

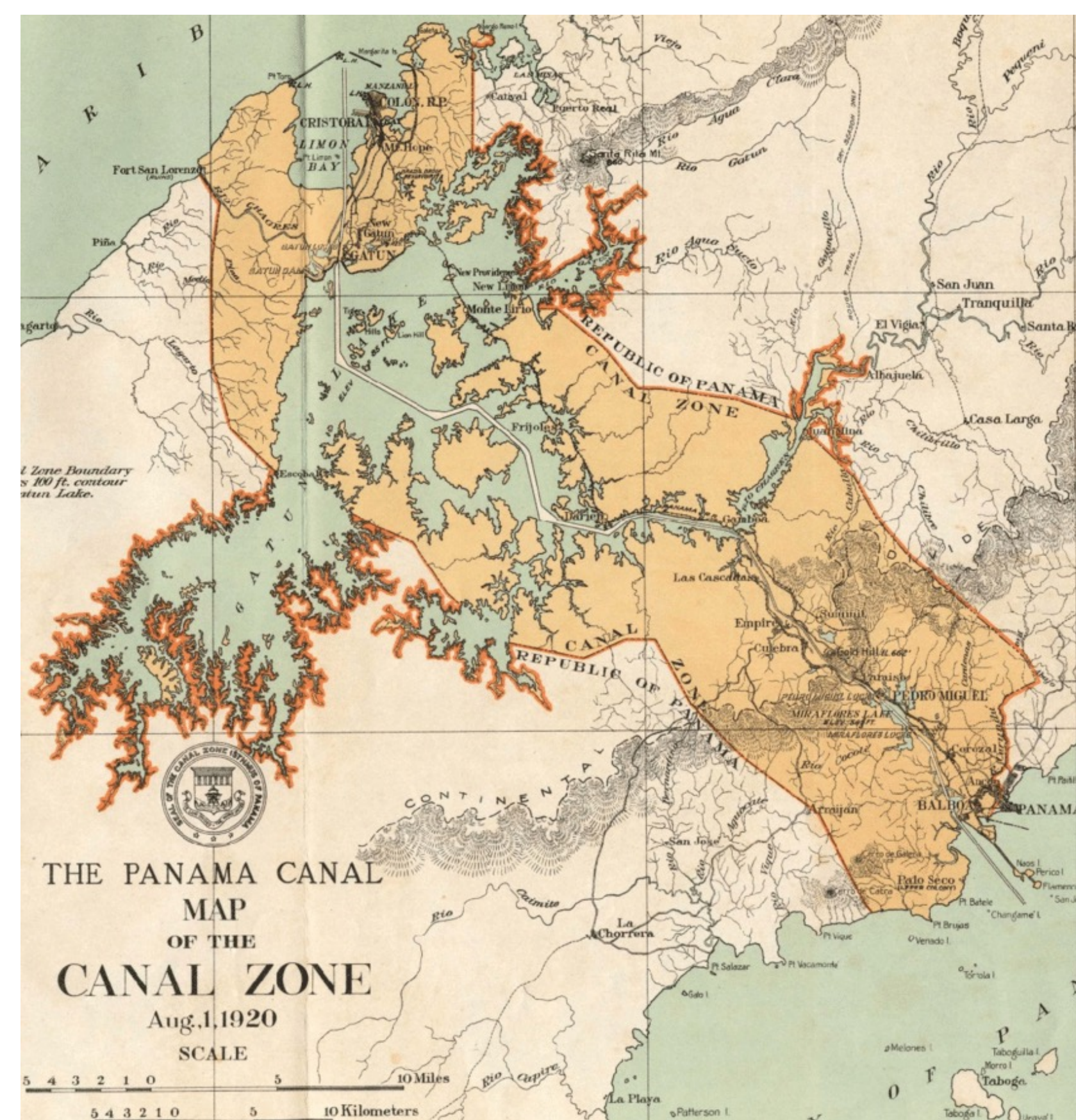


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Purpose



During the construction of the Panama Canal, around 40 thousand Panamanians lost their homes. Of the many books published on the history of the Canal, this event is only briefly mentioned.



My research aims to highlight the events that led up to eventual depopulation of the Canal zone and what happened to the displaced population after losing their homes. I explore the reasons why the memories surrounding this event has been skewed to fit a specific narrative.

Methods



Through conducting archival research at Georgetown University, the University of Florida, the National library of Panamá, and the library Roberto F. Chiari, I was able to study primary sources relating to the Isthmus of Panamá as far back as 1850.

These primary sources consisted of maps, photos, personal letters, journals, and correspondence between politicians.



Further use of Research

“The Erasure of Panamanian History” a lecture presented at the Carrboro recreation center based on my research.



Scan the QR code for a link to the lecture

Students from my piano studio have been studying the folkloric traditions of Panamá on the piano under my guidance. In the Fall my students will present a collection of Panamanian music for solo piano.



Findings



My thesis focuses on the dehumanization of the Panamanians living in the Panamá Canal zone. They were described as less than human in many sources and their removal from the Canal zone was much more political rather than with technical issues with the construction of the Canal. Through my work I aim to rehumanize them by understanding their role in history, their culture, and their own thoughts surrounding these events.

