

# Revolution and Independence in Latin America

# Interpret the following quotation

- “Those who have served the revolution have plowed the sea.”  
-Simon Bolivar



# Causes

- Economic causes: The colonial relationship
  - High taxes on imports
  - Imperial **monopolies** on key industries
  - **Mercantilism** meant bulk of profits flowed into treasury of mother country
  - System dependent on slave labor for plantation agriculture

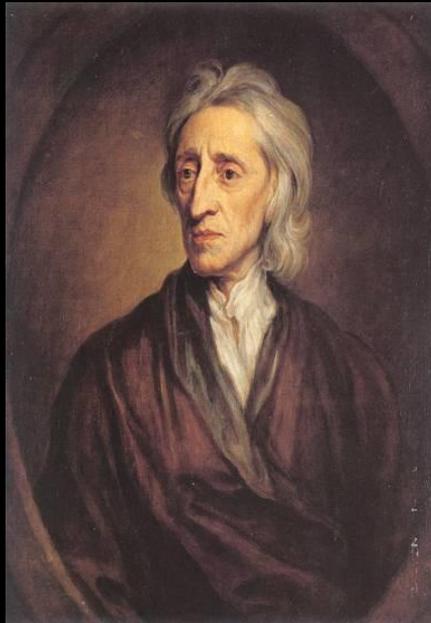
# Intellectual

Colonial bourgeoisie familiar with literature  
of Enlightenment

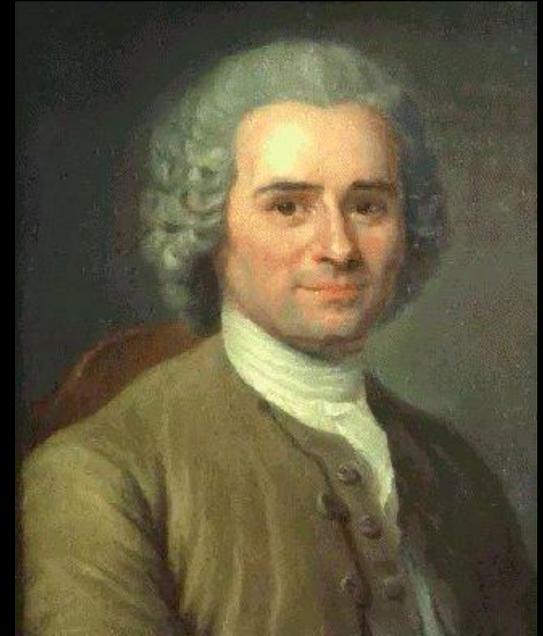
John Locke's Social Contract

Rousseau's Social Contract

John Locke



John-Jacques  
Rousseau



# Political causes

- Formation of revolutionary Juntas during Napoleon's occupation of Spain
  - Juntas claimed control over colonies
  - Spanish crown unable to enforce power while deposed



# Social Causes

- Most colonists favored Junta (esp. bourgeoisie)
- Wealthy, vocal minority resisted juntas – wanted status quo

# Military causes

- Loyalists resisted juntas
- Armed uprisings against loyalists

# Spanish South America

- 1811 – Creoles declared independence in Caracas
  - Mostly large landowners
  - Wanted to keep slavery
  - Opposed full citizenship to Mulattos

Consequently: Free blacks and slaves joined loyalists **against** revolution

# Spanish South America

- Simon Bolivar, famous military commander, put in charge by revolutionary Creoles
  - Initial position anti-abolition (wanted to keep slavery)
  - Changed position on slavery to gain loyalty of slaves and free blacks
- 1814 – King Ferdinand VII (restored to throne) accepted constitutional limits to power

King Ferdinand VII  
of Spain



Simon Bolivar



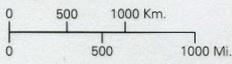
# Spanish South America

- Bolivar wanted independence, not just constitutional monarchy
  - 1824 overthrew Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Bolivia, and Peru
  - Attempt to form Confederacy (like N. America) called “Grand Colombia”
  - 1830 Grand Colombia failed, fragmented
  - Bolivia named after Bolivar



1811 Year independence gained

Colony





First flag of Gran Colombia



Congress of Gran Colombia

# Mexico

- Domination by Spaniards of government, church, and economy
- Aggressive moves by wealthy, central Mexican farmers to drive natives off traditional land met resistance

Native Laborers on  
Encomienda



- Revolutionary movement taken up by priests
  - Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla started revolution of poor, attacked mines and ranches
    - 1811 – Captured and executed

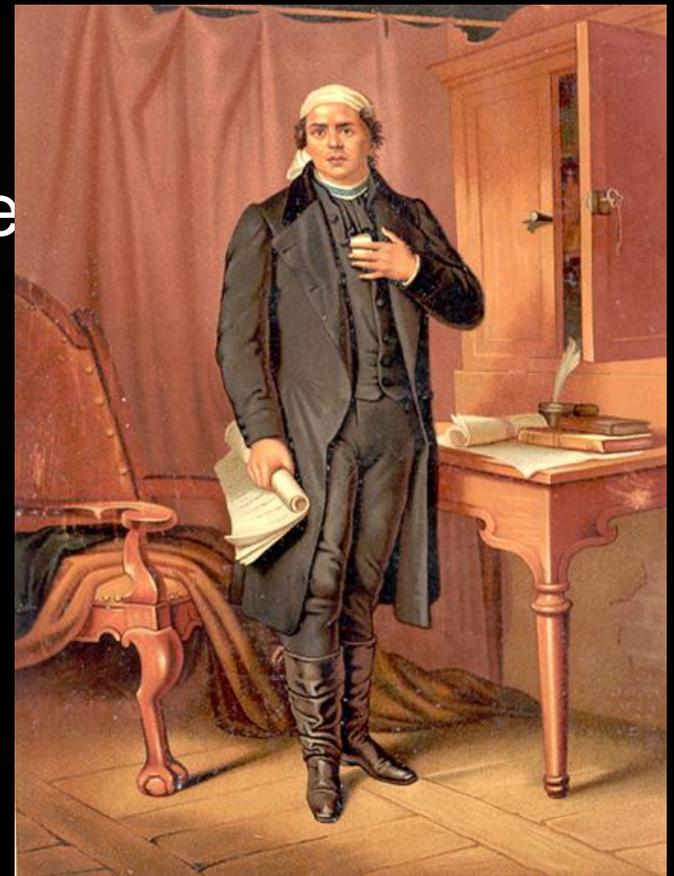


Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla

1813 Father Jose Maria Morelos created army

- Convened new Congress
- Declared independence
- Drafted constitution
- 1815 – captured and executed

Jose Maria  
Morelos



- Revolution taken over by military
  - Colonel Augustin de Iturbide formed army
    - Declared independence
    - Almost crowned emperor – didn't have democracy in mind...
    - 1823 – Iturbide overthrown, new government started

Augustin de Iturbide



# Brazil

- 1808 – Royal family fled Napoleon
- Napoleon's brother made King of Spain and Portugal
- After fall of Napoleon, King didn't want to leave Brazil (!)
- Appointed son Pedro King of Brazil
- Meanwhile – Brazilians were seeing revolutions elsewhere, revolutionary fervor increasing

King Pedro of Brazil



# Brazil

- Pedro sympathized with revolution
- 1822 – declared independence from Portugal
  - Anti-slavery
  - 1831 – abdicated throne



# Trends in Latin American Revolution

- “Ripple Effect” from revolutions in France, Haiti, North America
- Initial grab for power by colonial elites gave way to revolutions of masses (esp. slaves and free blacks)
- Leadership by military men or priests
- Brazil the big exception – relatively peaceful revolution under Pedro