

# [Nicaragua](https://assignbuster.com/nicaragua/)

Nicaragua   
Most Nicaraguans are mestizos. That is that they have white and   
Indian ancestors. There way of life is somewhat similar to that of Spanish   
Americans in other Central American countries. Most people belong to the   
Roman Catholic Church and speak Spanish. Most of Nicaragua's people are   
poor farmers. Many of those in the Pacific Region are peasants who work on   
their own farms, cooperatives, state farms, or large private farms. In   
warmer areas, agriculture workers live in metal roofed houses. In the   
colder areas of the Central Highlands, they live in adobe houses with tile   
roofs.

The only Indian groups in Nicaragua that follow their own languages   
and their old ways of life are in the thinly populated Caribbean Region.

In the early 1980's some of these Indians became involved in   
anti-government things. Because of this, the government moved some Indian   
groups from their homes near the border to areas in the interior of   
Nicaragua.

Nicaragua has a law that requires children to go to school from the   
age of six through twelve. Before 1980, only about half the children did   
so because they were poor and couldn't afford to be sent or it was that   
there weren't many schools around where they lived. Nicaragua did not have   
enough schools, and many rural areas had no schools at all. But since then   
the new government has built hundreds of schools. The government also held   
a successful literacy campaign headed mainly by young volunteer teachers.

Nicaragua has two universities. The national University of Nicaragua,   
in Leon and Managua, is the older and larger one. It was founded in 1812   
and has more than seven thousand students. The Central American University   
is a Roman Catholic institution in Managua.

A president heads the government of Nicaragua. The people elect the   
president and a legislature called the National Assembly. The president   
appoints a Cabinet to help carry out the operations of the government.

This government is very similar to our own government.

The president, most of the Cabinet members, and the majority of the   
National Assembly members belong to a political party called the Sandinista   
National Liberation Front. In 1979, the Sandinistas led a revolution that   
overthrew the government of the Somoza family, which had long ruled   
Nicaragua. From 1979 to 1984 the Sandinistas controlled the government   
largely through a three-member junta, or a ruling body. The president and   
the national assembly were elected in 1984.

In 1502 Christopher Columbus claimed Nicaragua for Spain. The   
Spaniards did not really settle in Nicaragua. Many pirates set up hideouts   
and Dutch as well as others went to Nicaragua instead.

On September 15, 1821 Nicaragua and other Central American states   
declared their independence. They later became part of the Mexican Empire   
but broke away in 1823. They formed the United Provinces of Central   
America. This union generally followed liberal economic and political   
policies. The union began to fall apart because of conservative landowners   
and the clergy to regain their old privileges. In 1838 Nicaragua left the   
Union.

In 1979 there was a civil war which drove the Somoza family out of   
government office. They had ruled from 1937 to 1979. Somoza was   
assassinated in 1980 while leaving the country as an order by the rebels   
who fought and won.