



BLACK IN LATIN AMERICA

4 x 53 HD



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Latin America is often associated with music, monuments, and sun, but each of the six countries featured in *Black in Latin America* including Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Cuba, Brazil, Mexico, and Peru, has a secret history. Behind a shared legacy of colonialism and slavery, Professor Henry Louis Gates Jr. discovers vivid stories and people marked by African roots.

12.5 million Africans were shipped to the New World during the Middle Passage—a two-hundred-year period from 1600-1800. While just over 11 million survived the arduous journey, only about 450,000 of them arrived in the United States. The rest—more than 10.5 million—were taken to the Caribbean and Latin America and kept in bondage far longer than the slaves in the United States. This astonishing fact changes the entire picture of the history of slavery in the Western hemisphere, and of its lasting cultural impact. These millions of Africans created new and vibrant cultures, magnificently compelling syntheses of various African, English, French, Portuguese, and Spanish influences.

Starting with the slave experience and extending to the present, Professor Gates unveils the history of the African presence in six Latin American countries through art, music, cuisine, dance, politics, and religion, and also reveals the very palpable presence of anti-black racism that has sometimes sought to keep the black cultural presence from view.

Episode One: *Haiti & the Dominican Republic: An Island Divided* tells the story of the birth of the first-ever black republic. In the Dominican Republic, Professor Gates explores how the country's troubled history with Haiti informs notions about racial classification.

Episode Two: *Cuba: The Next Revolution* discovers out how the culture, religion, politics, and music of this island are inextricably linked to the huge amount of slave labor imported to produce its enormously profitable 19th-century sugar industry; and how race and racism have fared since Fidel Castro's Communist revolution in 1959.

Episode Three: *Brazil: A Racial Paradise?* delves behind the façade of Carnival to discover how this 'rainbow nation' is waking up to its legacy as the world's largest slave economy.

Episode Four: *Mexico & Peru: A Hidden Race* explores the almost unknown history of the significant numbers of black people brought to these countries as early as the 16th and 17th centuries and the worlds of culture that their descendants have created in Vera Cruz on the Gulf of Mexico, the Costa Chica region on the Pacific, and in and around Lima, Peru.

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CREDITS

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