

Mission Atlas Project

Latin America

Ecuador

Snap Shot

Country Name: Republic of Ecuador or *Republica del Ecuador*

Country Founded: 1820

Population: 13,212,742,

Ecuador consists of a diverse mixture of Europeans, Native Americans, and African descendents. The Mestizos, a combination of mixed Europeans and Native Americans, is the largest group. The Native Americans groups primarily live in poverty along the highland regions, but the wealthy elite Europeans manage a majority of the wealth and land.

Government Type: Republic

Geography/location in the world:

It is a country located in the northwestern section of South America along the Pacific Ocean and between Columbia and Peru. Most of the country is along the equator. An additional section, the *Galapagos Islands* belongs to Ecuador and is located 600 miles west of the mainland.

Number of people groups: 29

Picture of Flag:



Basic Facts

Country Name:

Republic of Ecuador or *Republica del Ecuador*

Demographics:

13,212, 742 people live in the country. Of those, 33.9% fall into the category of birth to 14. People ages 15 to 64 make up 61.2% of the population while those 65 and older consist of 4.9% of the people.

The median age of 23 divides into 22.5 for males and 23.5 for females.

The population is growing at + 1.03% per year. However, the net migration is decreasing by 8.58 people per 1,000.

At birth, there are 1.05 males to 1 female.

People live on average of 76.01 years with males being 73.15 and females 79 years.

Overall, 2.78 children are born per every female.

HIV/AIDS is at a rate of .3% with around 21,000 people in the country living with the disease.

An estimated 65% of the people are mestizo, 25% Amerindian, 7% Spanish, and 3% black. The Amazon area holds a majority of the undeveloped tribes.

Around 62% of the people inhabit urban areas where a great shortage of housing is experienced

Quito is the capital with *Guayaquil* being the major port city. Other large cities include *Cuenca*, *Machala*, and *Portoviejo*.

The divorce rate is 0.42 per 1000 people.

Language:

Spanish is the dominant and official language of the country. In the coastal areas, Spanish has many Andalusian characteristics including the slurring or dropping of consonants such as s and d. In the highland regions, the Spanish is more Castilian. Amerindian languages, especially *Quechua* are the sub-languages of the state and many

words are incorporated into Spanish. *Quechua* is a language imposed by the *Incas* during the fifteenth century.

Society/Culture:

Folklore includes a mixture of Catholic and tradition beliefs. Some groups hold to the in-between hours of dawn, dusk, noon, and midnight as periods of time in which supernatural forces can enter and leave the human realm. Many in the rural areas believe in *huacaisiqui*, who are spirits of abandoned or aborted babies that attempt to steal the souls of living children. The black of Esmeraldas believe that *tunda*, an evil spirit takes the shape of a woman with a club foot.

Siestas from 1pm to 3pm are regularly practiced.

Culturally, one is expected to kiss the cheek of one being introduced. However, today, handshakes are replacing that practice in the business context.

The rural areas experience problems with malaria and parasites that cause river blindness. There is a great need for clean water.

Most families are nuclear in shape. Versus the rural areas, the urban woman is not expected to work outside the home. Their jobs include raising the children and managing the household.

Western dress is becoming more prevalent among them.

Soccer, bull fighting, and cockfighting are their primary sports.

Religious holidays are based on the liturgical calendar of the Roman Catholic Church. Other holidays include February 12th, the Anniversary of the Discovery of the Amazon River, Feb. 27th, National Community Spirit Day, Carnival in March or April around the time of Lent, May 24th, the Battle of Pichincha (the war for Independence with Spain), Simon Bolivar's Birthday on July 24th, Quito Independence Day on August 10th, Columbus Day on Oct 12th, All Saints Day on November 1st, and All Soul's Day on November 2nd which families visit the cemeteries to celebrate the dead.

<http://www.ecuadorexplorer.com/html/holidays.html>

Government:

Because of the great disparity in wealth being concentrated in the elite, many political conflicts arise from the upper classes disputes over land and money.

There are 22 provinces: Azuay, Bolivar, Canar, Carchi, Chimborazo, Cotopaxi, El Oro, Esmeraldas, Galapagos, Guayas, Imbabura, Loja, Los Rios, Manabi, Morona-Santiago, Napo, Orellana, Pastaza, Pichincha, Sucumbios, Tungurahua, Zamora-Chinchipe

Since 1979, the Constitution established a president who is elected for a four year term and voted by popular vote. Currently, Lucio Gutierrez is the president. He was elected in 2003.

The Unicameral National Congress produces legislation, reforms, and interprets the Constitution. There are 100 seats and members are elected to four-year terms.

The Judicial branch is responsible for technical matters. New justices are elected by the full Supreme Court. However, in 2004, the Congress replaced the entire group through a majority resolution.

18 year olds are allowed to vote, but literate people from 18 to 65 must vote. It remains optional for those over 65.

Economy:

Agriculture was the dominant economic resource until the 1970s when the search and production of oil brought a high rate of income into the country. Despite the increased income, a crisis due to natural disaster and world market occurred in the 1990s when oil revenue fell and prices skyrocketed. In addition, the currency fell while the national debt increased. Today, 40% of the country's export and 25% of the public revenue is from petroleum. In 1999, the currency depreciated by 70% and banking collapsed. In addition, a coup brought Gustavo to power. In 2000, the United States Congress allowed the dollar to become their official currency which laid a foundation of stabilization. Financial growth returned to pre-crisis levels. In 2003, Gutierrez became President but the government has made little reform in order to return the economy to a stable location.

The GDP is \$45.65 billion with a 2.5% yearly growth rate.

65% of the people of Ecuador live at or below the poverty level.

9.8% of the population are unemployed while 47% are underemployed.

The national currency is the United State Dollar. Formally, it was the sucre.

The economy receives \$120 million annual in foreign aid. Major import partners include the United States, Columbia, Venezuela, and Brazil. Export partners are the US, Columbia, and Germany. Ecuador attempted to join the World Trade Organization in 1996, but failed to reach the qualifications.

Due to increased presence of oil companies, deforestation and soil erosion are the two areas of concern for the people. In addition, oil has often contaminated the water supply because of production wastes.

Besides the oil industry, tourism plays a secondary role in the economy with many people wanting to visit the South American country along with the Galapagos.

Literacy:

Those, age 15 and older that can read and write, is 92.5%. 94% of those are male while females are 91%.

School is suppose to be compulsory between the ages of six and fourteen, but is not completely fulfilled because of the isolation of many jungle tribes.

There are twelve state and five private universities in the countries.

One problem with education in Ecuador is the lack of qualified educators. Literacy has risen, but continues to take hold in the rural mountainous areas because of opportunity.

Land/Geography:

The country is surrounded by Columbia to the north, Peru to the south and east, and the Pacific Ocean to the west. The total area of land is 283,560 square miles.

The land changes from the Sierra in the central part of the country running north to south to the coastal section in the west and to the upper Amazon River basin in the east. The Sierra are divided into the Andes range and the upland basins. In the Andes of Ecuador, there are over 12 peaks of 16,000 ft or higher. The highest is Chimborazo, 20,702 feet. Cotopaxi is one of the highest active volcanoes in the world, rising 19,437 feet. Because of the various volcanoes in the area, there is a threat of earthquakes and landslides among the smaller farm villages. In the basins, the temperature is too cool to harvest grain so potatoes remain their staple crop. Along with the mainland, Ecuador has possession of the Galapagos Islands. They are located around 600 miles off the coast and contain 13 main islands with 6 smaller islands.

Because the country lies along the equator, it experiences high temperature. However, the differing elevations, temperatures vary greatly. Along the coast, the climate is tropical while the inland consists of cooler temperatures especially at the higher elevations. Likewise, the Amazon jungle area has tropical climate. The country receives about 80 inches of rain per year.

Natural resources include petroleum, fish, timber, and hydropower. Off the Galapagos Islands, tuna and other harvestable sea life is the primary resource.

History

Archaeologists agree that the coastal regions of Ecuador held a community as early as 4500 BC. By 3,200 BC, three distinct groups existed and inhabited the southern coast and central highlands. Along with their pottery, trade routes have been discovered leading into Peru and Brazil. Around 500 BC, large cities had formed along the coastal areas.

Around 1000 AD, the highland tribes had formed a loose federation called the Kingdom of Quito. However, during the 15th century, the Incas, lead by Tupac-Yupanqui, invaded from the south and assimilated them into their culture. The only major tribes able to provide a strong fight were the Canari, the Quito, and the Caras. His son, Huayna Capac, completed the conquest and forced the Incan language of Quechua upon the people. After his death, he divided control of the land among his two sons, Atahualpa and Huascar: one took the north and the other the southern region. Unfortunately, this was the same year that the Spanish arrived. As the Spanish arrived, the sons warred among themselves.

The first European, Bartolome Ruiz, laid his eyes on the coast in 1526. Spanish conquest arrived in 1531 under the hands of Francisco Pizarro. One of his lieutenants, Sebastian de Belacazar, arrived in the Inca capital to find it in ruins. On the site, he began the city of San Francisco de Quito which later became the capital of the republic. Ruled as a viceroyalty, the Spanish colonial period was a period of exploitation and bloodshed against the Amerindians. For instance, Pizarro captured Atahualpa, forcing a ransom. After receiving the ransom, he killed the ruler.

Spanish control lasted for around 300 years. During this time, they primarily ruled in the coastal regions along with navigable rivers. Gold and silver attracted Spanish settlers to the area. When local labor was not sufficient, African slaves were imported. Along with the invasion and control of the area, disease and oppression greatly reduced the native population.

In 1820, the city of Guayaquil declared itself independent. In 1822, the Battle of Pinchincha raged and the Spanish were defeated. Liberated Ecuador became a part of Simon Bolivar's Republic of Gran Columbia and led by Jose de Sucre, a lieutenant of Bolivar. It consists of modern day Ecuador, Columbia, Venezuela, and Panama. However, in 1830, the union collapsed and the name Quito was dropped for the Republic of the Equator and local interests allowed them to secede from the union.

The newly founded Republic's first president was Juan Jose Flores, an aide of Bolivar. Power was divided between 1845 and 1860 between 11 presidents and various conservative and liberal leaders. In 1860, Gabriel Moreno rose to power and became the country's first great statesmen. He ruled until 1875. Besides developing the Catholic Church with privileges, he attempted to establish info structure such as roads and education. In 1875, he was assassinated leading to a fall in the unity of the government. 1895 saw the rise of General Eloy Alfaro. During his rule, he separated church and state along with forming liberty of worship and the press. The countrywide railroad was completed. Overall, from 1830 to 1925, the country had 40 presidents, dictators, and juntas that ruled the country. For one period, there were 22 presidents in 23 years.

The Liberal group ruled until 1944 despite violence and crises. The economy depended on the world market for cocoa. Land was lost to Brazil, Columbia, and finally Peru.

Peru eventually invaded parts of the Amazon in Ecuador's southern area. The Rio de Janeiro Protocol gave the land officially to Peru.

In 1944, Jose Velasco Ibarra came to power as a nationalist who was firmly against the Rio Protocol. Despite his attempts at economic reform, the currency was depressed and buyers were heavily taxed. The Air Force revolted and he was forced into exile. Military governments soon replaced the elected governments of the past decades.

However, in 1966, Velasco returned to overthrow the government and establish executive decree. Congress was dissolved while the Supreme Court was reformed. Despite his plea for new presidential elections, he was overthrown in 1972 in a bloodless coup. Again, a new military government came to power.

General Rodriguez lasted four years and was soon forced out in 1976. The Supreme Court then took over the country. Elections once again took place in 1978, but there was no majority. Jaime Roldes Aguilera finally was elected in 1979 and took office along with the new constitution. Tragedy struck when he was killed in a plane crash in 1981. His vice-president took the reign, but rising economic problems and widespread flooding lead to a change in 1984. That election was captured by Cordero Rivadeneira who introduced the country to an open market economy.

His policies were beginning to take place when the country suffered two blows. One, the 1986 plunge in oil prices slashed revenues. Second, an earthquake destroyed much of the oil production facilities. Despite the arrival of Borja Cevallos, the economy continued to suffer and inflation rose. In 1992, Duran-Ballen was elected and quickly imposed strict measures in attempts to jump start the economy. These measures were effective, but highly unpopular.

1995 brought the conflict with Peru to the forefront. Ecuadorian troops attacked a Peruvian outpost. A war began and lasted 3 months. Only 80 people were killed and 200 were wounded. The country experienced a rise in patriotism, but corruption ended Duran-Ballen's hopes of reelection.

In 1996, Abdala Bucaram was elected president. Only after one year, he was declared incompetent by the Congress and charged with corruption. He would not leave office, but ended up fleeing to Panama. Alacron, a vice-president, was given the task of leading the government temporarily. Poverty and inflation raged throughout the next few years.

1998 saw El Nino crush many Pacific Coast communities. Elections brought forth Mahuad. Rights for the indigenous people were established by government reforms. He even conceded some of the land with Peru in order to end the dispute. Though the country gained rights to some of Peruvian navigatable rivers, the accord was seen as a defeat in the hearts of the people. A banking scandal further devastated the economy.

In 2000, the Sucre, the national currency was replaced with the US dollar. Mahuad was forced out by the military and upset people. Noboa Bejarano was placed into power to stabilize the government and appease the United States.

Civil disorder in local countries like Columbia has produced a large refugee group attempting to come into the country. Along with refugees, Ecuador remains a transit country for cocaine produced in Columbia and Peru. Because the US dollar is now the main currency, drug traffickers launder money through the area.

Write as complete a history of the country as possible including any precursor nations to this country. Use encyclopedias, websites, and the countries own website here especially.

<http://www.geographia.com/ecuador/histroy.htm>

<http://www.ecuador.us/history.htm>

Christian History

From the time of Spanish conquest, the Roman Catholic Church played a role in Ecuador. Catholicism became central to the culture and worldview. Along with conquest, the Catholic Church aided in the education of the natives. Assets grew due to the church's influence.

Until 1896, the Roman Catholic Church was considered the State Church. In 1905, limitations were placed on the church because of the liberal government. Ecuador allowed other religions into the country, allowed a system of public education that was not dominated by the church, and grabbed much of the church's outlying rural properties.

In the 1960s, the Catholic Church took up the cause of the poor via social change. Liberation theology became the profound theology of the church. The church pushed the agenda for the poor. The Diocese of Riobamba and its bishop were in contention with other Catholics and the government over the role of Indian rights.

In 1986, the church reorganized into three archdioceses, ten dioceses, one territorial prelature, seven apostolic vicariates, and one apostolic prefecture.

Because of the Roman Catholic Church's weak presence in the countryside and settlement along with the nominal and syncretistic beliefs allowed the Protestant and Pentecostal movements to thrive.

British and Foreign Bible Society were the first Protestant missionaries to arrive in Ecuador in 1824. No permanent mission agency established a mission until 1896 when 3 missionaries from the Gospel Missionary Union began working. Today, the Evangelical Missionary Union Church is the largest Protestant group in the country.

In 1897, the Christian and Missionary Alliance arrived to work among them coastal, mountain, and eastern areas of the country.

Worldwide attention turned to Ecuador missions after Jim Eliot and 4 other missionaries were killed by the Auca Indians. His wife returned and today most Aucas have been baptized. This story was immortalized in the book, *Through Gates of Splendor*.

The Charismatic movement swept across older churches during the 1990s. Today because of the weakening presence of the Catholic Church, Protestant groups have the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of Ecuadorians, especially the poor.

Christian broadcasting is evident through the work of TBN and CBN. The Jesus Film has been seen by around 5.8 million people, primarily through television broadcasts and the work of the film teams.

Religions

Non-Christian

Non-religious

Non-Religious/other make up 1.9% of the people, around 245,000 persons. The non-religious group shows an increase pattern of + 3.1 percent which is higher than any other religious group except Muslims.

Traditional ethnic claim some 0.4% of the people or as many as 50, 600. Overall the traditional religionists are declining at a rate of – 0.4 percent annually

Chinese/Buddhist- .16%

Bahá'í

The Baha'I religion claims around .15% of the population. They began in the 1960s, but have lately experienced a decline in numbers. The local community has 16 Spiritual Assemblies and is home to a radio station.

<http://www.uga.edu/bahai/2005/050223.html>

Muslim

Muslims claim only .02% of the population or some 2550 people but they are increasing at a + 17.2 percent annually. The first Muslims arrived from Lebanon, Palestine, Syria, and Egypt during World War I and II in order to escape the destruction. Many were labeled Turks because they entered the country under a Turkish passport from the Ottoman Empire. Mainly, they lived in *Quito* and *Guayaquil*. Most worked as traders. Much of their identity was assimilated to the culture because they married native women.

Likewise, because of the distance, few families returned to Muslim countries for education or Islamic studies. Muslims remain a small minority, but continue to meet for Friday prayers.

Jewish

Jewish religion is followed by around 0.01% of the population. Jewish people number around 1250 but are increasing at a + 2.0 percent rate. They are located in small communities throughout the country.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Mormons)

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Mormon) reports 200 congregations with 111,801 members. The 58th Operating Temple in the world was opened on July 31st, 1999.

<http://www.history.pdx.edu/hdwp/religion/mormon2.html>

Jehovah's Witnesses

Jehovah's Witnesses work through 526 Congregations with 40,037 members. The group reports over 150,000 adherents.

Roman Catholic and Orthodox

Roman Catholic

Around 95% of the people in the country is Catholic. In 1997, the country contained 30 Catholic bishops. Catholic nuns numbered 4,714 in 1996. Priests were 1,792 in number in 1996.

The Roman Catholic Church contains 960 Congregations that claims 5.714 million active members. The first diocese was formed in 1545 in Quito while the first major attempts at evangelization in the Amazon began in 1599. In the following decades, schools and churches were built throughout the country. In 1822, independence from Spain resulted in a lower number of priests in the country. Great changes took place in the beginning of the 20th century with the legalization of divorce in 1905 and the church receiving governmental lands in 1908.

The highest concentration of Catholics resides in the Andes where many mix it with their traditional beliefs. In the coastal regions, only 25% of the marriages are conducted within the church while the number remains 80% in the mountains.

Orthodox Churches

Orthodox groups make up only 0.02% of the population with around 2000 members. The group is, however, showing an annual growth rate of + 2.2%

Protestant/Evangelicals/Pentecostals

Association of Indian Evangelicals

Association of Indian Evangelicals reports 500 congregations with 75,000 members. The group claims over 180,000 adherents

Christian and Mission Alliance

Christian and Mission Alliance serves through 119 congregations 20,036 members. In 1897, the Christian and Missionary Alliance arrived to work among them coastal, mountain, and eastern areas of the country.

Foursquare Evangelical

Foursquare Evangelical has 190 congregations with 45,000 members. They began work Ecuador in 1953. However, their church rose in numbers after the 1964 healings of the Roberto Espinoza evangelistic and healing campaign.

Baptist Convention

Baptist Convention has 220 congregations with 31,446 members. Missionaries first arrived in Ecuador in 1950. The Baptist Convention was established in October 1972. A Theological Seminary seeks to train nationals but the enrollment remains minute. The convention publishes *El Mensajero Bautista*. In 2000, they set a goal to have a Baptist Convention church in every county in the country.

<http://www.bwa-baptist-heritage.org/hst-sam.htm>

http://www.baptiststandard.com/2000/1_5/pages/appointees.html

Assemblies of God

There are 180 congregations of the Assemblies of God including 15,000 members.

Church of God (Cleveland)

Church of God (Cleveland) serves through 140 congregations and over 23,000 members.

Church of the Nazarene

Church of the Nazarene has 240 congregations with 19,000 members on the roll. Work began in 1972. There are three missionary families working among the people.

www.nazarenemissions.org/education/gin/sam/ecuador.htm

Association of Inter-American Evangelicals

Association of Inter-American Evangelicals reports 40 congregations and 4,000 members.

Evangelical Covenant

Evangelical Covenant has 60 congregations with 7,500 recorded members. There is a Bible college among them.

<http://www.covchurch.org/cov/home/conferences.html>

Association of Missionary Christians

The Association of Missionary Christians maintains 80 congregations with 1,400 members.

Seventh-Day Adventist

Seventh-Day Adventist report 76 congregations and 28,840 members. They arrived in 1905, but have not been as popular as they have been in neighboring countries.

Other denominations include 1,506 various congregations and around 108,000 members.

There are 924 missionaries to Ecuador from 20 different agencies and 29 countries. A majority, 540, originate from the United States.

People Groups

Achuar Jivaro (3,040)

These people are located in seven villages along the the Peruvian montana, specifically in the forests and foothills of the Andes Mountains along the Peruvian border. Achuar-Shiwiar is their mother tongue, but many are fluent in Shuar. In the past, they held off attacks from the Incas and the Spanish. Only in the 19th century did they interact with outsiders regarding trade. Because of their years of isolation, they have maintained their tribal identity. Most work farming manioc, maize, and other items from the family garden. Others are swidden hunters-gatherers and fishermen. There has been an increase in day labor in order to retain cash for trade goods. Animism is their dominant religion while evangelical Christians make up 12% of the people. The New Testament was published in 1981 with newer versions in the last few years. They also have Christian audio recordings in their language.

American, U.S. (65,940)

These people live throughout the country and are considered expatriates of the United States. Most work in development and education. English is their primary language. Protestant Christianity is their dominant religion with 78% adherents and there is a widespread, disciplined church. 2.31% of the people are evangelical. Likewise, they have access to the Bible, Jesus Film, God Story Video, audio recordings, broadcasting, and web broadcasting in their language.

Arab, Syro-Lebanese (2,230)

These people are immigrants to Ecuador. Standard Arabic is their mother tongue. 80% are Sunni Muslim while Christians make up 20%. Evangelicals are less than 2%. There is a group of churches, but no active church planting has been conducted in the last two years. They have access to the Bible, Jesus Film, God Story Video, audio recordings, broadcasting, and web broadcasting in their language.

Auca, Huaorani (810)

These people are located in the Eastern jungle between the Napo and Curaray Rivers. Waorini is their mother language. Their name means 'human beings' or 'the people,' but they consider everyone else non-human. Auca translates as savage.

Information has been provided by missionaries. For instance, it is this tribe that is considered to be the one that killed the American missionary Jim Eliot. He and four others were killed because they were considered invaders by the Huaorani. However, because of the work of the Wycliffe Institute and their persistence, missionaries reached these people peacefully. After the missionaries arrived, oil companies pushed their way into their lives. Many consider their area one of the largest oil deposits. In 1983, the government of Ecuador provided them their own land. However, much of this land becomes polluted from leaking oil areas. This problem continues today.

Most live as skilled hunters and warriors and they are famous for living off the land. Along with hunting, they live by producing manioc, maize, peanuts, sweet potatoes, chili, and fruit in vegetable gardens.

Polygamy and monogamy exist in their culture and depends on the gender ratio in that area. Children are considered independent by the age of 8 and often must hunt and gather their own food. Those that live in the oil areas have adopted Spanish and undergo high drug use. However, two tribes, the Tagaeri and Taromenane, remain isolated.

40% are evangelical Christians while others remain animists. The New Testament was published in 1992 and they have access to audio recordings.

<http://www.theethnicshop.com/huaoranieng.html>

<http://www.crystalinks.com/huaorani.html>

<http://www.peoplesoftheworld.org/text?people=Huaorani>

Black (675,630)

These people are Spanish speaking who live along the coast and Ecuadorian Black. They are descendents of African slaves who were forced to work on coastal sugar plantations during the sixteenth century. Along with sugar cane, others were brought to work the silver and gold mines. Traditionally, they have held a higher position than Indians. Spanish is their mother tongue, but there are rural areas in which many hold to Africanized Spanish. Today, most work in wage labor, fishing, and working on cargo boats.

90% are Christian, but only .03% are evangelical. No active church planting has been conducted in the past two years. There are some Baha'is among them. They have access to the Bible, Jesus Film, God Story Video, audio recordings, broadcasting, and web broadcasting in their language.

<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/ectoc.html>

Chachilla, Cayapa (6,590)

These people reside in the tropical forests and rivers of North coastal jungle, Esmeraldas Province, Cayapas River and its tributaries (Onzole, Canandé, Sucio, Cojimíes, and others). Chachi is their mother tongue. Along with the Colorado people, they are the last indigenous people of coastal Ecuador. Mestizo and black settlers are beginning to push them out of their native lands and into the mountains. Most work as swidden agriculturalists, fishermen of shrimp, or as hunters. As farmers, they harvest bananas, sugar cane, coca, manioc, maize, and yams utilizing slash-and-burn agriculture. 90% of the people are Animists while 7.99% are Christian with 2.1% being evangelical. A large majority of the Christians are Catholic. Portions of the Bible were translated from 1964 to 1980. Wycliffe runs a school for Cayapa children

<http://www.britannica.com/eb/article?tocId=9021931>

Cofan, Kofan (790)

These people are located in Both sides of the Colombia and Ecuador border, Napo Province near Santa Rosa de Sucumbios, and Aguatico River. Many migrate back and forth from Ecuador and Columbia. Cofan is their mother tongue. Jesuits established a mission among them in 1599 and over the years and decades, much of their original culture was lost. Texaco Oil and Gulf Oil invaded their land in search of drilling locales in the 20th century, forcing many to leave the area. Today, they work as farmers. 70% of the people are Animists while 30% are Christian with 19.23% being evangelical. The New Testament was first published in 1980 with more recent copies. They also have access to audio recordings.

Colorado, Tatchila (2,130)

These people reside in Northwestern jungle west of Quito, around Santo Domingo de los Colorados. Their name originates from their practice of placing red dye in their hair. In addition, they converse in Colorado, their mother tongue. As peasant agriculturalists they harvest yams, yucca, peppers, maize, rice, manioc, sugar cane, and pineapples. Others raise cattle or serve as day laborers in the cities. Animists make up 60% of the people while Christians are 39.99% with evangelicals as 2.86%. The New Testament was first published in 1980 with subsequent copies being produced in recent years. They have access to audio recordings.

Ecuadorian (6,817,900)

(see history of Ecuador)

These people live throughout the country and converse in Spanish. Roman Catholicism is their dominant religion with 6.1% of the population being evangelical. There has been widespread church planting in the last two years. They have access to the Bible, Jesus Film, God Story Video, audio recordings, broadcasting, and web broadcasting in their language.

German (32,460)

These people are expatriates from Germany, but are currently citizens. Standard German is their mother tongue. Christians make up 78% of the people. There is a widespread, disciplined church. They have access to the Bible, Jesus Film, God Story Video, audio recordings, broadcasting, and web broadcasting in their language.

Han Chinese, Mandarin (14,200)

These people are immigrants from the Chinese diaspora. Mandarin Chinese is their mother language. Their religion is a mixture of Buddhism and Chinese folk religion. However, most are non-religious. 6% of them are Christian with .23% being evangelical. No active church planting has been conducted in the last two years, but there is one church among them.

Jew (4,570)

These people are located in small communities throughout the country. Spanish is their mother tongue. 09% of them are Christian. There are no churches, but a few believers. They have access to the Bible, Jesus Film, God Story Video, audio recordings, broadcasting, and web broadcasting in their language.

Media Lengua (1,010)

These people only live in a few villages in the country. Media Lengua is their native tongue. Their primary religion is unknown and they do not have access to Christian materials in their language.

Mulatto, Zambo (135,130)

These people are mixed race of Black and Amerindians that live throughout the country. The original Zambos were a mixture from shipwrecked or escaped slaves and local communities. These communities were supportive of the slaves because the natives were under the same pressure and invasion by colonialists. Spanish is their mother language. 90% of them are Christian with most claiming Catholicism. Evangelicals are over 5%. There is a reproducing church movement among them. They have access to the Bible, Jesus Film, God Story Video, audio recordings, broadcasting, and web broadcasting in their language.

<http://encyclopedia.lockergnome.com/s/b/Zambo>

Norwegian (12,170)

These people are expatriates from Norway that are involved in business. Bokmaal Norwegian is their mother tongue. 90% are Orthodox Christian. Less than 5% are evangelical. The Scandinavian Seamen's Church works among them. There is a widespread church, but no active church planting has been conducted in the last two years. They have access to the Bible, Jesus Film, audio recordings, broadcasting, and web broadcasting in their language.

Quaiquer, Awa (1,220)

These people reside on the extreme north slopes of the Andes, specifically between the Mira and San Juan Rivers. Although many live in southwest Columbia, a few live in small villages. Awa-Cuaiquer is their native language. Over the years, they have effectively stayed away from outsiders and retained much of their tribal identity. Today, they serve in farming and migrant labor. Christians make up 65% of the people with 10% being evangelical. There is evidence of a reproducing church movement. Portions of the Bible were translated from 1979 to 1982. They also have access to audio recordings.

<http://www.abayala.org/Kipu/awa.html>

Quichu, Calderon Highland (35,510)

These people inhabit parts of Calderón and Cayambe areas of Pichincha Province around Quito. Calderon Highland Quichua is their native tongue. Christianity is their primary religion with 90% adherents from the population and evangelicals make up 4.84%. There is a reproducing church movement, but they do not have access to Christian materials in their language.

Quichua, Canari Highland (124,780)

These people are located in Southern highlands, Cañar Province. Their mother tongue is Canar Highland Quichua.

The Quechua are considered descendents of the Incas and originated from the southern Peruvian highlands. The Quechua language became the major language during the time of Spanish colonization. By attempting to hold off the Spanish, the Quechua were placed in low paying jobs and removed from authority within the country. Education has become one tool for them to integrate with society and grow in their role in Ecuador, socially and politically. Unfortunately, less than 1% finish school. Today, because of the diversity among the Quechua speaking people, they have been classified in various ethnic groups. Family plays a major role with extended families dictating decisions. Marriages are prearranged through the parents, but agreed upon by the community

90% of the people are Christian with 2.08% being evangelical. There is evidence of a reproducing church movement. The New Testament was published in 1997 and they have access to audio recordings in their language. However, for the remainder that are animists or mix Roman Catholicism with animism, they constantly fear the gods. Pachamama is their earth goddess whom must be appeased through an animal sacrifice or the pouring of alcohol. Illnesses and accidents occur for failure to appease the deities.

Quichua, Chimborazo Highland (1,288,400)

These people can be found in the Central highlands, Chimborazo and Bolivar provinces. Dialects of Cotopaxi and the rest of Tungurahua, large towns around Ambato not called Salasaca. Chimborazo Highland Quichua is their mother tongue.

The Quechua are considered descendents of the Incas and originated from the southern Peruvian highlands. The Quechua language became the major language during the time of Spanish colonization. By attempting to hold off the Spanish, the Quechua were placed in low paying jobs and removed from authority within the country. Education has become one tool for them to integrate with society and grow in their role in Ecuador, socially and politically. Unfortunately, less than 1% finish school. Today, because of the diversity among the Quechua speaking people, they have been classified in various ethnic groups. Family plays a major role with extended families dictating decisions. Marriages are prearranged through the parents, but agreed upon by the community.

90% of the people are Christian with 10.75% being evangelical. There is evidence of a reproducing church movement. They have access to the Bible, Jesus Film, God Story Video, audio recordings, and web broadcasting in their language. The other 10% are animists, a mixture of Roman Catholicism with animism, or in the Baha faith. Christian approaches via radio and television have been effective. The animists constantly fear the gods. For example, Pachamama is their earth goddess whom must be appeased through an animal sacrifice or the pouring of alcohol. Illnesses and accidents occur for failure to appease the deities.

Quichua, Lowland Napo (8,120)

These people live in Napo River Region, on the Putumayo with a few that moved to Madre de Dios. Napo Lowland Quichua is their mother language. Spanish is their other major language.

The Quechua are considered descendents of the Incas and originated from the southern Peruvian highlands. The Quechua language became the major language during the time of Spanish colonization. By attempting to hold off the Spanish, the Quechua were placed in low paying jobs and removed from authority within the country. Education has become one tool for them to integrate with society and grow in their role in Ecuador, socially and politically. Unfortunately, less than 1% finish school. Today, because of the diversity among the Quechua speaking people, they have been classified in various ethnic

groups. Family plays a major role with extended families dictating decisions. Marriages are prearranged through the parents, but agreed upon by the community.

90% of the people are Christian with 16% being evangelical. There is evidence of a reproducing church movement. The New Testament was published in 1988. They also have access to audio recordings. The other 10% are animists or a mixture of Roman Catholicism with animism. They constantly fear the gods. For example, Pachamama is their earth goddess whom must be appeased through an animal sacrifice or the pouring of alcohol. Illnesses and accidents occur for failure to appease the deities.

Quichua, Mestizo (3,275,000)

These people are located throughout the country. Spanish is their mother language.

The Quechua are considered descendents of the Incas and originated from the southern Peruvian highlands. The Quechua language became the major language during the time of Spanish colonization. By attempting to hold off the Spanish, the Quechua were placed in low paying jobs and removed from authority within the country. Education has become one tool for them to integrate with society and grow in their role in Ecuador, socially and politically. Unfortunately, less than 1% finish school. Today, because of the diversity among the Quechua speaking people, they have been classified in various ethnic groups. Family plays a major role with extended families dictating decisions. Marriages are prearranged through the parents, but agreed upon by the community.

Animism is their primary religion. They constantly fear the gods. For example, Pachamama is their earth goddess whom must be appeased through an animal sacrifice or the pouring of alcohol. Illnesses and accidents occur for failure to appease the deities. Less than 2% of the people are evangelical, but initial church planting has been conducted in the last two years. They have access to the Bible, Jesus Film, God Story Video, audio recordings, broadcasting, and web broadcasting in their language.

Quichua, Otavalo Highland (547,810)

These people are located in the northern highlands of Imbabura Province. Imbabura Highland Quichua is their mother tongue. Quechuan is their dialect which the Roman Catholic missionaries utilized when they came to the Otavalo. Because of their opposition to invasion, much of their tribal identity has remained. They are famous for their wool textiles. Because of this way of living, they enjoy a higher way of life than their neighboring mestizos and Ecuadorians. Besides wool, they harvest beans, barley, maize, quinoa, and wheat.

Christians make up 90% of the people with the remaining being Christo-pagans that live in fear of their gods. For example, Pachamama is their earth goddess whom must be appeased through an animal sacrifice or the pouring of alcohol. Illnesses and accidents occur for failure to appease the deities.

There is evidence of a reproducing church movement, but only .6% of the people are evangelical. However, initial church planting has been conducted in the last two years. The Bible was completed in 1994. They also have access to audio recordings.

Quichua, Pastaza (7,100)

These people inhabit Eastern jungle along Bobonaza and Conambo rivers, Pastaza Province. Northern Pastaza Quichua is their native tongue. They serve as swidden agriculturalists. The Quechua are considered descendents of the Incas and originated from the southern Peruvian highlands. The Quechua language became the major language during the time of Spanish colonization. By attempting to hold off the Spanish, the Quechua were placed in low paying jobs and removed from authority within the country. Education has become one tool for them to integrate with society and grow in their role in Ecuador, socially and politically. Unfortunately, less than 1% finish school. Today, because of the diversity among the Quechua speaking people, they have been classified in various ethnic groups. Family plays a major role with extended families dictating decisions. Marriages are prearranged through the parents, but agreed upon by the community. Christianity is their primary religion. Around 5% of them are evangelical. There is evidence of a reproducing church movement. The non-Christians are animists or a mixture of Roman Catholicism with animism. They constantly fear the gods. For example, Pachamama is their earth goddess whom must be appeased through an animal sacrifice or the pouring of alcohol. Illnesses and accidents occur for failure to appease the deities. The New Testament was published in 1992 and they have access to Christian broadcasting.

Quichua, Salasaca Highland (13,190)

These people inhabit the province of Tungurahua, southeast of the city of Ambato in central Ecuador. Salasaca Highland Quichua is their mother tongue. The Incas formally dominated their land during the fifteenth century. In the process, they were relocated to Ecuador from their previous home in Bolivia. During the sixteenth century, they left their native language for Quechua which was spoken by the Catholic missionaries. Though surrounded by mestizos, they have not intermarried or served as laborers other peoples. Most live as tenant farmers and hacienda laborers. 90% of the people are Christian with the rest being animists or a mixture of Roman Catholicism with animism. They constantly fear the gods. For example, Pachamama is their earth goddess whom must be appeased through an animal sacrifice or the pouring of alcohol. Illnesses and accidents occur for failure to appease the deities. There is evidence of a reproducing church movement. They do not have access to Christian materials in their language.

Quichua, Saraguro Highland (35,510)

They live in highlands of the province of Loja. Loja Highland Quichua is their native tongue, but many are moving to Speakers prefer to use Chimborazo Highland Quichua.

The Incas formally dominated their land during the fifteenth century. In the process, they were relocated to Ecuador from their previous home in Bolivia. During the sixteenth century, they left their native language for Quechua which was spoken by the Catholic missionaries. Though surrounded by mestizos, they have not intermarried or served as laborers other peoples. Most work as landholding peasant farmers. Many have moved into the Ecuadorian Oriente around the Yacuambi River Valley where they have harvested manioc, sugar cane, and bananas. However, raising cattle is on the rise.

90% of the people are Christian with .21% being evangelical. The remaining 10% are animists. There is a reproducing church movement. No active church planting has been conducted in the last two years. Likewise, they do not have access to Christian materials in their language.

Quichua, Tena Lowland (9,130)

These people live in Eastern jungle, Tena, Arajuno, Shandia area. Tena Lowland Quichua is their mother language.

The Quechua are considered descendents of the Incas and originated from the southern Peruvian highlands. The Quechua language became the major language during the time of Spanish colonization. By attempting to hold off the Spanish, the Quechua were placed in low paying jobs and removed from authority within the country. Education has become one tool for them to integrate with society and grow in their role in Ecuador, socially and politically. Unfortunately, less than 1% finish school. Today, because of the diversity among the Quechua speaking people, they have been classified in various ethnic groups. Family plays a major role with extended families dictating decisions. Marriages are prearranged through the parents, but agreed upon by the community.

Most work as farmers. 90% of the people are Christian with 6% being evangelical. The rest are animists. There is evidence of a reproducing church movement. The New Testament was published in 1972.

Secoya, Ecuadorian Siona (290)

These people live along the Aquarico River with others in Columbia and Peru. They prefer to be called Pai. Secoya is their mother language. Europeans brought them disease which greatly reduced their population. They work as subsistent farmers, shifting cultivators, fishermen, hunters, and gatherers. Occasionally, they will serve as boatmen in order to ferry items down the river. They are famous for their knowledge of natural medicines. Oil has been found in their area and they are coming in more contact with outsiders. In 1985, the government gave petroleum prospectors their land which brings the fear of destruction and pollution in their area. Animism is their dominant religion with Christians making up 19.97% of the people with 10.34% being evangelical. Wycliffe translators have been working among them for a few years. There is one known church. The New Testament was first completed in 1990.

http://www.pilotguides.com/destination_guide/south_america/ecuador_and_the_galapagos_islands/secoya_indians.php

Shuar, Jivaro (49,710)

They reside along the Upano and Bobanaza Rivers in Morona-Santiago and Zamora-Chinchi provinces, across the border from Peru. They prefer to be called Jivaro. Shuar is their mother tongue, but those under the age of 50 are capable of conversing in Spanish. In the past, they used to shrink the heads of their enemies. Along with shrinking the head, they sewed the eyes and lips in order for spirit to be trapped and paralyzed. They have been greatly involved in political issues in their area. Many work for the Salesian missionaries or as farmers.

Animism remains their dominant religion, but Christians make up 8% of the population. .43% of them are evangelical. There is one known church among them. The New Testament was completed in 1976 with newer translations being published in recent years. They also have access to the Jesus Film and audio recordings.

<http://www.uweb.ucsb.edu/~eschniter/AMAZONIA/JIVARO/shuar.html>

<http://www.jewellerydiscountshop.co.uk/trolleyed/90/92/>

Siona (300)

These people live around the Putumayo River and into Columbia. Siona is their mother tongue. Most live is farmers. Christianity is their primary religion with 59.92% of the people as adherents, 10% being evangelical. The remaining 40% are animists. There is a group of churches among them. The New Testament was published in 1982 and they have access to audio recordings in their language.

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Missiological Implications

1. Evangelical Christians and Churches should increase their attention to Ecuador. The Mormons and the Jehovah's Witnesses in Ecuador outnumber any Evangelical group in numbers of congregations and members with the exception of the Association of Indian Evangelists. The marginal groups have 2.61 % of the population while Protestant and Independent groups have 6.2%.

2. Evangelical Christians and Churches should recognize the nominality of the Catholic populations in Ecuador and begin efforts to evangelize the followers of Catholic groups.
3. Evangelical Christians and Churches should respond to the physical and social needs of this country that has suffered in natural disasters in recent decades.
4. Evangelical Christians and Churches should seek to alleviate the suffering of poverty that besets many people and people groups in Ecuador. The country greatly needs honest government that could provide stability and peace. Social and economic problems have held back progress and the elite dominate the landscape and hold back the poor.
5. Evangelical Christians and Churches should seek to develop contextual strategies to reach the Ameridan populations. Quichua peoples have shown response when the Message of Jesus is proclaimed in their indigenous languages rather than Spanish
6. Evangelical Christians and Churches should provide training in means to reach indigenous peoples and deal with the syncretistic superstitions and remnants of traditional religion that exist among them. Efforts to evangelize in the heart languages of the peoples will strengthen the work.
7. Evangelical Christians and Churches should seek means to reach the less-evangelized peoples that include slum-dwellers, upper class, university students, those among the Galapagos Islands, and the Chinese that have only one church among them.
8. Evangelical Christians and Churches should expand their witness in mass media. Obvious openings exist for larger use of radio and the expanded use of the Jesus Film.

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