NOS HABLAMOS

SPONSORED BY LATINO PRINCETONIANS
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Spanish is the second most spoken language in the world with 437 million, English comes third with 372 million.

In the United States, it is estimated that 41 million people speak Spanish.

Source: Statista
Spanish is a native language of the United States as it is today. The very first US cowboy was a Spanish speaker (Vaquero).

In 1521 Spain defeated the Aztecs and by 1535 established the **Viceroyalty of the New Spain**, which included what it is now Mexico, California, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Wyoming, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas and Florida.

Spain also controlled, along with the French, what is known as the **Louisiana territory**, covering what it is now Arkansas, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Nebraska, Minnesota, Louisiana (west of Mississippi river), South Dakota, and Montana.

In 1803, the United States crossed the borders west of the Mississippi river with the Louisiana purchase territory.

In 1848, during the US-Mexico war, it conquered the rest of what is now most of its current geographic configuration.
For almost 300 years, by 1848, Spanish speakers have lived and developed a basic economy focused on trade, agriculture, and mining.

The new English speakers settlers acquired not just land but also knowledge of how to deal with the arid conditions of the West, learned how to handle cattle and other livestock, ranching, agricultural techniques, and prospecting. These were the very first contributions of Spanish speakers to the economic development of the United States.

The Spanish speaking population grew even more with the annexation of Puerto Rico during the US-Spanish war in 1898. Puerto Rico gave the United States strategic advantages in the Caribbean and enriched its growing Hispanic/Latin cultural landscape.
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