

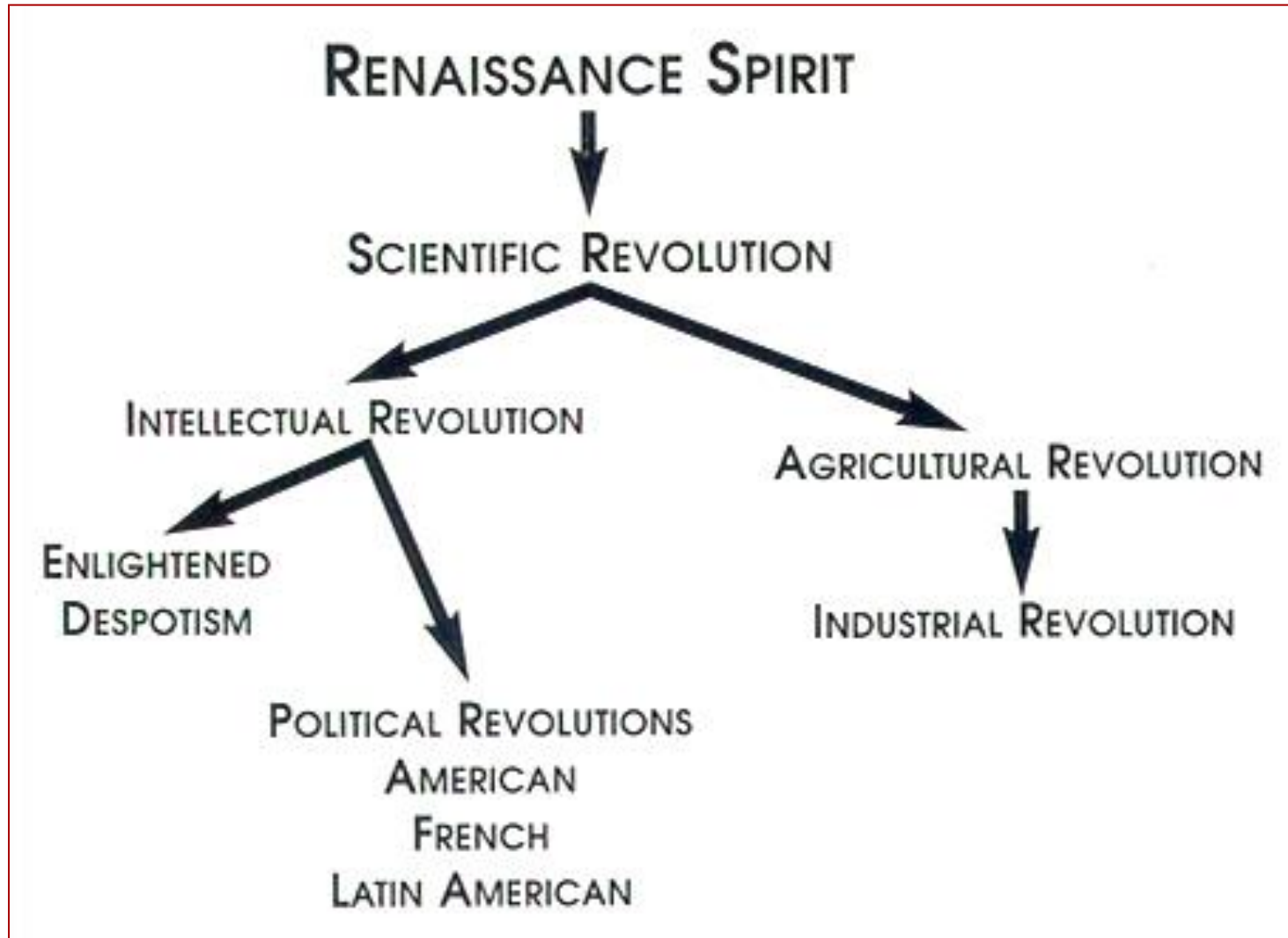
Revolutions in Latin America

By Gordon Hurst

European Empires in the 1660s



How the revolutions developed



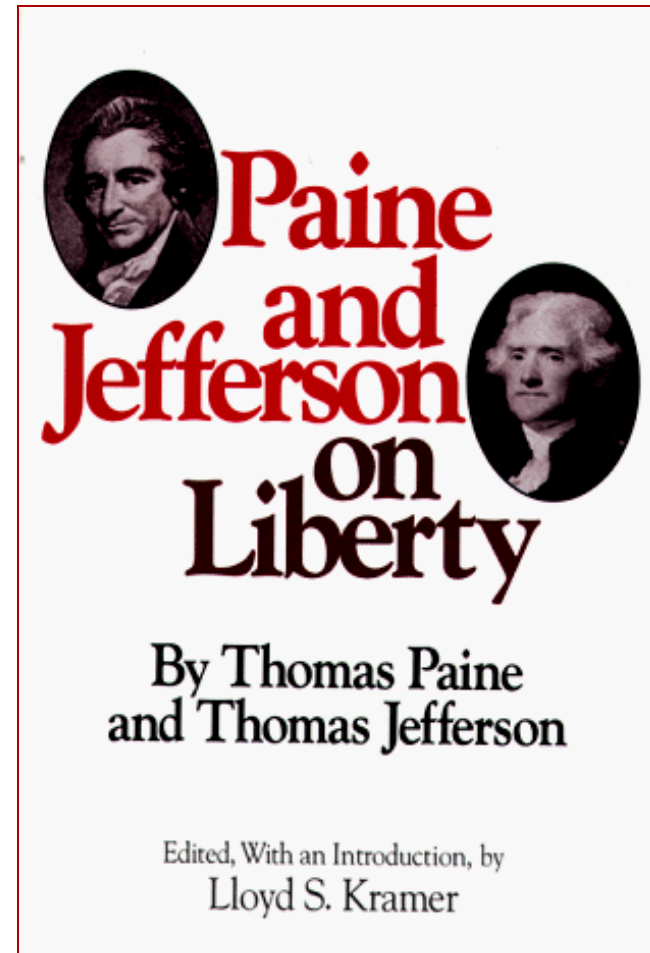
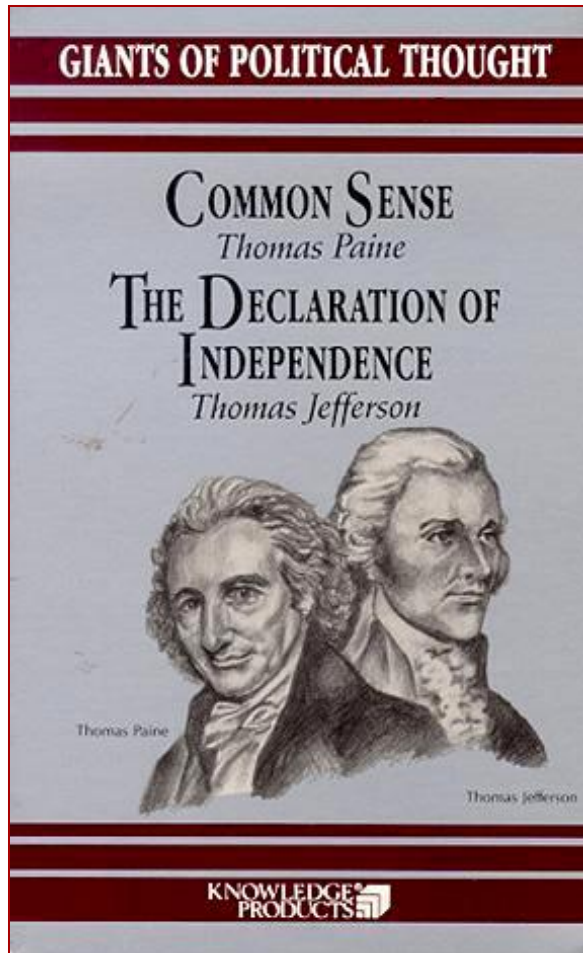
Causes of Latin American Revolutions

1. The Ideas of the Enlightenment including the writings of John Locke, Voltaire, Rousseau, Thomas Jefferson and Thomas Paine.
2. Haitian *Creole* discontent from being left out of government jobs and trade concessions.
3. The Inspirations of the American and French Revolutions.
4. The Preoccupation of Spain & Portugal who were fighting in the Napoleonic Wars.

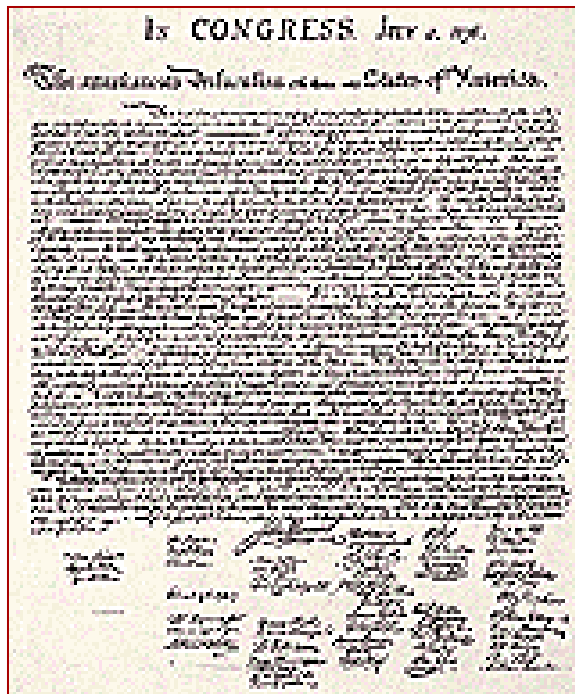
Enlightenment Ideas

1. Laws of nature [NATURAL LAWS] govern natural science and human society.
2. Give people rights: Life, Liberty, Property!
3. The creation of new societies based on the premise of logic and reasoning
4. People challenged the theory of "Divine Right" and "Absolute Monarchy"

Enlightenment Thinkers planted the seeds for revolution



Inspiration for revolution came from the American & French Revolutions



Declaration of
Independence, 1776

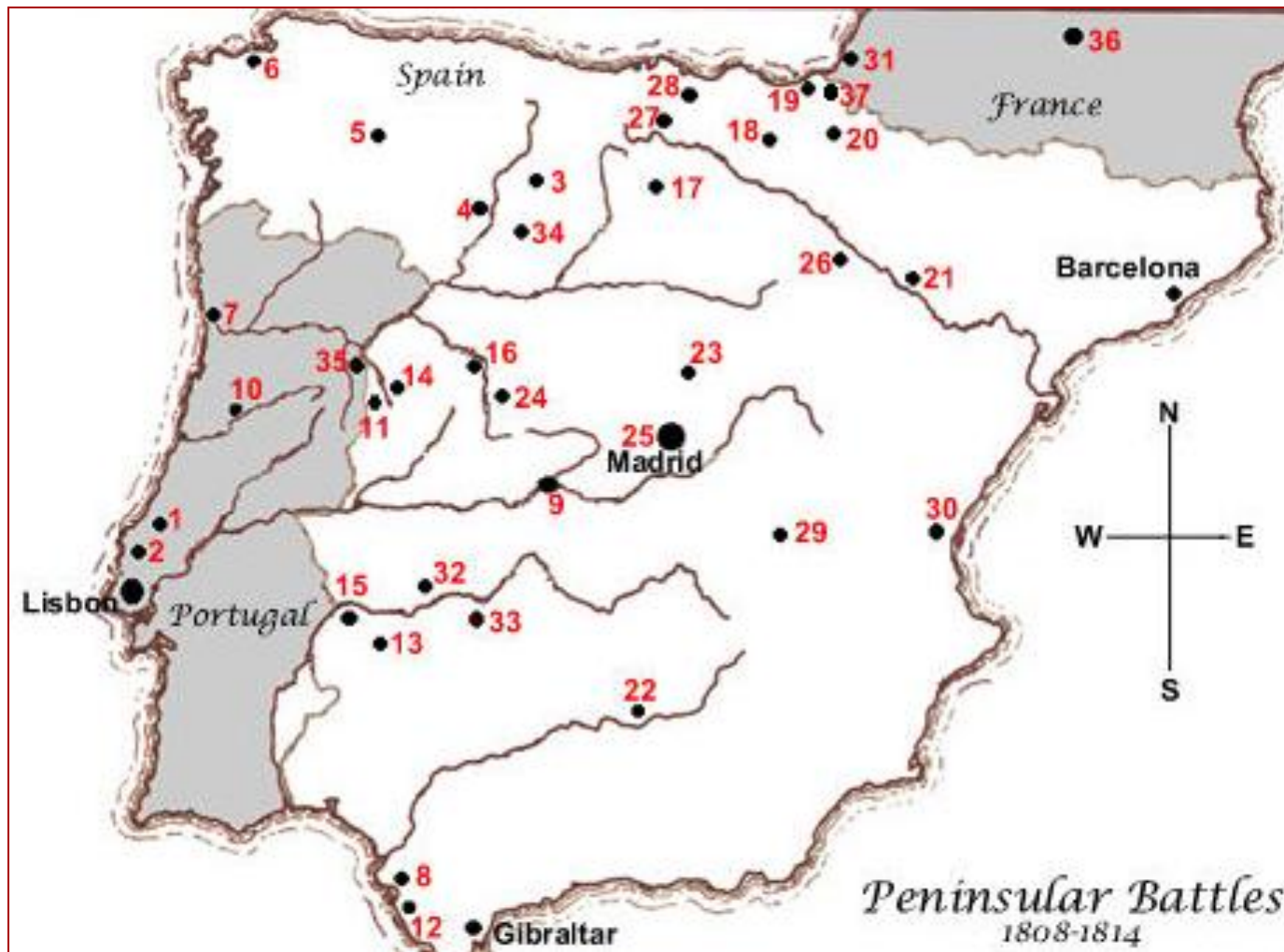


Declaration of the Rights of
Man & of the Citizen, 1789

Napoleon's conquests allowed the Latin American countries to seize their opportunities



Spain and Portugal were preoccupied in fighting the Napoleonic Wars



Areas where the Revolutions took place

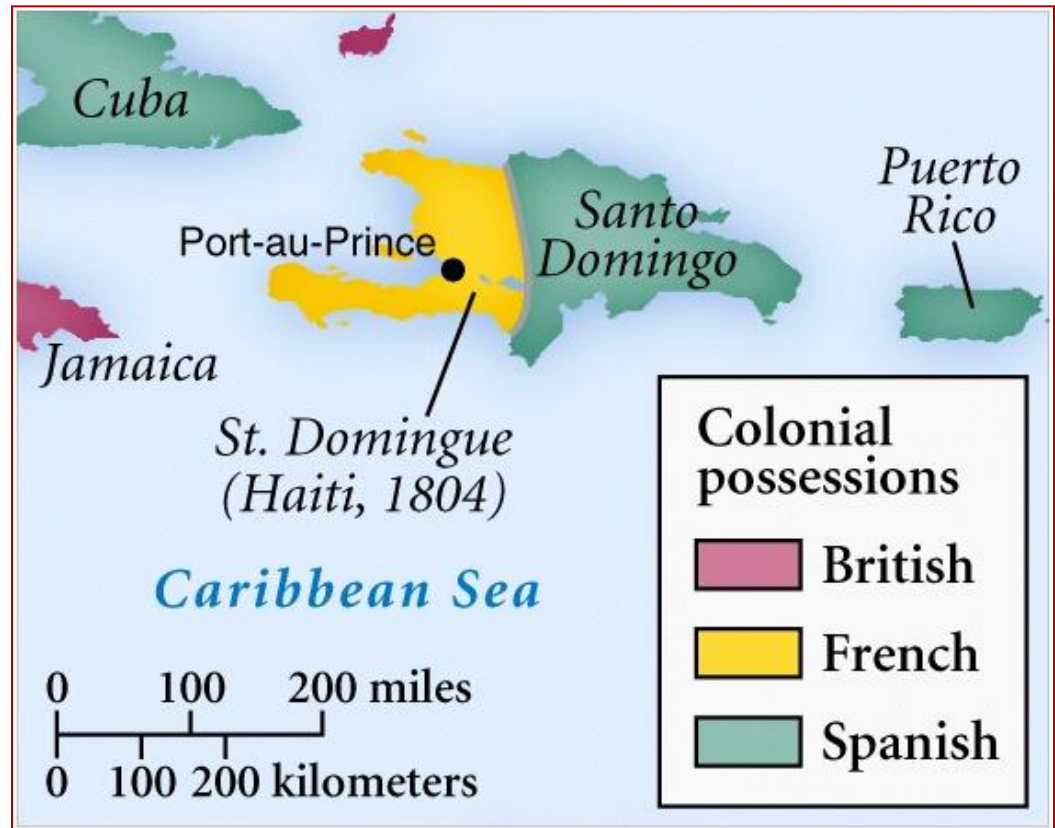
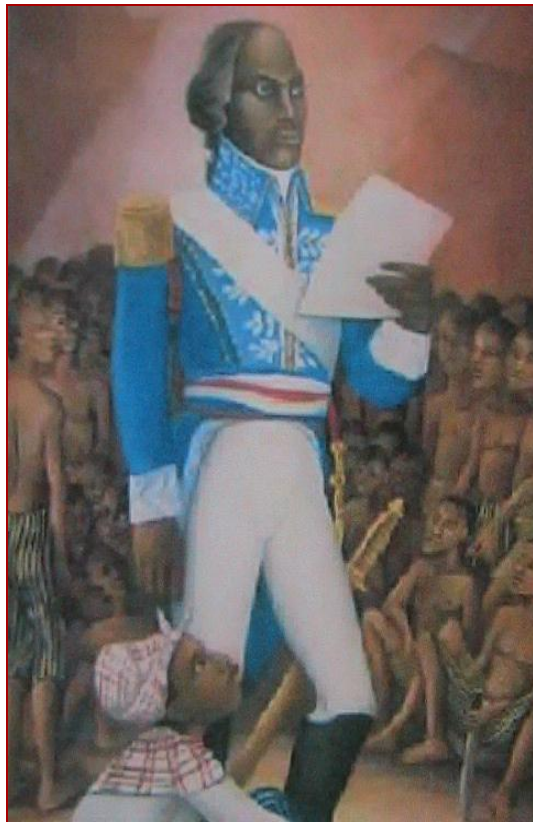


Haiti was the first to rebel

The Creole class were unhappy with the treatment they received from the French. The economy of the island revolved around slavery and the production of sugar cane. France became very rich but Haiti remained poor. The people resented being occupied by the French



Toussaint L'Overture leads the Revolution in Haïti (1804)



Simón Bolívar:

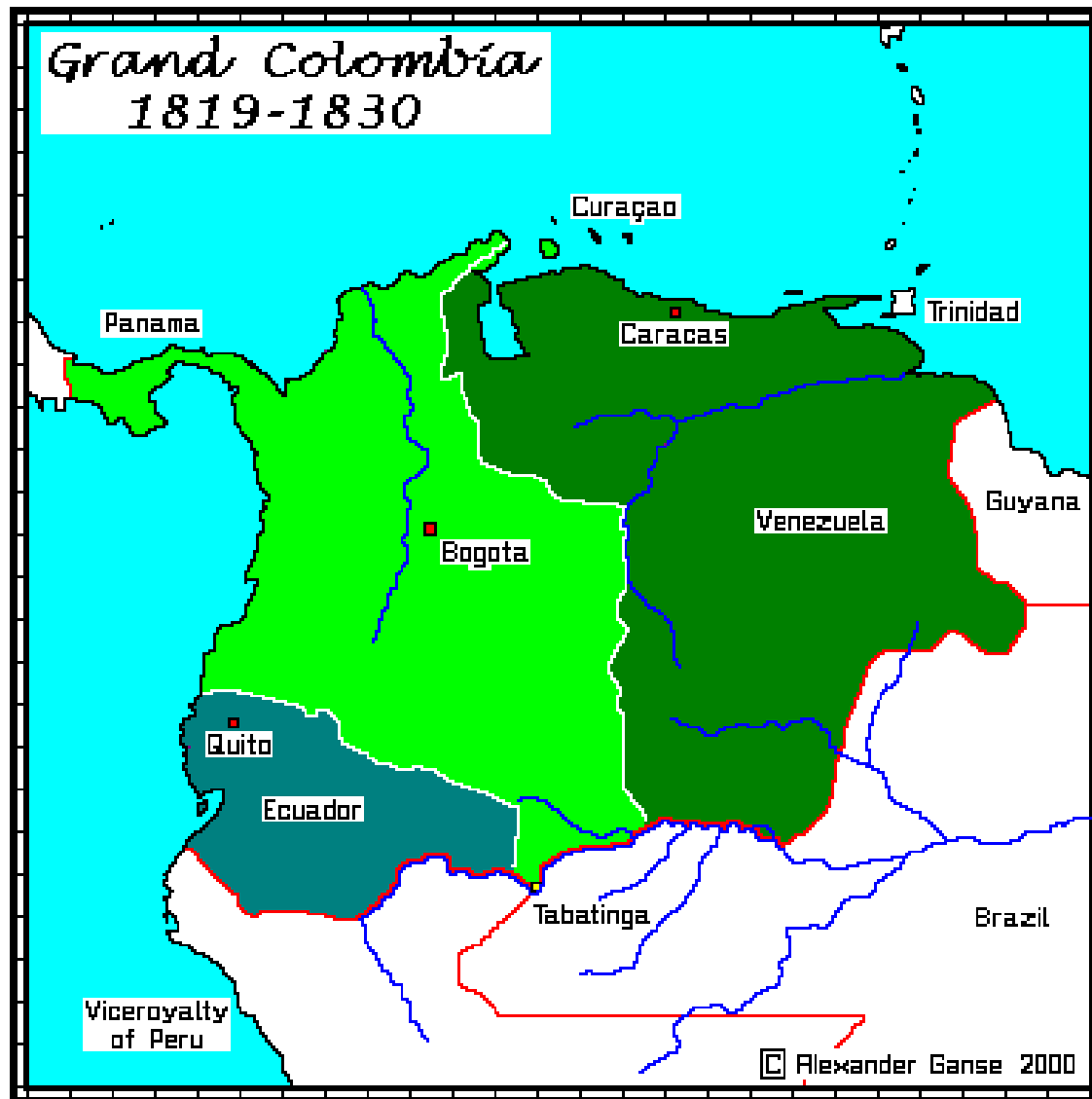
The Liberator of South America

He was the *Creole* leader of the revolutions in Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Panama and Bolivia. His ideas came from living in Europe and the newly independent United States.

He was The George Washington of South America or "El Libertador". His goal was to create Gran Colombia, a nation formed from the liberated Spanish colonies.



Bolívar's Accomplishments



The “Muscle” of the Revolution

José San Martín liberated Argentina (1812), Peru (1814), and Chile (1817).

He was helped by his friend Bernardo O'Higgins. Both men met while studying in Europe.

San Martín and Bolívar worked together to form stable governments within the region.



José de St. Martín and
Bernard O'Higgins cross the
Andes Mountains.

Simón Bolívar Meets José de San Martín



Areas that came under the control of Bolívar & San Martín



Bolívar's Failure

After uniting Venezuela, Columbia, & Ecuador into Gran Columbia, he left to help free the rest of Latin America. He died a year later, with his goal of uniting all of South America unfulfilled. Today most towns and villages in South America still honor Bolivar with a statue.



Photo taken by Gordon Hurst©

The Mexican Revolution



Father Miguel Hidalgo

On September 16, 1810 in the tiny village of Dolores, a *criollo* priest, Father Miguel Hidalgo began the Mexican revolution. Aided by an army of *Mestizos* and Native Americans he revolted against the Spanish. Within a year, Hidalgo was captured and executed. Finally, in 1821, Agustín de Iturbide toppled Spanish rule and liberated Mexico as well as Central America, then part of Mexico.

Brazil liberated from Portuguese Rule

The Portuguese royal family escaped Napoleon by fleeing to Brazil.

Pedro I set up a new, independent kingdom in 1821 when his father returned to Portugal.

Pedro II assumed full power after Pedro I abdicated his throne.

It was less violent than the other revolutions



Results of the Latin American Revolutions

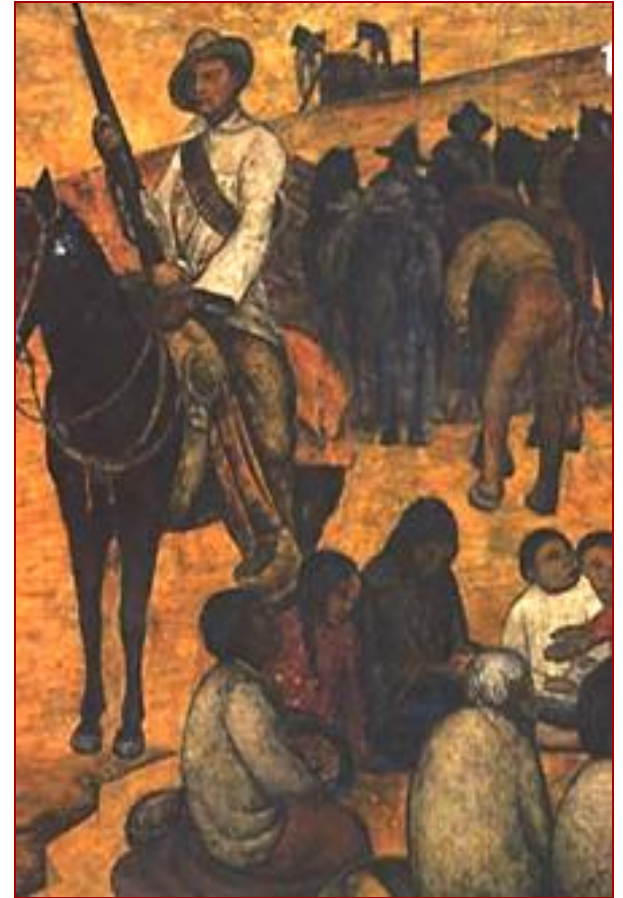


Failures of the Latin American Revolutions



There was No Unity!

Bolivar's dream for a united South America had failed. Many Newly independent countries Struggled with civil wars. By the 1830s, geographic factors (mountains, the Amazon, etc.) plus cultural differences defeated attempts at unification. Independence brought more poverty to these regions. There was no trade. Cities, towns and villages were destroyed by the fighting.



Many Countries came under the control of the Caudillos

WHO WERE THEY?

They were dictators who ruled by military authoritarianism. Most were wealthy *Creole* aristocrats.

They posed as reformers with goals to improve the economy and better the lives of the common people. BUT...they overthrew governments and took away basic human rights.

Some attempted to make improvements, but most just Cared about themselves, their families and friends [**nepotism**]. Power changes usually occurred at bayonet point [**coup d'etats!**]

Additional Problems

Feuds developed between the various leaders of the Latin American countries.

The hierarchy and social structures from the past were brought back. Little was gained for the people. Conservatives favored the old social order and refused to make major changes. Liberals wanted land reform but were outnumbered in the local governments.

Dependence on foreign nations for capital and for economic investments but many countries refused to invest as many nations were unstable and a bad risk.