

1: Mexico Maps - Mexico, Map of Mexico, Landforms of Mexico - www.enganchecubano.com

Excerpt from The West Coast of Mexico and Central America, From the Boundary Line Between the United States and Mexico to Panama, Including the Gulf of California Since publication No. 56 (remarks of Commander Dewey, U. S. N on the coasts of Lower California and Mexico) was issued from this office, the whole coast described therein has been.

Some experts feel that by using primitive boats, early man also migrated down the Pacific coast to South America; that debate continues. There is scientific evidence connecting indigenous Americans to Asian peoples, specifically from the eastern Siberian populations. Indigenous peoples of the Americas have been linked to North Asian populations by linguistic dialects and blood types. After the last glacial period ended some 12,000 years back, a wide variety of prehistoric cultures developed across the continent, north to south. The development of stone tools was one of the factors instrumental in that successful expansion. Long before the Europeans arrived, small groups developed throughout the Americas. Across the Great Plains hunter-gatherers existed on wild plants and animals, but they were eventually replaced by more sophisticated bands that farmed the land, raised some animals and improved their hunting skills. Small groups settled on many islands in the southeastern Caribbean, eventually reaching the Greater Antilles, creating their largest settlements on the islands of Cuba, Hispaniola, Puerto Rico, and Jamaica. In the far-southern reaches of the continent important cultural advances were made by the Maya civilization. They developed written language, as well as far-reaching advances in art, architecture, astronomical systems and mathematics. From the years 250 to 900, they were at the pinnacle of their power. In North America, sophisticated pre-Columbian cultures continued to develop. Across regions of what is now the United States, social organization was building mound complexes, with some supporting sizable communities year-round. Native American societies continued to spread; the Inuit and the Aleut lived in domed-shaped dwellings in the Arctic regions while large groups inhabited the Subarctic parts of Alaska and western Canada. From the Northeast to the Southeast, and from the Plains to the Southwest, the expansion continued unabated. As large groups gained additional knowledge, they began to farm some familiar crops now used around the world, such as tomatoes and squash. The Vikings were seafaring north Germanic people who raided, traded, explored, and settled in wide areas of Europe, Asia, and the North Atlantic islands from the late 8th to the mid-10th centuries. Using sturdy wooden longships they traveled as far west as Iceland, Greenland, and Newfoundland. Leif Erikson is believed to have reached the Island of Newfoundland, Canada - circa AD 1000. In the 13th century, central Mexico was the center of the Aztec civilization. Within a few months he reached land in the Bahamas, and North America would change forever. After Columbus made his initial voyage to this New World, word of its potential riches spread across Europe and explorers and settlers by the thousands would eventually step ashore along the Atlantic Ocean coastline of North America. John Cabot explored the east coast of what would become Canada in 1492. Giovanni da Verrazzano explored the East Coast of North America from Florida to eastern Canada in 1497, and Jacques Cartier made a series of voyages on behalf of the French crown in 1498 and penetrated the St. Lawrence. In 1492, the Spanish made their move to colonize parts of the New World. The first mainland Spanish explorations were a series of inland expeditions that led to the conquest of Mexico and the Yucatan Peninsula. Balboa then claimed the Pacific Ocean and all the lands adjoining it for the Spanish Crown. Hernan Cortes and his conquistadors came ashore at present day Veracruz, Mexico on April 22, 1519, and it marked the beginning of years of dominant Spanish influence over most of Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean. With soldiers in tow, his goal was to find gold for the Spanish Crown. At that same time natives on the continent lived without fear as they were ignorant of the outside world. Soon their innocence disappeared, as Europeans began to stake their claims, frequently in brutal ways. As a result of European exploration the Native American population declined substantially, primarily due to the introduction of European diseases to which the Native Americans lacked immunity, as well as from violent conflicts where they were no match for European fire power. Not to be outdone, Britain and France as well as Spain were beginning to establish extensive territories in the northern reaches of the continent. Even lesser-powers like the Netherlands and Sweden laid claim to smaller parts. In 1607, the first successful English settlement was built at Jamestown, Virginia, followed by the Plymouth, Massachusetts colony in 1620. Near the end

of the 17th century the colonialism of North America was at full speed, and inevitable disagreements and greed were the genesis for a series of regional wars, and some of the European territories changed hands multiple times. In fact, the Caribbean island of Tobago changed hands 33 times. In the middle of the 18th century, independence movements were on the front-burner across the continent. By the end of the century, a handful of independence movements came to fruition across the North America continent. The 13 original British Colonies declared independence in 1776, and after the American Revolutionary War ended in 1781, they became the United States of America. Canada was formed from the unification of northern territories once controlled by Britain and France. New Spain, a territory that stretched from the southwestern modern-day U.S. to Guatemala, then part of that Mexican Empire, became the first independent state in Central America. The month military conflict fought on many fronts resulted in no territorial change between the British Empire and the USA, but a resolution of many issues which remained from the American War of Independence. With space too limited here to detail, we highlight a series of important land agreements and compromises that occurred in North America through the end of the 19th century. Arguably, the two most devastating events on the North America continent were the American Civil War from 1861 to 1865, a conflict that led to the end of slavery in the United States, but it brought destruction to most of the South, and a tremendous loss of life. It was followed by the United States government fighting numerous Indian Wars against the Native Americans for land acquisition; tens of thousands died as a result. In 1914, the Panama Canal opened. At the end of World War I fought from 1914 to 1918 in Europe the early 20th century brought an age of great prosperity to the United States, and to a lesser degree Canada. But the Stock Market Crash of 1929 was the most devastating stock market crash in the history of the United States, and that crash affected all Western industrialized countries and did not end in the United States until the onset of American mobilization for World War II in 1941. In Mexico, from 1910 to 1920, there was a popular uprising against the anti-Catholic government. In the Caribbean, many islands witnessed the beginnings of decolonization, while on the island of Cuba, the Cuban Revolution introduced the Soviet Union now Russia into Latin America. World War II was a global conflict that lasted from 1939 to 1945. The destruction of Europe wrought by the war vaulted all North American countries to more important roles in world affairs, and the United States emerged as a "superpower. In 1960, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua banded together to find a common economic bond. In 1962, Guatemala, and Trinidad and Tobago became politically independent. This event ushered in a period of formal decolonization of the English-speaking Caribbean. The early Cold War era saw the United States as the most powerful nation in a Western coalition of which Mexico and Canada were also a part. At home, the United States witnessed violent change especially in the area of race relations. In Canada this was mirrored by the Quiet Revolution and the emergence of Quebec nationalism. During this time the United States became involved in the Vietnam War. That war would later prove to be highly divisive in American society, and American troops were withdrawn. Canada during this era was dominated by the leadership of Pierre Elliot Trudeau. Eventually in 1982 at the end of his tenure, Canada had a new constitution. Major changes continued into the 21st century: In 1993, the violent drug war spread from Central America to Canada, and that human tragedy reached a deadly peak in Mexico in the last few years. In 2008, a financial crisis that began in the United States eventually triggered a worldwide recession, an economic slowdown that has now waned some. Surviving powerful earthquakes, hurricanes, tornadoes, contentious immigration issues and isolated terrorism attacks, the twenty-three countries and the dozens of possessions and territories within North America have found ways to for the most part co-exist in peace, and to economically benefit by working together. Today the diverse and massive continent of North America present a bright potential future for all of its people, and for that matter, much of the modern world. The land is generally smooth with large treeless areas and shallow river valleys. Sandhills and buttes cover parts of the north central U.S. It is the major river of North America and the United States at 2,344 miles 3,776 km in length. It flows from northwestern Minnesota south to the Gulf of Mexico, just below the city of New Orleans. It is a significant transportation artery and when combined with its major tributaries the Missouri and Ohio rivers it becomes the third largest river system in the world at 3,776 miles 6,076 km in length. Death Valley in California, 282 ft m below sea level see map Geographic Center: Lengths and widths are point-to-point, straight-line measurements and will vary some using other map projections. For additional geography details please use the yellow navigation bar at the top of this page.

2: West coast of Mexico or Playa del Carmen again? - Fodor's Travel Talk Forums

Central America Location Information: Central America is an isthmus that connects North and South America, extending from Mexico to Columbia. The Caribbean Sea is on the east coast and the Pacific Ocean is on the west coast.

Settlement of the Americas and Paleo-Indians The west coast of North America likely saw the first sustained arrival of people to the continent. For example, it has been estimated that in , one-third of all Native Americans in the United States were living in California. Olmec beginning about BC Mixtec beginning perhaps BC Maya settled villages along the Pacific coast appear from BC, and ceremonial architecture by approximately BC and Aztec from the 14th century AD Farther south, Panama was home to some of the earliest pottery-making, such as the Monagrillo culture dating to about 4000 BC; this culture evolved into significant populations best known for spectacular burial sites dating to c. 1500 BC. Each of these cultures rose, flourished, and was then conquered by a more militarily developed culture. While not all of these civilizations had large settlements along the coast of the Pacific Ocean, their influence extended to the Pacific coast. Regional communications in ancient Mesoamerica—and especially along the west coast—have been the subject of considerable research. There is evidence of trade routes starting as far north as the Mexico Central Plateau , and going down to the Pacific coast. These trade routes and cultural contacts then went on as far as Central America. These networks operated along the west coast with various interruptions from pre-Olmec times and up to the Late Classical Period 250 CE. European arrival [edit] In 1492, Spanish explorers were the first Europeans to reach the west coast of North America, on the Pacific coast of the Panama isthmus. From the point of view of European powers in the age of sailing ships , the west coast of North America was among the most distant places in the world. The arduous journey around Cape Horn at the tip of South America and then north meant nine to twelve months of dangerous sailing. These practical difficulties discouraged all but the Spanish Empire from making regular visits and establishing settlements and ports until the second half of the 18th century—some years after Europeans first reached the east coast of North America. Spanish explorers and conquistadors[edit] Main article: Spanish colonization of the Americas Explorers flying the flag of Spain reached the New World beginning in 1492 with the discovery of the Americas by Christopher Columbus. Spanish expeditions colonized and explored vast areas in North and South America following the grants of the Pope contained in the papal bull *Inter caetera* and rights contained in the Treaty of Tordesillas and Treaty of Zaragoza. These formal acts gave Spain the exclusive rights to colonize the entire Western Hemisphere excluding eastern Brazil , including all of the west coast of North America. In an act of enduring historical importance, Balboa claimed the Pacific Ocean for the Spanish Crown, as well as all adjoining land and islands. This act gave Spain exclusive sovereignty and navigation rights over the entire west coast of North America. The commonly held belief at the time was that the west coast of North America was in modest sailing distance of Asia to the west, or the two might actually physically connect. See Early knowledge of the Pacific Northwest. The Pacific Coast of Mexico and Central America was not especially conducive to economic development during this era. The northern Mexican coast including the Baja California Peninsula was generally too dry for substantial agriculture or ranching that would support settlements. South of the deserts, the jungles of the Pacific Coast in Mexico and Central America, and the tropical diseases found there, were major obstacles to large-scale development. While Navidad faded in importance, Acapulco became the primary port of the Spanish Empire on the west coast of North America, and was used as a base for exploratory expeditions north and trade routes with the Far East. The expedition sailed northwards along the west coast of the Mexican mainland, and reached the Gulf of California six weeks later. When one of his ships was lost in a storm, Ulloa paused to repair the other two ships, and then resumed his voyage, eventually reaching the northern end of the Gulf. After taking on supplies of wood and water, Ulloa rounded the tip of the peninsula with great difficulty and sailed northward along the western shore of the peninsula, in the Pacific Ocean. The progress of his small ships was hampered by the fierce winds and high seas he encountered, eventually forcing him to turn back to Acapulco. Ferdinand Magellan , the Portuguese explorer sailing for Spain, had shown in 1520 that the Pacific Ocean could be crossed from South America. Hence, beginning in 1521, using

hardware from Spain such as anchors hauled across the isthmus of Central America, and local hardwoods, a flotilla of some thirteen ships was built over the next four years. The Manila Galleons crossed the Pacific Ocean to the Spanish possession of the Philippines, laden with silver and gemstones from Mexico. There, the wealth was used to purchase Asian trade goods such as spices, silk, and porcelain. These goods were then carried across the Pacific by the Manila Galleons to Acapulco; from there, the goods were transshipped across Mexico, for delivery to the Spanish treasure fleet, for shipment to Spain. The income provided to Spain by the Manila Galleons was essential to the Spanish Crown and to the Spanish economy of the era. The San Pedro sailed from Cebu, headed roughly northeast, followed the Kuroshio Current also known as the Japan Current, and made landfall on the coast of California about the latitude of Cape Mendocino. A sail of two thousand five hundred miles down the coasts of California and New Spain brought the voyagers to the port of Acapulco. This return voyage across the Pacific could take up to seven months. A harbor on the coast of California where ships could find shelter and repair damage was greatly desired. However, Gali accomplished only limited chart-making. In this attempt, he reached land between Point St. George and Trinidad Head on November 4, 1592. This open vessel reached Acapulco in early 1593—a remarkable voyage of nearly twenty-five hundred miles in an open boat. With the loss of the San Agustin, exploration of the California coast by ships loaded with cargo from the Philippines came to an end. He ventured inland south along the coast, and recorded a visit to what is likely Carmel Bay. During this period until 1600, some 16 missions were established on the peninsula—mostly on the east coast of the peninsula, with a handful on the Pacific coast, in the northwestern part of the peninsula. One of the most important consequences of these claims is that charters for the British colonies on the Atlantic coast went from sea to sea, and this was the foundation of the United States claim to its current territory. Settlements and conflicts [edit] While the Spanish had dominated development on the west coast of North America for over years since the early 16th century, beginning in the mid-17th century, this period saw the advent of British and Russian rivals, and the establishment of the California missions, followed by the independence of Mexico and the Central American countries. Much later in this period, the United States started on its path to become the dominant power on the west coast of North America. Today it remains unclear exactly why the Viceroy of New Spain decided to create an entirely new shipbuilding port along the west coast of Mexico, when the port at Acapulco already existed. San Blas built the ships and was the home port for these exploration and supply voyages beginning in 1690 and continuing to 1763. These missions eventually stretched from the southern tip of the Baja California peninsula to Sonoma, California, north of San Francisco. The purpose of the missions, which typically had an accompanying pueblo town and presidio military outpost, was to solidify the year-old Spanish claim to the region. This need became more urgent as the Russians and British were encroaching on the far northern part of the west coast of North America. In addition, there continued the long-standing interest in creating a safe anchorage for seaworn Manila Galleons on their return to Acapulco. In the early 19th century, fur trappers of the Russian Empire explored the west coast of North America, hunting for sea otter pelts as far south as San Diego. In 1791, the Russian-American Company set up a fortified trading post at Fort Ross, located north of present-day Bodega Bay some sixty miles north of San Francisco, with the never-materialized hope of using that area to develop a source of agricultural products needed for their settlements in Alaska. Spanish expeditions to the Pacific Northwest In the late 18th century, Spain reacted to the expanding Russian and British presence in the Pacific Northwest by sending exploratory expeditions along the coast as far north as Alaska. The expedition re-asserted Spanish claims to all the coastal lands, including to the Russian settlements in the north. The two ships sailed together as far north as Point Grenville, named Punta de los Martires or "Point of the Martyrs" by Heceta in response to an attack by the local Quinault Indians. He was the first European to sight the mouth of the Columbia River. By design, the two vessels separated with one continuing to what is today the border between Washington state and Canada. Spanish contact in British Columbia and Alaska. At Yakutat Bay, the expedition made contact with the Tlingit. The expedition made a study of the Nootka. The two ships then sailed south to Mexico, stopping at the Spanish settlement and mission at Monterey, California on the way. Simultaneously an expedition under Francisco de Eliza, exploring the Strait of Juan de Fuca, discovered an entrance to the Strait of Georgia, which prompted further investigation. The two expeditions met in the Strait of Georgia and

worked together to map the waters and establish the insularity of Vancouver Island. British North America[edit] In , the British seafaring Captain James Cook , midway through his third and final voyage of exploration, sailed along the west coast of North America, mapping the coast from California all the way to the Bering Strait. His post was torn down at the end of although he claimed otherwise. War between Spain and Great Britain over control of the Pacific Northwest was averted by the three Nootka Conventions , signed in , , and . In the s, Mexico ended Church control of the missions in California and opened the land to secular development, particularly ranching. These settlements primarily traded cattle hides and tallow with American and European merchant vessels. Mexican control of the territory ended after only 25 years, when attempts by local Mexican officials to expropriate the property of American ranchers and drive them out of California in the winter lead to the successful uprising known as the Bear Flag Revolt. Central American independence[edit] During the s, the Central American possessions of Spain gained their independence, and the boundaries of the young nations shifted in alliances and configurations. For example, what was to become the nation of Panama was simply a province of Colombia , and Guatemala was variously part of a confederation with Mexico, and part of the United Provinces of Central America , before becoming a separate nation in . Almost all of these Central American nations saw continuing political strife throughout this period and into the 20th century , as struggles continued between indigenous peoples and elites, and among factions of the elites. They compiled an account of the California mission system, the land and the people. The United States argued that it acquired the Spanish rights to exclusive ownership of the Pacific Northwest as far north as Alaska, even though Spain had in fact relinquished any claim to exclusive rights as a result of the Nootka Conventions. This position led to a dispute with Britain known as the Oregon boundary dispute , remembered for the slogan " or fight! Americans continued arriving on the west coast of North America in significant numbers in the mids. By , the first overland party of American settlers reached California along what became the California Trail , and by the mids significant numbers of Americans were arriving in California. In addition, the long-standing dispute between the United States and Great Britain over the Oregon Country was resolved in , with the signing of the Oregon Treaty ; the Oregon Treaty divided the disputed territory along what later became the current international boundary between Canada and the United States. Rapid growth " [edit] In this era, much of the west coast of North America transformed from an area still largely populated by indigenous peoples to widespread population of non-natives. In particular, the west coast of the United States showed the most dramatic change, beginning with the California Gold Rush and the subsequent opening of the transcontinental railroads, through the development of Hollywood in Southern California , and increased industry and agriculture in the U. Canadian and Mexican development also proceeded during this time, but at a slower pace. However, the Mexican-American War had already been declared, and the American military quickly took control of California. At the end of the war , Mexico ceded control of California to the United States. Things began to change dramatically in with the California Gold Rush which brought an influx of migrants across the nation and immigrants from around the world. While few found much gold, many stayed, founding communities and turning to farming and other practices. Despite these increases in population, the west coast was still on the periphery. The American Civil War had little effect, but began to change as the first transcontinental railroads completed in stretched across the United States. For the first time, it was relatively cheap and easy for migrants and immigrants to move to the west coast. The next 75 years saw a monumental change on the west coast of the United States. Logging, fishing, and industry drove the economies of California, Oregon, and Washington. However, Alaska had a small economy, despite the three gold rush eras Klondike , Nome , and Fairbanks and commercial fishing. This was due to high costs and a risky investment climate that limited development in the Alaskan landscape. Canada[edit] The gold rush fever spread progressively north; in , the Fraser Canyon Gold Rush began in British Columbia, and at the end of the century, the Klondike Gold Rush saw the Yukon hit by masses of prospectors. The new line became an important link in what was known as the All Red Route around the world, linking global travel through territories exclusively British.

3: South America West Coast, Central America, Mexico and Caribbean | Hamburg SÄ¼d

II Pub. Preface Pub. , Sailing Directions (Enroute) West Coasts of Mex- ico and Central America, Eighteenth Edition, , is issued for use in conjunction with Pub. , Sailing Directions (Plan-

The country is home to less than , people, one of the lowest country population counts in the world. November through until January are the coolest months and May through until September are the warmest months. The temperature and conditions vary depending on proximity to the coast and to local mountain ranges. This occurs as a result of the cool air coming down from the mountain range. Once the cool air hits the coast the region is sprinkled with delicate rainfall, often accompanied by rainbows at sunrise. Come February the dry easterly winds sweep over the country and causing morning showers along the coast. Hurricanes cause strong winds, severe flooding and mudslides- the most destructive in recent times being Hurricane Stan in which killed over people. The country is hot though all weather conditions vary depending on elevation. There are two major mountain ranges which lie from east to west and as a result the land is split into 3 main areas- the Pacific coast low lands, the highlands of the mountain ranges and the Peten region which is the lowlands to the north of the mountains. In the lowlands the weather is generally humid and hot, classified as tropical. Conditions are colder and drier in the highlands. The majority of rain falls from May to November, a wet season that is more pronounced in the northern parts of the country. On the coast and in the northeast you will witness a dry season from November to April and during this time temperatures can get particularly hot. In the highlands the climate is pleasant, while it can drop to chilly lows come sundown. There is less rainfall here than on the coast. The country sees lower annual rainfall than its neighbouring countries. As a rule, the weather is tropical in the lowlands and more temperate in the mountain ranges. There are narrow plains which lie along the Pacific and Caribbean coasts and there is a large jungle the La Mosquitia jungle which sits in the northeast and is largely undeveloped. There is very little change in temperature across the year similar to conditions in Bali and temperature differs mainly due to elevation. There is a rainy season from May to October; the remainder of the year is considerably drier.

4: Central America Map and Satellite Image

Home» Books» West coast of Mexico and Central America from the United States to Panama. West coast of Mexico and Central America from the United States to Panama.

Grand Canyon , Arizona Along the Pacific Ocean coast lie the Coast Ranges , which, while not approaching the scale of the Rocky Mountains , are formidable nevertheless. They collect a large part of the airborne moisture moving in from the ocean. Beyond the valleys lie the country boys in Sierra Nevada in the south and the Cascade Range in the north. The Cascades are also volcanic. Helens , a volcano in the Cascades erupted explosively in These mountain ranges see heavy precipitation, capturing most of the moisture that remains after the Coast Ranges, and creating a rain shadow to the east forming vast stretches of arid land. These dry areas encompass much of Nevada , Utah , and Arizona. The Mojave Desert and Sonoran Desert along with other deserts are found here. Beyond the deserts lie the Rocky Mountains. In the north, they run almost immediately east of the Cascade Range , so that the desert region is only a few miles wide by the time one reaches the Canada–US border. The Rockies are hundreds of miles kilometers wide, and run uninterrupted from New Mexico to Alaska. East of the Rocky Mountains is the Great Plains, the western portions for example, the eastern half of Colorado of which are generally considered to be part of the western United States. The West has several long rivers that empty into the Pacific Ocean , while the eastern rivers run into the Gulf of Mexico. The Mississippi River forms the easternmost possible boundary for the West today. The Missouri River , a tributary of the Mississippi , flows from its headwaters in the Rocky Mountains eastward across the Great Plains , a vast grassy plateau, before sloping gradually down to the forests and hence to the Mississippi. The Colorado River is a major source of water in the Southwest and many dams, such as the Hoover Dam , form reservoirs along it. So much water is drawn for drinking water throughout the West and irrigation in California that in most years, water from the Colorado River no longer reaches the Gulf of California. Public lands account for 25 to 75 percent of the total land area in these states. Also, the climate of the West is quite unstable, as areas that are normally wet can be very dry for years and vice versa. The seasonal temperatures vary greatly throughout the West. Low elevations on the West Coast have warm summers and mild winters with little to no snow. The desert southwest has very hot summers and mild winters. While the mountains in the southwest receive generally large amounts of snow. The Inland Northwest has a continental climate of warm to hot summers and cold to bitter cold winters. Annual rainfall is greater in the eastern portions, gradually tapering off until reaching the Pacific Coast where it increases again. In fact, the greatest annual rainfall in the United States falls in the coastal regions of the Pacific Northwest. Drought is much more common in the West than the rest of the United States. The driest place recorded in the U. Tornadoes occur every spring on the southern plains, with the most common and most destructive centered on Tornado Alley , which covers eastern portions of the West, Texas to North Dakota , and all states in between and to the east. Agriculture varies depending on rainfall, irrigation, soil, elevation, and temperature extremes. The arid regions generally support only livestock grazing, chiefly beef cattle. The wheat belt extends from Texas through The Dakotas , producing most of the wheat and soybeans in the U. Irrigation in the Southwest allows the growing of great quantities of fruits, nuts, and vegetables as well as grain, hay, and flowers. Washington is famous for its apples, and Idaho for its potatoes. California and Arizona are major producers of citrus crops, although growing metropolitan sprawl is absorbing much of this land. Local and state government officials started to understand, after several surveys made during the latter part of the 19th century, that only action by the federal government could provide water resources needed to support the development of the West[citation needed]. Starting in , Congress passed a series of acts authorizing the establishment of the United States Bureau of Reclamation to oversee water development projects in seventeen western states. During the first half of the 20th century, dams and irrigation projects provided water for rapid agricultural growth throughout the West and brought prosperity for several states, where agriculture had previously only been subsistence level. The population growth, mostly in the Southwest states of New Mexico , Utah , Colorado , Arizona , and Nevada , has strained water and power resources, with water diverted from

agricultural uses to major population centers, such as the Las Vegas Valley and Los Angeles. Geology[edit] Plains make up much of the eastern portion of the West, underlain with sedimentary rock from the Upper Paleozoic , Mesozoic , and Cenozoic eras. The Rocky Mountains expose igneous and metamorphic rock both from the Precambrian and from the Phanerozoic eon. The Inter-mountain States and Pacific Northwest have huge expanses of volcanic rock from the Cenozoic era. Salt flats and salt lakes reveal a time when the great inland seas covered much of what is now the West. The Pacific states are the most geologically active areas in the United States. Earthquakes cause damage every few to several years in California. While the Pacific states are the most volcanically active areas, extinct volcanoes and lava flows are found throughout most of the West. Pre-Columbian trade routes to kingdoms and empires such as the Mound Builders existed in places such as Yellowstone National Park since around AD. Major settlement of the western territories developed rapidly in the s, largely through the Oregon Trail and the California Gold Rush of California experienced such a rapid growth in a few short months that it was admitted to statehood in without the normal transitory phase of becoming an official territory. Both Omaha, Nebraska and St. Louis, Missouri laid claim to the title, "Gateway to the West" during this period. Louis built itself upon the vast fur trade in the West before its settlement. The s were marked by political battles over the expansion of slavery into the western territories, issues leading to the Civil War. The image of the cowboy , the homesteader , and westward expansion took real events and transmuted them into a myth of the west which has shaped much of American popular culture since the late 19th century. The American cinema , in particular, created the genre of the western movie , which, in many cases, use the West as a metaphor for the virtue of self-reliance and an American ethos. The contrast between the romanticism of culture about the West and the actuality of the history of the westward expansion has been a theme of late 20th and early 21st century scholarship about the West. Cowboy culture has become embedded in the American experience as a common cultural touchstone, and modern forms as diverse as country and western music have celebrated the sense of isolation and independence of spirit inspired by the frontiersmen on virgin land. Western businessmen promoted Route 66 as a means to bring tourism and industry to the West. In the s, representatives from all the western states built the Cowboy Hall of Fame and Western Heritage Center to showcase western culture and greet travelers from the East. During the latter half of the 20th century, several transcontinental interstate highways crossed the West bringing more trade and tourists from the East. Oil boom towns in Texas and Oklahoma rivaled the old mining camps for their rawness and wealth. The Dust Bowl forced children of the original homesteaders even further west. Four more metropolitan areas of San Bernardino - Riverside , San Diego , Denver , Phoenix , and Seattle have over a million residents, while the three fastest growing metro areas were the Salt Lake City metropolitan area , the Las Vegas metropolitan area ; and the Portland metropolitan area. White flight and now black flight in neighborhood demographics, sometimes leading to racially based riots i. The state of Utah has a Mormon majority estimated at In remote areas there are settlements of Alaskan Natives and Native Hawaiians. Culture[edit] Facing both the Pacific Ocean and the Mexican border, the West has been shaped by a variety of ethnic groups. Hawaii is the only state in the union in which Asian Americans outnumber white American residents. Asians from many countries have settled in California and other coastal states in several waves of immigration since the 19th century, contributing to the Gold Rush , the building of the transcontinental railroad, agriculture, and more recently, high technology. The border statesâ€” California , Arizona , New Mexico , and Texas â€”and other southwestern states such as Colorado , Utah , and Nevada all have large Hispanic populations, and the many Spanish place names attest to their history as former Spanish and Mexican territories. Mexican-Americans have also had a growing population in Northwestern states of Oregon and Washington , as well as the southern states of Texas and Oklahoma. Hollywood is a well-known area of Los Angeles and the symbolic center of the American film industry. Alaska â€”the northernmost state in the Unionâ€”is a vast land of few people, many of them native, and of great stretches of wilderness, protected in national parks and wildlife refuges. In the Pacific Coast states, the wide areas filled with small towns, farms, and forests are supplemented by a few big port cities which have evolved into world centers for the media and technology industries. Now the second largest city in the nation, Los Angeles is best known as the home of the Hollywood film industry; the area around Los Angeles also was a major center for the aerospace industry by World War II , though Boeing,

located in Washington State would lead the aerospace industry. Oregon and Washington have also seen rapid growth with the rise of Boeing and Microsoft along with agriculture and resource based industries. The desert and mountain states have relatively low population densities, and developed as ranching and mining areas which are only recently becoming urbanized. Most of them have highly individualistic cultures, and have worked to balance the interests of urban development, recreation, and the environment. Culturally distinctive points include the large Mormon population in the Mormon Corridor , including southeastern Idaho , Utah , Northern Arizona , and Nevada ; the extravagant casino resort towns of Las Vegas and Reno , Nevada ; and the numerous American Indian tribal reservations. Major metropolitan areas[edit] These are the largest Metropolitan Statistical Areas MSA with a population above , in the 13 Western states with population estimates as of July 1, as defined by the United States Census Bureau:

5: West coast of Mexico and Central America from the United States to Panama

West Coast of Mexico and Central America From the United States to Panama, Including the Gulfs of California and Panama by Unknown Author From the United States to Panama, Including the Gulfs of California and Panama.

6: Sailing Directions Pub. West Coasts of Mexico & Central America

South America West Coast, Central America, Mexico and Caribbean. South America West Coast & Caribbean â€” Asia. South America West Coast â€” Caribbean â€” North Europe.

7: GRI - From Asia to Mexico, West Coast South America & West Coast Central America

Biggest southern hemisphere swell of season peaks this week, eases into weekend for Central America, Mexico, and the West Coast.

8: West Coast of Mexico and Central America

Explore Central Pacific Coast holidays and discover the best time and places to visit. | Gigantic aquamarine waves provide the backdrop and pulsating rhythm to any visit to Mexico's central Pacific coast, a land of stunning beaches and giant sunsets.

9: History of the west coast of North America - Wikipedia

We would like to inform you that with effect from July 1, (Sailing date) Hapag-Lloyd will increase rates for all cargoes and all container types from East Asia to Mexico, West Coast of Central America and West Coast of South America by.

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