

# Latin American Wars for Independence

## Question:

**What long and short term factors caused the wars for independence in Latin America in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century (late 1700s and early 1800s)?**



# Western Hemisphere Colonies at 1763

# Causes of the Latin American Movements for Independence

## Long term causes

**Creole class discontent**

**Limitations of Free Trade**

**Weak Gov't and Military**

**Nationalism**

**Racism**

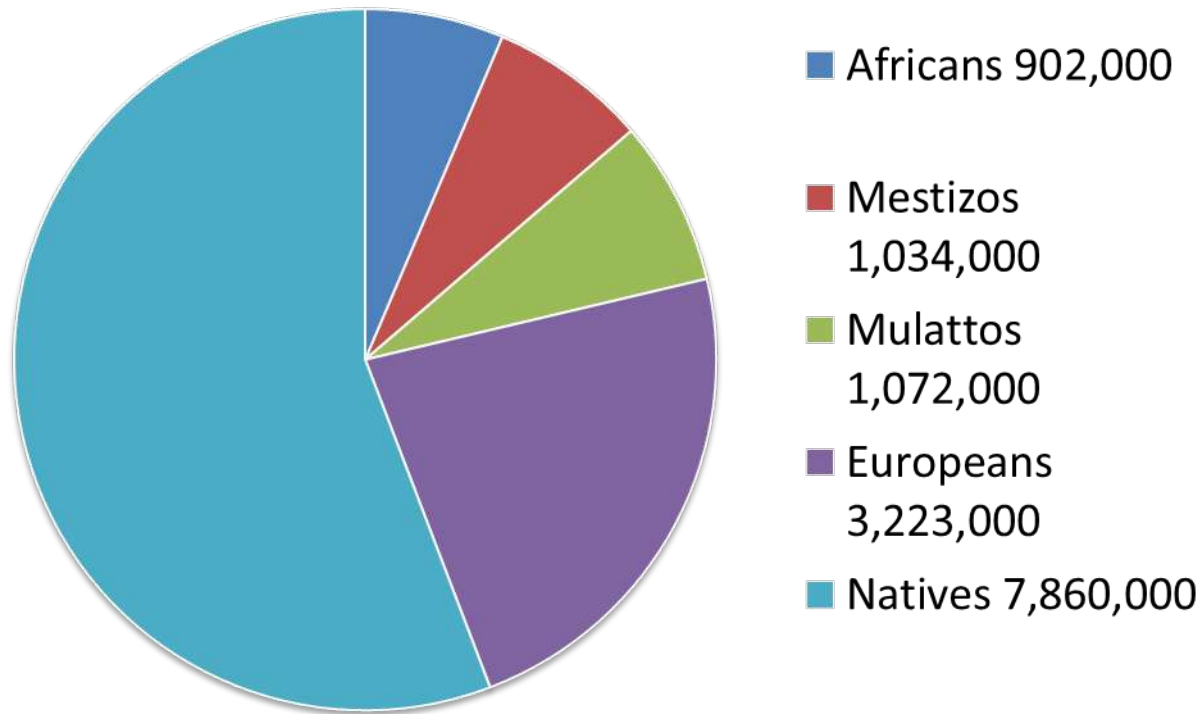
## Short term causes

**Other successful Revolutions  
(American, French, Haitian)**

**“Trigger” >> Napoleon  
invades Spain**

# Why were different groups dissatisfied with colonialism?

**Divisions in Latin American Society**



**Spanish govt, culture, and religion develops in Latin America  
colonization—16<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup> centuries**



**Spanish crown establishes political and economic authority in Latin America  
Bourbon Reforms—mid 18<sup>th</sup> century**



**Haitian Revolution >>Haiti is declared a Republic -- 1804**



**Napoleon invades Spain  
“Spanish ulcer”—1808**



**Struggle for independence begins:  
factions develop in Latin America  
conservatives v liberals  
Creoles led movement—1810 – Why?**



**Restoration of the Crown in Spain :  
struggle for independence continues  
royalists vs. patriots  
King Ferdinand VII—1814-1825**



# Latin American Revolutions

**Toussaint  
L'Ouverture  
Leads a  
Revolution  
in Haiti  
(1804)**



# Latin American Revolutions

**Simón Bolívar:  
The “Brains”  
of the Revolution**





# Latin American Revolutions



**Jose de San  
Martin:  
The “Muscle”  
of the  
Revolution**



# Bolivar & San Martin Fight for Independence!



# Does independence mean stability?

## Bolivar's Accomplishment

## Bolivar's Failure

After uniting Venezuela, Colombia, & Ecuador into Gran Colombia, he left to help free the rest of Latin America.

He died a year later, with his goal of uniting all of South America unfulfilled.



# Latin American States After the Revolutions



# Evaluation of the Revolutions

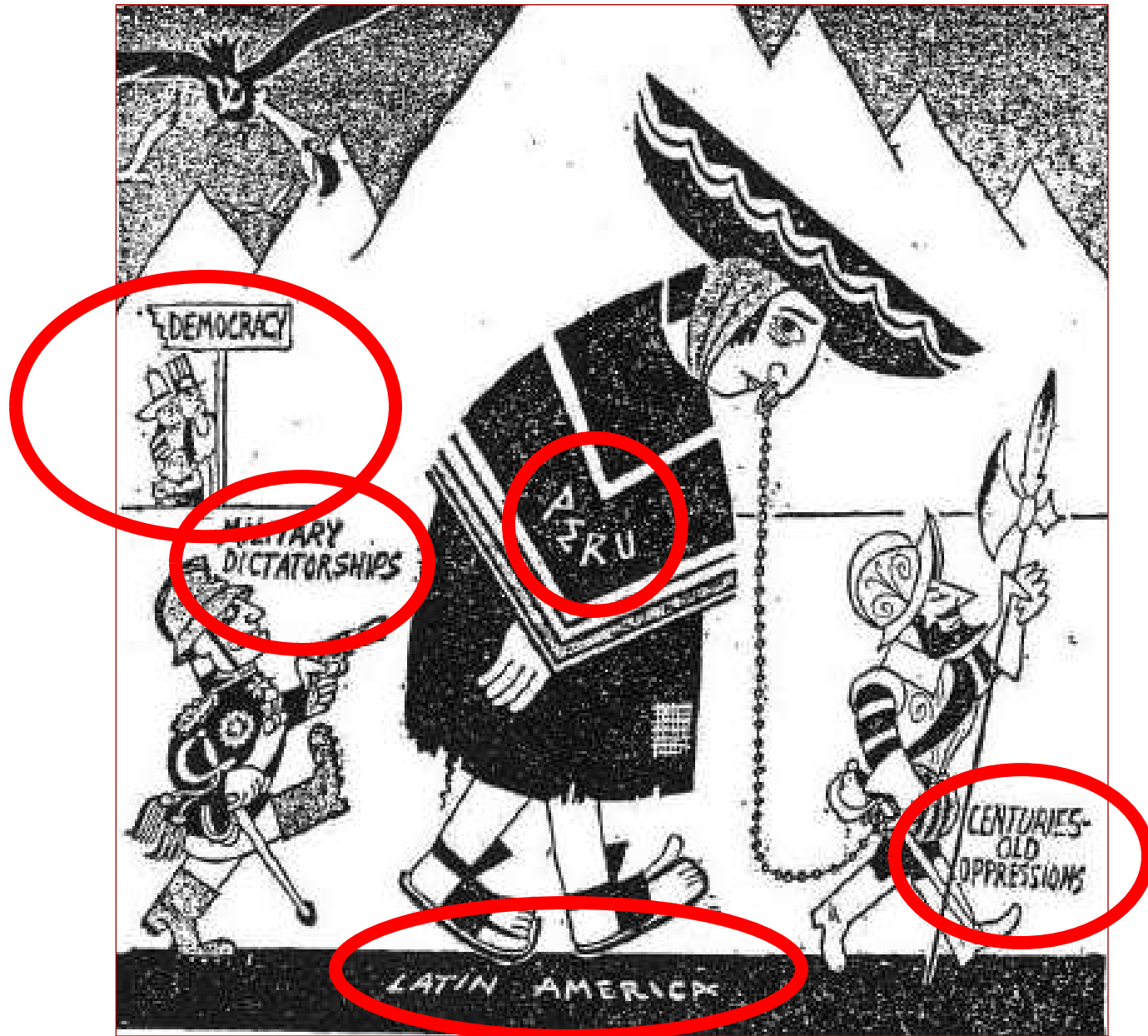
- **By the mid-1820s, revolts create many newly-independent nations**
- **No unity among the new nations**
- **Wars brought more poverty**
- **Individual revolutions differed in character and course, ∴ outcomes varied**

# Immediate Political Outcomes

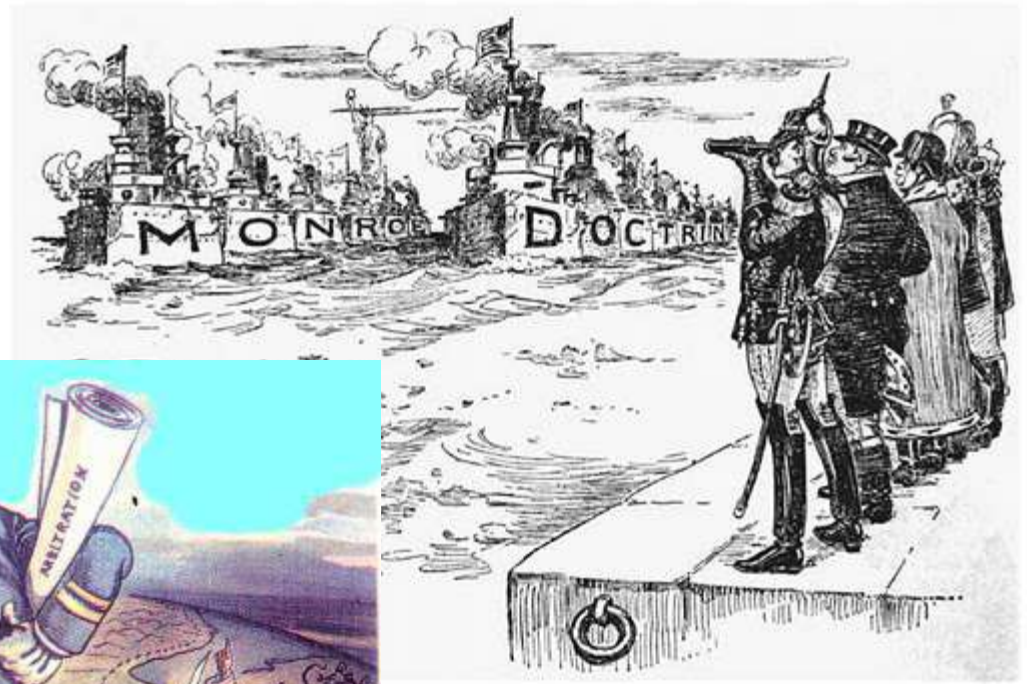
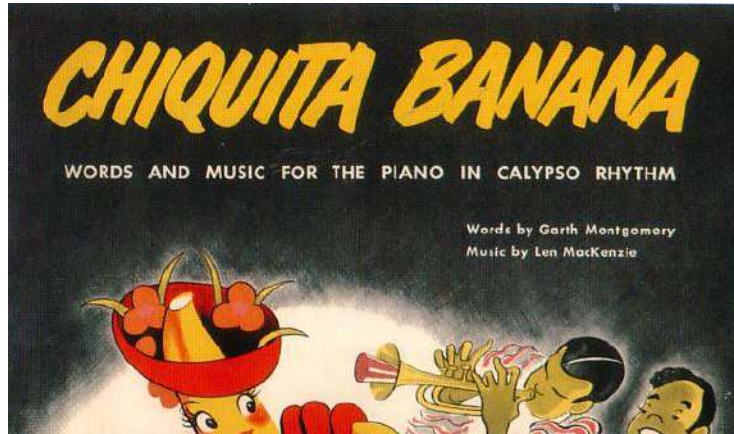
- **Independence from Spain**
- **No immediate political stability**
- **Legacy of military leadership left many nations under military dictatorships**
  - **Wealthy Creole “reformers” who took power through coup d’etats, took away basic human rights, engaged in nepotism**



**Does independence mean liberalism over conservatism?**  
**What is the message of this political cartoon?**



Does independence mean freedom from foreign control?



# Immediate Socio-Economic Outcomes

- **Lingering institutions of slavery**
  - **Brazil (1888)**
- **Persistence of racial inequalities, but measure of assimilation and social mobility**
- **Destruction of colonial economic systems**

So, by 1825, most Latin American colonies became Independent.

What happened next? What were the long-term effects?

*To what extent were these Latin American countries able to establish Enlightenment ideas / Revolutionary goals by the end of the 1800s / 1900?*