

# **Spanish American Revolutions (1810 – 1825)**

AP World History Notes  
Chapter 17

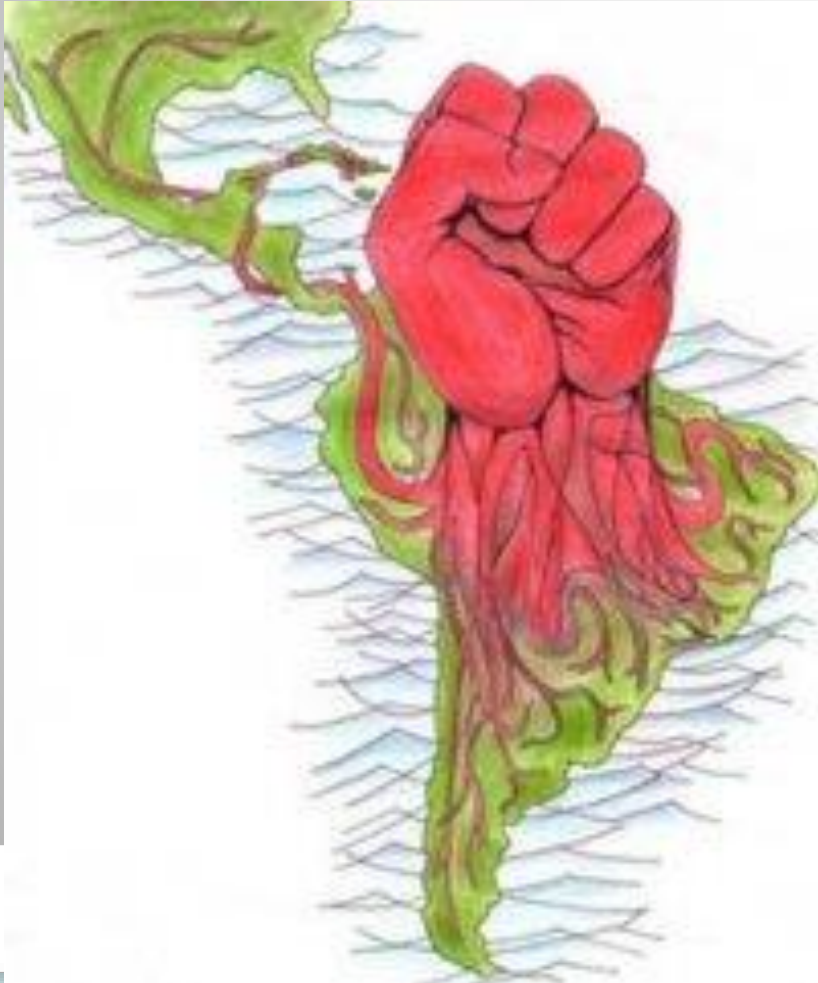
# Spanish American Revolutions

- Inspired by the North American, French, and Haitian Revolutions
- Intellectuals had become familiar with ideas from the European Enlightenment



Map 17.3 Latin American Independence  
Chapter 17, *Ways of the World: A Brief Global History with Sources*, First Edition  
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Page 791

# Why did they revolt?



- They became increasingly upset with:
  - Trade restrictions → could only trade with the “motherland”
  - High taxes they had to pay
  - Rigid colonial social structure that limited rights and privileges for many people

# Spanish American Independence

- It took the Spanish American colonies much longer to mobilize and move toward revolution than the colonies of North America → Why?
  - Had little tradition of self-government
  - Societies much more authoritarian and divided by class



# Spanish American Independence



- Latin Americans took action and started working toward independence when Napoleon invaded Spain and Portugal in 1808
  - Royal authority in disarray
  - NOW would be the time to gain independence
  - Almost every Spanish American colony had achieved independence by 1826

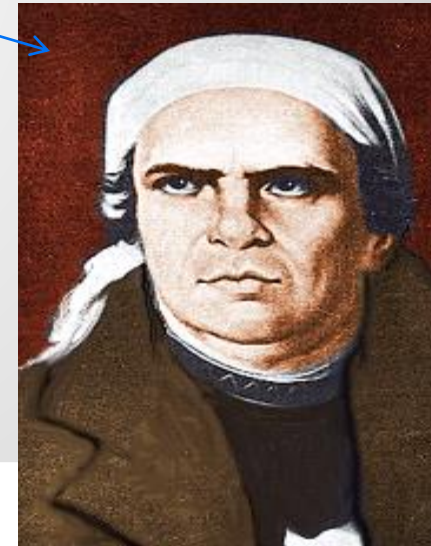
# A Long Struggle

- The struggle for Latin American independence was lengthy because these societies were so conflicted and divided by class, race, and region
- Internal violent conflict often broke out as they were trying to fight against Spanish rule simultaneously
  - Example: Creole elites versus peasants



# Mexico Struggles for Freedom

- 1810 = Miguel Hidalgo and Jose Morelos led the fight against Spanish rule in Mexico
- Led a peasant insurrection
- Believed revolt was the only way to achieve their 2 goals for Mexico:
  1. Political freedom
  2. End of slavery & improved living conditions for Mexico's poor



# Mexico Struggles for Freedom



- An alliance of Church leaders and Creole elites raised an army and stopped this “radical” peasant rebellion
  - They brought Mexico to a more controlled independence
- 1821 = Mexico declared independence
- 1823 = Mexico became a republic



# Spanish South America



- Leaders of the South American independence movement against Spain = Simon Bolivar & Jose de San Martin
- Bolivar's nickname = "the Liberator"
- Started revolts in 1810 → by 1826: they had liberated all of South America



## How Do We Unite?

- Latin American elites knew they needed the support of the people
  - Did NOT want a slave revolt like in Haiti
- Answer = “nativism” = grouped all those born in the Americas (creoles, Native Americans, free black people, mestizos) as *Americanos*
  - And the enemy = those born in Spain and Portugal
- People of color = enticed with promises of freedom, social advancement, and the end of legal restrictions
  - Few promises actually kept

# Latin America After Independence

- Spanish colonies did not unite like in North America
- No “United States of Latin America”
- Why not?
  - Sharp divisions along lines of race, class, and ideology still remained
  - Geographic obstacles prevented effective communication
  - Deeply rooted regional identities



## Problems After Independence

- 1) The geography of Central and South America made transportation and communication difficult, which stalled trade and economic growth.
- 2) Spanish & Portuguese rule left the Latin Americans with no clue about how to run their own governments peacefully and democratically.
- 3) Independence didn't bring about changes in social conditions → still a huge gap between the rich and the poor.