LARC Resources on Panama

20th Century with Mike Wallace The U.S. in Latin America: Yankee Go Home
This report turns a critical eye toward three recent incidents, the invasions of Grenada and Panama and the occupation of Haiti, ordered by Presidents Reagan, Bush and Clinton respectively. In each case, the actions were justified as protecting American interests but were we ever really threatened, or were these incidents simply an example of America beating up on its neighbors? Extensive footage shows American forces in action, and foreign policy experts examine the stated goals and results of each episode. And hear from Dr. Robert A. Pastor, of Atlanta's Carter Center, who personally negotiated with Panamanian strongman Manuel Noriega and Haitian dictator Raoul Cedras. English, 50 minutes.

Americas Series Part H: Get Up Stand Up: Problems of Sovereignty
H. Get Up, Stand Up: Problems of Sovereignty. Discusses issues of establishing national sovereignty in Colombia, Jamaica, and Panama, three nations with continued foreign presence and interest in their national affairs. This ten-part series narrated by Raul Julia explores Latin America via current issues and polemics. Each program explores one issue, using actual newsreel footage and interviews with key individuals from different socio-economic strata within one or more Latin American nation and can be used independently from the others. The 1993. English, 60 minutes.

Art of Central America and Panama
Central American artists are shown with their paintings in their native environment. 1970. English, 24 minutes.

Canal Zone: Part I of II
Canal Zone is about the people who live and work in the Panama Canal Zone and shows both the operation of the Canal and the various governmental agencies -- business, military, and civilian -- related to the functioning of the Canal and the lives of the Americans in the zone. The film includes sequences of ships in transit, the work of special canal pilots, aspects of the civil government, work of the military, and the social, religious and recreational life of the Zonians. English, 70 minutes.

Canal Zone: Part II of II
Canal Zone is about the people who live and work in the Panama Canal Zone and shows both the operation of the Canal and the various governmental agencies -- business, military, and civilian -- related to the functioning of the Canal and the lives of the Americans in the zone. The film
includes sequences of ships in transit, the work of special canal pilots, aspects of the civil government, work of the military, and the social, religious and recreational life of the Zonians.

Crisis in Central America: The Yankee Years
Presents an historical overview of U.S. presence and intervention in Central America, focusing on the late 19th century through WWII, and continuing up to the mid 1980's. Includes archival footage of the building of the Panama Canal. 1985. English, 60 minutes.

Giving Up the Canal
The 1977 Panama Canal Treaty stipulated that on midnight of December 31, 1999, control of the Canal would pass from the United States to Panama. Giving Up the Canal explores the process in which the U.S. gradually became the tenant, Panama the landlord. The program, narrated by Edwin Newman, aired nationally on PBS in June 1990. English.

How Wall Street Created a Nation: J.P. Morgan Teddy Roosevelt and the Panama Canal
Ovidio Diaz Espino creates an in-depth expose of the financial speculation, fraud, and international conspiracy that led to the building of the Panama Canal. 2001. English, 254 pages.

La Tierra es Nuestra Esperanza: La Resistencia al Puebla Panama (Our Hope Lies in the Land: Resistance to the Plan Puebla Panama)
People protest the Plan Puebla Panama project to install a major highway through farming and subsistence agriculture territory. The people who live here have been relocated before to accommodate government projects and their livelihoods and lifestyles have been negatively impacted by environmental and geographical changes. They are worried that this new highway project will remove them from the only means of earning a living that they know - farming. The authority's idea of development clashes with that of the people they are supposed to serve. 2003. Spanish with English subtitles, 30 minutes.

Living Voices
"Living Voices" is an audio series featuring profiles of Native Americans and Native Hawaiians today. People of many ages, traditions and perspectives tell their own stories, reflecting the wide range of contemporary Native experience in Canada, Mexico, Panama and the US. "Living Voices" consists of 40 profiles in English. English, 200 minutes.

Not MTV: Music VIDEO with a Message
This program presents five music film from Panama and Brazil. The artists featured use film to express their cultural and political viewpoints. Themes include oppression of military dictatorships and the pressures of conforming to societal norms. 1990. Spanish with English subtitles, 28 minutes.
The Panama Canal Treaties: Materials for Teachers

Panama: Crossroads of the World
Offers a brief introduction to the history, culture, and geography of Panama from the time of the Spanish conquest to the present day. Educational film Network. 1988. English, 18 minutes.

The Panama Deception
Award-winning documentary filmed during and after the Panama invasion in 1989. Takes issue with the US government's "official" version of the events leading to the invasion and the invasion itself. Empowerment Project. 1992. English, 90 minutes.

Noticias de Noriega
Unedited Panamanian television coverage of the US invasion of Panama to oust dictator Manuel Noriega in December of 1989. Spanish, 240 minutes.