

Latin American Revolutions

The term “Latin American Revolutions” refers to the various revolutions that took place during the early 19th century that resulted in the creation of a number of independent countries in the Latin American region.

This is considered to be one of the most influential series of events in the history of the Western Hemisphere.

Here are some of these brave freedom fighters:-

Countries in which major revolutions took place



Haiti (1791-1804)

Ecuador (1809-1822)

Bolivia (1809-25)

Argentina (1810-16)

Chile (1810-18)

Colombia (1810-19)

Mexico (1810-21)

Paraguay (1811)

Venezuela (1811-22)

Peru (1821)

Brazil (1822)

Toussaint L'Overture



Born a slave in Saint-Domingue, in a long struggle for independence Toussaint led enslaved Africans to victory over Europeans. He abolished slavery and secured native Control over the colony in 1797 while naming himself governor. He expelled the French commissioner as well as the British armies; invaded Santo Domingo to free the slaves and wrote a constitution naming himself governor-for-life that established a new polity for the colony.

Captured by Napoleon in 1802, sent to jail in France where he died. His cause was carried on by Jean-Jacques Dessalines

Simón Bolívar (El Libertador)



Simón José Antonio de la Santísima Trinidad Bolívar Palacios y Blanco, Venezuelan, or commonly known as **Simón Bolívar** (July 24, 1783 – December 17, 1830), was one of the most important leaders of Spanish America's successful struggle for independence from Spain along with Argentine general José de San Martín.

After the triumph over the Spanish monarch, Bolívar participated in the foundation of Gran Colombia, a nation formed from the liberated Spanish colonies. Bolívar became President of Gran Colombia from 1821 to 1830, President of Peru from 1824 to 1826 and President of Bolivia from 1825 to 1826.

Bolívar is credited with contributing decisively to the independence of the present-day countries of Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Panama, and Bolivia. Despite his use of explicit genocidal terror tactics (outlined in his Decree of War to the Death), he is often revered as a hero in these countries, and is sometimes described as the "George Washington of South America."

José de San Martín

José Francisco de San Martín Matorras, also known as **José de San Martín** (1778-1850), was an Argentine general and the prime leader of the southern part of South America's successful struggle for independence from Spain. He left his mother country at an early age and studied in Madrid where he met and befriended Chilean Bernardo O'Higgins. In 1808, after joining the Spanish forces to fight against the French and participating in several battles San Martín started making contact with South American supporters of independence. In 1812, he set sail for Buenos Aires from England and offered his services to the United Provinces of South America (present day Argentina). He took command of the Army of the North during 1814, and attacked Lima by sea. In 1817, he crossed the Andes and prevailed over the Spanish forces, liberating Chile. San Martín seized partial control of the capital on July 12, 1821, and was appointed *Protector of Perú*. After a closed-door meeting with Simón Bolívar at Guayaquil, Bolívar took over the task of fully liberating Peru and declared its independence. San Martín unexpectedly left Perú and resigned the command of his army, excluding himself from politics and the military, and moved to France in 1824.



Bernardo O'Higgins

Bernardo O'Higgins Riquelme (1776– 1842), was one of the commanders – together with José de San Martín – of the military forces that freed Chile from Spanish rule. At seventeen Bernardo was sent to London to study where he became acquainted with American-independents ideas. He developed a sense of "nationalist pride." He started to get involved with a secret Masonic Lodge established in London, the members of which were dedicated to the independence of Latin America. Although he was the second Supreme Director of Chile (1817–23), O'Higgins was the first holder of this title to head a fully independent Chilean state. For six years, he was a successful leader. The government was functioning well. There was peace and order for the most part. He built a national army (navy) and fought against the Peruvian royalists. However, his more radical and liberal reforms, (the establishment of democracy and abolition of nobility titles) were resisted by the powerful Conservative large-land owners. He was deposed by a conservative coup in January 1823, at which point he was briefly made governor of Concepción, an appointment which did not last long.



Miguel Hidalgo *"Mexicanos, Viva México!"*



Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla (1753 – 1811), or simply **Miguel Hidalgo**, was a Roman Catholic priest and revolutionary rebel leader. He is regarded by most Mexican people as the "Father of the Country" and was the founder of the Mexican War of Independence movement in the early 19th century

Shortly before dawn on September 16, 1810, Hidalgo the priest of the village of Dolores, ordered the arrest of the native Spaniards. Then he rang the church bell to call the Indians to mass. The message that Hidalgo gave to the *Indians* and *mestizos* told them to retaliate against the hated *gachopines* or native Spaniards.



Hidalgo's peasant revolution was put down by government soldiers just outside of Guadalajara. He was outnumbered 13 to 1 and his followers ran. They captured Hidalgo. He was tried by the Inquisition, defrocked and executed by firing squad.

Every year at midnight on September 16, Mexicans shout the *grito*, honoring the crucial, impulsive action that was the catalyst for the country's bloody struggle for independence.

José María Morelos

Morelos began the revolution with Hidalgo. He was sent to capture Acapulco. He had gathered a force of around 9,000 men and was occupying towns and hills south of Mexico City. Following Napoleon's withdrawal from Spain and Ferdinand's return to power in 1814, the King sent additional troops to Mexico.

In 1815 the Spaniards overwhelmed Morelos and his force, with 3,000 of his men escaping into the Mexican countryside. Morelos stood before the Inquisition, was defrocked, and he too was executed by firing squad, on December 22, 1815.

The uprising to 1816 had killed between 200 thousand and 500 thousand people. a little more than 3.3 percent of the population.



Revolution in Brazil

The Brazilian Declaration of Independence was a series of political events occurred in 1821-1825, most of which involved disputes between colonial Brazil and Portugal. Although the conflict was not completely bloodless, it was much less violent than the wars of independence fought in Latin America. Dom Pedro became the first Emperor of Brazil, being crowned on 1 December 1822. Portugal would recognize Brazil as an independent country in 1825. It's celebrated all September, 7.



“Independence or Death”



Emperor Dom Pedro II