

A Timeline for Hispanic Achievement for *A History of Hispanic Achievement in America*

1492 – Christopher Columbus lands on the present day islands of San Salvador and Cuba.

1493 - Christopher Columbus discovers the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico on his second voyage.

1500 – Columbus lands on the coast of South America at present day Venezuela.

1508 - Juan Ponce de León lands on Puerto Rico and is appointed governor a year later.

1510 - Diego Velázquez de Cuéllar conquers Cuba. He establishes Cuba's two largest cities, Santiago and Havana and directs the explorations of the Gulf of Mexico.

1512 – Mission system begins in Spanish Empire

1513 - Juan Ponce de León lands on the shores of Florida and explores the coast and some of the interior.

1519 - Alonso Alvarez de Pineda claims Texas for Spain.

1519 - Hernán Cortés lands at Veracruz on the coast of Mexico.

1521 - Hernán Cortes completes his conquest of the Aztec Empire and begins to build Mexico City.

1524 – Spain’s King Charles establishes the Council of the Indies to oversee Spain’s colonies in the New World.

1537 - Álvaro Núñez Cabeza de Vaca returns to Spain and writes *La Relación*, recounting his wanderings on the North American continent and describing the flora, fauna, and inhabitants.

1539 - Hernando de Soto lands in Florida and begins exploring the present-day southeastern U.S.

1541 – Francisco Vasques de Coronado sets out to reach Quivira, thought to be the legendary Cities of Gold, in present day Kansas.

1542 - The New Laws are proclaimed, designed to end Spain's feudal encomienda system.

1542 - Juan Rodríguez de Cabrillo, a Portuguese sailor commissioned by the Spanish discovers the harbor at present-day San Diego, California.

1564 - Spanish missionaries introduce grapes to California.

1565 - Don Pedro Menendez de Aviles Founds St. Augustine

1573 - The Franciscan order establishes missions from Saint Augustine, Florida , to North Carolina.

1590 - Juan de Fuca navigates the straits bearing his name between present day Washington and British Columbia.

1598 - Juan de Oñate begins the colonization of New Mexico and introduces livestock breeding to the American Southwest.

1608 - Santa Fe, New Mexico is founded.

1680 - A Pueblo Indian named Popé leads a rebellion that forces Spanish colonists and Christianized Indians out of northern New Mexico southward toward El Paso, Texas.

1680 - The first royal *mercedes* (land grants) are granted to Spanish in northern Mexico, just south of the present-day border with the United States.

1690 - The first permanent Spanish settlement, San Francisco de los Tejas, is established in Texas, near the Nueces River.

1691 - Texas is made a separate Spanish province with Don Domingo de Terán as its governor.

1691 - Jesuit missionary Eusebio Kino establishes Spanish presence in Arizona for the first time.

1693 - The Spanish Crown orders the abandonment of Texas because of Indian uprisings.

1716 – Spanish reoccupy Texas because of French encroachments along Mississippi River.

1717 - The San Antonio de Béjar and de Valero churches are built where the city of San Antonio is located today.

1720 – Father Antonio Margil de Jesus Helps Found San Antonio.

1738 - Governor Manuel de Montiano founds the first free black community in the mainland United States at Fort Mose in Spanish Florida.

1760 - Captain Blas Maria de la Garza Falcón obtains a grant to 975,000 acres of land in Texas. In time, this ranch will become the King Ranch, the largest cattle ranch in the United States.

1763 - In the peace treaty after the Seven Years' War (1756-1763), France cedes Louisiana Territory to Spain and Spain loses Florida to Britain.

1766 - The presidio of San Francisco is founded, becoming Spain's northernmost frontier outpost.

1769 - Franciscan missionary Junípero de Serra establishes the first mission in California in what would become San Diego. Serra eventually founds ten missions.

1770-1790 - 50,000 African slaves are brought to Cuba to work the sugar plantations.

1779 – Spain's Governor of Louisiana, Bernardo de Galvez, helps defeat the British during America's Revolutionary War

1783 - Spain regains Florida.

1790 -1820 – Hispanic colonists settle California.

1801 - Large, sprawling haciendas with huge herds of cattle and sheep characterize the economy and society of northeast New Spain.

1810 - In Mexico, Father Miguel Hidalgo y Castilla leads a grass roots movement for independence from Spain.

1813 - Simón Bolívar leads independence movement in South America.

1819 – Spanish diplomat Luís de Onís averts war with America by ceding Spanish Florida to the United States for \$5 million dollars.

1821 – Don Facundo Melgares inaugurates trade on the Santa Fe Trail to St Louis.

1829 - Slavery in Mexico is abolished, which leads to the Texas independence movement.

1836 – Hispanic Texans - Juan Seguin, José Antonio Navarro and Lorenzo de Zavala – help win Texas independence.

1836 - Juana Briones founds the city of Yerba Buena, which will become San Francisco in 1848.

1845 - Texas is annexed by the United States, leading to a war with Mexico.

1846 – Mexican American War begins

1848 - The Treaty Guadalupe Hidalgo cedes Texas, California, Arizona, New Mexico, parts of Colorado, Utah, and Nevada to the United States. Approximately 75,000 Hispanic people choose to remain in the United States and become citizens by conquest.

1848 - California gold rush begins; California becomes a state in 1850.

1850 - The Foreign Miners Tax is enacted, levying a charge for anyone who is not a U.S. citizen.

1853 – Joaquin Murieta, inspiration for the Cisco Kid and Zorro, dies at the hands of a posse.

1853 – Through the Gadsden Treaty, Mexico sells to the United States the region from Yuma, Arizona along the Gila River to the Mesilla Valley, New Mexico.

1855 – Francisco Ramirez founds the first Spanish language newspaper in Los Angeles.

1862 – Indian Fighter Rafael Chacon helps Kit Carson defeat the Navajo.

1863 - Colonel Federico Fernandez Cavada, Colonel Santos Benavides and other Hispanics distinguish themselves in America's Civil War.

1866 - David Farragut becomes the first naval officer given the rank of Admiral of the U.S. Navy.

1866 - Mexican Vaqueros begin America's cowboy tradition.

1879 – The Cuban independence movement is put down by Spain.

1898 - The *USS Maine* mysteriously explodes in Havana Harbor, starting the Spanish American War.

1903 - Panama is annexed by the United States in order to dig the Panama Canal.

1905 – Noted philosopher George Santayana Publishes *The Life of Reason*.

1910 - The Mexican Revolution begins and hundreds of thousands of Mexicans emigrate to the American Southwest.

1912 - Racism against Hispanic Americans in the Southwest territories leads to lynchings and murders of Hispanic Americans in California and Texas.

1917 - The Jones Act is passed, extending U.S. citizenship to all Puerto Ricans and creating a bicameral Puerto Rican legislature elected by the people.

1929 - With the onset of the Great Depression, the United States begins Its Mexican American Repatriation Campaign.

1936 - Dennis Chavez becomes first Hispanic American elected to the U.S. Senate.

1940s-1950s - Unionization among Hispanic workers increases rapidly.

1943 - The so-called "Zoot Suit" riots take place in southern California. Mobs of sailors, marines, and soldiers invade southern California's Hispanic neighborhoods, beating young Mexican American men wearing Zoot suits.

1944 – Luis Walter Alvarez Helps Develop Atomic Bomb

1950 - The U.S. Congress upgrades Puerto Rico's political status from protectorate to commonwealth.

1953 – Tennis Player Ricard Alogo 'Pancho' Gonzales Opens the door for Hispanic Men in American Sports

1954 - In *Hernandez v. Texas*, the U.S. Supreme Court rules Hispanics are a separate class of people suffering discrimination, paving the way for Hispanic Americans to use legal means to attack all types of discrimination throughout the United States.

1954-1958 – The government program Operation Wetback deports 3.8 million persons of Mexican descent. Thousands of Hispanic Americans are arrested and detained.

1955 - KCOR-TV, the first Spanish-language television station in the United States, debuts in San Antonio, Texas.

1959 – Hispanic American doctor Severo Ochoa Shares a Nobel Prize in Medicine.

1959 – Fidel Castro's Revolution overthrows the repressive regime of Batista; Cuban Americans immigration to the United States increases sharply after this date.

1960's - Immigration from Mexico rises to 13.3 percent of the total number of immigrants to the United States.

1963 – Poet William Carlos Williams Wins the Pulitzer Prize

1963 – Joan Baez Sings at Civil Rights March on Washington D.C.

1965 – Cesar Chavez Founds the United Farm Workers of America

1968 – Carlos Castaneda *Publishes The Teachings of Don Juan: A Yaqui Way of Knowledge*, Initiating the Human Potential Movement

1968 - Chicano movement results in 1000's of Hispanic organizations supporting Hispanic rights.

1968 - La Raza Unida party is formed in Texas to obtain control of Chicano communities.

1972 – Geraldo Rivera becomes the leading Hispanic American in television.

1973 – Roberto Clemente is the first Hispanic elected into Baseball's Hall of Fame.

1971 - La Raza Unida Party wins the city elections in Crystal City, Texas.

1972 - Ramona Acosta Bañuelos becomes the first Hispanic Treasurer of the United States.

1977 - The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) apprehends more than one million undocumented workers each year.

1978 - 1988 - Hispanic women in the work force more than doubles, from 1.7 million to 3.6 million; 56.6 % of Hispanic women are in the work force, compared with 66.2 % of white women and 63.8 % of blacks.

1978 - Hispanic American golfer, Nancy Lopez wins the LPGA Championship.

1980 – Walter Alvarez proposes the theory that dinosaur extinction was caused by asteroid impact.

1980 – Mariel Boat Lift brings tens of thousands of Cubans to the United States, fleeing Castro's government.

1981 - Roberto Goizueta Becomes Chairman and CEO of Coca-Cola

1986 – Astronaut Franklin Chang-Diaz becomes the first Hispanic American in space.

1988 - President Ronald Reagan appoints Lauro F. Cavazos the first Hispanic Secretary of Education.

1989 - Ileana Ros-Lehtinen of Florida became the first Hispanic woman elected to Congress

1990 - President George Bush appoints Antonia C. Novello the first woman and first Hispanic Surgeon General of the United States.

1993 - President Bill Clinton names Federico Peña as first Hispanic Secretary of Transportation.

1993 - President Bill Clinton names Henry Cisneros as first Hispanic Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

1993 - President Bill Clinton appoints 25 Hispanics to positions that need confirmation by the Senate.

1994 - The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) takes effect, eliminating tariffs between Canada, Mexico, and the United States within fifteen years

2002 - Speedskater Derek Parra becomes the first Mexican American to medal in the Olympics Winter Games, winning the gold in the 1500 meter race, and a silver medal in the 5000 meters race.

2002 - Speedskater Jennifer Rodriguez wins two bronze medals in the ladies' 1000 meter and 1500 meter races.

2003 - Hispanics become the nation's largest minority group.

2003 - Cuban-born Nilo Cruz becomes the first Hispanic playwright to win the Pulitzer Prize for drama for his play *Anna in the Tropics*.

2005 – President George Bush appoints Alberto Gonzales the first Hispanic American Attorney General of the United States.