

Patagonia: Legendary “Land of Giants” and “Hidden City” at the end of the Americas

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This vast area is larger than Texas and California combined but is the sparse “land of giants” at end of the Americas with legends of a “hidden city of great wealth.” Long contested by Argentina, Chile, natives, and explorers, now emerged as a shale oil and tourist mecca.

Vast, sparse & multinational Patagonia

- South end of continent
- 400,000 mi.² & 2 mil. People (only 5/sq. mi.)
- Word “Patagonia” from reports of “land of giants or big feet,” but probably from “savage” Greek “Patagon”
- For 18,500 years!! inhabited by nomadic indigenous tribes – mostly Tehuelches & Mapuche

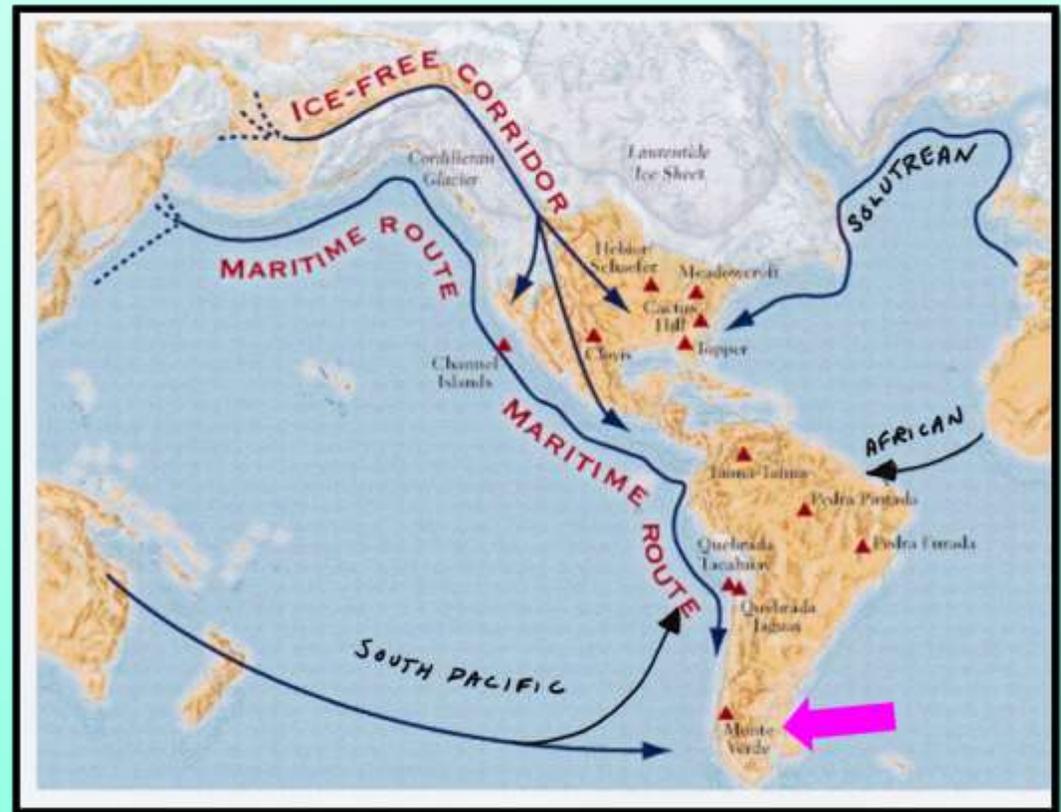


Patagonia has long & fascinating history



- Monte Verde - oldest in Americas 18,500 + years ?
- 1520-30: Explored by Magellan & became Spanish
- 1764-1842: Scientific exploration – Beagle with Darwin
- 1843-1902: Chilean & Argentine colonization and treaty
- 1902-10: Expansion of sheep and tourism, continuing conflicts with Mapuches and oil discoveries

Monte Verde – 1st in Americas



- Archaeological site in southern Chile - 16,500 BC
- Contradicts previously accepted "Clovis first" model of Bering Straits migration 11,500 BC
- Supports a "coastal migration" model
- Discovered in late 1975
- Reshaped archaeologists thinking about earliest inhabitants of the Americas

Ancient history



Rhea & guanaco



Cave paintings at Cueva de las Manos

- Famous site Cuervo de las Manos - wall paintings of hands dating from 8,000 BC
- Based primarily on hunting of guanaco and rhea
- Indigenous Tehuelches nearly extinct not long after first contacts with Europeans
- By 16th c. Mapuches predominated & still principal indigenous today

Patagonia's aboriginal history



- Although sparsely populated, had many scattered small indigenous tribes
- Initially, Tehuelches dominated
- Were nomadic hunters that followed their prey – rhea and guanaco
- Indigenous in Terra del Fuego, but lacked maritime technology and did little fishing

Early European exploration (1520-1669)

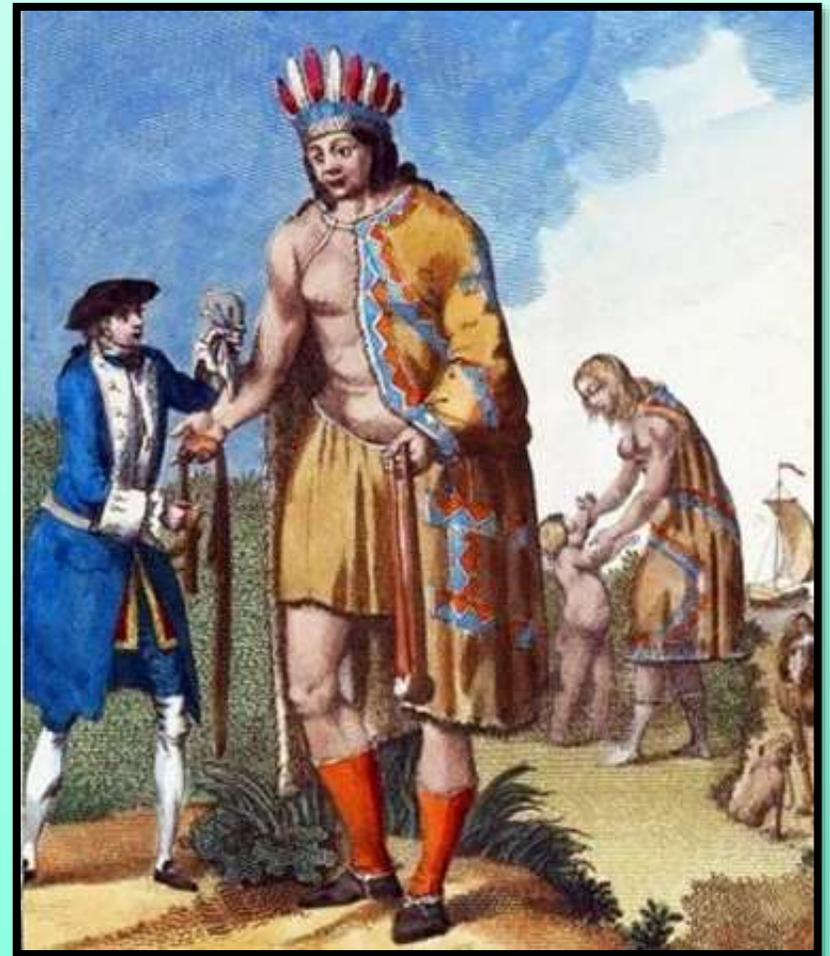
A 1561 map of America showing Magellan's Pacific (Mare pacificum) and Strait of Magellan



- Patagonia was first explored in 1520 by Magellan who encountered giants called Patagonian's
- Territory became Spanish colony in 1529
- Was traversed by various Spanish explorers
- In 1577 Drake voyaged Strait of Magellan
- Discovery of route around Cape Horn reduced Spanish interest in hostile southern Patagonia until 18th c.

Pigafetta's cosmic tales of giant Patagonians

- Before eating, cut prisoners into bites and dried
- Swallowed live rats whole
- Are "Patones"- big feet
- We came only to their waists
- Unfriendly, shot poison arrows
- Strong - took 9 men to subdue in chains
- Pigafetta was one of 18 to survive circumnavigation and his journal is key source

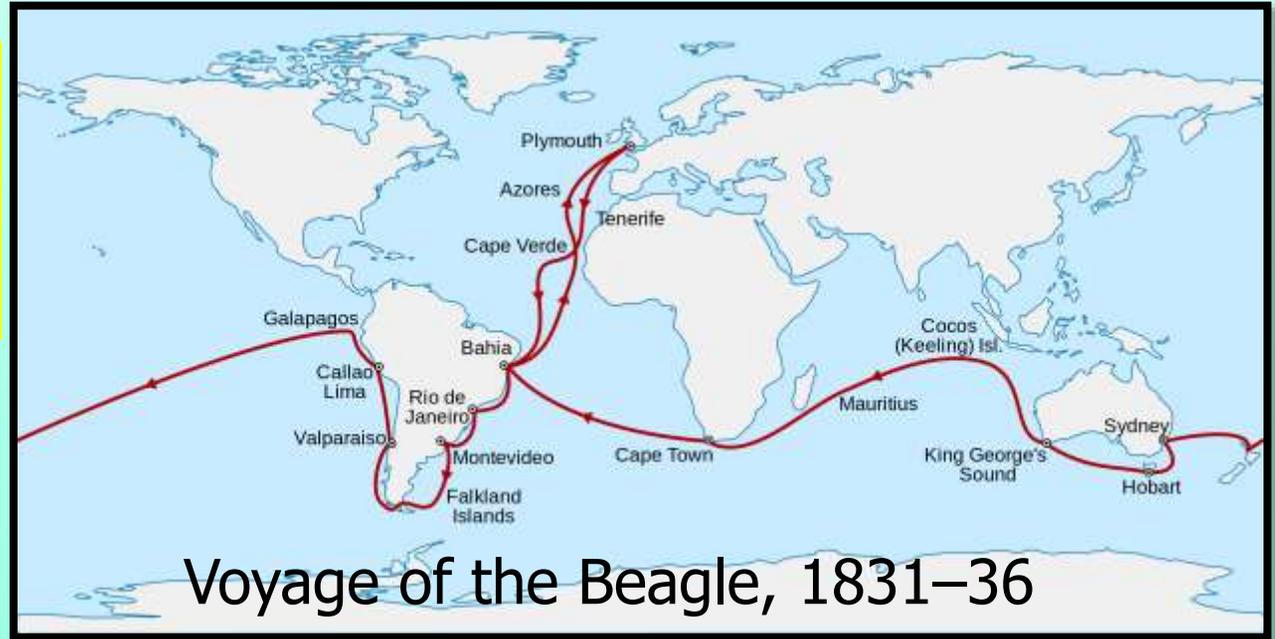
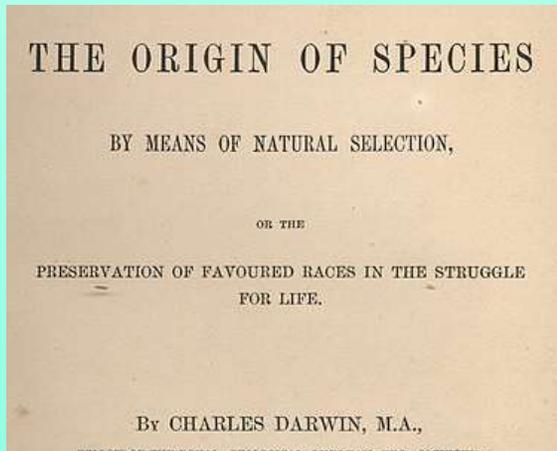


Fantastic cities of Patagonia

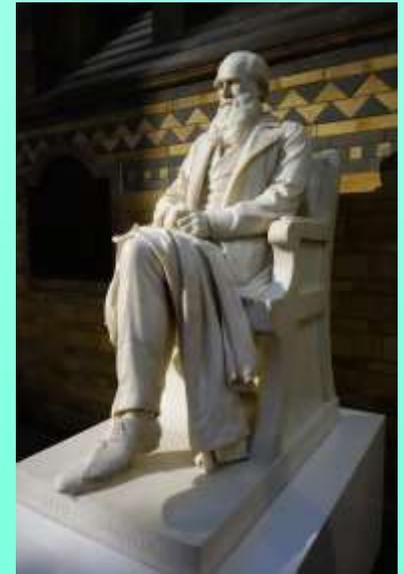


- Buenos Aires southern point; few dared to venture further south
- But rumors of a hidden city in south of great riches
- In 1528, Spanish Francisco Caesar unsuccessfully sought “City of the Caesars”
- Another rumor of Spanish ship lost in Patagonia conflated into legend of “Enchanted City”
- Such rumors of great wealth, like those of Prester John and El Dorado, spurred explorations of Patagonia

Charles Darwin (1809-82)



- Darwin 1832-36 explored Patagonia
- But wasn't impressed with the land:
 - "Country remained the same ... extremely uninteresting"
 - Tierra del Fuego monotonous, "Impossible to find an acre of land not covered by the densest forest"



But Darwin was impressed by General Rosas in Patagonia



- Darwin explored extensively on land also
- Met Juan Manuel de Rosas, Argentine caudillo and dictator (1835-52)
- Tells of Rosas jumping on a wild horse from a corral cross-bar
- Without saddle or bridle and brought horse back to the corral
- Thus, obtained unbounded popularity and despotic power

Initially, natives considered free



- In 1813 Argentina abolished slavery and natives were considered free
- Border was considered between two different worlds – civilized & barbaric
- Pacification efforts extended into territory
- But European concept of land ownership was completely foreign to nomadic natives
- By 1820s hostilities increased

Conquest of Desert in Patagonia used escalating force



- Initially, made alliances with tribes
- Then used more subtle methods - religious conversions, let cattle to devour native production, exclude from best lands ...
- In 1820s hostilities increased - viewed as conflict of civilization vs. barbarism
- Indigenous savages stood in the way of progress and couldn't be integrated

Conquest of Patagonia “war of the desert”



- Conquest of the Desert (1870s–1884) extended Argentina into Patagonia and ended Chilean expansion
- Argentine troops killed 1,000 Mapuche, displaced 15,000 more and enslaved many
- Still, Patagonia was considered a separate country
- Not until 1875 was Patagonia on Argentina’s map
- Conquest marked end of indigenous rule in Patagonia

Resistant & persistent Mapuches



- Mapuches - most well-known & numerous indigenous
- Thwarted expansion of Chile further south
- Mapuches moved into Patagonia as nomads raising cattle and pillaging
- Adopted European horses, livestock & crops
- Women were property of men polygamists

Chilean and Argentine colonization (1843-1902)



- In 1850s, Argentina & Chile began aggressive expansion into Patagonia and confrontations with indigenous
- In 1860s sheep from Falklands introduced and since been important
- Puerto Arena's, oldest Patagonian permanent settlement, was key in Chile's claim on Straights

1881 Boundary Treaty & Neutralized Strait

- To avert war, Argentina & Chile agreed to a boundary treaty
- In 1885, gold discovered in Terra del Fuego – European settlers
- Much of gold & miners left, but some remained which helped area grow
- Some disputes remain, but boundary and Strait would be neutralized and free navigation for all



Horse became central to Patagonia



- Horse profoundly changed everything of aborigines
- Changed their farming, transport & warring
- Changed their political organization to a new central role of the horse in society
- Became original gauchos – basically lived on horseback, riding bareback – loathed walking

Mapuche conflict ongoing

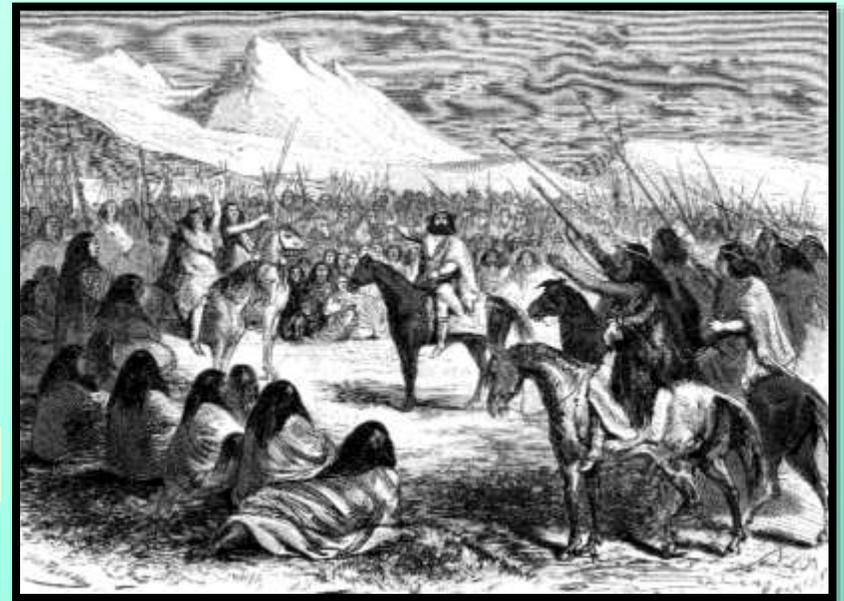
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- Mapuche conflict has been going on for decades
- Oppose exploiting lands considered ancestral
- Mapuches claim the lands were forcibly occupied by the Chile in late 1800s and now belong to powerful forestry companies
- In Argentina, Patagonia, 3 million acres in hands of foreign corporations
- Mapuches made 55 attacks in 2021

Strange case of Frenchman's Patagonia's kingdom

Tounens with Mapuches



- Frenchman Antoine de Tounens (1825-78) proclaimed himself King of Patagonia
- Planned to convert Mapuches to Christianity and unite them into his kingdom
- Made 4 failed attempts – punctuated by being expelled and declared insane
- Long after death, his family continues his claims

Ushuaia southernmost city



- Capital of Tierra del Fuego founded in 1884
- City of 60,000 in area 3,600 sq mi
- HMS Beagle reached in 1833
- Used as penal colony (1896-1947) to legitimize Argentine sovereignty over Tierra del Fuego
- January average daily high 58F and average low 41F

Patagonia Argentine economy



- Traditionally mining, whaling, livestock, wheat, and fruit production, and oil after 1907
- Patagonia is Argentina's main and Chile's only area of conventional oil and gas production
- Vaca Muerta (Dead Cow) in Neuquén Basin most promising shale oil and gas basin outside US
- Famous foreign investors, such as Italian Benetton Group & Ted Turner have purchased large tracts
- Faced criticism, in 2011 a limit was placed on foreign purchases

Future of Patagonia

Vaca Muerta



- Argentina & Chile agreed to preserve of Patagonian culture & promote economic development
- But this vast and fascinating region remains sparse and a separate identity
- Economy boosted by shale oil & gas discoveries, hydroelectric dams, tourism ...

Tourism of Patagonia's breathtaking natural landscapes is growing



- Amalia Glacier
- Bernardo O'Higgins National Park
- Cape Horn
- Terra del Fuego National Park
- Port Williams, Ushuaia and Punta Arenas – Claims of world's Southernmost cities
- Puerto Montt
- Chilean Fjords
- Glacier Pia Xi
- Puerto Chacabuco



Puerto Madryn - Patagonia

European settlements

- Founded 1865 by Welsh immigrants given land by Argentina to settle Patagonia
- Welch immigrated for “complete freedom without the danger of foreign influences”
- Argentina gave them land, animals and tools
- Now known for whale watching and snorkeling
- In Tierra del Fuego, livestock companies paid a bounty for every dead Indian

Summary & Conclusions

Patagonia



- Ancient, large, sparse, nomadic indigenous territory claimed by Spanish
- Centuries of conflict of Indigenous, Chileans, and Argentines
- Indigenous conquered but largely eliminated, and settled by European & creole ranchers
- Now developing shale oil and tourism, but still mostly sparsely populated and agricultural

Thanks for attending. Please come to next presentation.

Timeline of Patagonia

Pre-Columbian Patagonia (16,500 BC – AD 1520)

16,500 BC -Inhabited at Monte Verde, oldest site in Americas

8000 BC -Cueva de las Manos famous site in Argentina of wall paintings of hundreds of hands

1502- Navigators Gonçalo Coelho and Amerigo Vespucci possibly reached coast

1511-12 - First detailed description of coastline of Patagonia by Diogo Ribeiro

Early European exploration (1520–1669)

1520 - Atlantic coast of Patagonia explored Ferdinand Magellan

1529 - Became Spanish colony

1535 -Rodrigo de Isla - first European to traverse Patagonian plain

1539 - Pedro de Mendoza founded Buenos Aires but did not venture south

1550s - Mapuches penetrated western Andes to soon dominate the other peoples

1577 - Sir Francis Drake voyage of 1577 through Strait of Magellan

1645 - Chiloé Archipelago Valdivia reestablished

1670 - Puerto Deseado claimed by Narborough for England, but didn't settle or explore

Scientific exploration (1764–1842)

1764-82 - Series of voyages & explorations of Byron, Wallis , Bougainville, Falkner, etc.

1767 - Account by John Byron of giant-like folk

1773 - Patagonian giant frenzy died when Hawkesworth concluded giants only 6'6"

1826-30 - 1st expedition under Phillip Parker King

1832-36 - 2nd expedition, Beagle under Robert FitzRoy with Charles Darwin

Timeline of Patagonia (continued)

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Chilean and Argentine colonization (1843–1902)

1848 - Chile founded Punta Arenas, oldest permanent settlement; key to claim on Straits

1830-50s - Mapuches migrated to Patagonia to live as nomads that raised cattle or pillaged

1850s - Argentina & Chile began expansion into Patagonia & confrontation with indigenous

1860 - Sheep farming introduced from Falklands & became most important sector

1860 - French adventurer Tounens proclaimed himself king of Patagonia

1872 - Attack of Cufulcurá killed criollos and took cattle spurred deadly Conquest of the Desert

1881 - Conquest of the Desert by General Roca extended power of Argentina into Patagonia

1881 - Boundary Treaty of 1881 between Chile and Argentina

1885 - Romanian adventurer Popper found gold in Tierra del Fuego, attracting more settlement

1902- Most Patagonians in Chiloé Archipelago worked as peons on large ranches

1902 - Argentina expelled natives; Chiles first inland settlement burned forests to open grasslands

1903-2021

1907 - Oil discovery near Comodoro Rivadavia

1994 - Conflict resolved Argentine sovereignty over the Southern Patagonia Icefield

2002 - Sheep farming revived as wool prices improved

2010 - Vaca Muerta (Dead Cow) shale oil discovery in Neuquén Basin - largest outside N America

17-Night Falklands & Fjords Voyage, Azamara Pursuit

Day	Location and date	Average high	Average Low
1	Buenos Aires, Depart, Tue 24-Jan	84	67
2-3	Montevideo, Uruguay, Wed 25-Jan to Thu 26	81	66
4	Punta Del Este, Uruguay, Fri 27-Jan	77	65
5-6	At Sea, Sat 28-Jan to Sun 29-Jan		
7	Port Stanley, Falkland Islands, Mon 30-Jan	57	42
8	At Sea, Tue 31-Jan		
9-10	9-10: Ushuaia, Argentina	57	41
10	Cruising Beagle Channel, Argentina, Thu 2-Feb		
11	Punta Arenas, Chile, Fri 3-Feb	58	44
12	Straits of Magellan, Sat 4-Feb, Cruising		
13	At Sea, Sun 5-Feb		
14	Puerto Madryn, Argentina, Mon 6-Feb	67	56
15-16	At Sea, Tue 7-Feb to Wed 8-Feb		
17-18	Buenos Aires, Argentina, Thu 9-Feb to Fri 10	84	67

