

# S. AM INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENTS: SIMON BOLIVAR



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Thank you, Bolivar!

# Simon Bolivar

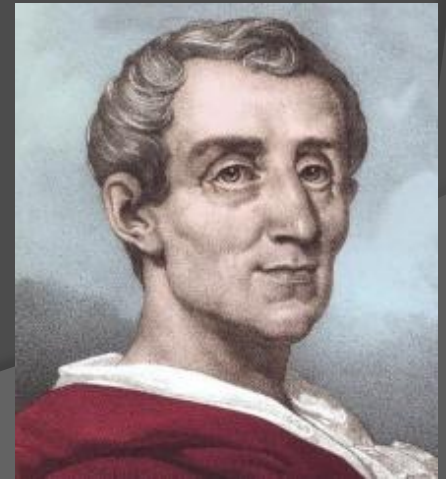
- 1783 Creole born in Caracas, Venezuela
- Enlightenment education
- “[...] symbol and hero of liberation struggle” (Keen 161)



John Locke



Voltaire



Montesquieu

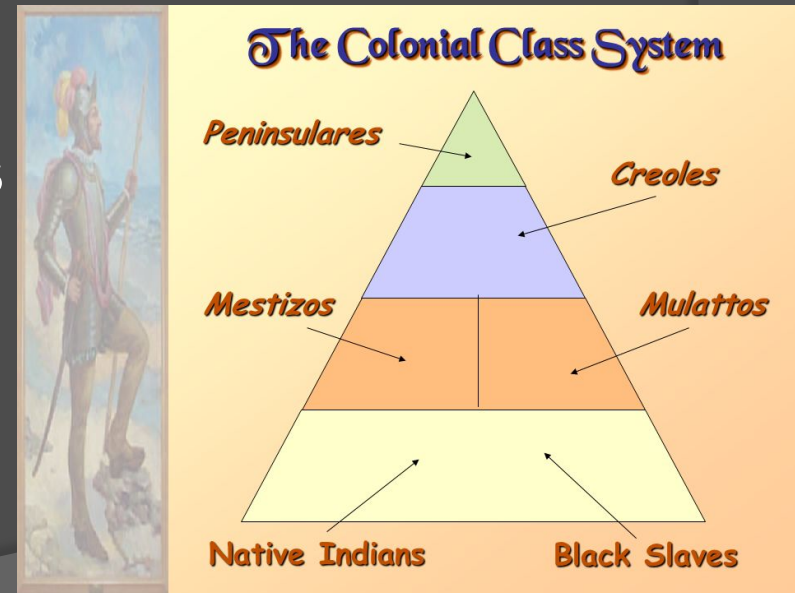
# General Causes

## Creoles vs. Peninsulares

- Different POVs: empire (mercantilism) vs. nativism
- “Institutionalized discrimination” (Keen)

## Enlightenment influences

- French, American Revolutions
- Free press disseminate ideas



# General Causes



## ⦿ Napoleonic Wars

- Charles IV and Ferdinand VII imprisoned → juntas
  - Creoles' dream of self-rule = more realistic (Keen)

## ⦿ Want free trade! (with Britain, maybe)

- **1749** Venezuelan merchant revolt
- **1781** Comunero Revolt
- **1793** Consulado de Caracas



# Development of Revolutions

1. **1810-1814** → Initial start and expansion of movement
2. **1814-1816** → Resurgence of royalist (peninsulares) domination
3. **1817-1824** → Actual independence



# Opposition in Venezuela

- ◉ **1810** formation of creole-dominated junta
- ◉ **1811** Venezuelan independence
  - Continuing conflict b/t patriots and royalists
- ◉ Patriots lose several battles under Miranda
  - Miranda flees Venezuela → Bolivar prevents
- ◉ Spain declares terror against all patriots



# Stirrings in Colombia

- Bolivar to New Granada (Colombia)
  - Manifesto to the Citizens of New Granada
    - Venezuelan independence=Colombian security (Bolivar)
- 1813 victory at Cucuta
  - General Bolivar uses guerilla warfare
  - Promotes based on merit





# To the Rest of Spanish Am.

- General Bolivar leads 500 men to Caracas
  - Declares counterterror against all Spaniards
  - Spaniards retreat



- Bolivar triumphant entrance to Caracas
  - Title of liberator
  - Was granted dictatorial powers

# Royalist Resurgence

- **1814 fall of Napoleon**
  - Ferdinand VII restored to Spanish throne
  - More Spanish troops to colony



# Internal Conflicts

- ◉ Slaves continue to struggle for equality
- ◉ Venezuelan llaneros (cowboys) dislike reforms
  - Violated customary rights
- ◉ **1814** Boves leads rebellion → Bolivar flees to Colombia
  - End of 2<sup>nd</sup> Venezuela republic



# Spanish Take Everything Back

- ◎ **1814** Colombia's provinces are not united
  - **1815** Bolivar leaves “hopeless” situation
- ◎ Spanish General Morillo reconquers of Venezuela
- ◎ Siege to Cartagena
  - Colombia also recaptured



# Bolivar to the Rescue

- ◉ Vision for L. Am:
  - Formation of several countries
  - Monarchy= “foreign to the genius of L. Am”
- ◉ Support from mulatto president Petion (Haiti)
  - Bolivar promises abolition of slavery



# Bolivar to the Rescue

- ◎ **March 1816** Bolivar to Margarita
  - Attempts to land on Venezuela beaten back
- ◎ **1816** Establish base in Angostura
  - In Orinoco River valley—
  - Farther from Spanish forces
  - Wanted loyalty of llaneros





# Turning the Tide

- Paez, llanero chieftain, supports Bolivar
- Supplies bought with English merchant loans
- Ferdinand VII refuses to make concessions
  - If he had, “the Spanish Empire in America might have survived much longer” (Keen)



# Path to Victory

- **1819** Llaneros distract Spanish forces in N. Venezuela



- Bolivar to Bogota
  - Quick victory in field of Boyaca
- Bolivar leaves Santander to organize gov't
  - Bolivar returns to Angostura

# Path to Victory

- 1820 Spanish revolt→
  - Restoration of liberal constitution of 1812
  - Ferdinand must give up colonial reconquest
- July 1821 Bolivar and Paez victory at Carabobo
  - Venezuela free



# Path to Victory

- Bolivar prepares to attack Quito
- Sucre to port of Guayaquil
  - Reinforcements from San Martin →
  - Victory on Mount Pichincha
- **1821** Gran Colombia established by Bolivar
  - Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama





# Victory at Last

- 1823 Bolivar to Peru to unite it
- **December 9, 1824** Sucre victory at Ayacucho
  - Last major engagement of war
  - “The work of continental liberation was achieved” (Keen)
- **1826** Spanish garrison at Callo (Peru) surrender



# Venezuelan Independence Round 3

- ◉ **1819** Bolivar presents constitution for Venezuela
  - Nondemocratic features like hereditary senate
- ◉ Congress rejects Bolivar's constitution
  - New constitution echoing many ideas
  - Bolivar becomes president





# New Granada Government

- ◉ Bolivar as president
- ◉ Santander as vice president
- ◉ Bolivar favored democratic government



# Peru and Bolivia



- **1825** Upper Peru becomes Bolivia
  - **1826** slightly-modified constitution that Bolivar wrote adopted
    - Separation of powers → 4 branches
    - President has life-term
  - First president was Sucre
- **Similar constitution for Peru**



# Implications of Independence

## ⦿ Economic

- Free trade— no mercantilism
- Depletion of workforce, land/crops/mines destroyed
- Trade disrupted during fighting

## ⦿ Social

- Slaves freed
- Some class/color lines blurred

FREE TRADE



NO UNFAIR  
BARRIERS

CERTIFIED