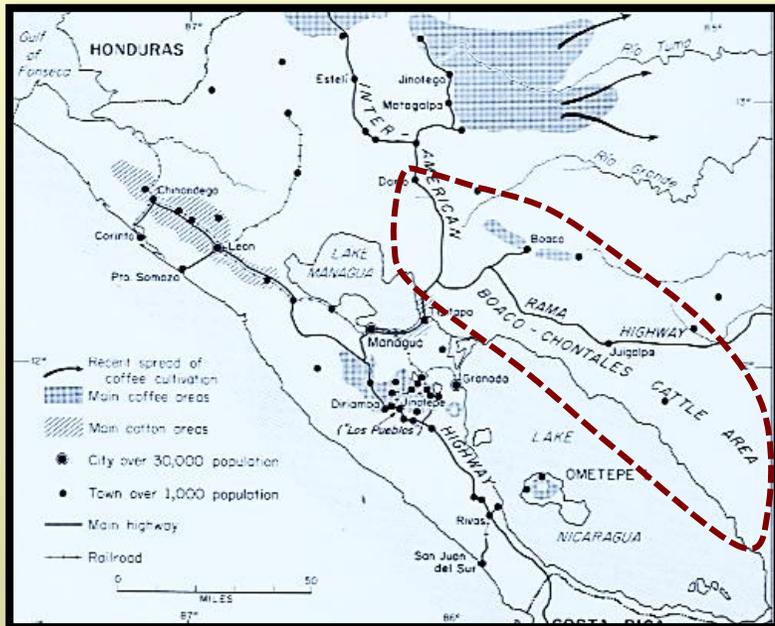
The Livestock economy in Central America

Stock Rising 1870-1930

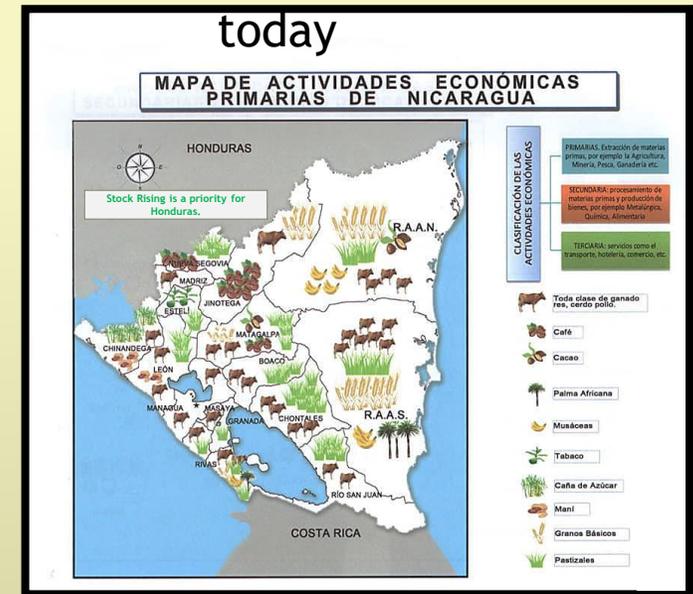
Nicaragua was wrongly conceived as a neglected colony of Spain. However, Britain and USA were directly influencing the economy.

The main economic activities of Nicaragua until 1870 were cattle ranching and subsistence agriculture. Indigenous communities owned much land. As of 1877, the communal lands were passed to coffee planters. North American investors controlled the coffee, gold lumber and bananas by 1909.

- The livestock and indigo were the main economic production of Nicaragua until the mid 19th century.
- Cattle rising continued to be significant, particularly because the main pastures located in the savannas of Chontales and Boaco, on the eastern side of the lake of Nicaragua were kept for that purpose.
- It is during this period that, the cattle stock-men evolved from the traditional hide-and tallow producing herds, to beef for exports to the USA:
- The cattle farmers crossed different beef yielding breeds, and since then, the beef was mainly shipped to the USA.
- The abundance of grasslands of Nicaragua allowed the rapid increase of the new breeds. Since the eruption of the beef industry exports by mid 20th century, Nicaragua has invested and prioritized the sector over the years.



Source: West, R. & Augelli, J. Middle America: its lands and peoples. 1st Edition. Prentice Hall. 1966



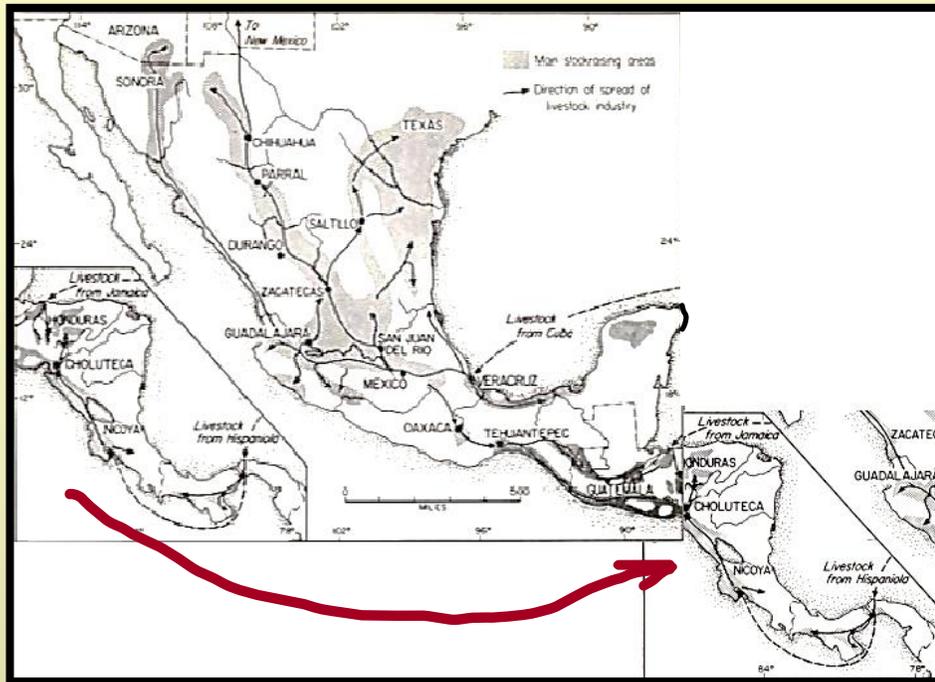
All the information of these slides is supported and inferred from the bibliography page 15

Central America: A Quest for the Progression of Economic Value. Season V. From 1700-1900: The origin of Central America political-economy.

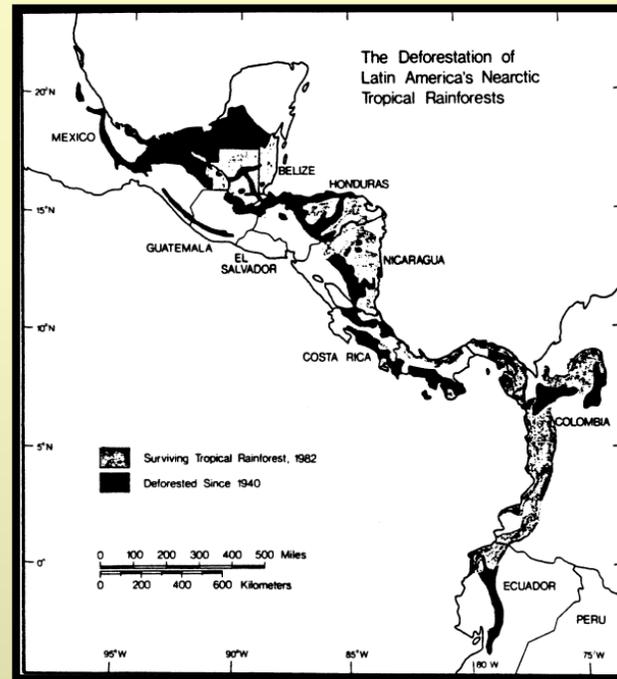


Cattle and Livestock - Haciendas Central America

In summary: Cattle-livestock raising has always accompanied Central America.



Source. Source. Source. West, R. & Augelli, J. *Middle America: its lands and peoples*. 1st Edition. Prentice Hall. 1966



Source: Norman Myers and Richard Tucker *Deforestation in Central America: Spanish Legacy and North American Consumers*
Environmental Review: ER, Spring, 1987, Vol. 11, No. 1 (Spring, 1987), pp. 55-71

- The colonial introduction of cattle (Ganado mayor and Ganado menor) has always accompanied the Spanish Stock-men in the Kingdom of Guatemala.
- With or without plantations, stock-raising has subsisted despite the different challenges during the last 500 years.
- The pasture land has inevitably caused an important degree of deforestation.
- Between 1850 to 1920, the virgin forests destroyed in Central America occurred because of the introduction of the different plantations at a massive scale, given its export-oriented agriculture.
- It is important to consider the land use changes that include the urbanization of predominantly former agrarian areas.
- However, thanks to God there are still natural reserves in Central America, that should be protected beyond rationality. It is the legacy for tomorrow's generations.

Central America: A Quest for the Progression of Economic Value. Season V. From 1700-1900: The origin of Central America political-economy.



Cattle and Livestock - Haciendas Central America

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*Our next stopover will be
Bananas...*



Image source:
https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Banana-producing-areas-of-Central-America-1885-1950_fig6_341580654



Thank you

The origin of Central America political-economy.

Period of study: From 1700 to 1900

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