Mexican Independence Movement
(1810-1824)

Same idea, wrong country.

Kristen Cox and Ben Nadler
THE WAR

September 16, 1810 to September 27, 1821

Mural Diego Rivera
Quick Backstory

- Keen: Napoleon → Spain becomes “a helpless satellite” (160)

- And, also according to Keen: → “Among the causes of the revolutionary crisis that matured from 1808 to 1810, the decline of Spain under the inept Charles IV was certainly a major one” (159).

- 1793: Spain & England vs. France

- Post-1795: Spain & France vs. England
  - England cuts Spain off from Atlantic
  - Spain forced to allow neutral ships to sail from Spain to foreign ports in order to trade with its colonies

Note to self: never mess with England
1808: Napoleon forces Charles IV and Ferdinand VII to abdicate.

So, rich white males (Creoles and Peninsulares) decide to try to make their own governments...
Causes of the Revolution

Mexico’s citizens (specifically Creole, originally) wanted to...

- Revamp society’s views
- Improve political institutions

Prime examples of how nobody learns from history
Revamping Society

- Redo land distribution policy
- Reduce Catholic Church’s wealth and power
- Remove foreign control of economy
Due to strict, traditional societal views, Mexican nationalism is born amongst the middle and lower classes.
What Does Burns Think?

His theses:

“The Mexican struggle for independence began as a major social, economic, and political revolution but ended as a conservative coup d’etat” (79) AND

“Can fundamental societal changes occur rapidly, if at all?” (195).
In Keen’s opinion:

- For a time there was an “incipient social revolution” (169).
- The war crossed more social boundaries.

Kirkwood?

Who’s this!? Another author dude with his own perspective!? WHAT!?

- “Mexico’s independence from Spain [...] was not revolutionary” (75).

“The process reflected the conservative interests of the landed elite and their response to European events rather than specific actions in Mexico” (75).
Very Important Figures of the Independence
Padre Don Miguel Hidalgo

- Creole, Catholic priest
- Sympathized with Natives, according to Keen
- Middle class family, educated man
- Made the Grito de Dolores, 1810
- Bring King Ferdinand back!

Sep 16, 1810: Grito de Dolores: “My children: a new dispensation comes to us today. Will you receive it? Will you free yourselves? Will you recover the lands stolen three hundred years ago from your forefather by the hated Spaniards? We must act at once... Will you not defend your religion and your rights as true patriots? Long live our Lady of Guadalupe! Death to bad government! Death to the gachupines [settlers from Spain]!”
José María Morelos y Pavon

- Mestizo priest, succeeded Hidalgo post-mortem
- Established Congress and organized more independence
  - Declaration of Rights and Independence
    - Abolished slavery, classes now equal
- Captured escorting Congress, executed December 1815

That’s no priest... it’s a dictator!
The Declaration of Rights and Independence

**ABOLISHED:**
- Slavery
- Imprisonment for debt
- Collection of tithes for more property

**CREATED:**
- Executive Council (Poder Ejecutivo)
- Constitutional monarchy

What the Creoles were thinking...

...what the Creoles did.
Results

- Money!? Not really
- Terrible administration near Texas
- Still fighting politically
Government Established Post-Revolution
A Sneak Peek at the Future: Manuel de Mier y Terán

- Creole, military guy, took over post-Morelos
- Dissolved Congress because of corruption
  - Caused leadership to go to pieces
    - The Empire of Mexico was born!
Antonio López de Santa Anna

Santa Anna = the leg guy

“I’m gonna need that guy’s leg.”