

EI LASO

Paraguay Edition

EI LASO Paraguay

August 2011

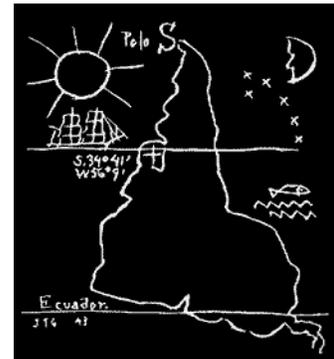
Paraguay's Bicentennial Celebration

By Gabriel Racca



Teacher Resources

By Catherine Butel



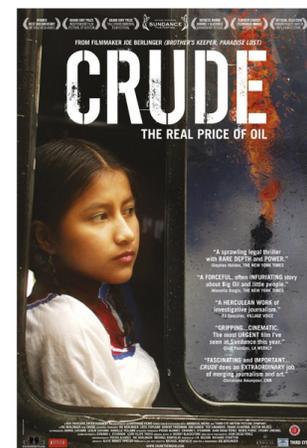
Paraguay Kansas Committee

By Gabriel Racca



Latin American Documentary Film Festival

October 18th-28th



Paraguay in its 200th Year of Independence

by Gabriel Racca, Student President of KU Paraguay Kansas Committee

Paraguay is located in the center of South America, surrounded by Argentina, Brazil and Bolivia. It has an area of 157,000 square miles which is approximately the size of California. The population is 6.5 million inhabitants, slightly more than Minnesota.

Paraguay became independent from Spain on the night of the 14th to the 15th of May 1811 thanks to a revolution led by a group of patriots against the Spanish Governor. Independence was gained without bloodshed. However, to maintain its independence and its territory, Paraguay had to fight one of the bloodiest wars that the continent has seen.

The first war was against the Triple Alliance (Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay), from 1865 to 1870. As a result of this war, Paraguay lost two-thirds of its population and one-third of its territory. During the War of the Triple Alliance, children as young as ten fought for Paraguay. A national holiday was created to honor those children who fought. "El Día del Niño" (Children's Day) on August 16th remembers the Battle of Acosta Ñu where 3,500 children were massacred when they took arms against the 20,000 soldiers of the Triple Alliance army.

The War of the Triple Alliance ended when the Paraguayan dictator, Marshall Francisco Solano Lopez, died during the battle of Cerro Corá on March 1st, 1870, along with the last remnants of his army.

The Chaco War against Bolivia was the 2nd war Paraguay fought. The war was over the Chaco region of Paraguay (60% of Paraguay's territory). The Chaco War against Bolivia developed



Pantéon Nacional de los Héroes (National Pantheon of the Heroes) in Asunción, Paraguay

between 1932 and 1935. Although Paraguay won, it lost more than 30,000 soldiers and the country's economy was devastated.

During this time Paraguay's democracy had been developing successfully in the 1920's. However, its development was held back by a long period of dictatorship from 1954 until 1989. Paraguay regained its democracy when General Alfredo Stroessner (Paraguay's dictator) fell from power on February 3, 1989. Since then successful multi-party elections take place every five years.

Today, Paraguay has consolidated its democracy with full freedom of expression and assembly. However, the government continues to struggle to fight corruption, citizen insecurity, and search for greater equity and social inclusion.

As for its foreign relations, Paraguay enjoys capital relations with its neighbors and the U.S. Paraguay has always supported the U.S. in international forums, especially against communism. Paraguay was one of the major beneficiaries of President Kennedy's "Alliance for Progress." Additionally, no Paraguayan president or high official of Paraguay has issued an affront or an insult to the U.S., the Paraguayan government has neither expelled a U.S. diplomat, nor nationalized any business or seized any citizen's property. Paraguay hopes to maintain this bond for years to come!

[Hillary Clinton's Paraguay Bicentennial Video](#)

Paraguay en su Bicentenario de Independencia

by Gabriel Racca, translated by Nancy Compier, Outreach Coordinator

Paraguay está ubicado en el centro de Sudamérica, rodeado por Argentina, Brasil y Bolivia. El país es aproximadamente del mismo tamaño que California, 157,000 millas cuadradas. Además, tiene 6.5 millones de habitantes, un poco más que el estado de Minnesota en E.E.U.U.

Paraguay ganó su independencia de España en una batalla durante la noche del 14 de Mayo, 1811 al 15 de Mayo, gracias a un grupo de patriotas que montó la revolución contra el gobernador español. Esta independencia se logró sin derramar sangre. Sin embargo, para mantener su independencia y su territorio, Paraguay tuvo que luchar en algunas de las guerras más sangrientas que han ocurrido lugar en el continente.

La primera guerra fue contra la Triple Alianza (Argentina, Brasil y Uruguay), y aconteció entre 1865 y 1870. Como consecuencia de la guerra, Paraguay perdió dos tercios de su población y un tercio de su territorio. Durante la Guerra de la Triple Alianza niños de diez años de edad lucharon para Paraguay. Un feriado nacional fue establecido para honrar a los niños que lucharon. “El Día del Niño” el 16 de agosto, recuerda la Batalla Acosta Ñu, en la cual 3,500 niños tomaron armas contra 20,000 hombres del ejército de la Triple Alianza y fueron masacrados.

La Guerra de la Triple Alianza terminó cuando el líder y dictador Paraguayo, Marshall Francisco Solano López, se murió durante la batalla de Cerro Corá el primero de marzo de 1870, junto con los últimos vestigios de su armada.

La Guerra del Chaco contra Bolivia fue la segunda guerra de Paraguay. La guerra fue para región de Chaco de Paraguay (60% del territorio

de Paraguay). La Guerra del Chaco contra Bolivia aconteció entre 1932 y 1935. Aunque Paraguay la ganó, perdió 30,000 soldados y la economía del país quedó destrozada.

Durante este tiempo, la democracia en Paraguay se desarrolló con éxito en la década de los 1920s. Sin embargo, su desarrollo se retrasó durante el largo periodo de dictadura entre 1954 y 1989. Paraguay recuperó su democracia cuando el General Alfredo (el dictador de Paraguay) cayó del poder el 3 de febrero del 1989. Desde entonces Paraguay tiene elecciones multipartidarias exitosas cada cinco años.

Hoy en día, Paraguay consolidó su democracia, gozando de los derechos humanos y la libertad de expresión. Sin embargo, el gobierno todavía lucha para combatir la corrupción, la inseguridad de a ciudadana, y la búsqueda de igualdad e inclusión social.

En cuanto a las relaciones internacionales de Paraguay goza de buenas relaciones con sus vecinos y con los EEUU, Paraguay. Paraguay siempre apoya a los Estados Unidos en foros internacionales, especialmente contra el comunismo. Paraguay fue uno de los principales beneficiarios de la iniciativa “Alianza para el Progreso” del Presidente Kennedy. Además, ningún presidente o alto oficial Paraguayo ha denunciado o insultado públicamente a los Estados Unidos. El gobierno de Paraguay no ha expulsado un diplomático de los Estados Unidos, jamás ni ha nacionalizado un negocio o confiscado la propiedad de un estadounidense. Paraguay espera mantener este vínculo para muchos años más en el futuro.

Sources:

[Library of Congress](#)

[CIA Factbook](#)

[Interview with Ambassador Rigoberto Gauto](#)

The Paraguay Kansas Committee

by Gabriel Racca, President of KU Chapter of Paraguay Kansas Committee

Things were almost ready. The table was set, the projector was ready, the Paraguayan flag was placed under a white carton carve-out of the number two hundred, and everyone was standing around the table, in their formal attire, ready to begin.



The music began, and everyone laid their hands over their heart and sang the Paraguayan National Anthem with great reverence. Once the hymn ended, the solemnity quickly faded as the nineteen Paraguayan students and five University of Kansas faculty members sat down to talk and eat.

This ceremony, which took place on May 8, 2011, was dedicated to celebrate two events: the 200th anniversary of the independence of Paraguay from Spain and the first semester of existence of the KU Paraguay Kansas Committee. The relationship between Paraguay and Kansas is much longer and deeper than most people know, and the creation of the KU, the Paraguay Kansas Committee was meant to further this relationship and focus its development in Lawrence.

The mission of the recently created student organization called the KU Paraguay Kansas Committee is to deepen the relationship between Paraguayans and the people of Lawrence, and to create an organized voice for the Paraguayan students at KU. Since its inception in January 2011, the group has made flyers to promote a scholarship available to U.S. students to study or work in Paraguay for a semester, it has hosted parties and bake sales to

expand awareness about Paraguay, and it is planning the Paraguayan Awareness Week for this fall semester. The student organization also helps newly arrived Paraguayan students at the University of Kansas get acquainted with and accustomed to the new scenery.

Historically, the Paraguay-Kansas relationship stemmed from President John F. Kennedy's call in 1962 for the people of the Western Hemisphere to work together. In response to this call for integration, the Partners of the Alliance was created in 1964, which soon after came to be known as the Partners of the Americas. This non-profit organization is independent from the government, and aims its efforts at coordinating exchanges between the United States and countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Through the Partners of the Americas, Paraguay and Kansas were assigned to each other because of their similar geographic characteristics. The connection between this U.S. state and this country is administered by two independent nonprofits. The Kansas nonprofit is called the Kansas Paraguay Partners and its Paraguayan counterpart is called the Comité Paraguay Kansas. Both non-profit organizations coordinate with each other to promote exchanges among students of high schools, universities, agricultural exchanges, cultural arts exchanges, emergency preparedness exchanges, and much more.

Stay tuned for a detailed agenda of **Paraguay Awareness Week**, October 21—26. Some events will include:

- Paraguayan Biodiversity Photo Exhibition
- Lecture by Former Paraguayan Secretary of State and Ambassador, Leila Rachid

Resources to Teach on Paraguay and the Southern Cone

Compiled by Catherine Butel,
Outreach Coordinator

The Center of Latin American Studies Outreach Office works to conveniently provide functional resources for the study of Latin America to K-12 teachers, students, communities, and educational institutions. We provide: Teacher Reach-Out Workshops, Lesson Plans, El LASO, Cultural Trunks, and Student Speakers. Below are some featured resources on the Southern Cone.

Lesson Plan: Por Primera Vez en el Cono Sur

Created by Ezekiel Stear for the University of Kansas Department of Spanish and Portuguese for the KU Acceso Project. Upper level Spanish students will obtain an overview of the Southern Cone countries through different articles, YouTube videos, and class discussion. While learning about the countries, students will practice using preterit and imperfect verb tenses. This lesson plan takes about 50 minutes to complete.

El LASO next semester:

African Diaspora in Latin America

Look for articles on:

- The History of Africans in Latin America
- African Influence on Music, Art, & Culture
- Information on Spring Teacher Reach-out

Lesson Plan: Yerba Mate

Created by Karen Acosta on behalf of the University of Kansas Department of Spanish and Portuguese for the Acceso Project. Upper level Spanish students will learn about *Yerba Mate* and its importance in the selected Southern Cone Countries of Paraguay, Uruguay, and Argentina through the comparison of *Yerba Mate* commercials from each country. While learning about *Yerba Mate* students will practice using the preterit and imperfect verb tenses. This lesson plan takes about 50 minutes to complete.

Interactive Website:

The University of Kansas Acceso Project is a free, open-source website that anyone can use. Acceso is intended as a complete, interactive curriculum for intermediate-level learners of Spanish. The [Sudamérica III Section](#) covers the Southern Cone region in Latin America and offers many themed activities for students. Instructors interested in adopting the program are asked to contact [Professor Amy Rossomondo](#) for details.

Cultural Trunks

Our Outreach office recently developed a new cultural trunk on the Southern Cone, which features books and artifacts from the countries of Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Argentina. Students can get a hands-on learning experience from that region of the world. This trunk can be reserved and sent to your school free of charge! See the digital trunk and get the reservation forms on our [website](#).

Classroom Connections with Peace Corps Paraguay

by Lindsay Dudley, Outreach Assistant

2011 marks the 50th Anniversary of the Peace Corps Program. President John F. Kennedy inaugurated the program in 1961, and since then more than 200,000 volunteers have served in 139 countries worldwide. Paraguay and the United States established a joint Peace Corps agreement on November 4, 1966, and the first volunteer arrived in Paraguay in 1967 to work in rural agriculture.



Educators here in the U.S. have a unique opportunity to engage their students in cultural learning, teaching them what life is like in Paraguay and other Peace Corps countries. Peace Corps offers the opportunity to directly communicate with a Peace Corps volunteer through the Worldwise Schools Correspondence Match Program. This program matches an educator in the US with a Peace Corps volunteer in the field during his/her two years of service. Participants are expected to communicate on a monthly basis, either through postal mail, email, pictures, or video conferencing. Through these interactions students learn about a foreign country and its culture, customs, geography, history, and people without ever leaving the classroom. For more information and to enroll as an educator in this program, please visit the Peace Corps website.

The Peace Corps Worldwide Schools Program also offers different cultural activities that allow students to learn about people from all over the globe. Teachers can use lessons such as "Perspectives on Paraguay" to provide insight into Paraguay through personal field experience of Peace Corps volunteers in Paraguay. This lesson looks at the first-hand perspective of Nichola Minott, who served as a volunteer from 1991-1994. Nichola, through her interview, reveals cultural details and intricacies that are specific to Paraguay. Lesson plans are broken down by grade level, geographical region, and subject area.

Peace Corps also provides classroom speakers who are Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCVs) through their program Peace Match. Educators can request a speaker online and Peace Match connects them with the nearest volunteer in their geographical area. The speakers make presentations about their Peace Corps experience and provide personal anecdotes and stories about different aspects of their assigned country.

Check out this video for a brief look into the Peace Corps program in Paraguay with interviews from staff, volunteers and Paraguayan community members.

Upcoming Event: Kansas Paraguay Partners in collaboration with Peace Corps Paraguay has created a photo exhibit entitled Paraguay Through Children's Eyes. The photographs were taken by children in Paraguay who were instructed in basic photography by local Peace Corps volunteers in Paraguay. The event will take place from October 3-October 31, 2011 at Pittsburgh State University and is free and open to the public.

Mark Your Calendars for..

KU International Studies Event: Identity and Community After the Cold War Era



This semester will begin with a KU Area and International Studies Conference that addresses “Identity and Community After the Cold War.” The conference will cover a wide range of topics that seek to describe, examine, and understand the various areas and the kinds of shifts that have occurred since the late 1980s, and to attempt a complex model of the world humanity now inhabits. The conference will take place August 25-27, 2011 and will be held in the Kansas Union on the KU Campus. Participation is free, but registration is required.

To register, please go to the [CREES website](#) (Center for Russian, East European & Eurasian Studies).

In addition The Spencer Museum of Art, in collaboration with CREES, will host a Teaching Gallery exhibit displaying art that depicts various interpretations of identity and community after the Cold War era from the Spencer Museum’s collections.

Meriendas

The Center's Merienda lectures provide an opportunity for students, faculty, community members, and visiting scholars to share their experiences and research in Latin America. The speakers represent a wide range of disciplines and backgrounds. Presentations typically last 40-45 minutes and allow for audience questions at the end. A simple lunch of rice and beans is served.

Bailey 318, Thursdays 12-1pm Free

Sept 8th: Anita Herzfeld

Sept 15th: Linda Lee

Sept 22nd: Francisco Robles

Sept 29th: Cristian Dimitriu

Oct 6th: Tiffany Creegan Miller

Oct 13th: MOAS Merienda

Oct 20th: Ketty Wong

Oct 27th: Patricia Foxen

Nov 3: Edma Delgado

[Click here for a full Fall schedule of Meriendas](#)

Information on our **TEACHER REACH-OUT ALL ABOUT PARAGUAY WORKSHOP & NETWORKING SESSION** as well as our **LATIN AMERICAN DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL** is available on page 11.



September 2011

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8 Merienda Brown-Bag Lecture Series, Bailey 318	9	10
11	12	13	14	15 Merienda World Human Geography Conference, Sept 15th—17th	16	17
18	19	20	21	22 Merienda Brown-Bag Lecture Series, Bailey 318	23	24
25 Lawrence South Park Festival of Cultures, 12:00–5:00 pm.	26	27	28	29 Merienda Brown-Bag Lecture Series, Bailey 318	30	

October 2011

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6 Merienda Brown-Bag Lecture Series, Bailey 318	7 JCCC Spanish Teachers Immersion Weekend	8 JCCC Spanish Teachers Immersion Weekend
9	10	11	12	13 Merienda Brown-Bag Lecture Series, Bailey 318	14	15 Teacher Reach-out Workshop: All About Paraguay, Bailey 318
16	17	18 Film Festival: Quién Dijo Miedo," 100 Stauffer-Flint	19	20 Merienda Bailey 318 Film Festival: "Los que se Quedan," 100 Stauffer-Flint	21 Paraguay Awareness Week, Oct. 21st—26th	22
23	24 Film Festival: "Crude," 100 Stauffer-Flint	25	26 Film Festival: "A Convenient Truth," 100 Stauffer-Flint	27 Merienda Brown-Bag Lecture Series, Bailey 318	28	29
30	31					

November 2011

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3 Merienda Brown-Bag Lecture Series, Bailey 318	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 Merienda Brown-Bag Lecture Series, Bailey 318	11	12
13	14	15	16	17 Merienda Brown-Bag Lecture Series, Bailey 318	18 Center of Latin American Studies 50th Anniversary Celebration, Nov 18th—20th	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	1 Merienda Brown-Bag Lecture Series, Bailey 318	2	3

The Latin American Studies Outreach Staff Invite You to Attend...

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KU Latin American Documentary Film Festival

Please join KU's Latin Americanist community to view these award winning, Latin American documentary films. There will be an introductory presentation before each film, which will take place on the KU Campus.

Admission to all films is free.

Quién Dijo Miedo (film):

When: Tuesday October 18th,
7:00 p.m.

Where: 100 Stauffer-Flint

Los Que Se Quedan (film):

When: Thursday October 20th,
7:00 p.m.

Where: 100 Stauffer-Flint

Crude (film):

When: Monday October 24th,
7:00 p.m.

Where: 100 Stauffer-Flint

A Convenient Truth (film):

When: Wednesday October 26th,
7:00 p.m.

Where: 100 Stauffer-Flint

Click on the hyperlinks to view more information on each film!

Teacher's Workshop: Save the Date

When: Saturday October 15th,
10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m

Where: 318 Bailey Hall

Come and join us for this semester's "Teacher Reach-Out: All About Paraguay Workshop and Networking Session."

This workshop will feature speakers lecturing about Paraguay, as well as information on the Paraguay Kansas Committee. Following this we will provide FREE resources on how to take this information and implement it into your classroom—lesson plans, cultural trunks, Web resources, and much MORE! Plus we offer you an opportunity to socialize and network with fellow teachers.

Mark your calendars for the Teacher Reach-Out Workshop, and come join us to learn all about Paraguay. Additionally, we will be sponsoring a raffle for teachers to win souvenirs to take back to the classroom.

More information on the workshop is to come as well as details on how to register for this event.