**Latin American Revolutions Vocabulary**

1. **Creole Revolutions-** Descendants of European settlers born in the Americas who led Latin American independence movements in the early 19th century, resulting in the expulsion of the colonial regime of the Spanish Empire
2. **Napoleonic Wars-** Series of major [global conflicts](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_war) pitting the [French Empire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_French_Empire) and its allies, led by [Napoleon I](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Napoleon), against a fluctuating array of [European powers formed into various coalitions](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coalition_forces_of_the_Napoleonic_Wars). It produced a period of French domination over most of continental Europe. The wars had profound consequences on global history, including the spread of [nationalism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nationalism) and [liberalism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liberalism), the rise of Britain as the world's [foremost naval and economic power](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pax_Britannica), the appearance of [independence movements](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Decolonization_of_the_Americas) in Latin America and subsequent decline of the [Spanish Empire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spanish_Empire) and [Portuguese Empire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portuguese_Empire). The [Congress of Vienna](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Congress_of_Vienna) redrew the borders of Europe and brought a period of relative peace.
3. **Central Junta-** Interim Spanish government/national resistance committee formed in Spain to support legitimate Spanish king and oppose Napoleon’s brother on the throne; mostly represented Spanish people, not so much the Spanish-American people so they began forming their own juntas.
4. **Simón Bolívar-** Born to a wealthy Creole family in what is now Venezuela, he was the most influential leader in the South American independence movement. Known simply as “the Liberator”, this nationalist led military campaigns against the Spanish in present day Venezuela, Colombia, Panama, Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia. He had hoped that these South American nations could join together as one large nation. He never saw this dream come true but did live to see these countries liberated from Spain.
5. **Letter from Jamaica-** Document written by Simon Bolivar in 1815 in which he explained his thoughts about the social and political situation of Spanish America and called to Europe for it to co-operate in the work to liberate the Latin American peoples
6. **Gran Colombia-** Centralized state from 1819 to 1831 that encompassed much of northern South America including present day Columbia, Ecuador, Panama, and Venezuela in which Simon Bolivar was president over; its formation inspirited independence movements in Cuba, the Dominican Republic, and Puerto Rico
7. **Nationalism-** Being loyal to and proud of one’s own personal country often with the belief that it is better and more important than other countries
8. **Nativism-** The policy of protecting the interests of native-born or established inhabitants against those of immigrants/ foreigners
9. **Popular Sovereignty-** The principle that the authority of a state and its government are created and sustained by the consent of its people, through their elected representatives, who are the source of all political power
10. **Father Miguel Hidalgo-** Known as the Father of the Mexican Independence, he was a Mexican priest and nationalist who was arrested and executed in his role in rallying revolutionary actions. Born into a Creole family and resenting the power given to the peninsulares, he gave a speech (Cry of Dolores) to members of his church in which he shouted, “Death to bad government and death to the Spaniards.” He then marched across Mexico gathering an army of nearly 90,000 poor famers and Mexican civilians who attacked and killed Spanish peninsulares, but was later captured by Spanish forces.
11. **José de San Martín-** Nationalist and Argentine general who was the leader of the independence movements in Argentina, Peru, and Chile against the Spanish Empire; he served as the Protector of Peru
12. **José Antonio Páez-** Venezuelan leader who fought against the Spanish Crown for Simon Bolivar and later served as president of Venezuela or as the power behind puppet presidents; he is considered a prime example of a 19th century South American caudillo
13. **Mexican War of Independence-** Armed conflict between 1810 to 1821 resulting in Mexico’s independence from Spain. Pre-existing cultural, religious and racial divides in Mexico played a major role in not only the development of the independence movement but also the development of the conflict as it progressed.
14. **Benito Juárez-** 26th President of Mexico from 1858 to 1872 who became a symbol of Mexican nationalism and resistance to foreign intervention when he successfully organized a military resistance to drive out the French who had invaded the country
15. **Dom Pedro I-** Nicknamed “the Liberator,” he was the founder and first ruler of the Empire of Brazil. He was born a prince in Portugal and had to flee Europe to Brazil with his family when Portugal was invaded by Napoleon and his French troops in 1807. After his father returned, he was left to rule Brazil as regent in 1821. The Portuguese government's threat to revoke the political autonomy that Brazil had enjoyed since 1808 was met with widespread discontent in Brazil, so he chose the Brazilian side and declared [Brazil's independence](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Independence_of_Brazil) from Portugal on 7 September 1822.
16. **Personalist Leaders-** Relied on their ability to mobilize and direct the masses of new nations rather than on the authority of constitutions and laws (model was Napoleon). Latin America’s slow development of stable political institutions made these types of leader more influential than they were in the U.S. and they often held political power without constitutional sanction.
17. **Caudillo-** A type of personalist leader wielding military and political power without constitutional sanction

1. **Abolitionists-** Movement to end slavery which had become more popular in both the U.S. and Latin America as strong antislavery sentiments were expressed during the struggles for independence. Despite their efforts, slavery survived in much of the hemisphere until the mid to late 1800s.
2. **Seneca Falls Convention –** 1848 meeting to discuss women’s rights in New York; sought to gain women’s suffrage (the right to vote), economic independence, and full legal rights in the U.S.