



# Spanish Colonies from 1700-1808

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# The End of the Habsburgs

- ❑ Death of Charles II in 1700 lead to the War of Spanish Succession from 1701-1714
- ❑ Then Spain came under the rule of the Bourbon monarchy who sought to tighten the administration of the colonies.
- ❑ In an effort to modernize the government and economy of Spain the Bourbons introduced a series of reforms.
- ❑ Theses law were a large source of unrest and laid a foundation for the revolution led by the creole elite.

# Administrative reorganization

- ❑ Goal of reforms was to improve tax field through america by restructuring imperial commerce
- ❑ Intendancy system was introduced. Were peninsulares who are on top of the caste system and were appointed by the king. Also news was reported directly to the king. Led to an increase in revenue collection for the Spanish
- ❑ The need to raise revenue led to the imposition of new taxes and tightened the tax system
- ❑ Tightening control over colonies was successful but the creoles who lost their place were dissatisfied and looked for opportunities to overthrow them

# Economic reorganization

- ❑ In 1779, a free-trade decree was made and it allowed the Spanish-American ports to trade directly with each other
- ❑ The benefits to Spain were limited, which led to the lack of Spanish industrial manufacture
- ❑ At the same time, many colonies extracted resources that were useful to other European powers, British colonies and the Caribbean
- ❑ This trade was illegal due to the fact that it wasn't carried on Spanish ships
- ❑ The Bourbon administration attempted to limit and outlaw the trade, but the illegal trade still continued
- ❑ Spanish trade monopoly was controlled by peninsular import-export merchants who were given the advantage based on birth

# Religious Reforms

- ❑ One way the Bourbons tried to limit the power of the Catholic Church was by forcing the sale of church lands.
- ❑ Doing this deprived clergy of rents which was a significant part of their income.
- ❑ Instead of appointing clergymen to fill political positions the Bourbons appointed military officers.
- ❑ This meant the church lost political power as well.
- ❑ In 1767 the Jesuits were expelled from the Americas in hope to limit their influence.
- ❑ Many members of the lower clergy were recruited to be military and guerilla officers

# Military Defense

- ❑ The colonies barely had an operational military under the Habsburgs.
- ❑ The Bourbons created a more organized military defense force.
- ❑ They first tried to rely on officer deployed from Spain, but so few officers deployed from Spain were willing to accept commissions in the Americas, so the Crown had to rely on colonial-born men to increase the officer corps.
- ❑ Nearly all the highest-ranking officers were Spanish-born, with creoles occupying the secondary levels of command.