

What is the Latino and Latin American Institute? The Latino and Latin American

Institute is an AJC initiative to systematically build and sustain relationships that help protect and strengthen Jewish communities in Latin America, secure support for Israel throughout the hemisphere, and foster favorable political alliances in the United States.

To accomplish these goals, the Institute engages the Latino community in the United States and the governments of Latin America to address both their separate and intersecting issues and to produce reciprocal appreciation for AJC's concerns.

This approach integrates the agency's remarkable capacity to promote positive change at home and abroad through sophisticated interethnic and interreligious outreach and international diplomacy.

Latino and Latin American Institute

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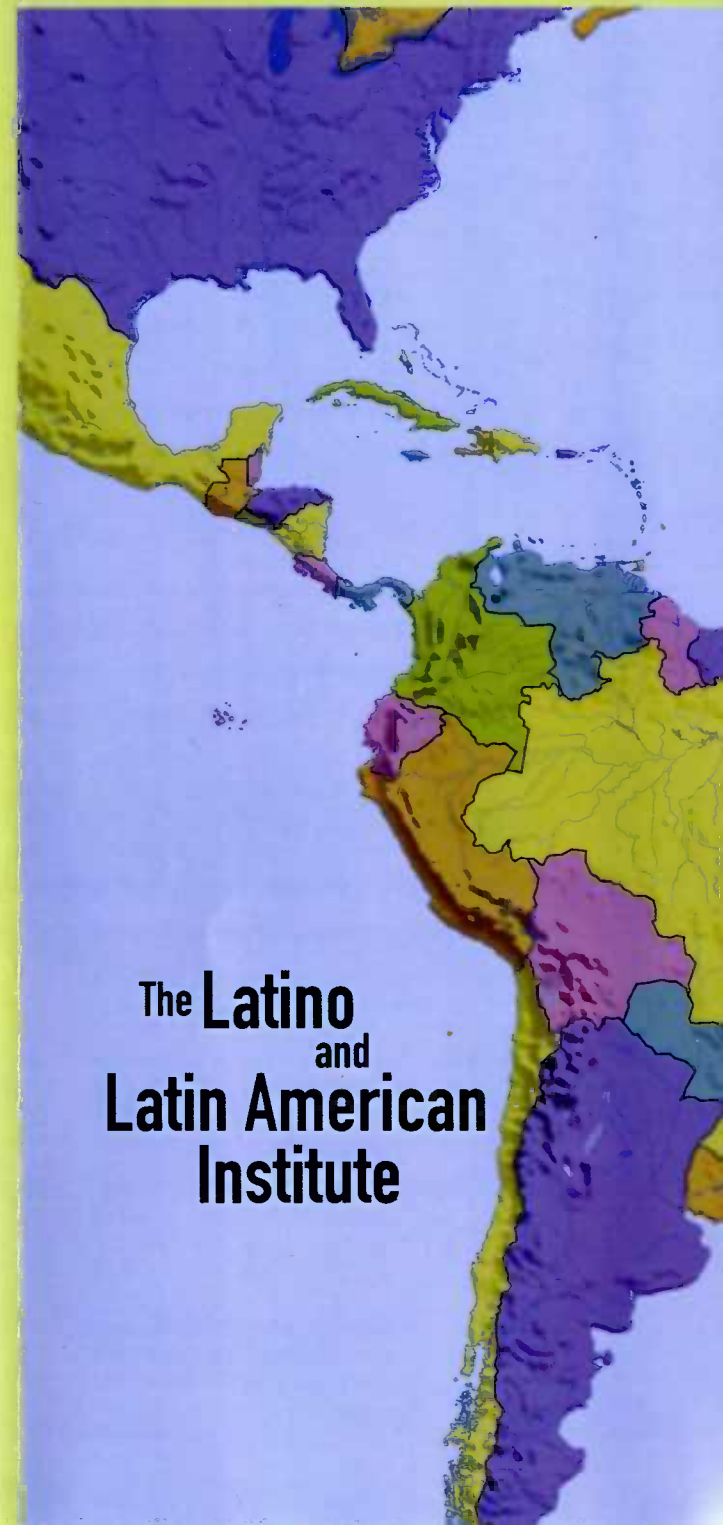
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The **Latino**
and
Latin American
Institute

Why the Institute is especially critical today

First, Latinos have become America's fastest-growing minority. Long-term relationships and alliances with this ascending community are critical to sustaining national support for core Jewish issues.

Second, in a region often fraught with political and economic turmoil, it serves the interests of the United States and the Jewish communities of Latin America to support stable, democratic, pluralistic societies that are better equipped to deter terrorism and more inclined to be supportive of Israel.

How the Institute works

The Institute improves AJC's effectiveness by working in close alignment with the agency's interethnic, interreligious, international, and public policy departments, which it enhances with additional resources and expertise. It also enables AJC's Project Interchange to expand its Israel travel seminars for Latino leaders.

AJC's presence in Latin America

AJC has been effectively engaged in Latin America for more than half a century. A desire to promote democracy and to speak out against authoritarianism and in defense of human rights prompted the agency to establish a Buenos Aires office in 1948, its second international location after Paris. Today, Latin America is home to more than 400,000 Jews. AJC helps to safeguard this vibrant community by cultivating democratic ideals among the region's political leadership. In 2004, the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States (OAS) granted AJC official NGO status.

Vicente Fox, president of Mexico, addresses an AJC Annual Meeting that also heard from President George W. Bush and Bruce M. Ramer, chair of the Latino and Latin American Institute and AJC honorary president.



Selected activities and objectives

Latino Affairs

- Serve chapters as an information and contact resource
- Raise AJC's profile in the Latino community
- Identify and reach out to emerging Latino leadership
- Ensure fair treatment of Latino immigrants to the United States
- Coordinate policies on issues of mutual concern, such as immigration reform
- Facilitate collaboration between Latino and Jewish members of Congress
- Connect Latino and Jewish college student organizations and educate about Israel

Latin American Affairs

- Maintain government and political contacts to support democracy, pluralism, and human rights
- Increase AJC's level of involvement with Jewish communities affected by socio-economic upheaval, anti-Semitism, or natural disaster
- Cultivate relationships at Latin American embassies and consulates in the U.S.
- Develop a permanent program to foster closer relations among the United States, Israel, and Latin American countries
- Urge Latin American governments, which generally maintain positive bilateral relationships with Israel, to exhibit the same attitude multilaterally, in their UN voting, for example