

AIM: The Latin American Revolutions

1. The Latin American “social pyramid” – What did it look like?
2. What was the significance of the “creoles”? What were the characteristics of the creole class? How can this class be compared to the French “bourgeoisie”? or the American “Founding Fathers”?
3. Why do the creoles become leaders of the revolutionary movements in Latin America? – What were the important GRIEVANCES?? Why is Simon Bolivar’s “Jamaica Letter” such an insight into their status?
4. If the creoles were inspired by Enlightenment ideas and previous revolutions, then why were the outcomes of the Latin American revolutions so CONSERVATIVE? And, in what ways?

What do these quotes from the reading “From Colonies to Nations” represent?

- (Mexico) “ ... feared social rebellion more than they desired independence.”
- (Mexico) “ ... little recognition was given to the social aspirations and programs of Hidalgo and his movement.”
- (Brazil) “ ... they feared that any upsetting of the political system might lead to a social revolution or, even worse ...”
- (Brazil) “ ... men of goods and property were unwilling to risk political change.”
- (Brazil) “ ... independence did not upset the existing social organization based on slavery, nor did it radically change the political structure.”
- “ Egalitarian sentiments often were tempered by fears that the mass of the population was unprepared for self rule and democracy.”

Based on the quotes why do many nations in Latin America, which at least start as republics, NOT end up that way? In what ways were they not enlightened or egalitarian?

5. How did the revolutions in Latin America compare to the revolutions in:
 - Haiti?
 - France?
 - America?
6. Where do the “caudillos” fit into all of this? Why do they come to power in so many Latin American nations?