INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENTS
REVOLUTIONS AND THEIR EFFECTS
INTRODUCTION

• 1492- Beginning of sustained conquest and colonization of the Americas
  • 1776- Conclusion of the Colonization period
  • After British Colonies’ victory, spurned other wars of Independence
  • First and most brutal was Haitian Revolution
  • Later, Brazil achieved independence with little bloodshed
• The era of independence movements began in the 1760s and lasted until the 1820s
  • Covered two continents and involved European powers
WHAT IS MEANT BY THE AMERICAS??

- Little consistency in the heterogeneity of the populations
  - Some countries have large indigenous, some have near none
- Emergence of the Americas as modern states must be looked at as an integral related unit
- Regional dominance of U.S. is necessary component to study
  - Not ideology or national preference, just realpolitik
- Canada is very different- did not fight a war and retains the British monarchy even though constitutionally independent
THE NEW WORLD

- 1492 marks the date of European expansion and overseas conquest
- By the middle of 18th c. most of Americas were claimed by European powers
- French lost significant power to British in French and Indian War (Seven Years’ War)
- Shifting power bases in Europe were strong considerations for colonies
- As decades became centuries- colonies became more autonomous
- Reasons for emigration to New World were varied
  - Africans, destitute Europeans, escape religious persecution, most were men
GEOGRAPHY OF THE AMERICAS

- British Colonies- environment did not create isolation or preclude communication
- Latin America- steep mountains and wild rivers were strong obstacles
- Spanish America had relations with Crown rather than with each other due to physical obstacles
- British North America (Canada) was able to take advantage of river systems for trade and transport
BRITISH AND SPANISH AMERICA BEFORE INDEPENDENCE

- U.S. were colonies from 1607-1783 (check error)
- Latin America controlled by Spain from 1492-1825 (over 300 years)
- Both contributed to alienation and decimation of indigenous populations
- By late 18th c. in Spanish America, most indigenous populations had been subdued; not in British North America
British and Spanish American colonies reflected their motherlands

- Iberian colonies reflected the Hapsburg monarchy
  - Spanish king was supreme in the Americas
  - Senior functionaries- Peninsulares
  - Creoles were excluded from administration

Only political institution that satisfied local aspirations was the cabildo- destined to play significant role in independence movements

Unlike Spanish colonies, Portuguese rule in Brazil was relatively relaxed

British colonies based on English Parliamentary system

- Common law; administrative and judicial system
- White landowners could vote; popular vote
Colonial system - MERCANTILISM
- Raw materials from colonies; finished goods sold back to colonies
- Implemented mercantilism with Navigation Acts (1650-1673); rules for colonial trade throughout entire British empire, including 13 colonies
- Policy of salutary neglect - trade laws that hurt colonies would not be enforced

Spanish mercantilism - tightly enforced
- Established monopoly ports around Atlantic to collect taxes
- Smuggling competed with legitimate commerce
- Sent raw materials to England and paid with bullion
  - Crippling dependence due to failure to industrialize

Spanish mercantilism - tightly enforced
- Colonies saw a new rise in social class elites
SOCIAL SYSTEMS

• SPANISH AMERICA
  • Mostly men; not family units
  • Castas system: Peninsulares, Creoles, Castas – mestizos, mulattos, Native Americans and Africans

• BRITISH NORTH AMERICA
  • Family groups or even communities
  • Social position based on economics
  • African Americans at bottom of scale
ROLE OF RELIGION

- Americas influenced by European Christianity
  - British N.A. – Protestant
    - Plurality of faith
      - New England- Puritans
      - Middle colonies- Quakers, Catholics, Lutherans and Jews
      - Southern colonists- mixture, Baptists, Anglicans
  - Spanish Am. – Catholic
    - Education, culture and evangelization
    - Economics as owner of the land
ORIGINS OF REVOLUTION

• INTELLECTUAL FOUNDATIONS: THE ENLIGHTENMENT IN THE COLONIES
  • Very important in the Americas
  • Human reason appealed to colonists
  • Locke, Rousseau, Montesquieu

• THE 13 COLONIES AND THE ROAD TO WAR 1763-74
  • French and Indian War had major impact; British power and military training
  • Colonial troops gained confidence
  • British gov’t limited colonial lands; Proclamation of 1763
French and Indian War increased British war debt and less control over colonies

Punitive laws
  - Stamp Act of 1765
  - Townshend Acts of 1767; glass, paint, lead, paper, tea

Colonies organize to rebel against acts
  - “No taxation without representation"

Coercive or Intolerable Acts;

First Continental Congress formed in 1774 to ask King George III to repeal Acts
SPANISH AMERICA FROM THE END OF THE HAPSBURGS TO FRENCH OCCUPATION OF SPAIN

- Change of leadership in Spain; Hapsburg rule ended in 1701-1714 - War of Spanish Succession
  - Under rule of Bourbon Monarchy
- Bourbon Reforms in Spanish America
  - Administrative Reorganization
    - Generate new taxes
    - Two new viceroyalties; New Granada (1717); La Plata (1776) - modern day Buenos Aires
    - Creoles lost standing
  - Economic Reorganization
    - 1779 - free-trade decree
    - Protect Spanish goods
    - Illegal trade flourished; Pirates of the Caribbean
    - Trade monopoly by peninsulares; alienated creoles
Religious Reforms
- Limit power of Church, forced land sales
  - Military leaders rather than Church clergy
  - 1767 Jesuits expelled

Military Defense
- Created a more organized military defense force
- Organized militias along racial lines
  - Highest ranking officials were Spanish-born
- Creoles were decisively restricted by changes

Changes in Europe
- Napoleon I of France invaded Spain and replaced the Bourbon Monarchy with brother Joseph in 1808
- Charles IV of Spain succeeded by son, Ferdinand VII
- Creoles refused to acknowledge Bonaparte rule and were allied with Ferdinand VII
THE AMERICAN WAR OF INDEPENDENCE

- April 19, 1775 war began in Massachusetts
- Declaration of Independence July, 4, 1776
  - True author; Thomas Jefferson
- Battle of Saratoga
  - Key turning point; Sept. 19, 1777
  - British forced to retreat
  - British could not separate colonies
- Foreign Intervention: France, Prussia, Spain
  - French began to support Americans in 1776 with armaments and use of their ports
  - Spain and Netherlands joined in 1779 and 1780
  - British received assistance from German kingdoms and Native Americans
End of the war and Treaty of Paris

1781 Cornwallis loses at Yorktown
British realized war was too costly
Treaty of Paris (1783) British recognized an independent United States
British retained control of Canada

Precedent had been set; colonies can overthrow imperial powers and establish their own state with own government
U.S. REVOLUTION LED TO A SERIES OF REVOLUTIONS THAT DECLARED INDEPENDENCE FROM FRANCE, SPAIN AND PORTUGAL IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER

HAITIAN REVOLUTION 1791-1804

- 500K slaves; 40K whites, 30K free non-whites
- Whites divided into grand blancs (wealthy) and petit blancs (poor and middle class)
- Napoleon evacuates troops and Jan 1, 1804 republic of Haiti proclaimed
Castas system influenced wars; position of creoles
Inspired by U.S. and French Revolutions
Creoles created own governing bodies (junta)
Each revolution had its own leaders
- New Spain- Father Hidalgo- social revolution
- New Granada- preventing slave rebellion
NEW SPAIN AND THE CAUSE OF MEXICAN INDEPENDENCE

- Father Hidalgo called for redistribution of land, abolition of slavery and an end to Indian Tribute
- Father Jose Maria Morales in southern Mexico created independent constitutional decree establishing an independent republic
- Years of guerilla warfare
- Agustin de Iturbide became emperor of Mexico in 1822
Creoles united by class interests and national sovereignty

July 5, 1811, Creoles declared independent republic

Simon Bolivar led the cause for liberation and welcomed all races

Spanish were fighting in multiple theaters

Initially Gran Colombia (Ecuador, Colombia, Panama, Venezuela)

1830, Venezuela and Ecuador both seceded and became independent republics
FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN SPANISH AMERICA

• Some assistance from North America
• Foreign volunteers such as the British Legion under Bolivar
• Review the importance of Bolivar and Jose de San Martin
BRAZIL’S PATH TO INDEPENDENCE

- Revolution but still maintained social order, including slavery
- A sense of unity between Portuguese and elites
- Dom Pedro declared independence on Sept. 7, 1822
- No major battles, somewhat bloodless
Three reasons U.S. supported independence movements: expansionist aims, trade with provinces, and ideological sympathy

After War of 1812, U.S. had no desire to fight another war against European power

U.S. recognized Gran Colombia in 1822; first country outside Spanish America to do so.
THE MONROE DOCTRINE

• European countries poised to act and expand in Americas after loss of power by Spain and Portugal
• Britain hoped to act in concert with U.S., but U.S. decided to go it alone
• Europe to stay out of affairs with Western Hemisphere
• Somewhat imperialistic by Americans
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL EFFECTS OF THE REVOLUTIONS IN THE AMERICAS

- North started to industrialize; South stayed agricultural
- All regions had link between social and economic conditions
The Economy

- War of Independence costly
  - Negative - lost major supplier of raw materials
  - Positive - end of mercantilism
  - France replaced Britain as main trading partner
  - Tremendous inflation, but tremendous growth opp.

Social Status

- War of Independence – lower classes suffered most casualties
- Loyalists fled to Canada; 1783-1800, approx. 100K
- Farmers hit hardest
- Natives seen as savages; no rights to land
The Status of Slaves

Depended on where they lived
- New England, free blacks fought; other areas were divided
- Dominant in the North was that all men should be free
- Seven of the thirteen colonies abolished slavery
- Most divisive issue U.S. faced
Wars had devastating effects on economic resources
Exported raw materials
The non-whites would demand key liberties
Creoles were successful in retaining their control of political and social life
European education critical to social standing
After wars, slavery remained
- Mexico, Central America and Chile abolished slavery
- Still important to Colombia, Venezuela, Peru, Argentina and Ecuador- until the 1840s and 1850s
By 1820s, independence achieved by most of the Americas

Independence meant long, bloody, costly wars

New governments and constitutions

War debt