

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Independence Movements in Latin America

**Directions:** Read the information below and complete the various steps.

**Common Core Objective: R.H.9-10.3**

Analyze in detail a series of events described in a text; determine whether earlier events caused later ones or simply preceded them.

**Common Core Objective: R.H.9-10.4**

Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including vocabulary describing political, social, or economic aspects of history/social science.

### **The Stage for Revolution**

**In Latin America:** In the Spanish colonies, there was a class of people called Creoles. They were people born in South America of Spanish **parentage**. As landowners, mine owners, and merchants, the Creoles made up a certain class of elite who benefited from Spain's commercial dealings with its colonies. At the same time, Creoles were not treated like peninsular Spaniards. They were not allowed to hold certain government or church posts.

**In Spain:** A series of events led up to political changes in Spain that permanently affected its ability to maintain its South American colonies. First, Spain allied with France in 1796. As Napoleon I gained power, he reduced the effectiveness of Spain's throne. He also used Spain's weakness to get at Portugal. The Portuguese royal family escaped to Brazil. The Spanish king Carlos IV **abdicated**, and his son, Ferdinand VII, was also removed from power. Napoleon's brother, Joseph Bonaparte, then became king of Spain. Resistance to the French occupation led to the formation of a *Cortes*, or parliament. Barely able to hold its own against the French presence, the *Cortes* was certainly unable to control the Spanish colonies. The Creoles, eager to take their rightful place as leaders instead of as commercial tools for the peninsular Spaniards, sought to take advantage of the *Cortes*' instability.

### **Independence and Instability**

**Haiti:** The French Revolution (1789) and subsequent Napoleonic wars deeply influenced **rebel** sentiments in the region. In a unique historic turn a Haitian slave **revolt** that began in 1791 grew into a revolution that freed Haiti from France in 1804. Although he was born a slave, Toussaint L'Ouverture rose to become liberator and leader of Haiti. (This is the only known successful slave revolt in history).

**Mexico:** Mexico's bid for independence is marked by a significant difference from the South American movements. In Mexico, Creoles, Indians, and mixed-blood peoples all joined in the revolution, making it as much a social as a political effort. Mexico's struggle, which began in 1810, was started by two priests named Miguel Hidalgo y Castillo and José María Morelos. Both of these priests were executed, in 1811 and 1815, respectively. Independence was completed by onetime **loyalist** Agustín de Iturbide, who made himself Mexico's emperor in 1821.

**Brazil:** By contrast, Brazil's path from colony to independent republic was a very smooth road. Brazil was not a Spanish colony but a Portuguese one. In 1808, when the Portuguese royal family fled to Rio de Janeiro, the colony benefited from their presence. The prince regent João VI established trade with friendly nations and encouraged local industries. The Creoles were pleased at the status they gained from the royal family's proximity. At the same time, they resented the thousands of Portuguese who flocked to Brazil to share that status.

A revolution in Portugal in 1820 sparked Brazil's move for independence. The revolutionary government took actions that made the Creoles feel that they were being "demoted" to colonial status—back to where they had been before 1808—both socially and economically. João returned to Portugal at the new government's behest. He left behind his son and heir, Pedro I. The Brazilians' fears were realized, so they urged Pedro to resist the Portuguese government's demands (to return to Portugal) and to become Brazil's leader instead. December 1822 saw Pedro as the constitutional **emperor** of Brazil.

**South America (in general):** In South America the rebel general Simón Bolívar became known as the father of South American independence. Among his **allies** were José de San Martín (in Argentina) and José Antonio Páez (in Venezuela).

**After Effects:** Despite the grand intentions proclaimed in Latin America's new **constitutions**, leaders were generally more interested in economic boons and personal power than in democracy. But dictators and civilian presidents alike favored growth through **exports** such as Jamaican and Haitian sugar, Andean minerals, and beef cattle from Argentina and Uruguay.

**Step #1:** Place the following terms under their proper heading: political, social, or economic. (Remember terms can potentially belong to more than one group!)

**Terms to place:** parentage; abdicated; rebel; revolt; loyalist; emperor; allies; constitutions; exports

<u>Political</u>	<u>Social</u>	<u>Economic</u>

**Step #2: Answer the Questions**

1. Which group of people in the social structure were generally the leaders of the independence movements? Explain two reasons why these people would revolt.

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2. Which person was the leader of the Haitian independence movement?

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3. What sets the Haitian revolution apart from all other revolutions in history?

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4. Which two priests are associated with the Mexican independence movement?

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5. Amongst the Haitian, Mexican, and Brazilian independence movements, which one was the *least* violent?

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6. Which person is the father of the South American independence movements?

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**Sources:**

"Latin America." *Britannica School*. Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., 2014. Web. 11 Apr. 2014.

"Revolutions in Latin America (Overview)." *World History: The Modern Era*. ABC-CLIO, 2014. Web. 11 Apr. 2014.

**Step #3: Cause and Effect**

The following is a list of a series of events from the previous article...

- Creoles not treated as well as peninsulares
- Haitian slave revolt began in 1791
- Mexico earned its independence in 1821
- João VI of Portugal went back home in 1820
- Leaders of new countries in South America were not interested in democracy

**Now, describe what either caused or affected the particular event in at least one-two sentences.**

<u>Cause</u>	<u>Effect</u>
Creoles not treated as well as peninsulares	
Haitian slave revolt began in 1791	
	Mexico earned its independence in 1821
João VI of Portugal went back home in 1820	
Leaders of new countries in South America were not interested in democracy	