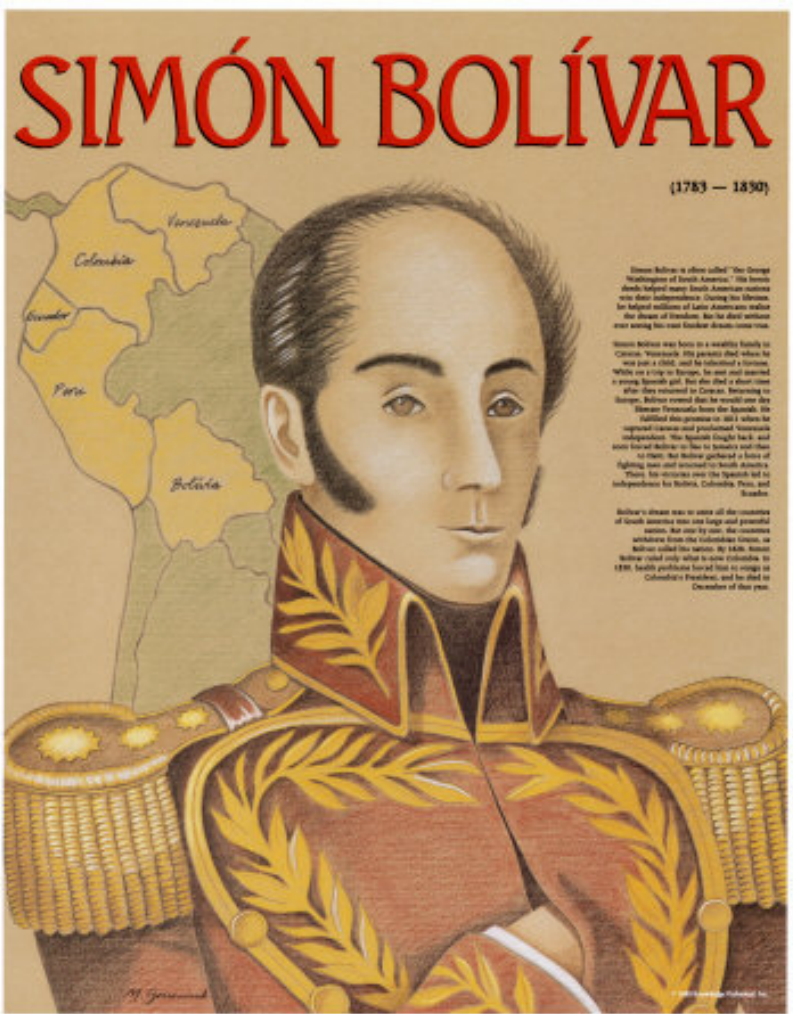


Latin American Revolutions



Divided Colonial Society in Latin America

- Society in Latin America was a strict social order of the following:
 - Peninsulares: born in Spain, a tiny population that held the highest offices in the Spanish colonial governments
 - Creoles: Spaniards born in Latin America, below the peninsulares in rank, could rise in rank as officials in the Spanish army, creoles and peninsular controlled land, wealth, and power in the colonies
 - Mestizos: persons of mixed European and Native American ancestry
 - Mulattos: persons of mixed European and African ancestry
 - Enslaved Africans: worked on the plantations and for the creoles and peninsulares
 - Indians or Natives: were at the bottom of the social hierarchy and the largest percent of the population



The Fight for Freedom

- The first to revolt and win independence were those enslaved in the French Colony of Saint Domingo
- Toussaint L'Ouverture led a successful slave revolt against the French in 1811 and set up the new nation of Haiti in 1811



Mexico

- Enlightenment ideas of life, liberty and property had reached Latin American countries
- The American and French revolutions had awakened free-thinking men to call for their own destinies in colonial held countries
- In 1810 Padre Miguel Hidalgo in Mexico called for a rebellion against Spain
- An army of 80,000 Indian and mestizo followers marched towards Mexico City but were defeated in 1811
- Another Padre, Jose Maria Morelos, led revolutionaries for four more years but was also defeated
- Events in Spain eventually made it relatively easy for Agustin de Iturbide to proclaim Mexican independence in 1821



Creoles Lead Independence in South America



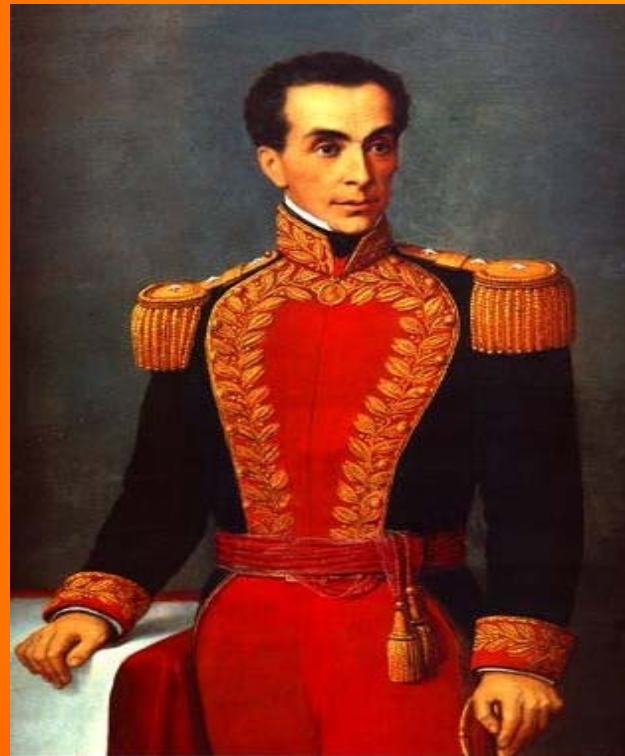
- Creoles were well educated, many in Europe where they were trained as military officers and adopted Enlightenment ideas
- Napoleon's conquest of Spain in 1808 triggered revolts in Spanish colonies
- With the Spanish king gone, Creoles argued that the power shifted to the people



Simon Bolívar

1783 - 1830

- Known as the George Washington of South America
- He was a Venezuelan, a brilliant general, a visionary, writer and fighter
- Bolivar's Venezuela declared independence from Spain in 1811
- His army suffered numerous defeats and he was twice forced into exile
- He finally defeated the Spanish army in what is now Bogota, Columbia
- 1821 Venezuela won independence from Spain



San Martin 1778 - 1850

- Born in Argentina, studied in Spain and became a military officer
- Fought against Napoleon in Spain
- Returned to Latin America to help in liberation from Spain
- San Martin's Argentina had declared independence from Spain in 1816
- He led a daring march across the Andes to Chile with the aid of Bernardo O'Higgins' troops
- Fought for 10 years for the independence of Argentina, Chile, and Peru

