

Geo-historical Overview



SeaWiFS view of southern South America., NASA Goddard Spaceflight Center

- **Instructor:**
- **Eldor Pederson, Ph.D.**
- eopederson45@gmail.com
- eldorp@washington.edu

- **Note that items used in the class presentation with potential copyright issues have been deleted from this copy.**

Definitions of the Southern Cone

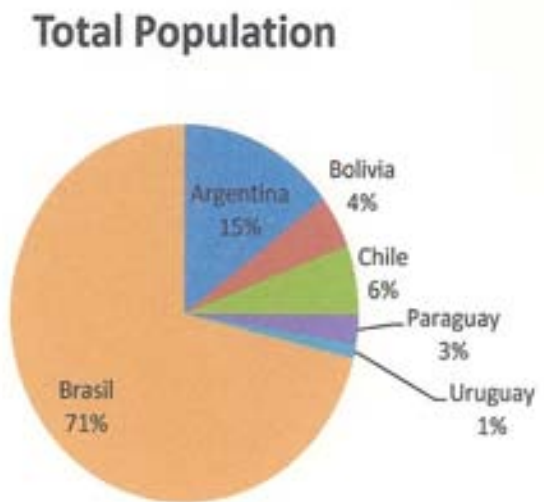
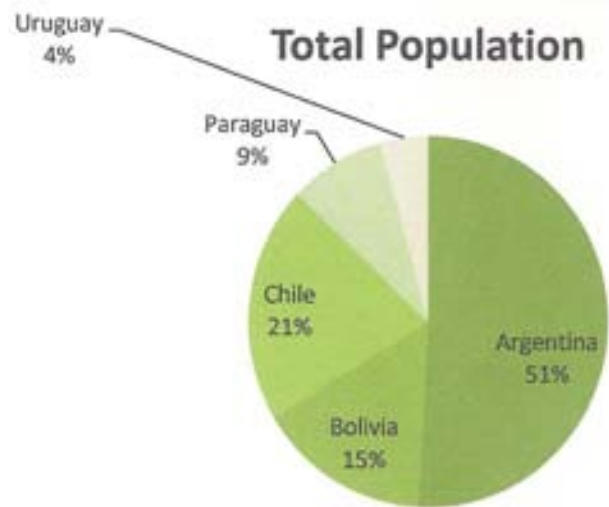


**Iglesia Anglicana del
Cono Sur de America**



Wikipedia

The elephant in the room



- **Lecture 1 A Geo-historical Overview of the Southern Cone**
- **Lecture 2 The Richer Three: Argentina, Chile and Uruguay**
- **Lecture 3 The Poorer Two: Bolivia & Paraguay**
- **Lecture 3 The Southern Cone in the Age of Globalization**

Lecture Outline

The physical geography of Southern South America

- Physiographic Divisions
- Precipitation and climatic conditions
- Ecological zones

- Some notes on the social history of the region:
- Pre-conquest settlement
- The Conquest
- Colonial Era
 - Spanish settlement patterns
 - Spanish law (latifundia, etc.)
- Independence

A Physical Geography of Extremes: Altitude



Aconcagua, Mendoza, Argentina: 6962 m highest point in the western Hemisphere

Lowest points in the Western Hemisphere



Peninsula Valdes, Chubut,
Argentina (-50m)



Laguna del Carbon, Santa
Cruz, Argentina (-100 m)

A Physical Geography of Extremes: Dry and Wet



Left: Death Valley (Valle de los Muertos), Atacama Dessert, Chile
Above Chaco Boreal, Paraguay

Climate

- **Climate map from Veblen, Tom. 2004. The Physical Geography of South America.**

Ecological Zones

- **Ecological zone map from Veblen, Tom. 2004. The Physical Geography of South America.**

Cold Environments

Chalcataya, Bolivia
Once the world's highest
altitude ski resort



Glaciar Perito Moreno, edge of
Campo de Hielo Sur, Argentina



Torrid Environments



Parque Nacional Río Pilcomayo
Argentina-Paraguay Border



Rainforest, Pando, Bolivia

Basin of the Rio de la Plata



Mouth of the Rio de la Plata



NASA EOS image 2008

- **Overall a difficult environment for Human Occupation!**
 - Precipitation
 - Inadequate for most crops over much of the region
 - Inadequate even for grazing over large areas
 - Drainage
 - Interior drainage (salinas)
 - Vast areas flooded part of the year
 - Altitude
 - Short growing season
 - Inadequate temperatures for many crops
 - Disease
 - Tropical lowland diseases (malaria, yellow fever, chagas)

Americae sive quartae orbis partis nova et exactissima descriptio / avtore Diego Gvtiero Philippi Regis Hisp. etc. Cosmographo ; Hiero. Cock excvde 1562 ; Hieronymus Cock excude cum gratia et priuilegio 1562.



Pre-Contact Settlement

- **Ethnic Divisions**
 - High culture areas, under Incan control at Conquest
 - Bolivian Altiplano, area of long established urban culture
 - Agriculture (llamas, potatoes, quinoa, etc.)
 - Textile production
 - Inca settlements south into Chile and Argentina
 - Forest, Chaco and Pampas dwellers
 - Non-permanent settlements
 - Low densities
 - Mostly hunting (some fishing)
 - Southern Groups, including Tierra del Fuego

Pre-contact Populations

Left: Fuegian from Fitzroy's
Voyage of the Beagle
Above: Guarani captured by
Brazilian slave hunters

Quilmes, Tucuman, Argentina

Pre Contact Civilizations:
1 Tiwanaku 2 Tasil

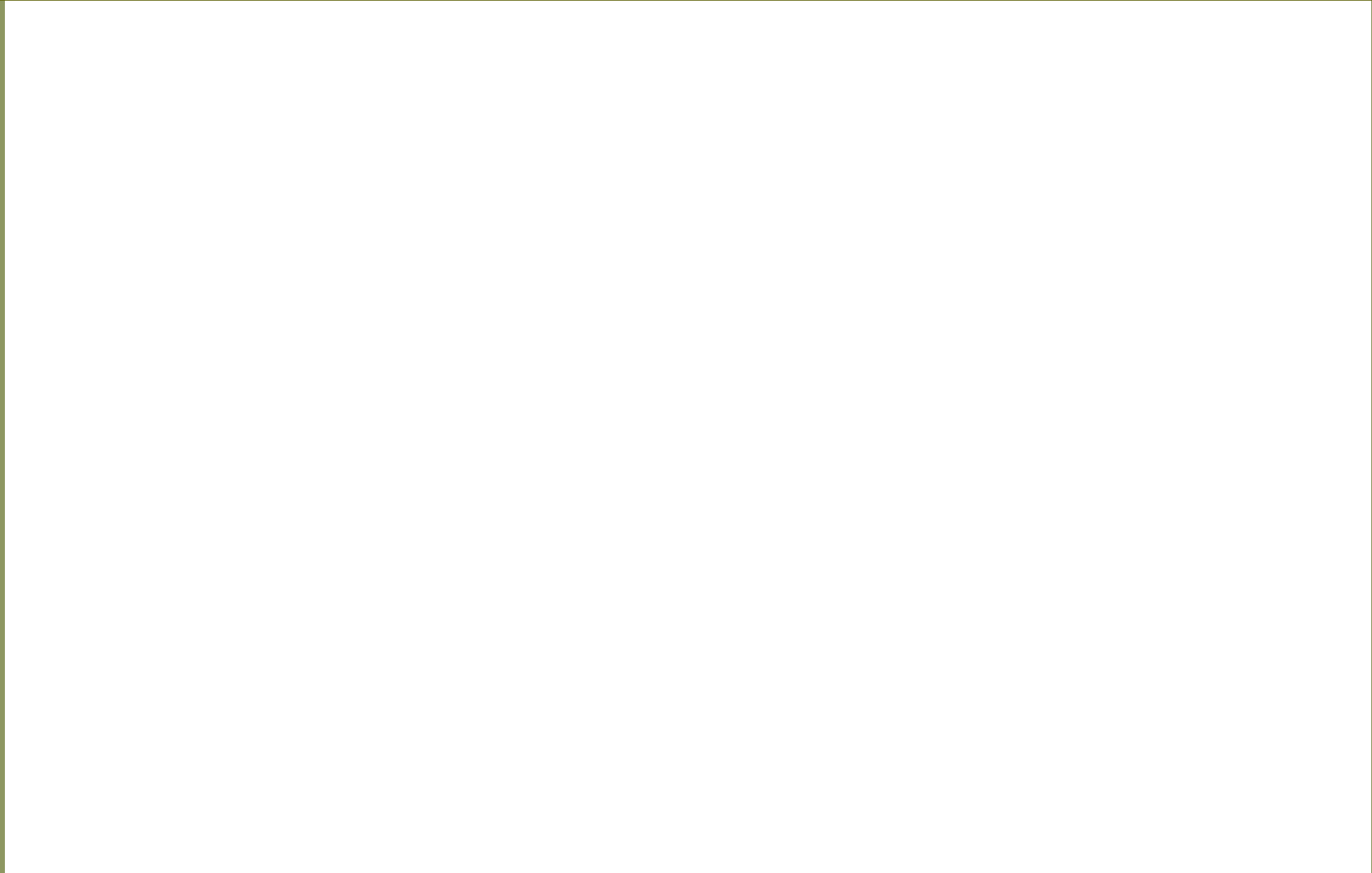


Social History of the Southern Cone: Conquest and Spanish Colonial Eras

- **Pattern of Conquest**
 - North to South
 - Inland from Pacific
- **Settlement**
 - Mining areas
 - Support for mines and mineral transport
- **Institutions**
 - The Church
 - Audiencias
 - Population divisions
- **Land Divisions**
 - Latifundia
 - Church landholdings
- **Agriculture and Production**

South America circa 1800

America Meridionalis
Guillaume de l'Isle, published 1772



The Long Century of Warfare: 1809-1920

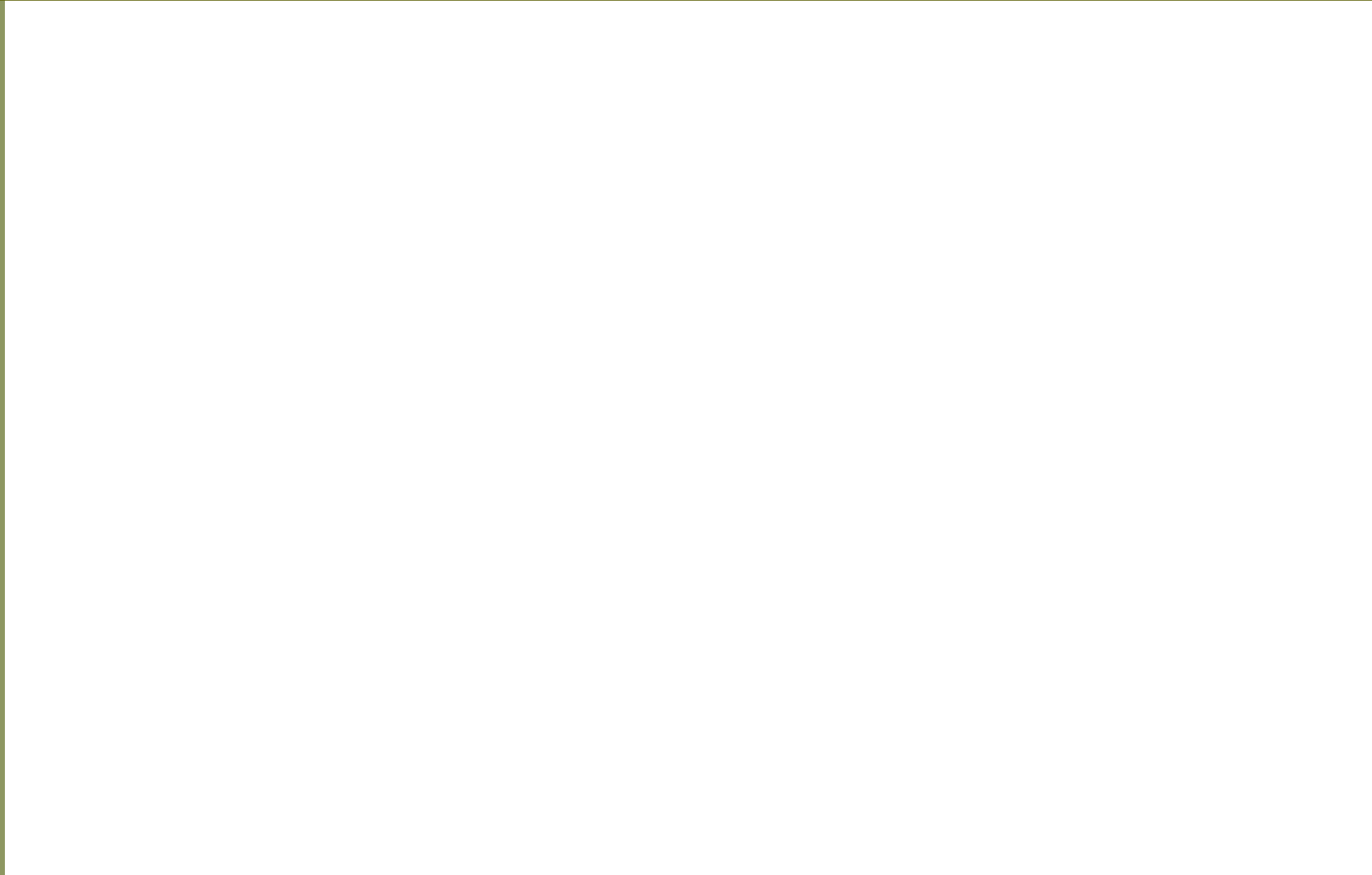
- **Wars of Independence**
- **Wars: territorial, fratricidal and genocidal**
- **Brasil and Southern Cone States**
- **Civil Wars**
 - Argentina
 - Uruguay
 - Paraguay
- **Wars of Colonial Expansion**
 - Brasil
 - Chile vs Peru and Bolivia
 - Argentina and genocide of the aboriginies
- **Wars between Independent States**
 - War of the Triple Alliance
 - Chaco War

Bolivian War Memorial



- **Pre Contact Population: 15-20 Million (guesswork!)**
- **Early Contact Demographic Disaster**
 - Disease
 - Enslavement
 - Warfare and genocide
- **Colonial Era**
 - Minor immigration from Spain
- **Era of Independence**
 - More wars and genocide!
- **Resource Booms**
 - European immigration, especially Argentina & Uruguay
 - Health improvements
- **Current trends**
 - Birth rates and death rates to be examined
 - Era of immigration over

Population Distribution circa 2010



Street Sign, Puerto Madryn, Rio Negro, Argentina



- **Spanish Notions of Social Status (From top to bottom, a crude overview)**
 - Gentlemen (Don ...)
 - Clergy
 - Peninsulares vs Criollos
 - Limpieza de Sangre
 - Mestizos (elaborate breakdown of types; the more European in behaviour and appearance the higher up the scale)
 - Slaves
 - Indios

- **Colonial Era**
 - Precious Metals!
 - Almost all other development to serve mines
- **Early Independence**
 - Near economic collapse
- **Resource Booms**
 - Guano (Chile & Peru)
 - Potash (Chile)
 - Metals (Chile, Bolivia)
 - Meat and wool (all but Paraguay, minor in Bolivia)
- **The Myths of Development**
 - Argentina, Uruguay and Chile as “Developed Nations”

Argentina Railway Lines



Note green lines; abandoned

End of the Line:
La Quiaca Station Argentina-Bolivia
Frontier



- **Instructor:**
- **Eldor Pederson, Ph.D.**
- eopederson45@gmail.com
- eldorp@washington.edu