

Foreign Intervention in Spanish America

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Overview

The British initially supported the Bolivar's revolution in Venezuela, however Napoleon's invasion of Spain turned Spain into Britain's ally, which in turn cut off british support for the revolution. Without European Allies, Bolivar having no allies turned to Haiti, who supplied them with weapons and supplies in exchange for for a promise to fight for the freedom of slaves once they had gained independence.

American/Haitian Involvement

- The Haitian president, Alexandre Pétion, provided money, volunteers and weapons to the patriots.
 - Enabled the patriots to continue the struggle for independence on the condition that Bolívar expand the fight for independence to include the liberation of slaves
- There was no assistance or an official recognition from the United States government
 - Some individuals from the U.S gave aid and the public was sympathetic since they had recently gained independence.

European Involvement

- Fighting under Bolívar's command were the British Legion units
 - Composed of volunteers that consisted mainly of Napoleonic War veterans as well as some German veterans
- The invasion of Spain by Napoleon sparked years of unrest and war in Spain, which both cut off British support for the revolution, while simultaneously weakening Spain's hold on the Americas and allowing many of the colonies to gain freedom
- The British foreign legion is credited for victories in many battles by Bolívar including the Vargas Swamp battle.