

Italy, because of her large emigration, has exercised an important cultural and economic, as well as ethnic, influence over Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay.

Similarly, German contacts with Latin America were cemented by migration (especially in Brazil, Argentina, and Chile), although her cultural influence, particularly in philosophy, was transferred indirectly by Spain. After 1871, Germany began to build increasingly strong commercial ties. She lost her favorable trade position during World War I but began to recapture it during the 1930's. After Hitler took power in 1933, the Nazis attempted to win the support of countries with large German populations. Vigorous Nazi groups operated in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and Bolivia, and pro-Axis movements were launched in other countries as well.

During World War I, eight Latin American Republics declared war on Germany (Brazil, Cuba, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama), but their military help was negligible. Five others severed relations (Peru, Bolivia, Uruguay, Ecuador, and the Dominican Republic). Significantly, the two most important countries of Spanish America, Argentina and Mexico, remained neutral.

Thirteen Latin American Republics attended the Versailles Conference and 11 signed the Peace Treaty. Ten became charter members of the League of Nations, and several others joined later. During the 1920's, most of the Latin American countries participated actively in the League. Their idealism, internationalistic traditions, and the desire for protection against possible U.S. expansion explains their support for the League. Their statesmen served as presidents in the Assembly and the Council, and two of their distinguished jurists served on the Permanent Court of Justice. Latin American policies in the League anticipated those they reiterated in San Francisco in 1945. They defended the admission of all states and the principle of equality in the election of members of the Council. Also, they advocated a stronger World Court and compulsory arbitration of international disputes. Although the League was successful in solving the Leticia dispute between Colombia and Peru in 1934, and sent a commission to investigate the Chaco conflict between Bolivia and Paraguay, it generally showed great timidity in participating in the problems of the New World. In the 1930's, when the League of Nations became more concerned with European affairs, and the world depression made it difficult to pay the assessments, many Latin American countries withdrew. The role of Latin America in World War II is covered in part IV, above.

B. DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS AND ATTITUDES (1945-59)

1. *Europe*

The great geopolitical change of 1945 was the emergence of two new superpowers and the reduction of the prewar European powers and Japan to secondary roles. The division of the world between East and West found Latin America geographically and culturally inclined, as well as politically and legally committed, toward the latter.

Latin American relations with Western Europe after 1945 were consistent with their general attitude taken at San Francisco (see above,