

# Chapter 31 The Americas in the Age of Independence

# Before We Begin

- The AP World History course description is careful to say that the United States is included in “relation to its interaction with other societies.” Consider how historical patterns in the United States fit with Latin America and other world regions as you read those sections.
- There are three Latin American subsections in this chapter:
  - Political Fragmentation
  - Economic Dependence and Development
  - National Identity and gender roles
- Read each of these carefully as they are extremely important on the national exam.

# The Building of American States

- Millions of immigrants came to the U.S. between 1750 and 1914, some voluntarily and some enslaved.
- Each, however, contributed to the economic, political, and social development of the new nation and all contributed to the transformation of the Americas.
- Westward Expansion in the U.S.
  - Federal System of government left some responsibilities to the states, and also allowed for the admission of new states to the Union.
  - Louisiana Purchase of 1803 doubled the size of the U.S.
    - Manifest Destiny
  - Mexican American War (1846-1848) – Acquired much of the Southwestern U.S.
  - Conflict with natives accompanied westward expansion
    - Battle of Wounded Knee in 1890

# The Building of American States

- The American Civil War
  - As the U.S. expanded Westward, the issue of whether or not slavery would expand with it became explosive and divisive.
  - Civil War broke out after Abraham Lincoln's election in 1860 and lasted from 1861-1865
    - Southern states withdrew from the Union
    - Two Key Issues:
      - States' rights versus federal government authority
      - Needs of a growing industrial-capitalist nation (North) pitted against those of a plantation, cash crop economy (South).
    - In the end, the industrially superior North won the war, slavery was abolished, and the U.S. forged a strong central government.

# The Building of American States

- The Canadian Dominion: Independence without War
  - Ethnic divisions between French-speaking Roman Catholic Canadians and English-speaking Protestants.
  - Canada overcame these divisions to hold off expansion from the U.S. (War of 1812).
  - Britain granted Canada independence in 1867 and Canada reached full independence in 1931.
  - Canada maintained ties to Great Britain, protected itself against the U.S., developed as a culturally diverse and politically unified society, and gained independence all without suffering civil war.

# The Building of American States

- Latin American: Fragmentation and Political Experimentation
  - Division, conflict, rule by tyrants, rebellion, and civil war would mark much of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries in Latin America.
  - Simon Bolivar hoped to form a Gran Columbia (confederation) to provide political, military, and economic strength to resist foreign invasion after throwing off Spanish rule.
    - Did not work as the Latin American nations instead formed independent nations and failed time after time to ratify constitutions.

# The Building of American States

- Latin America: Fragmentation and Political Experimentation
  - Caudillos
    - Regional Military Leaders
    - Juan Manuel de Rosas
      - Caudillo who ruled Argentina through terror for nearly 20 years
  - Mexico
    - There were a series of governments which moved from monarchy to republic to caudillo rule and which eventually produced some liberal reform.
    - After Mexico's defeat in the Mexican-American War, President Benito Juarez brought some lasting liberal reforms to Mexico.
    - Mexican Revolution (1911-1920)
      - Over 2 million Mexicans killed.
      - Middle class, peasants, and workers against dictator Porfirio Diaz
      - Mexican government wins but lasting reforms are achieved.

# American Economic Development

- While the United States and Canada absorbed vast numbers of migrants during the nineteenth century and built powerful, wealthy industrial societies in part by exploiting British investment, the nations of Latin America did not fare so well.

# American Economic Development

- Migration to the Americas
  - There was a mass migration of Europe and Asian peoples to the Americas during the nineteenth century
  - There was also significant internal migration as many peoples from Latin America moved north in search of work and economic success
- Asian
  - Worked on railroads, or mined for gold in the west
- European
  - Dominated textile mills and related industries in the American Northeast
- Latin Americans
  - Worked mostly on plantations cultivating cash crops

# American Economic Development

- Economic Expansion in the United States
  - After the American Civil War, British investors found safe, white-controlled investment opportunities throughout the United States which dramatically stimulated the American Economy.
    - Textile industries
    - Railroad Construction
      - Transcontinental railroad lines stimulated an interconnected economy.
    - Steel Mills
    - Coal and iron mines

# American Economic Development

- Canadian Prosperity
  - British investment also stimulated the Canadian economy
  - The resulting boom in industries in Canada drew migrant workers to Canada from Asia and Europe.
  - American investment eventually grew to outpace British investment and the economies of the United States and Canada became increasingly independent.

# American Economic Development

- Latin American Dependence
  - The Latin American experience with industrialization and development during the nineteenth century was not like the North American Experience.
    - The generated capital and control of industries and exports remained predominately in foreign hands.
    - Thus, foreign investors, especially the British – instead of local people – benefited from Latin America’s mining industries and agricultural production.

# American Cultural and Social Diversity

- American societies experienced much strife during the era 1750-1914.
- The struggles between diverse peoples with competing and often conflicting goals frequently pitted social class against social class and culture against culture.

# American Cultural and Social Diversity

- Multicultural Society in the U.S.
  - Although it was the most diverse society in the world, the political and economic power in the U.S. rested in the hands of elite white males of European descent.
    - African Americans
      - Reconstruction period ended with little progress being made to advance the rights of former slaves.
      - Discrimination and segregation common
    - Indigenous Peoples
      - Assimilation policies attempted to strip Native Americans of their traditional culture / beliefs
    - Women
      - Pushed for more rights, but meaningful gains in political and economic power would not be achieved until the twentieth century
    - Immigrants
      - Brought new food, religion, tradition, and language to the U.S.
      - Also faced significant discrimination
        - Irish, Chinese, Japanese

# The Americas in the Age of Independence

- Canadian Cultural Contrasts
  - Indigenous peoples and former slaves from the U.S. who had escaped were treated in much the same way in Canada as they were in the U.S.
  - Metis (descendants of French fur traders) had often intermarried with indigenous peoples and resented the growing westward expansion of British-descended people.
    - This led to many violent conflicts in the 1870s and 1880s between these two groups.
    - Louis Riel led Meti rebellion in Northwest Canada but was put down.

# The Americas in the Age of Independence

- Ethnicity, Identity, and Gender in Latin America
  - Latin American countries developed a social hierarchy based on ethnicity and color as a result of both their colonial experiences and as a legacy of slavery.
    - Gaucho culture (like the cowboy culture of North America) was an exception to the race based hierarchy.
    - Machismo – The social ethic that honors male strength, courage, aggression, and cunning – became an integral part of Latin American tradition.
      - Men dominated most aspects of Latin American Society.