

# Aim #7b: How did colonial revolutions in Latin America reshape the Americas?



**GEOGRAPHY SKILLBUILDER: Interpreting Maps**

1. Region What two European countries held the largest colonial empires in Latin America in 1800?
2. Region Comparing the two maps, which independent countries had emerged by 1830 from Spanish territory in the Americas?

## South America, 1790



## South America, 1828



Source: Goldberg and DuPré, *Brief Review in Global History and Geography*, Prentice Hall (adapted)

# The French Revolution inspired other political revolutions.

The actions taken by the citizens in France to rebel against their government and the ideas of “liberty, equality, and fraternity,” democracy, and **nationalism** inspired independence movements in **Haiti, South America, and Mexico.**

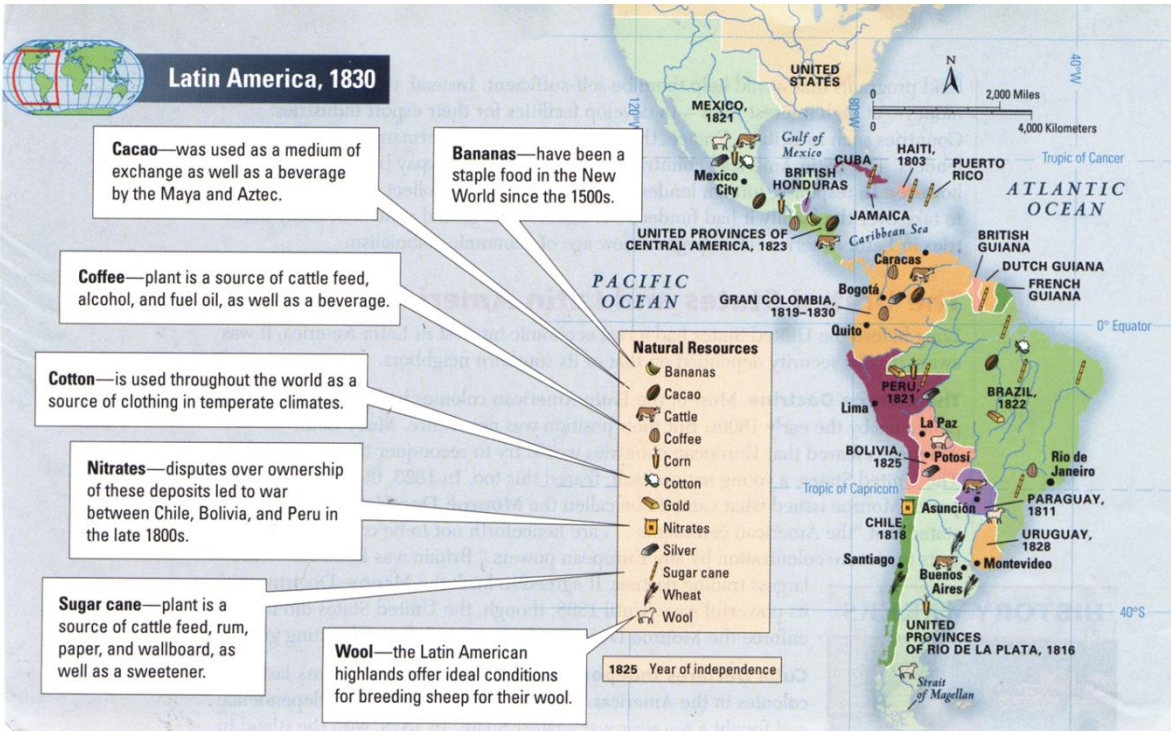
## French, Latin American and Haitian Revolutions: A Timeline

1789-1799	1791-1804	1810-1818	1820	1821-1824
<b>French Revolution</b>	<b>Haiti</b> fights independence war and wins independence from France	<b>Argentina</b> fights war for independence and wins independence from Spain	<b>Columbia</b> fights war for independence and wins independence from Spain	<b>Venezuela, Peru, Ecuador and Bolivia</b> fights war for independence and wins independence from Spain
		<b>1810-1820</b>		
		<b>Mexico</b> fights war for independence and wins independence from Spain		

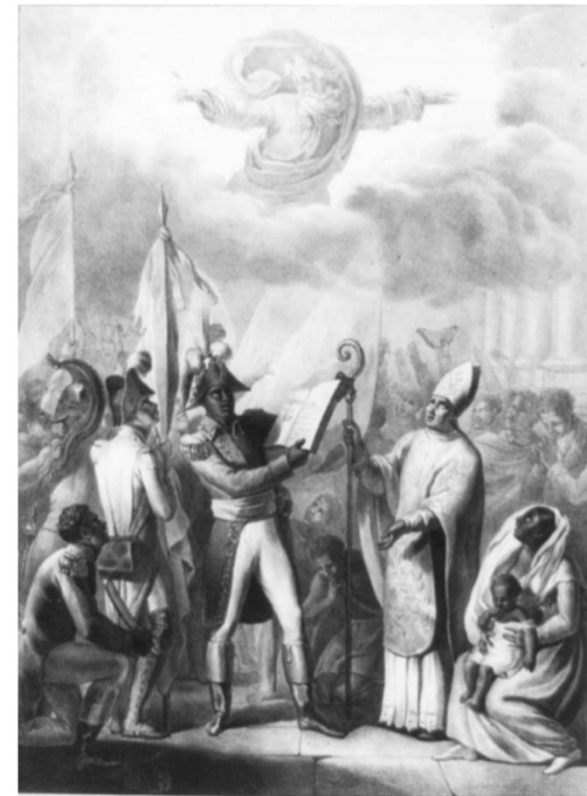
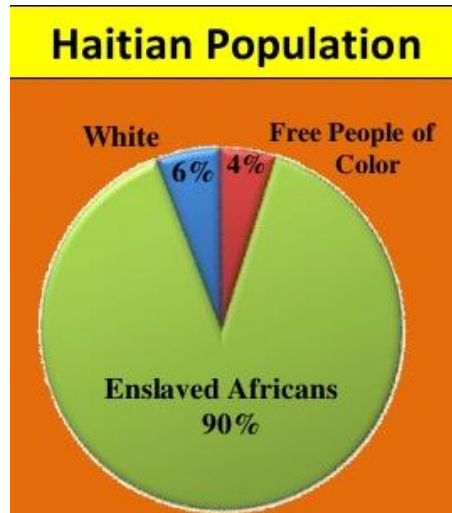
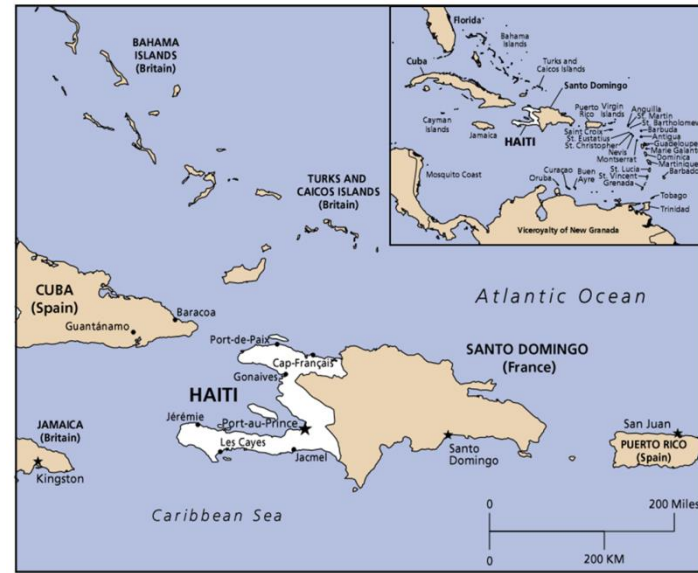


# Latin America

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# Haitian Revolution



This lithograph shows Toussaint Louverture proclaiming the Saint-Domingue Constitution on July 1, 1801.

Prior to its independence, Haiti was a French colony known as St. Domingue. St. Domingue's slave-based sugar and coffee industries were fast-growing and successful, and by the 1760s it was the most profitable colony in the Americas. With the economic growth, however, came increasing exploitation of the African slaves who made up the overwhelming majority of the population.

The Haitian Revolution was the result of a long struggle on the part of the slaves in the French colony of St. Domingue, but was also initiated by the free Mulattoes [people of both African and European descent] who had long faced the trials of being treated as semi-citizens. There were several slave rebellions in the Western Hemisphere, but the Haitian Revolution was the most successful. This had a lot to do with the influence of the French Revolution. The ideals of the revolution inspired rebellion and the events of the French Revolution gave the oppressed people of St. Domingue an opportunity to rebel. The Haitian Revolution would go on to serve as a model for those affected by slavery throughout the world.

There were three distinct classes in St. Domingue. First, there were the Whites, who were in control. Then there were the free Mulattoes, who straddled a very tenuous position in Haitian society. While they enjoyed a degree of freedom, they were repressed by the White power structure. For example, free Mulattoes were outlawed from holding office. Mulattoes were allowed to own land but society's restraints made it highly unlikely that they could profit from it. Next came the slaves who, in Haiti, suffered under some of the harshest treatment found in the Caribbean. Slaves in Haiti were legally considered property and had no rights.

The French Revolution provided the Mulattoes and slaves with an opportunity and an inspiration after having witnessed the successful insurrection in France against the government's long-standing denial of equal representation of the Third Estate. This was such a revolution in the structure of French society that its news spread like wildfire and was exactly the stimulus the slaves and Mulattoes in Haiti needed to inspire their revolt.

Toussaint L'Ouverture used this letter to rally the blacks in San Domingo (Haiti), August 29, 1793.

Toussaint L'Ouverture used this letter to rally the blacks in San Domingo (Haiti), August 29, 1793.

Brothers and friends.

I am Toussaint L'Ouverture, my name is perhaps known to you. I have undertaken vengeance. I want Liberty and Equality to reign in San Domingo. I work to bring them into existence. Unite yourselves to us, brothers, and fight with us for the same cause, etc. . . .

Source: C. L. R. James, *Lettres de Toussaint L'Ouverture, The Black Jacobins, The Dial Press* (adapted) from the NYS Global History and Geography Regents Exam, January 2009.

**Toussaint L'Ouverture** was one of the leaders of the Haitian revolution and the first black man to become governor of a colony.

Toussaint L'Ouverture was born into slavery in approximately 1743 in the French colony of Saint Domingue. He belonged to a small and privileged class of slaves employed by masters as personal servants. The Count de Breda, Toussaint's owner, actively encouraged him to learn to read and write. He developed a passion for books and his readings were to become a great influence in his political life. L'Ouverture was freed from slavery at around the age of 33 and colonial records show that he became a land and slave owner himself.

The French Revolution of 1789 had a powerful impact on Saint Domingue. A complex civil war broke out in 1790 when free men of color claimed that they too were French citizens and should be allowed to enjoy the rights proclaimed in the Declaration of the Rights of Man.

The following year, on August 22, 1791, L'Ouverture was one of the main organizers of a slave revolt that would eventually be known as the Haitian Revolution, the first and only victorious slave revolt in history.

In 1793, representatives of the French revolutionary government in Paris offered freedom to slaves who joined them in the fight against counter-revolutionaries and foreign invaders. The following year these orders were ratified by the revolutionary legislature in Paris, which abolished slavery throughout all French territories. This was a determining factor in L'Ouverture's decision to join the French army. Under his increasingly influential leadership, the French defeated the British and Spanish forces that invaded Saint Domingue.

Having made himself ruler of the island, L'Ouverture did not wish to surrender power to Paris and ruled Saint Domingue as its own country. In 1801 he issued a Constitution for the island, which provided for autonomy and established himself as governor for life. It abolished slavery and aspired to put in place a multiracial society composed of blacks, whites and mulattos.

When Napoleon Bonaparte came to power in France, he aimed to return the Caribbean colonies to their earlier profitability as plantation colonies. In 1802, he dispatched an expedition of French soldiers to the island, led by his brother in law Charles Leclerc, to reestablish French authority and slavery. Leclerc arrested L'Ouverture and deported him to France where he was imprisoned in Fort de Joux and died on April 7, 1803.

For a few months the island remained under Napoleonic rule. However, the French soldiers soon fell victim to weapons and disease and surrendered to the Haitians in November 1803. On January 1, 1804, the colony became the first black republic under the name of Haiti.

## How did the French Revolution Impact the revolution in Haiti?



Contributing Factors in successful revolution





These engravings from 1791 depict various clothes and customs of *affranchi* and enslaved women in Saint-Domingue.



**“These men are beginning to fill the colony and it is of the greatest perversion to see them, their numbers continually increasing amongst the whites, with fortunes often greater than those of the whites.... These coloreds imitate the style of the whites and try to wipe out all memory of their original state.”**

—Colonial administrators writing to French officials, 1750s

[How did former slaves rebel against the plantation system?](#)



This engraving is from a book by Abbé Raynal, a French Enlightenment philosopher who wrote of the horrors of slavery in the colonies in the eighteenth century. In this image, men beat and kill enslaved people, while a man in classical clothing writes on a pillar.

**“[The colonial]...regime is oppressive, but it gives a livelihood to several million Frenchmen. This regime is barbarous but a still greater barbarity will result if you interfere with it without the necessary knowledge.”**

—Antoine-Pierre Barnave, spokesman for the colonial committee of France’s National Assembly, September 1791

**“There can be no agriculture in Saint Domingue without slavery; we did not go to fetch half a million savage slaves off the coast of Africa to bring them to the colony as French citizens.”**

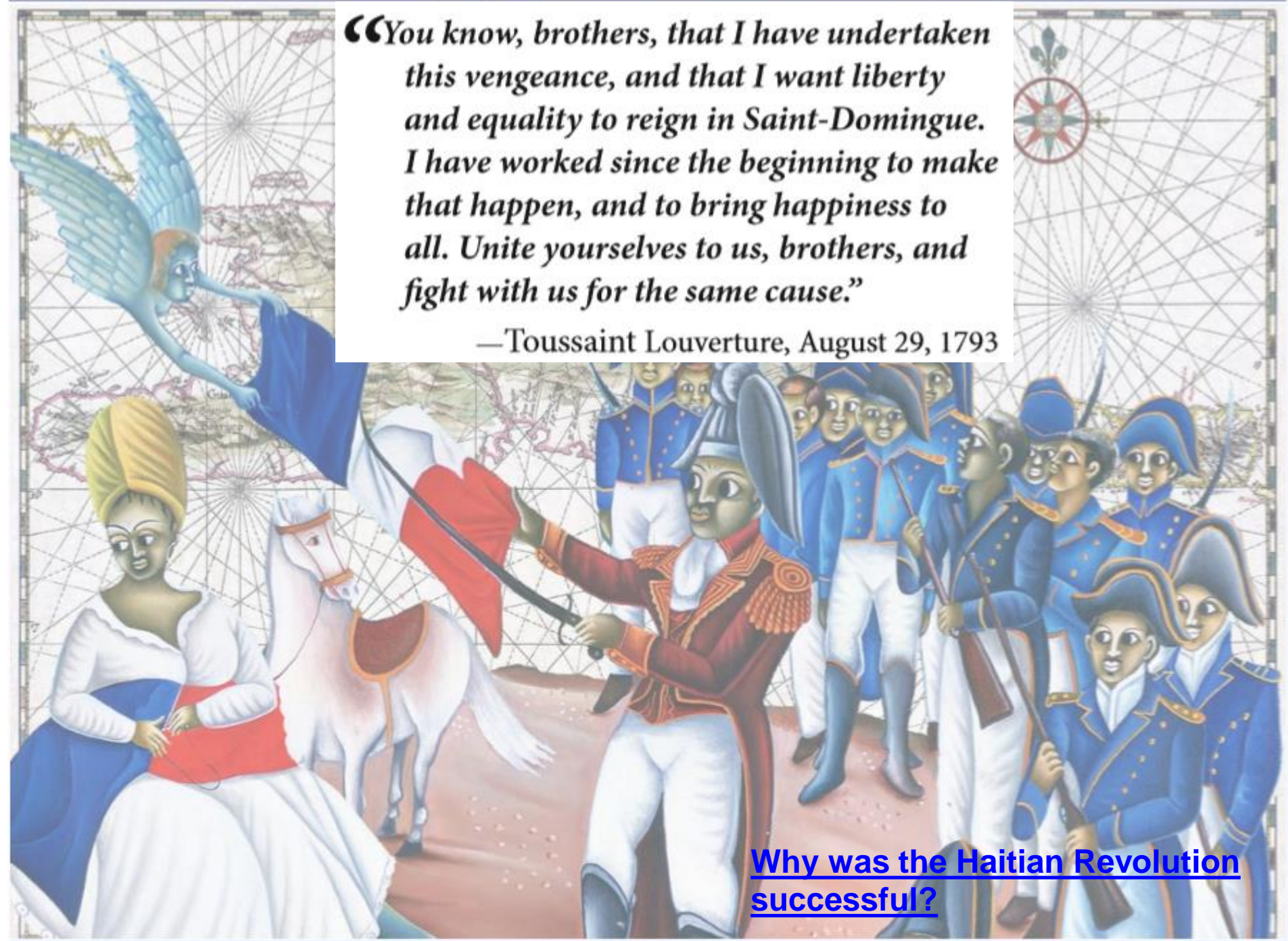
—A colonist in Saint-Domingue, 1792



***“You know, brothers, that I have undertaken this vengeance, and that I want liberty and equality to reign in Saint-Domingue. I have worked since the beginning to make that happen, and to bring happiness to all. Unite yourselves to us, brothers, and fight with us for the same cause.”***

**—Toussaint Louverture, August 29, 1793**

**[Why was the Haitian Revolution successful?](#)**





This lithograph shows Toussaint Louverture proclaiming the Saint-Domingue Constitution on July 1, 1801.

## 1801 – Constitution Issued by Toussaint Louverture

### Economic:

☐ Banned Slavery

### Foreign Affairs:

- Did NOT declare independence
- All people in Saint-Domingue were French citizens
- Wanted to remain a French colony but with special status

### Political:

- All citizens had equal rights
- L'Ouverture would be governor general for life

What challenges did Louverture face in 1800 and 1801?

**“In overthrowing me you have cut down in Saint Domingue only the trunk of the tree of the liberty of the blacks; it will spring up again from the roots, for they are numerous and deep.”**

—Louverture upon boarding a ship to exile,  
June 1802

[What challenges did Louverture face in 1800 and 1801?](#)

**“In the end we must live independent or die.... Let us frighten all those who would dare try to take it from us again; let us begin with the French. Let them tremble when they approach our coast, if not from the memory of those cruelties they perpetrated here, then from the terrible resolution that we will have made to put to death anyone born French whose profane foot soils the land of liberty.”**

—Louis Boisrond-Tonnerre,  
Haitian Declaration of Independence,  
January 1, 1804



**“The course of things in the neighboring islands of the West Indies appears to have given a considerable impulse to the minds of the slaves in different parts of the U.S. A great disposition to insurgency has manifested itself among them....”**

—U.S. President Thomas Jefferson, July 13, 1802

**“Our policy, with regard to Hayti, is plain. We can never acknowledge her independence.... [T]he peace and safety of a large portion of our Union forbids us even to discuss [it].”**

—U.S. Senator Robert Hayne, 1820s

[Haiti Revolution Worldwide Impact](#)

[What were the major legacies of the Haitian Revolution for Haiti?](#)

[What is the significance of the American, French, and Haitian Revolutions?](#)



This engraving from 1805 is entitled "View of a Temple erected by the Blacks to commemorate their Emancipation."

# Latin American Revolutions

## *Early Social Class in Latin America*

Colonial society was divided into **six classes based on birth**

**Peninsulares**

(men born in Spain)

**Creoles**

(Spaniards born in Latin America)

**Mestizos**

(mixed European & Indian ancestry)

**Mulattos**

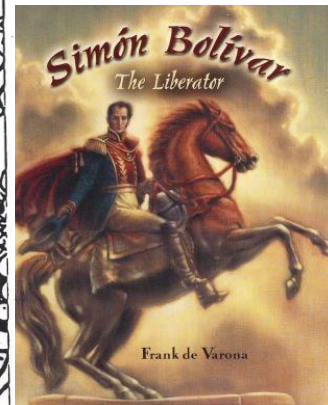
(mixed European & African ancestry)

**Africans**

(majority enslaved)

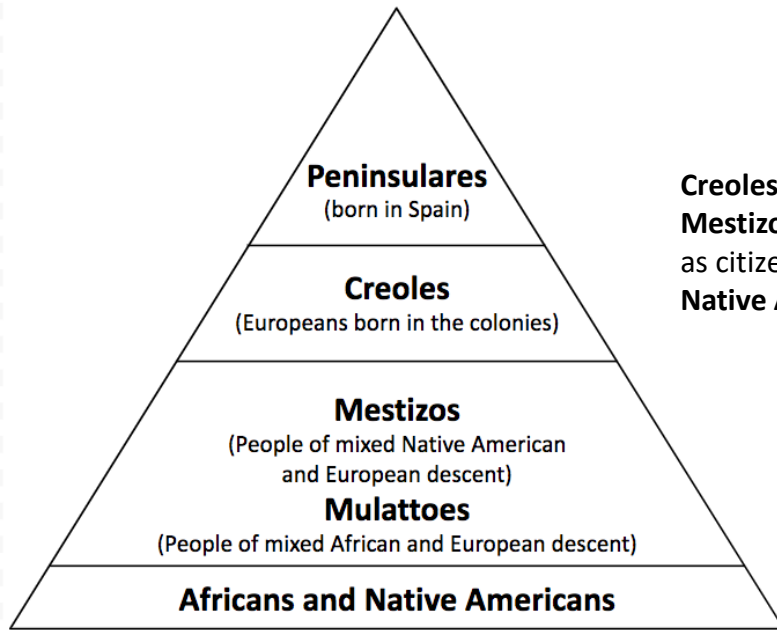
**Indians**

(of little economic value)



# Discontent in Latin America

**Directions:** Read the text and examine the diagram below, then answer the accompanying questions.



**Creoles** → resented being treated as second class citizens by the Peninsulares

**Mestizos and Mulattoes** → angered that they were not treated as citizens and did not have the same power as whites

**Native Americans and Africans** → angered by enslavement and inhumane treatment

In the 1700s, educated creoles read the work of Enlightenment thinkers. Many creoles were sent to Europe to study as well. While there, they were inspired by the ideals of a revolution and national sovereignty or the authority of a state to govern itself or another state.

In 1808, Napoleon invaded Spain, ousted the Spanish king and placed his brother Joseph in control of Spain and its colonies. Many in Latin America saw this as a moment of weakness and an opportunity to reject foreign rule and demand freedom from the colonial crown.

1. How did the social and ethnic structures in Spanish colonies lead to discontent?
2. Was everyone in the Spanish colonies angry for the same reasons? Explain.
3. How did many creoles come into contact with ideas of revolution and freedom?
4. Why did Latin American leaders decide to fight for their freedom after 1808 instead of an earlier time?



Contextualize

## Simón Bolívar

Years: 1783 – 1830

Country: Venezuela, Ecuador, Bolivia, Peru and Colombia

Colonial Power Fought: Spain



Painting of Simon Bolivar by Arturo Michelena

**Simón Bolívar** was a Venezuelan military leader who was instrumental in the revolutions against the Spanish Empire. Born into wealth, Bolívar was sent to Spain for his education and quickly got involved in political life in Europe. After France, led by Napoleon Bonaparte, invaded Spain in 1808, he became involved in the resistance movement and played a key role in the Spanish American fight for independence. When Napoleon named Joseph Bonaparte King of Spain and its colonies, which included Venezuela, Bolívar joined the resistance movement. The resistance group based in Caracas gained independence in 1810, and Bolívar traveled to Britain on a diplomatic mission.

Finally, Bolívar returned to Venezuela and began a campaign to take control of that country from the Spanish. He and his followers invaded Venezuela on May 14, 1813. Bolívar was hailed as El Libertador (The Liberator), though civil war soon erupted in the republic, forcing him to flee to Jamaica and seek foreign aid. There he wrote his famous "Letter From Jamaica," detailing his vision of a South American republic with a parliamentary setup modeled after England and a life-long president. In 1825, the "Republic of Bolivia" was created in honor of the inspirational leader, hailed by many as El Libertador.

1. What impact did the French Revolution and Napoleon have on Simon Bolivar and Venezuela's independence movement?

2. What impact did Bolívar have on South American independence movements?



# Independence Movements in Latin America

<b>Long-Term Causes</b>	<b>Immediate Causes</b>
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
<b>Immediate Effects</b>	<b>Long-Term Effects</b>
Toussaint L'Ouverture leads slave revolt in Haiti Bolívar, 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