

## #RespectHispanicHeritage

# 10 reasons to vindicate the Hispanic cultural heritage of the United States

1. **The history of the United States cannot be understood without the Hispanic contribution.** More than 500 years of Hispanic presence have established an indelible legacy that forms part of the current identity of the United States.
2. **Spain was the country that protected Native Americans the most.** It is undeniable that there was excess and violence at times, which the Spanish authorities persecuted and condemned, but Spain was the first country, since 1512, to promote laws that protected the natives, who had the same rights and duties as all Spaniards.
3. **The blend of cultures, a key factor in the development of the Hispanic culture.** Unlike other countries, if there was one thing that differentiated the Spanish model in America, it was the policy of integration and cultural mixture.
4. **Many cities in the United States have a Hispanic origin.** Cities such as Los Angeles, San Diego, San Antonio or San Francisco cannot be imagined without their rich Hispanic cultural legacy, which is essential to understand their history and identity.
5. **The Hispanic heritage is present in the symbols of the United States.** The flags of many states and cities, as well as their coats of arms, have their origin in the country's Spanish and Hispanic heritage.
6. **From the dollar to the cowboy.** Essential elements of U.S. culture are of Hispanic origin, showing the close relationship between the two cultures.
7. **Spanish is the second most spoken language in the United States.** Spanish was the first non-native language spoken in U.S. territory since the arrival of Ponce de León in Florida in 1513. Since then, it has been spoken from generation to generation by millions of people in the United States.
8. **Spain and Hispanics played an essential role in U.S. independence.** Spanish figures such as Bernardo de Gálvez, Fernando de Leyba and Diego de Gardoqui contributed in an essential way to the independence of the United States, as well as thousands of Hispanic soldiers.
9. **Judging history by today's social and cultural parameters is a mistake.** Each era has its own social, cultural and ethical contexts that are necessary to recognize in order to assess the past accurately. Not doing so leads to historical manipulation.
10. **Spain's contribution to America is worth vindicating** for all the cultural, social, linguistic, institutional and demographic legacy it generated. Spain, with its lights and shadows, promoted the Hispanic culture that today forms part of the identity of millions of people on both sides of the Atlantic.