

LetCubaLive.org occasionally features reports on Latin America and the Caribbean, in recognition of Jose Martí, Cuba's national hero. Martí believed that Latin American and Caribbean peoples share common interests and history. So, while organizing and advocating for Cuba's independence from Spain and the United States, and for social justice in the new Cuba, Martí anticipated the integration of that region. Today new voices espousing regional unity regularly refer to "Our America," which was the title of a famous essay Martí published in in 1891, both in New York and in Mexico City. We use the web site page title Our America, and content appearing under it, to honor Martí.

Martí said that America was different from the Europe of its colonizers, among other reasons, for the unique cultures and characteristics of native Americans and for variations among European-descended American peoples. On that account Americans, he advised, should be independent, shape their own governments, and no longer copy European models.

Martí applied these lessons to an entire hemisphere, but mostly he had in mind territory extending south from the Rio Bravo (today's Rio Grande) to Tierra del Fuego, including the Caribbean. This region Martí called *Our America*.