



# Spanish-American Wars of Independence

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# Class System

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**Peninsulares** - people born from the Iberian Peninsula who are of pure Spanish descent

**Creoles**- descendants of Spaniards who were born in the Latin Americas

**Mulattos**- people of mixed white and black ancestry

**Mestizos**- (in Latin America) people of mixed race, especially one having Spanish and indigenous descent

**Indigenous people**

**Slaves**

# Balkanization of Latin America



- Originally 4 viceroyalties
- Geographical isolation and different visions of independence create division.
- In an attempt to create workable political structures, smaller countries formed.

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# New Spain and the cause of mexican independence



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- September 16, 1810 - Father Miguel Hidalgo began the Mexican Revolution
  - Grito de Dolores- call for independence from Spain
  - Call appealed to creoles and native americans, free blacks and mulattos
  - Purpose was to get rid of political oppression and address hunger, poverty, lack of land and high taxes and plan to end Indian Tribute
  - Hidalgo's army was about 80,000 members but they were not disciplined and the spanish took advantage of that and defeated them, Hidalgo was killed in 1811. This did not stop the revolution

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# New Spain and the cause of mexican independence



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- Father José Maria Morelos drafted the Constitutional Decree for the Liberty of Mexico in 1814.
  - Mexican élites realized that the independence was coming, they wanted to have control so the Catholic hierarchy collaborated to create an independent Mexico, led by Agustín de Iturbide.
  - Iturbide pressured Spanish chief Juan O'Donojú to sign the Treaty of Córdoba.
  - This plan only delayed the civil war, and established a monarchy, and as a result, Iturbide became emperor of Mexico in 1822.

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# Venezuela's Reasons for Revolution



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- Revolution led almost solely by Creole patriots united by class interests and desire for national sovereignty
  - Patriots wanted to end the class oppression they faced from the *peninsulares* yet still saw themselves as above non-white Venezuelans in the class system
  - Creoles advocated for elimination of the slave trade but not of slavery

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# Venezuelan Struggle for Independence



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1806: Francisco de Miranda tries to begin a national revolution but fails

1811: Creoles declare an independent Republic of Venezuela

1814: José Tomás Boves brings down republic

1815: Spanish America retakes Caracas



# Venezuelan Independence



1813: Spanish occupation unites classes, Simón Bolívar leads new multi-class army.

1819: Republic of Gran Colombia proclaimed

1823: Last loyalist forces defeated

1830: Gran Colombia splits, Venezuela, Ecuador, Panama, and Colombia formed

