LATIN AMERICAN REVOLUTIONS
“It takes a revolution….

to make a solution….”

- Bob Marley

WHAT WERE THE PROBLEMS?
CAUSES

PROBLEMS OF THE SPANISH EMPIRE

THE ENLIGHTENMENT

THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

THE FRENCH REVOLUTION
PROBLEMS IN THE SPANISH EMPIRE

* Political Disempowerment:

Spanish colonies were run by officials appointed by the Spanish King to govern the colonies.

* Economic Disempowerment:

Mercantilism is when the colony exists to benefit the mother country. The colonies provided raw materials to Spain & Spain provided colonies with finished products. Colonies could only trade with the mother country (Spain).
SOCIAL HIERARCHY

Creoles: People of pure European blood But born in the New World

Mestizos: Natives + European blood

Peninsulares: Native Spaniards

Mulattos: African + European blood

Natives and Africans
* Government exists to protect the citizens’ natural rights of life, liberty, & property (John Locke).

* If the government violates the natural rights of the people, the citizens have a right to revolt against that tyranny (John Locke).
THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

* The success of the American Revolution showed others that colonies could succeed in overthrowing their more powerful mother countries.
* In an attempt to rule all of Europe, he puts family and friends in charge of the territories he has conquered.

* In 1810, Napoleon puts his brother Joseph on the throne of Spain. The Spanish royal family flees.
LEADERS

GLADISH

RAVILLON

LOGASILZ

NITRANZAS
SIMON BOLIVAR

* Elite Creole planter → Military General

* Called the “George Washington of South America.”

* Liberated territories of modern day Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, & Bolivia

* Plan for a federated Latin America was crushed by political in-fighting.
JOSE DE SAN MARTIN

* Creole officer who had trained in European armies.

* Liberated Argentina from Spanish control.

* San Martin felt only monarchy could work.
MIGUEL HIDALGO

* Highly educated Creole priest.

Hidalgo rang the church bell and called upon his mestizo and indigenous parishioners to take up arms against the Spanish.

* Led a rag-tag army toward Mexico City, unleashing mass slaughter of peninsulares in path.
Toussaint L’Ouverture was an important leader of the Haitian Revolution.

A self-educated slave with no military training drove Napoleon out of Haiti and led his country to independence.

Toussaint led enslaved Africans to victory over Europeans, abolished slavery, and secured native control over the colony in 1797.
You say you want a revolution,

Well, you know........

We all want to change the world.....

The Beatles

How has the tone changed from Bob Marley?
EFFECTS

POLITICAL

INTERNATIONAL

ECONOMIC
* By 1830, nearly all Latin American countries were ruled by caudillos (Military Dictator).

**WHY?**

* The upper classes supported dictatorship because it kept the lower classes out of power.
* The lower classes did not have experience with democracy. Dictatorship seemed normal.
“The American continents…are henceforth not to be considered as subjects for future colonization by any European powers.” - James Monroe, 1823
WHY?

* The U.S. had political and economic interests in keeping Europe out of the Western hemisphere. From 1823 on, it would be the U.S.’ backyard.

* Though the U.S. did not have the muscle to back up its threats, Great Britain agreed to support the Monroe Doctrine due to its new favorable trading position in Latin America.
* Now that trade was not restricted to the mother country, the U.S. and Great Britain became the new countries’ major trading partners.

* A colonial economy continued…Latin America mainly exported **cash crops** and raw materials while importing manufactured goods.
* As the imbalance of trade grew, Latin American countries took out large loans from the U.S., Britain, and Germany to build infrastructure.
THE QUESTION OF LAND

AT LEAST, DID THE SOCIAL PYRAMID CHANGE?

NO!

* Once the Spaniards were expelled, the new governments seized their lands and put them up for sale, BUT….only the creoles could afford to buy them.

* Thus, the creoles replaced the peninsulares at the top of the social pyramid.
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<td>POLITICAL</td>
<td>Dictatorship of the Council of the Indies and the Viceroy</td>
<td>Dictatorship of the Caudillos</td>
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<td>ECONOMIC</td>
<td>Unequal trade relationship with Spain benefiting</td>
<td>Unequal trade relationship with Great Britain and the U.S. benefiting</td>
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<td>SOCIAL</td>
<td>Native Spaniards at the top of the social ladder, followed by creoles, and with the rest of the population at the bottom</td>
<td>Creoles at the top of the ladder with the rest of the population at the bottom.</td>
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* Simon Bolivar had taken up the cause of independence hoping to establish a new order where Latin American countries would be free, democratic, and federated (in agreement to work together.) Instead, upon his death, he saw a world in which dictators ruled and disunity reigned. Disgusted by what he saw, he gave this warning to future generations:

“America is unгovernable for us. He who serves a revolution plows the sea.”