

Independence Movements in Latin America

Long-Term Causes	Immediate Causes
European domination of Latin America Spread of Enlightenment ideas American and French revolutions Growth of nationalism in Latin America	People of Latin America resent colonial rule and social injustices Revolutionary leaders emerge Napoleon invades Spain and ousts Spanish king
Immediate Effects	Long-Term Effects
Toussaint L'Ouverture leads slave revolt in Haiti Bolivar, San Martín, and others lead successful revolts in Latin America Colonial rule ends in much of Latin America	Attempts made to rebuild economies 18 separate republics set up Continuing efforts to achieve stable democratic governments and to gain economic independence

European Background

Napoleon invaded Spain in 1808

Removed Spanish King + made his brother king

Creoles didn't like this= start of 1800's revolts broke out across L.America

The Case of Mexico

Indians and Mestizos, not creoles, played the key role in independence movements.

Creoles sided with Spain to avoid violence of lower-class rebellions (until 1820)

Elite revolts in South America

The elite classes began to recruit American armies which were made up of patriots that began to be loyal to the "patria chica" provoking a sense of nationalism. The wars for independence in South America are now being highlighted through chronicles of the exploits and brilliance of a handful of able generals: Simon Bolivar, Bernardo O'Higgins, Jose de San Martin, and Antonio Jose de Sucre, to cite those most often mentioned. In 1810, the movements for independence began simultaneously in opposite ends of South America, Venezuela, and Argentina. The struggle for Spanish America's independence fell into three periods:

- The initial thrust and expansion of the movement
- The faltering of the patriotic armies and the resurgence of royalist domination
- The consummation of independence between 1817 and 1826.



Simon Bolivar

In South America in the early 1800s + a wealthy educated creole vowed to fight Spanish rule + military training as a teen
He was called "the Liberator"

Began his fight in 1810 = lasted 12 years + independence for Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia= Gran Colombia
Joined forces with Jose de San Martin= defeated the Spanish in Argentina and Chile in the 1810s

Bolivar didn't fulfil his dream of a united Latin American state. Instead, Latin America became a group of independent states.



Jose de San Martin

Simple, modest man

Born in Argentina, spent time in Spain as military officer

San Martin led army across Andes to Chile, joined by Bernardo O'Higgins+ freed Chile

Requested assistance from Bolivar to remove forces from Lima, Peru.