

Chapter 1 : Ogallala Aquifer - Wikipedia

Beneath the United States serves as a good overview of official U.S. attitudes toward Latin American countries from the time of their independence to the more recent U.S. support of insurgent forces in Latin American countries in an effort to install regimes receptive to perceived U.S. economic and security interests. Many specific incidents.

George Vickers September 25, A decade ago, transitions from dictatorship to elected civilian government, and from civil war to negotiated peace, changed the political landscape of Central and South America. The end of the Cold War changed the calculus of U. Schoultz provides a vivid and detailed account of how U. Beneath the United States convincingly demonstrates that although time and circumstance affect the exact mix of reasons explaining U. During the Cold War, security concerns dominated all other policy considerations and provided ideological justification for the hegemonic character of U. Today, security interests remain a central focus of U. The increasing use of labels like "narcoterrorist" and "narcoguerrilla" combine domestic stereotypes of evil drug dealers with Cold War imagery in ways that encourage a conflation of counternarcotics policies with counterinsurgency strategy and doctrine. This melding tends to be complete in countries like Colombia and Mexico, where unreconstructed militaries confront armed insurgent groups. While the drug war and preventing illegal immigration have the greatest salience in U. Intense domestic political conflicts over trade policy in the United States, in particular the strong opposition of key constituencies within the Democratic Party, have frustrated this objective by preventing Clinton from obtaining the "fast track" authority he needs to negotiate an agreement. Many Latin American governments hoped that the post-Cold War period would usher in a new era of trade and economic growth that would help the region recover from "the lost decade" of the s. But while there has been positive economic growth in most countries, absolute poverty and inequality have increased, and none has been able to sustain high growth rates throughout the nineties. As a result, more and more "average" Latin Americans are questioning the mantra that free trade and democratic government will bring progress. In The United States and Latin America, Laurence Whitehead, Victor Bulmer-Thomas and Sheila Page provide a sobering assessment, questioning whether Europe has the capacity or the will to displace the United States as the principal trading partner in any new free trade regime in the Western Hemisphere. Perhaps the most notable change in U. This is more than just rhetoric. The United States invested substantial effort and diplomatic resources to defend democratic institutions against attempted coups in Guatemala and Paraguay, and even used force to remove a military junta in Haiti. Washington has also provided significant financial aid and technical assistance to help establish effective civilian police forces and judiciaries in a number of countries. The Learning Curve, U. Not only does the model present a distorted picture of the real functioning of democratic institutions in the United States as anyone who has taken a college introduction to government course knows , but, as both Carothers and Schoultz document, it ignores the very different legal and cultural underpinnings of political institutions in Latin America. Strong executive power, autonomous military institutions and subservient judiciaries not only have a long history in Latin America, but trace their legal roots to the Spanish Constitution of the seventeenth century. Beyond this idealization of "democracy," U. It starts when a non-democratic regime faced with waning legitimacy and rising pressure for liberalization decides it must permit a political opening. The opening occurs, and opposition groups multiply and demand multi-party elections. The elections are held and an elected government takes power. Gradual consolidation follows, with the rationalization and democratization of state institutions, along with the strengthening and diversification of civil society. This is an extremely idealized model of democratization, and probably more an exception than the norm. It certainly does not accurately describe what happened in Guatemala from to now, nor is it particularly relevant to the evolution of the Peruvian political system since the transition from military rule at the beginning of the s. Even in Chile, the military-imposed Constitution remains a significant obstacle to full democratization despite the fact that other elements of the model happened as forecast. As Carothers notes, "electoral aid is of little use if a supposedly democratizing regime is holding elections merely to legitimate its power and has taken steps to ensure it cannot lose. All three of the books reviewed here underscore the continuing failure of U. Given the

overwhelming asymmetry of power and resources between the United States and the region, what explains this failure? For all too many in positions of power, the answer lies in the "deficiencies" of Latin American political culture. Schoultz documents, in painful detail, the pervasive belief among U. While there is an element of "grand truth" in this criticism, it does not acknowledge the possibility that U. The authors of these studies disagree about the likelihood of such an evolution, but they all agree that a fundamental flaw in U. If the United States is to develop more realistic and effective policies in Latin America, they argue, it must abandon the belief that there is one model of progress and one strategy for promoting progress. Instead, the United States must begin from a better understanding of the concrete historical reality of each country in the hemisphere. It is encouraging to know there are still some optimists.

Chapter 2 : Beneath the United States – Lars Schoultz | Harvard University Press

In this sweeping history of United States policy toward Latin America, Lars Schoultz shows that the United States has always perceived Latin America as a fundamentally inferior neighbor, unable to manage its affairs and stubbornly underdeveloped. This perception of inferiority was apparent from the

General characteristics[edit] The deposition of aquifer material dates back two to six million years, from the late Miocene to early Pliocene ages when the southern Rocky Mountains were still tectonically active. From the uplands to the west, rivers and streams cut channels in a generally west to east or southeast direction. Erosion of the Rockies provided alluvial and aeolian sediment that filled the ancient channels and eventually covered the entire area of the present-day aquifer, forming the water-bearing Ogallala Formation. The major differences are time and depth. The depth of the Ogallala varies with the shape of then-prevailing surface, being deepest where it fills ancient valleys and channels. The Ogallala Formation consists mostly of coarse sedimentary rocks in its deeper sections, which transition upward into finer-grained material. Its deepest part is ft. Present-day recharge of the aquifer with fresh water occurs at an exceedingly slow rate, suggesting that much of the water in its pore spaces is paleowater , dating back to the most recent ice age and probably earlier. Groundwater within the Ogallala generally flows from west to east at an average rate of a foot per day. Hydraulic conductivity , or the ability for a fluid water to move through porous material, ranges from 25 to feet 7. Nitrate levels generally meet USGS water quality standards, but continue to gradually increase over time. Aquifer water balance[edit] An aquifer is a groundwater storage reservoir in the water cycle. While groundwater is a renewable source, reserves replenish relatively slowly. The USGS has performed several studies of the aquifer, to determine what is coming in groundwater recharge from the surface , what is leaving water pumped out and baseflow to streams , and what the net changes in storage are rise, fall or no change. Many farmers in the Texas High Plains , which rely particularly on the underground source, are now turning away from irrigated agriculture as they become aware of the hazards of overpumping. Much of the plains region is semiarid , with steady winds that hasten evaporation of surface water and precipitation. In many locations, the aquifer is overlain, in the vadose zone , with a shallow layer of caliche that is practically impermeable ; this limits the amount of water able to recharge the aquifer from the land surface. However, the soil of the playa lakes is different and not lined with caliche, making these some of the few areas where the aquifer can recharge. The destruction of playas by farmers and development decreases the available recharge area. The prevalence of the caliche is partly due to the ready evaporation of soil moisture and the semiarid climate; the aridity increases the amount of evaporation, which in turn increases the amount of caliche in the soil. Both mechanisms reduce the amount of recharge water that reaches the water table. Recharge in the aquifer ranges from 0. The success of large-scale farming in areas that do not have adequate precipitation and do not always have perennial surface water for diversion has depended heavily on pumping groundwater for irrigation. Early settlers of the semiarid High Plains were plagued by crop failures due to cycles of drought , culminating in the disastrous Dust Bowl of the s. Only after World War II , when center pivot irrigation became available, was the land mass of the High Plains aquifer system transformed into one of the most agriculturally productive regions in the world. Change in groundwater storage[edit] Ground water levels decline when the rate of extraction by irrigation exceeds the rate of recharge. In extreme cases, the deepening of wells was required to reach the steadily falling water table. In the 21st century, recognition of the significance of the aquifer has led to increased coverage from regional and international journalists. In other areas, such as parts of eastern and central Nebraska and of the region south of Lubbock, Texas , water levels have risen since Sixty years of intensive farming using huge center-pivot irrigators has emptied parts of the High Plains Aquifer. With the use of center-pivot irrigation, nearly three million acres of land were irrigated. However, by , as the water consumption efficiency of the center-pivot irrigator improved over the years, farmers chose to plant more intensively, irrigate more land, and grow thirstier crops rather than reduce water consumption. Because of this, the rivers receive groundwater flow baseflow , carrying it out of the region rather than recharging the aquifer. Producers have taken steps to reduce their reliance on irrigated water.

Streamlined operations allow them to produce significantly greater yield using roughly the same amount of water needed four decades ago. Still, losses to the aquifer between and equated to a third of its cumulative depletion during the entire 20th century. The Ogallala is recharged primarily by rainwater, but only about one inch of precipitation actually reaches the aquifer annually. Rainfall in most of the Texas High Plains is minimal, evaporation is high, and infiltration rates are slow.

Chapter 3 : A Coast-to-Coast View of the Mantle Beneath the United States | Earthscope

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The TA is composed of seismometers that were first installed near the west coast of the U. One of the initial goals of the TA was to enable coast-to-coast seismic imaging of the North America lithosphere and underlying mantle convection with resolution comparable to that within regional observatories. Many more analyses are yet to come, but new travel-time tomography images made with continuous data coverage from southern California to northeastern Maine provide a glimpse of the multi-scale structure of the mantle beneath North America. Tomography map of the shallow upper mantle. The colors show S-velocity deviations from the average at a depth of 75 km. Black dashed lines indicate Precambrian margins of the continent, white dashed line denotes the Rocky Mountain front. The tomography images shown here use measurements of body waves and surface waves recorded by the TA and other networks in U. The surface waves were extracted from correlations of ambient seismic noise recorded during the approximately two years that each TA station is deployed. Ocean waves are the primary source of the seismic surface wave energy present in ambient noise. By measuring the propagation of both wave types across the TA for a range of frequencies we infer and estimate the 3-D seismic velocity structure beneath North America. Volumes of unusually low velocity mantle dominantly result from warmer than average temperatures at a given depth, and volumes of unusually high velocity result from colder temperatures. Multiple spatial scales and a long record of geologic time are reflected in the imaged seismic velocity variations. The elevated and tectonically active western U. Isolated volumes of high velocity mantle beneath the western U. Intermediate seismic velocities are found beneath the eastern margin of the U. Prior to the arrival of the TA, seismic sampling of the passive margin of the eastern U. Interest in thermal convection beneath the passive margin is stimulated by geological evidence for magmatic events and evolving topography long after the area became a passive margin. Initial images of seismic structure beneath the passive margin detect two distinct upper mantle low velocity anomalies beneath the central and northern Appalachians, respectively. These relatively high temperature volumes probably reflect lasting thermal scars in the lithosphere from magmatic events that occurred approximately 45 million years ago. This makes it difficult to understand the long-term geological evolution of the eastern U. EarthScope seismic data are already advancing our understanding of the western U.

Chapter 4 : Beneath the United States: A History of U.S. Policy Toward Latin America by Lars Schoultz

Beneath the United States has 95 ratings and 5 reviews. In this sweeping history of United States policy toward Latin America, Lars Schoultz shows that t.

Chapter 5 : Beneath the United States : Lars Schoultz : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming : Internet Archive

Facts is your complete guide to Beneath the United States, A History of U.S. Policy toward Latin America. In this book, you will learn topics such as as those in your book plus much more.

Chapter 6 : United States Capitol crypt - Wikipedia

But in Beneath the United States, Lars Schoultz shows that old habits are hard to break. Schoultz provides a vivid and detailed account of how U.S. policy for more than years has been determined by the need to protect U.S. security, the demands of domestic politics, and the drive to promote U.S. economic development.

Chapter 7 : Beneath the United States: A History of U.S. Policy (X) by Lars Schoultz

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