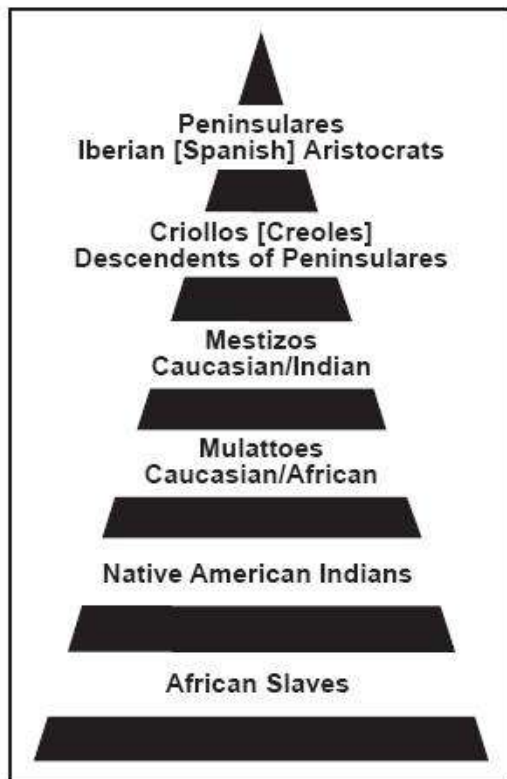


Document 1

Social Classes in Spanish Colonies



Source: John Osborne et al., *Global Studies*,
N & N Publishing (adapted)

Document 2

Wars against Spain's authority in South America disrupted the economy there. People had been uprooted. Mines had been flooded and abandoned, roads had been neglected and harbor facilities had fallen into decay. All this could be repaired, but establishing the equality, freedom and democracy that liberals tended to believe in was questionable.

While fighting for independence some had thought about justice for Indians, but after the wars most of them ignored the Indians, and societies continued to be highly stratified according to race. The Criollos were now free from paying taxes to Spain, and they could now aspire to offices that had been held by Spaniards, but many non-whites remained in debt slavery or tied to the lands of the wealthy Criollos. And some wealthy landholders who had led bands of rebels against the Spanish had acquired a taste for military action for political ends and personal glory.

Bolivar had seen as far back as 1815 that the kind of independence that had been created by Britain's colonies on the Atlantic coast of North America could not be created in South America. He disliked what he saw as a tendency toward anarchy and political immaturity. Bolivar believed in institutions, the rule of law, a strong central government, social justice and all employment freely and fairly contracted. Spain, he complained, had not allowed people in the New World to experience and develop self-government within a framework of institutions.

Source: Macrohistory and world timeline Copyright © 2009-2015 by Frank E. Smitha

Document 3

For most of the new Latin American nations their first half century was a time of decline and disappointment. The great liberators could not maintain control of the nations they had freed. The liberal, urban Creoles who had begun the independence movements were inexperienced and unable to make the political compromises necessary to govern new countries. They soon lost power to crude military leaders, or caudillos, whose armed gangs struggled for power in a confusing series of upheavals. A growing sectionalism accompanied these coups. Mammoth states broke up into tiny republics, which in turn were threatened by localism.

In part, Latin America's problems resulted from the Spanish colonial system that had offered native-born whites little opportunity or responsibility in government. The tradition of autocracy and paternalism was a poor precedent for would-be democratic republics. The emphasis on executive power inspired presidents, generals, landowners, and church officials to wield authority with arrogant disregard for public opinion and representative government.

The colonial economic system, based on raw materials rather than industry, encouraged concentration of land and other forms of wealth in a few hands. The church with its vast properties, monopoly on education and welfare agencies, and command over cultural life complicated the politics of every new nation.

Source: History-world, Latin America. Establishment of Latin American States, Allen Pikermen 2002

Document 4

We are not Europeans; we are not Indians; we are but a mixed species of aborigines and Spaniards. Americans by birth and Europeans by law, we find ourselves engaged in a dual conflict: We are disputing with the natives for titles of ownership, and at the same time we are struggling to maintain ourselves in the country that gave us birth against the opposition of the invaders. Thus our position is most extraordinary and complicated.

Source: Simon Bolivar, February 15, 1819 at the Congress of Angostura

Document 5

Although in practice they were unable to abandon the legacies of three centuries of Iberian colonial rule, leaders in Latin America turned generally to other political traditions for solutions to the problem of legitimacy. Adapting models from northern Europe and the United States, they set up republics across the region. Doing so not only helped justify their separation from Spain but also enabled Latin American elites to try to follow the example of countries they most admired, particularly Great Britain, the United States, and France. Many in the upper classes of Latin American societies identified political institutions as sources of the economic progress those countries were enjoying. At the same time, efforts to implement those political systems in Latin America brought to the region's new countries Enlightenment conceptions of politics based on rationality and a vision of politics as an interaction of individuals who enjoyed specific, definable rights and duties.

Source: Encyclopedia Britannica 2015

Document 6

[I]f the Creoles had one eye on their masters, they kept the other on their servants. The Creoles were intensely aware of social pressure from below, and they strove to keep the coloured people at a distance...white superiority was not unchallenged; beyond it defenses swarmed Indians, mestizos, free blacks, mulattos and slaves...

Traditionally the elite looked to Spain to defend them...[But] when the monarchy collapsed in 1808, the Creoles could not allow the political vacuum to remain unfilled, their lives and property unprotected. They had to move quickly to anticipate popular rebellion, convinced that if they did not seize the opportunity, more dangerous forces would do so.

Source: Leslie Betheli, *The Independence of Latin America* 1987

Document 7

In 1791, a slave revolt erupted on the French colony, and Toussaint-Louverture, a former slave, took control of the rebels. Gifted with natural military genius, Toussaint organized an effective guerrilla war against the island's colonial population. He found able generals in two other former slaves, Dessalines and Henri Christophe, and in 1795 he made peace with revolutionary France following its abolishment of slavery. Toussaint became governor-general of the colony and in 1801 conquered the Spanish portion of island, freeing the slaves there.

In January 1802, an invasion force ordered by Napoleon landed on Saint-Domingue, and after several months of furious fighting, Toussaint agreed to a cease-fire. He retired to his plantation but in 1803 was arrested and taken to a dungeon in the French Alps, where he was tortured and died in April.

Soon after Toussaint's arrest, Napoleon announced his intention to reintroduce slavery on Haiti, and Dessalines led a new revolt against French rule. With the aid of the British, the rebels scored a major victory against the French force there, and on November 9, 1803, colonial authorities surrendered. In 1804, General Dessalines assumed dictatorial power, and Haiti became the second independent nation in the Americas.

Source: History Channel, *This Week in History* series

Document 8

The immediate post-revolutionary period of Haitian history was a terribly difficult one. The country was in shambles. Most of the plantations were destroyed, many skilled overseers were gone (either dead, in hiding, or having fled for their lives because of the treatment of slaves), skilled managers were often also gone, the former slaves did not want to work someone else's plantation, there was a grave fear that France would re-invade, and the rest of the international community was either openly hostile or totally uninterested in Haiti.

Source: Bob Corbett, Webster

Document 9

Haiti became independent in 1804, but no nation recognized it until the 1820s. Simón Bolívar (1783–1830) took refuge in Haiti during his struggle against Spain, but even the newly independent nations of the Americas did not want to have anything to do with a nation of freed slaves. Haiti was too potent an example to the blacks in the rest of the hemisphere. Haiti's leaders were demonized in French and American propaganda of the time and since, and Haiti was and to some extent still is held up as an example of how black people cannot rule themselves and need supervision. But black people were not so easily fooled. Haiti became a rallying cry for black liberation movements from Denmark Vesey's (c. 1767–1822) planned uprising in South Carolina in 1822 to Ahmed Sékou Touré's (1922–1984) call for the independence of the Republic of Guinea in Africa in 1957.

Source: Encyclopedia Britannica

Document 10

Along with other Spanish colonies in the New World, Mexico fought for and gained its independence in the early 1800s. On Sept. 16, 1810, in the town of Dolores Hidalgo, the priest Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla rang his church's bells and exhorted the local Indians to "recover from the hated Spaniards the land stolen from your forefathers. . ." This is celebrated as Mexican Independence Day. Padre Hidalgo was hanged in July 1811.

Hidalgo was succeeded by Jose Maria Morelos y Pavon, another parish priest but a more able leader than his predecessor. Morelos called a national congress, which on Nov. 6, 1812, officially declared Mexico to be independent from Spain. Morelos was executed by a Spanish firing squad in 1815, but his army, led by Vicente Guerrero, continued fighting until 1821. Because of weaknesses and political divisions in Spain, the revolutionary movement gained strength. Agustin de Iturbide, a royalist officer, joined forces with Guerrero and drafted the Plan of Iguala, which provided for national independence under a constitutional monarchy--the Mexican Empire. Not surprisingly, Iturbide was crowned emperor of Mexico in July 1822, and the newly formed empire lasted less than a year. Iturbide was exiled from the country but returned and was executed...

[A]fter nearly a half century of independence, Mexico had made relatively little economic or political progress, and the peasantry continued to suffer. In 1858 Benito Juarez, a Zapotec from Oaxaca, became president. He attempted to eliminate the role of the Roman Catholic church in the nation by appropriating its land and prerogatives. In 1859 the Ley Lerdo was issued--separating church and state, abolishing monastic orders, and nationalizing church property. Juarez had anticipated that Indians and peasants would reacquire the 50 percent of the nation's land formerly held by the church, but the properties were quickly purchased by the elite.

Because of the many years of economic and political chaos that had elapsed, Mexico was financially insolvent. In 1861 Juarez announced a suspension of payment on foreign loans, and the British, Spanish, and French occupied Veracruz in order to collect the Mexican debts....

Source: Encyclopedia Britannica

19th Century Latin American Revolutions

Ways the revolutions succeeded	Ways the revolutions failed

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