MIGRATION, IMMIGRATION, IMPLICATIONS
MIGRATION
IMPLICATIONS
OVERVIEW

- Brief history of Honduran and Mexican immigration
- Changes in immigration
- Data from interviews with immigrants and families in Mexico
Hurricane Mitch November 1998
- Temporary Protected Status offered through March 1999
- Renewable every July through 2011
HONDURAS, CONT.

- Factories and plantations devastated
  - Thousands of jobs gone
  - $800 million damage to infrastructure
  - 7000 death toll; some towns completely destroyed
  - 90% of population displaced
  - Among lowest incomes in Western Hemisphere
  - Lack of potable water and adequate food supply
HONDURAS, CONT.

- Effect of remittances
  - Building of infrastructure: phones, electricity, roads

- Immigrant plans
  - Some building homes and businesses in Honduras
  - Some planning to stay in US
  - Interviews
    - Reasons for differences
      - Educational level
      - Level of poverty
Mexicans among earliest inhabitants of land mass now called United States (since 1500s)

19th century Manifest Destiny converted half of Mexican territory and three-fourths of mineral resources to US
MEXICAN DIASPORA, CONT.

- Mexican workers—unskilled, semi-skilled, low educational level
  - Agricultural laborers
  - Mineworkers
  - Railroad employees (maintenance and construction)
  - Factory workers
- Resultant racial and ethnic stereotypes
1910-1930

- One million Mexicans (1/10 of population) headed to Southwest US fleeing Mexican Revolution
- Worked railroads, mines, cotton and fruit farms

1930s Great Depression caused anti-immigrant hysteria and deportation
MEXICAN DIASPORA, CONT.

- WWII US needed Mexican labor in production of food and fiber
  - Beginning of Bracero Program
- 1940s and 1950s Mexican activists arose to fight for immigrant rights
- 1947-1954 INS ran Operation Wetback
- 1950s-1970s anti-immigrant legislation; subsequent rise in activism
- 1990s increase in Mexican immigration to South and Southeast US
Through 1960s immigrants tended to
  + Have low levels of education
  + Work in agriculture and factories
  + Come from situations framed by abject poverty

Recent immigrants
  + Better educated
  + Seeking economic betterment
  + More are settling as families
  + Fewer are migrant workers, more in service industries, construction, and factories
DEMOGRAPHICS

- Approximately 11 million undocumented people, the majority Mexican
- 400,000 Mexicans enter without documents annually (Mexicans Abroad)
DEMOGRAPHICS

- 2006 44.3 million Spanish-speaking people in US, 64% Mexican
  + Median age 27.4, compared to 36.4 population as a whole
  + 9.9 million households
  + 67% married couple
  + 66% of children live in two-parent household
  + 32.2 million speak Spanish at home
$37,800 median household income
20.6% poverty level
31.4% lack health insurance
59% 25 and older have high school education
12% 25 and older have bachelor’s degree
3.1 million 18 and older have bachelor’s
839,000 have advanced degree
DEMOGRAPHICS

- 68% 16 and older in civilian work force
- 17% in management and professional jobs
- 77,700 in executive positions
IMPLICATIONS

- Lottery—no Mexicans
MEXICAN DIASPORA, CONT.

- 2005 represent buying power of $736 million (Selig Center for Economic Growth, U of GA)
- 2004 sent $4,600,000 in remittances to Latin America
- 2006 sent $20,000,000 to Mexico (Pew Hispanic Center)
MIGRATION, IMMIGRATION, IMPLICATIONS