Central American Independence 1700-1823

Central American History
Delmer

Ferdinand VII
Objectives

• Explain the reforms enacted by the Bourbons.
• Describe the impact of bourbon reforms on Central American colonies.
• Examine creole’s and native’s reaction to Bourbon reforms.
Charles 111 (Bourbons) in 1700

Reforms:
1. Sent well-trained and well-paid tax collectors and administrators
2. Opened new ports and roads and allowed inter-colony trade
3. Invested in Honduran mines
4. Invested in transisthmian roads
5. Invested in protecting the colony from native attacks, smugglers and foreign poachers (RUSSIANS, APACHES, and DUTCH)
6. Strengthened and created new government monopolies
7. Fostered an native labour force
Backlash

• Bourbon efficiency meant fewer public offices—creoles felt displaced

• Strict bureaucracy stopped corruption and smuggling; drained the capital

• Affected native villages: collectors were strict collecting from caciques
Maya Uprisings

• Spanish taxed cofradia funds: Roman Catholic laymen responsible for the care of religious items—irritated the Maya

• Economic demands of land and labor fostered confrontations with the Maya

• Tribute payments and religious meddling provoked the Maya
Creoles reaction

- Creoles became proud of American identity
- During the Napoleonic Wars the Spanish allowed trade with the British, Boston and Philadelphia= after wars ended in the 1800s
- ‘Patriotic loans’
- 1810 indigo market collapsed; merchants foreclosed farmers
Spain in turmoil

- Napoleon invaded Spain in 1808 and forced Ferdinand VII to abdicate the throne
- The colonies swore allegiance to the junta (colonial government)
- General Antonio Gonzales had a meeting with people of authority
- 1814 Ferdinand V11 restored
- Liberals vs. Conservatives divided the elite
Independence

• Mexico and South America wars raged 1808-1821
• In CA rebellions flared but lacked support because of the distance between provinces
• Audiencia president rule by Iron and fire- stopped potential coups
• 1821 CA was annexed to Mexico
QUIZ NEXT CLASS!!