

- ➔ They are often called Latinos. They're the largest population among the minorities that accounts for 14-15% of the population (*around 40 Million*). They came from South or Central America; the majority are Mexicans (escaped poverty and unemployment), Puerto Ricans (once in America, they're considered American citizens) and Cubans (escaped dictatorship).
- ➔ Although they're not totally homogeneous because their origins are different, the Hispanics are **united** by two powerful forces: the language (Spanish) and the religion (Roman Catholics). They still keep family ties, are more conservative (*vote for Republicans*).
- ➔ Hispanics are often stigmatized / stereotyped, even sometimes by other Hispanics, not to be American citizens. *"I'm tired of people asking me if I got my green card / if I'm still eating Taco every night..."* they would say.
- ➔ **Mexicans** are the largest group in the Hispanic community (illegal immigration + giving birth in the border in the American territory) who settle in the South (in Pueblos) which used to be Mexican.
 - ➔ (After the civil war, some went back to Mexico, many stayed in the US. Today, a lot of Mexicans are proud of their origins and proud to see their language be official in some states)
- ➔ At the beginning of the 20th Century, many Mexicans immigrated to the US since it became the first power of the world thanks to the progress of industrialization.
- ➔ Since the Southern economy was in need of men power at lower prices (a cheap labour force). The American government decided to regulate the flow of immigrants through what was known "**the Bracero program**" that is an agreement to employ unskilled Mexican workers for a limited period of time.
- ➔ The "**Wet backs**" are the Mexican undocumented, illegal immigrants. Most of them are poor, low-educated, discriminated against and unskilled.
- ➔ They became visible, more vocal (started to protest) especially in the 60s with the blacks' civil rights movement to demand equal rights.
- ➔ While protesting, they used some **slogans** like: *"We shall overcome"*; *"Black (African Americans)/Brown (Hispanic)/Red (Indians) is beautiful"*; *"We shall overwhelm – dominate (in number, culture, language, etc)"*.
- ➔ The "**Chicanos**" Mexican American, i.e. a Mexican person now living in the US or an American descended from Mexicans. The word Chicano was originally a name used by others as an insult but is now preferred by Mexican Americans themselves. Most of them are poor even if being legal immigrants because their work is seasonal (cyclical) in the fields. So, they're constantly on the move following job opportunities. ➔ Low education for their children (most are dropouts). They had their own leader "**César CHÁVEZ**" who struggled for equal rights as other American farmers.
- ➔ The issue of official language: there is no federal law although there was a lobby "**U.S English**" claiming that English has to be the official language by an amendment. But some states *like California* have declared English to be the official language to avoid conflict.
- ➔ Actually, in the U.S, English is an obstacle for Hispanics because the language at school is English and it's hard to adjust with the American society without speaking it.
- ➔ **Today**, they want bilingual programs which are expensive for the government and which can lead to lots of conflicts (the other communities will claim the same thing, too).
- ➔ Most of the Hispanics are at the low of the bottom scale (low educational level, high rate of infant mortality, short life expectancy, etc) ➔ they generally suffer the circle / culture of poverty (as in a revolving gate) mainly because of the mechanization of work.
- ➔ Since they are more conservative thanks to their religion (Catholicism), they have an increased birth rate (*the baby boomers*); they are against abortion and contraception ➔ they have increased in number especially during the last decade.

- ➔ **The Browning of America** → According to statistics, they will have represented more than 40% by 2050 → The American society will be **colored** and overwhelmed by the Hispanics. However, the Whites won't allow them overstep their limits (*by prohibiting bilingual programs, making English the official language of some states, the American borders are well controlled by using sophisticated equipment against illegal immigrants, prohibiting companies or employers to hire illegal immigrants, etc*).
- ➔ As the Hispanics are a big community (*around 40 Million*), they represent a big number as potential **voters**.
- ➔ **Generation N̄**: the generation of young Hispanics who are growing in number, better educated than their parents, speak English and very important in votes. They have changed how the country looks **culturally** by maintaining the Hispanic culture (*celebrities, music, food, dance, etc*).
- ➔ They are more assimilated than their parents; they speak both Spanish and English. They even created a new dialect which is a mixture of Spanish and English "**Spanglish**".
- ➔ As they grow in number, they become more influential and believe in their slogan "*we shall overwhelm*" by presuming their "*Manifest Destino*" → the dominant culture has to adapt itself to their culture.