

- **Afro-Brazilian Culture in 19th Century Bahia**
- **Take Our Jobs campaign**
- **Simón Bolívar**

Origins

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2011

Afro-Brazilian Culture in 19th Century Bahia

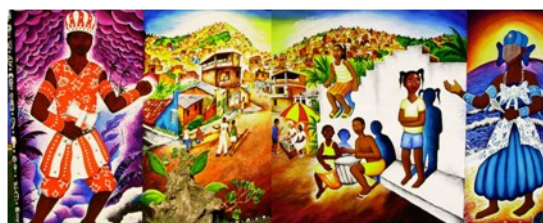
By Sarah Mellman

Because it was a main destination for African slaves during the Brazilian slave trade, the northeast region of Bahia, and in particular, its capital city of Salvador, has strong roots in African culture. From the Yoruba-derived religious tradition of Candomble to the martial art of capoeira to African-inspired music such as samba, the African influences in Bahia are abundant. The slave trade itself had a huge impact on the culture and politics of Bahia, Brazil, from the 1700s until present day. While racial divisions among free Brazilians, Brazilian slaves, and Africans were tense prior to the definitive abolition of slavery in Brazil

in 1888, the second half of the nineteenth century saw the consolidation of an Afro-Brazilian culture as different

culture. Race relations in Bahia are very complex indeed, as the fundamental distinction in Bahian society has been

between European and Afro-Bahian cultures, not between whites and



African ethnic and religious traditions merged. This culture developed in an environment of continued but uneven repression by Brazilians of European descent, who saw Candomble and capoeira as a direct threat to their tradition of European Catholicism and

blacks. As a result, people who practice Afro-Bahian culture have been able to improve their position in Brazilian society by merging culture and politics in their struggle.

El Dia de los Muertos in photos

Taken by Joel Carela



El Dia de los Muertos focuses on gatherings of family and friends to pray for and remember friends and family members who have died.



The produce and agricultural industries are two of the largest employers of migrant workers in the U.S.

“The ‘Take Our Jobs’ campaign has clarified one of the biggest misconceptions in the debate over illegal immigration. Illegal immigrants are not taking jobs from unemployed Americans.”

Dolores Huerta. “Huelga,” literally translated from Spanish, means “Strike.”



Save Our Low Wage, Backbreaking,

Farm Worker Jobs!?

By Caroline Raschbaum

You are a field worker in America. You work long hours in the extreme heat, exhausted by physically demanding work—bending, stooping, and carrying up to fifty pounds earning less than eight dollars an hour in wages. After hours of this rigorous work, you are awarded a short break, only to find that there is no clean water to drink, no bathrooms to use, and no shade whatsoever. So maybe you feel you can endure these inhumane conditions, but consider the constant fear of losing your job. You are at risk of being fired if you fail to pass mandatory exercise tests, if you try to join a union, or even if you are pregnant. Your boss treats you with no respect, and has no concern for your physical or emotional well-being. Still think you could handle it? Now imagine that on any given day, you could be deported back to a place where your life might actually be worse than this.

Who would want to work under these severe conditions? This question has led to one of the most ongoing and controversial discussions

of illegal immigration.

Those who understand the job of the average illegal immigrant would say that very few citizens of the United States would trade places with those in the fields. Others might argue that given the United States’ high unemployment rate (the highest since the Great Depression), American citizens definitely would fill these jobs if illegal immigrants were not “hogging them”.

Thanks to a recent campaign by the United Farm Workers (UFW) and publicized by Steven Colbert, the American citizens who fear illegal immigrants stealing jobs from legal citizens now have the opportunity to “reclaim” these jobs. On www.takeourjobs.org, citizens can apply to be farm workers and replace the illegal immigrants currently occupying those positions. There are not many takers. Since June 24th, only about a dozen people have seriously responded to the “Take Our Jobs” offer, suggesting that illegal immigrants are not robbing U.S. citizens of jobs; in fact, they are stabilizing our economy more than most people realize.

The “Take Our

Jobs” campaign has clarified one of the biggest misconceptions in the debate over illegal immigration. Illegal immigrants are not taking jobs from unemployed Americans. In fact, without undocumented workers, the agricultural sector would virtually cease to exist, given that 85% of crop workers are foreign born. America would suffer greatly from this, as America’s food supply comes directly from the agricultural sector comprised of illegal immigrants. People tend to forget where our food comes from, errantly blaming illegal immigrants, instead of giving credit for their contribution and sacrifice. While much of the debate focuses on immigrants entering America illegally and taking American jobs, suffice it to say, that we owe these farm workers a big, overdue thank you, not to mention basic civil rights and protections.

For more information, tune in to National Geographic, “Border Wars”, Wednesday nights at 9:00 PM, or visit the United Farm Worker’s Website at www.ufw.org

El Libertador — Simón Bolívar by Catalina Guzman



Simón Bolívar is best known as the key military and political figure in much of South America's struggle for independence from Spain. He was born on July 24, 1783 in Caracas, Venezuela to an affluent family, and received his education from private tutors who exposed him to the writings of political philosophers, most notably Rousseau. In 1804 he travelled to Europe, where he witnessed Napoleon's coronation as emperor, and the changing political scene that was taking place there. Spain was especially hit hard when Napoleon overthrew the Spanish king and put his brother, Joseph Bonaparte, on the throne. In protest, the Spanish colonies in South America formed a "junta" (governing council) to rule instead, and Bolívar joined their ranks as lieutenant colonel. In 1811, he took part in the revolutionary efforts to secure Venezuela's independence, which resulted in a short-lived victory due to a counter-rebellion by Spanish royalist forces. He retreated to

Cartagena in New Granada (present-day Colombia) and issued the Cartagena Manifesto, in which he stressed the importance of Colombia's aid to the Venezuelan plight for independence. In 1813, he led another campaign to take control of Venezuela, this time with help from his neighbors, but again was not able to hold off the Spanish forces for long and lost his power. Shortly thereafter, he fled to Jamaica where he wrote his famous "Jamaica letter", in which he laid out his ideas about government, and then travelled to Haiti to rally support for his cause. He returned to Venezuela in 1817 with Haitian soldiers, but his first few attempts failed, so he turned his efforts to gaining independence for New Granada instead. The Battle of Boyacá in 1819 sealed his victory, and with a newly formed base of support behind him, he was able to gain independence for Venezuela and Ecuador as well. Soon after, a conference was called that united Venezuela, New Granada, and Ecuador into the new country of Gran Colombia, with Bolívar as their president. The remaining Spanish forces in the area were completely overthrown in the Battle of Pichincha in 1822, and he next turned to liberating Peru. He met with the Argentine general José de San Martín, who had already secured independence for Argentina and Chile and had partially freed Peru as

well, and it was decided that Bolívar would take over in liberating Peru. In February 1824, he was named dictator of Peru, and by December, he had defeated the Spanish forces entirely. The southeastern part of Peru was made into the Republic of Bolivia in August 1825, with Bolívar himself writing the Bolivian Constitution of 1826, although it was never enacted. In an attempt to unite South America he called the Congress of Panama in 1826, but a series of separatist movements and regional uprisings threatened the stability of the newly independent nations, and they were not able to come to any kind of agreement. He made himself dictator in 1828 in an effort to save Gran Colombia, but this was met with much opposition and resentment, and it broke off into separate countries following a civil war. After an assassination attempt and a great deal of continued unpopularity, he resigned the presidency in 1830 and planned on exiling to Europe, but he succumbed to tuberculosis and died on December 17, 1830. Bolívar left a profound impact and lasting political legacy in South America, and his political ideals, referred to as 'Bolivarianism', have gained much clout in recent decades. This is especially true in Venezuela, where Hugo Chavez's government is a huge proponent of Bolivarian ideals, such as popular democracy, economic independence, anti-imperialism, and a united Latin America. Simón Bolívar will continue to be well remembered and revered for centuries to come as South America's greatest champion for independence.

"Bolívar left a profound impact and lasting political legacy in South America, and his political ideals, referred to as 'Bolivarianism', have gained much clout in recent decades."

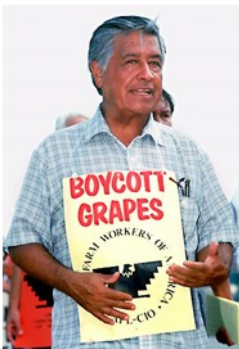
The Latin-American Student Union (LASU) is a leadership student coalition. Our mission is to bring a new perspective on Latin America to both the William & Mary and Williamsburg communities. Our three main goals are to get involved with community service, to celebrate Latin American identities through the Fine Arts, and to raise awareness about contemporary issues in Latin America. We recognize that Latin America is a diverse region whose inhabitants speak different languages and have different cultural practices. We are coming together as a Union to celebrate what we have in common as well as to share our individual cultural experiences. We acknowledge that we cannot be efficient leaders without first serving our local and global communities. We shall work with established service organizations as well as introduce projects of our own. We will strive to abate stereotypes associated with Latinos. Membership to this organization is open to all students.



One-Liners Compiled by Yessenia Arias

“I’ve always maintained that it isn’t the form that’s going to make the difference. It isn’t the rule or the procedure or the ideology, but it’s human beings that will make it.”

-Cesar Chavez



“Entre los individuos, como entre las naciones, el respeto al derecho ajeno es la paz”

-Benito Juarez

