### Colonial Period 1500-1810

1. Peninsulares
2. Criollos
3. Mestizo/Ladinos
4. Natives
5. African Slaves

**Politics**

- Criollos fight for independence from Spain after Napoleon's invasion with the objective of keeping their special privileges.
- As a united region, they declare independence from Spain & decide to join Mexico.
- Even though the narrative is that the Criollos won independence from Spain, it is important to note that the native people and Afro Latinos never stopped resisting against colonialism.

**Economics**

- MERCANTILISM: all raw materials shipped to Spain.
- Major export: cacao + indigo
- Tegucigalpa: small silver mine

**Trade:** During colonial times, Spain controlled the import and export of its overseas kingdoms; however, the Audiencia of Guatemala still found ways of contrabanding English goods with the British settling on the coast (becomes Belize). After independence, the region became a trade hub [entrepot] into the 1840's.

### Independence Movement + Annexation to Mexico 1810-1823

1. Criollos
2. Mestizo/Ladinos
3. Natives
4. Afro Latinos

**Politics**

- Power and Authority is in a select council (Audiencia) that answers to the Vice-royalty of New Spain who in turn answered to Spain.

**Economics**

- Infrastructure Decline: independence didn't come with immediate development for the region. Most of the region remained with no major roads or railroads linking major centers and rural areas; no telecommunication lines and no major factories for industry.

### United Province of Central America [Federation] 1823-1843

- After Mexican President Augustin de Iturbide is removed, the various provinces assemble & decide to form a federation.
- This federation was named 'United Province of Central America' [UPCA]. However, at this point the most influential political leaders were the Caudillos + Patrons.

**Economics**

- Indigo remained a major export for the region but with the rise of synthetic dyes the region fell into further economic challenges.

### Formation of Independent Nations 1843-1870's

**Politics**

- This period is marked with political instability which originated from the period of federation. Conservatives vs Liberals; rural vs urban; caudillos vs dictators.

**Economics**

- Costa Rica's coffee experiment was noted by the other nations. Guatemala, El Salvador, and to some extent Nicaragua started cultivating coffee by the 1850s. In 1860 coffee represented 1 percent of total exports in both Guatemala and El Salvador, but by the 1870s it had grown to 50 percent.

### Economic Development 1850's -

**Politics**

- Because of the unstable political climate, unstable economy and geography of the region; new interest from other foreign nations developed. They saw an environment ripe for large profits.

**Economics**

- Costa Rica's coffee experiment was noted by the other nations. Guatemala, El Salvador, and to some extent Nicaragua started cultivating coffee by the 1850s. In 1860 coffee represented 1 percent of total exports in both Guatemala and El Salvador, but by the 1870s it had grown to 50 percent.

### Economic Development- 1850's -

- Costa Rica- 1832 the early exception

In terms of society, the rigid caste system social structure created during the colonial period remained the same. Even though independence expelled the powers of the Peninsulares, the native ethnicities and Afro Latinos still struggle for social, economic and political equality. To a great extent power and authority is still determined by European heritage richness.