

The first of these is the
 fact that the majority of
 the population of the
 country is of African
 descent. This is a
 result of the slave trade
 which brought millions of
 Africans to the Americas
 over the centuries. The
 second factor is the
 legacy of colonialism, which
 imposed European values
 and institutions on the
 continent. The third is
 the influence of the
 Catholic Church, which
 has been a powerful force
 in shaping the culture and
 politics of Latin America.