Name: _____ Date: _____ BETA - Mr. Ott
Global History &Geography

Independence Movements in Latin America

The viceroys from Spain and Portugal ruled with absolute power in Latin America. Most people had no political rights nor a voice in government. Within the ruling class, colonial-born **creoles** resented the privileges of European-born **peninsulares**. Further down the social scale, mixed-ancestry **mestizos**, Indians, and African slaves wanted to be free of their oppressive masters and to improve their living and working conditions. This situation encouraged successful independence movements across Latin American between 1804 and 1824.

The first uprising was in Haiti by African slaves led by ex-slave **Toussaint L'Ouverture**. The rebels burned the sugar plantations and by 1804 were able to declare their complete independence from France. In Mexico in 1810, a Catholic priest named **Miguel Hidalgo** led the first revolt against Spanish rule, but his Indian and mestizo followers were defeated. Mexico won independence in 1821 when Mexican creoles sided with the revolutionaries. This encouraged Spain's Central American provinces to declare their independence as the United Provinces of Central America.

The impact of the ideas of the American and French Revolutions was particularly strong in South America. Creoles like **Simon Bolivar** had been influenced by the ideals of equality and liberty. Between 1810 and 1830, he fought and won independence for Gran Colombia (present-day Venezuela, Colombia, and Panama), Bolivia, and Ecuador. Jose de San Martin and Bernardo O'Higgins brought freedom to Peru, Chile, and the United Provinces of La Plata (Argentina and Uruguay).

Brazil won its independence in 1822. Unlike the Spanish colonies which had to struggle for their freedom, Brazil was aided by its royal family. The king's son was proclaimed Emperor Pedro I.



"Throughout most of its history the struggle for Spanish American independence was definitely a revolt of the classes, not of the masses."

John A. Crow, *The Epic of Latin America*

Directions:

1. **On a separate piece of paper copy the questions below and your answers.**
2. **Answer ALL questions.**

(Map) 1. Which nation gained their independence first?
(Map) 2. What do the shaded nations represent?
3. Most colonies in South America were democratic. Why is this false?
4. Draw and label a triangle that represents the three social classes in Latin American colonies
5. One complaint against colonial rulers by mestizos was_____.
6. Why is Toussaint L'Ouverture considered a hero in Haiti?
7. Should Father Miguel Hidalgo be considered a hero in Mexico? Explain.
8. How did the American and French Revolutions affect the drive for independence for Latin nations?
9. Simon Bolivar is similar to George Washington because_____.
10. Peru, Chile, Argentina, and Uruguay gained their independence through the efforts of _____and _____.