

A Different Socio-Political Scene

- The British colonies united against one enemy for political rights
- Latin American independence was about social rights and equality
- Geographically and politically divided
- Fought against Napoleonic France, Spain, and each other



Spanish America

- *Peninsulares* dominated as a result of the Bourbon reforms
- Creoles resented this and wanted change
- *Castas* also wanted political and social equality
- Wars were long, bloody and often caused more conflict and tensions



Napoleon's Brother

- The new king of Spain Joseph Bonaparte was not acknowledged by the creoles
- They were loyal to the Bourbons
- Without a king, as they believed, the people were sovereign
- Like the 13 colonies, creoles wanted more autonomy before they pushed for independence



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Juntas

- **Junta**: a group of people controlling a government, especially after a revolutionary seizure of power.
- Formed as a response to what was happening in Spain during the Napoleon era
- Juntas ruled until Fernando VII was restored

Primera Junta



Rio de la Plata 1810

Juntas

- *Peninsulares* did all they could to prevent creoles from establishing these political units
- This pushed the creoles closer to the desire for independence
- When they lost confidence in imperial leadership, they revolted

Junta Grande

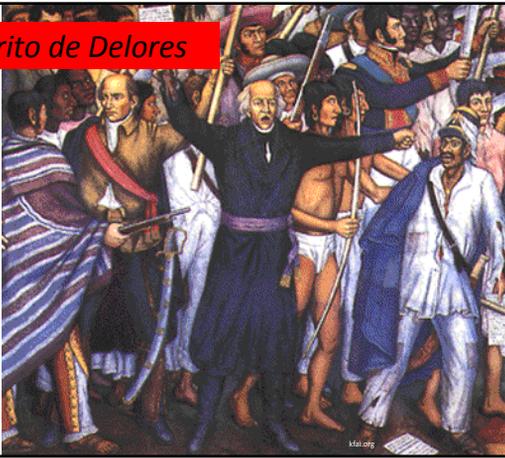


Rio de la Plata 1810

Demography and Geography

- The nature of independence wars varied from place to place
- Each area had its own leaders, agendas, and philosophies
- Father Hidalgo in the northern viceroyalty of New Spain tried to spur a social revolution
- In New Granada, leaders were trying to preempt a slave uprising like they saw in Haiti
- Each area had to address issues relevant to their local resources

Grito de Dolores



Mexican Independence

- New Spain has largest most ethnically diverse population
- September 16, 1810 – Father Miguel Hidalgo begins the Mexican revolution
- His call appealed to creoles, Native Americans, mestizos, mulattos, free blacks and more
- Called for redistribution of land, abolition of slavery, and an end to Indian tribute

Hidalgo's Forces

- The creoles and *peninsulares* were terrified by the 80,000 revolutionaries he recruited
- They were not disciplined or organized
- The creoles and *peninsulares* took advantage of the chaos and defeated Hidalgo's fighters with the royal and local militias
- Hidalgo was captured and executed in 1811

Father José Maria Morelos

- Fought against the royal army
- 1814 – wrote the Constitutional Decree for the Liberty of Mexico
 - Infused with Catholicism
 - Included abolition of slavery
- Guerilla warfare and war of attrition
- Mexican elites knew independence would happen
- Took the opportunity to preserve their power

Plan de Iguala

Led by Agustín de Iturbide

Promised three things ...

1. Independence from Spanish Crown
 2. Supremacy of the Roman Catholic Church
 3. Equality for *peninsulares* and creoles
- Iturbide continue success on the battlefield
 - Treaty of Cordoba recognizes and independent Mexico (1821)

Plan de Iguala

- Plan preserved the social order, which delays civil war
- Establishes a sovereign state
- Calls for a monarchy, but Bourbons refused to send any family members
- 1822 Emperor Iturbide (2 yrs)
- Dissolves congress when they criticize him → not a good idea on his part → the end