

CHAPTER 24 Section 1 (pages 681–686)

Latin American Peoples Win Independence

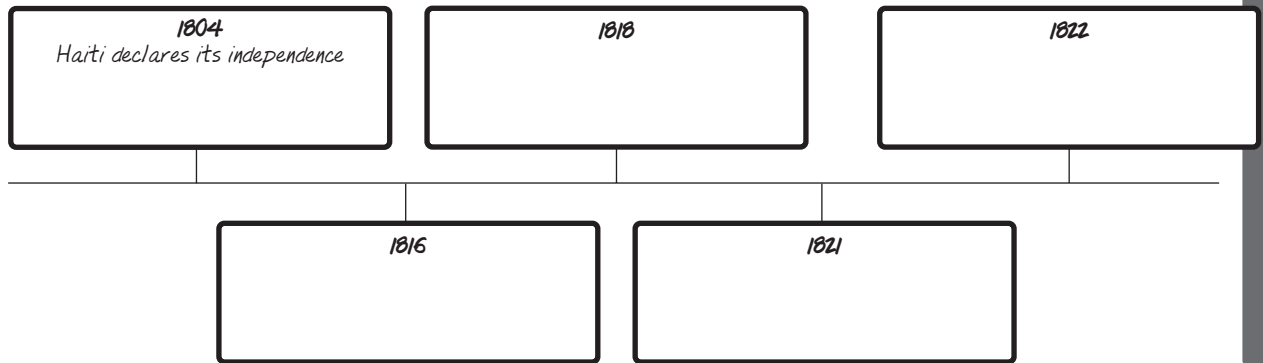
BEFORE YOU READ

In the last section, you read about revolution and the Congress of Vienna.

In this section, you will learn how Latin American countries got their independence.

AS YOU READ

Use the time line below to take notes on when each country got its independence.



TERMS AND NAMES

peninsulares Latin Americans born in Spain

creoles Spaniards born in Latin America

mulattos Africans or people of mixed European and African ancestry

Simón Bolívar Leader of Venezuelan independence movement

José de San Martín Leader who helped win independence for Chile and Argentina

Miguel Hidalgo Priest who began the revolt against Spanish rule in Mexico

José Morelos Leader of the Mexican revolt after Hidalgo was defeated

Colonial Society Divided (pages 681–682)

What classes existed in Latin American society?

In Latin America, society was divided into six classes of people. **Peninsulares**—those born in Spain—were at the top. Next were **creoles**, or Spaniards who had been born in Latin America. Below them were *mestizos*. *Mestizos* had mixed European and Indian ancestry. Next were **mulattos**, with mixed European and African ancestry, and then Africans. At the bottom were Indians.

1. Which groups of society were of European ancestry?

Revolutions in the Americas

(page 682)

Where in Latin America was independence first declared?

In the early 1800s, colonial peoples in Latin America fought for independence. The French colony of Saint Domingue was the first Latin American colony to fight for independence.

Almost all of the people who lived in the French colony were slaves of African origin. In 1791, about 100,000 of them rose in revolt. Toussaint L'Ouverture, a former slave, became their leader. In 1802 Napoleon sent troops to the island to end the rebellion. They failed. In 1804, the colony declared its independence as Haiti.

2. How did Haiti become independent?

Creoles Lead Independence

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Why did Creoles want independence?

Creoles felt that they were not treated fairly. This bad feeling boiled over when Napoleon overthrew the king of Spain and named his own brother as king. Creoles in Latin America had no loyalty to the new king. They revolted. Even after the old king was restored, they did not give up their fight for freedom.

Two leaders pushed much of South America to independence. **Simón Bolívar** was a writer, fighter, and political thinker. He survived defeats and *exile* to help win independence for Venezuela in 1821. **José de San Martín** helped win independence for Argentina in 1816 and Chile in 1818. Bolívar led their combined armies to a great victory in 1824. This victory gained independence for all the Spanish colonies.

3. Which two great leaders led the fights for independence in Venezuela, Chile, and Argentina?

Mexico Ends Spanish Rule; Brazil's Royal Liberator

(pages 685–686)

How did Mexico and Brazil achieve independence?

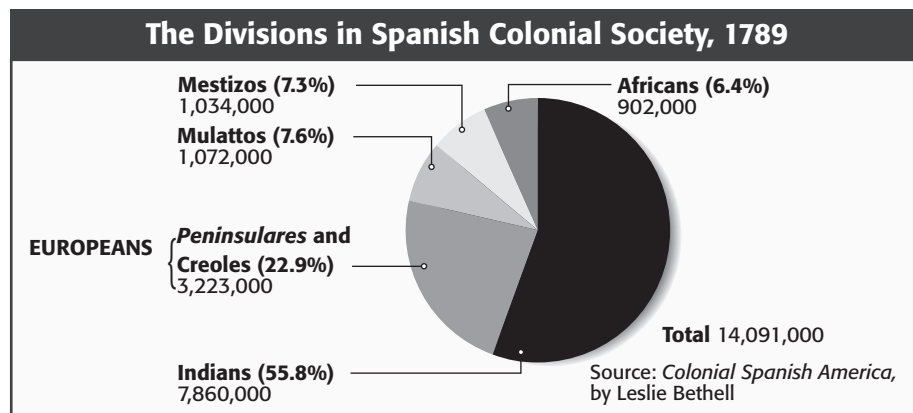
In Mexico, mestizos and Indians led the fight for independence. In 1810, **Miguel Hidalgo**, a village priest, called for a revolt against Spanish rule. Creoles united with the Spanish government to put down this revolt by the lower classes.

Hidalgo lost, but Padre **José María Morelos** took over leadership of the rebels. Fighting continued until 1815, when the creoles won.

After a revolution in Spain put a new government to power, the creoles joined with the other groups fighting for independence. In 1821, Mexico won its independence. In 1823, the region of Central America separated itself from Mexico.

In Brazil, 8,000 creoles signed a paper asking the son of Portugal's king to rule an independent Brazil. He agreed. Brazil became free that year through a bloodless revolt.

4. How were the drives for independence in Mexico and Brazil different?



Skillbuilder

Use the chart above to answer these questions.

1. Comparing What were the largest and smallest groups in society?

2. Comparing How many more Indians were in Spanish society than Africans?