

# Atlantic Revolutions

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Early 18<sup>th</sup> Century Liberal  
Revolutions in America,  
France, Haiti, Mexico,  
Colombia, and Brazil

# The American Revolution

- Most revolutionary social changes occurred prior to the revolution. Why?
  - Church authority
  - Social hierarchy
  - Capitalism
  - “liberty”



# Causes of the American Revolution

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- The Seven Years (or French-Indian) War (1756-1763)
- The reassertion of British Control
- The Enlightenment
  - Jefferson, Franklin, Paine
- The Insurgency
  - Sam Adams
  - Tea Party

# Impact of the American Revolution

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- Model for colonial revolutions everywhere.
- The Declaration of Independence was an example of enlightenment thinking enacted.
- Kicked off a solid century of liberal social reforms

# The French Revolution

- The Causes
- The Phases
  - Radical
  - Authoritarian
- The Changes
  - Social, political, and economic
- The End
  - The Republic
  - Napoleon



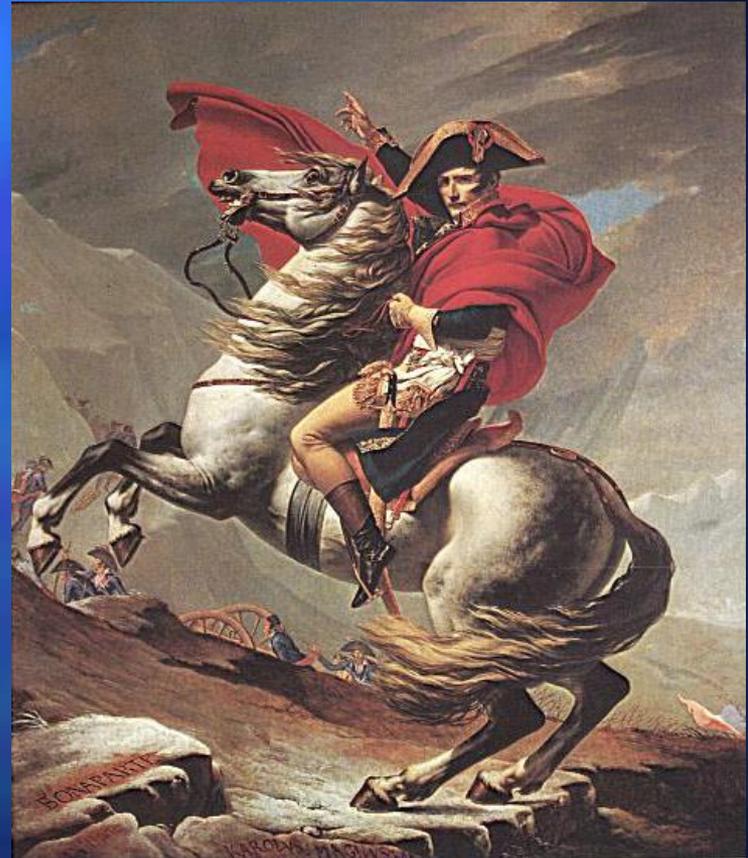
# Impact of the French Revolution

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- Scares the crap out of conservative, authoritarian, traditional Europe.
- Other European countries invade to suppress the revolutionary ideas.
  - Austria and Prussia (formerly the HRE)
- The French invade even more places out of fear of further invasion. A little paranoid, but whatever.
  - The Netherlands, Italy, Germania
- (More to come after Napoleon)

# Napoleon

- After years of Chaos, the French want some stability
  - Dictators are stable, right?
- Napoleon Bonaparte takes over, essentially as an elected dictator



# Napoleons impact within France

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- HUGE military (all males must serve)
- Religious liberty
- Legal equality for men
- Secret police
- Censorship of the press

# Napoleons impact on the rest of France

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- Rallied France around the flag and tried to conquer all of Europe.
- Spread revolutionary ideals and liberal reforms wherever he went.
- Rolled through Germany, Spain, Portugal, Italy, and almost Russia.
- Not only solidified the French sense of nationalism, but accidentally created nationalism wherever he went.

# The Aftermath

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- After Napoleon's defeat:
  - The Congress of Vienna
    - Restores the monarchy, sorta
    - Strengthens France's enemies
    - Regains control for conservatives and absolutists throughout Europe
  - Waves of further revolutions in Europe

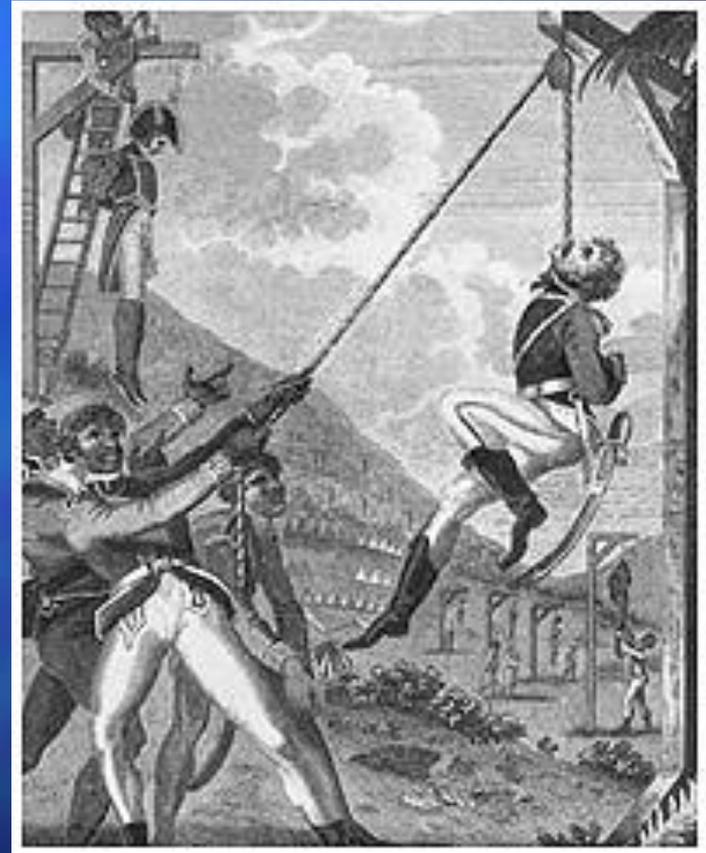
# The legacy

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- Liberals
  - Limit the power of the state over individual life.
  - More power for the propertied class
- Radicals
  - Power for everyone
- Socialists
  - Attacked private property and capitalist exploitation
- Nationalists
  - Stressed national unity
- Britain and the US had reforms, but through elections rather than revolutions.
- More revolutions throughout Spain, Portugal, France, Italy, Germany, Russia, Greece, Belgium

# The Haitian Revolution

- 1791- Toussaint L'Ouverture leads a slave rebellion against French plantation owners
- By 1798, they win
- Direct spin-off of the French Revolution



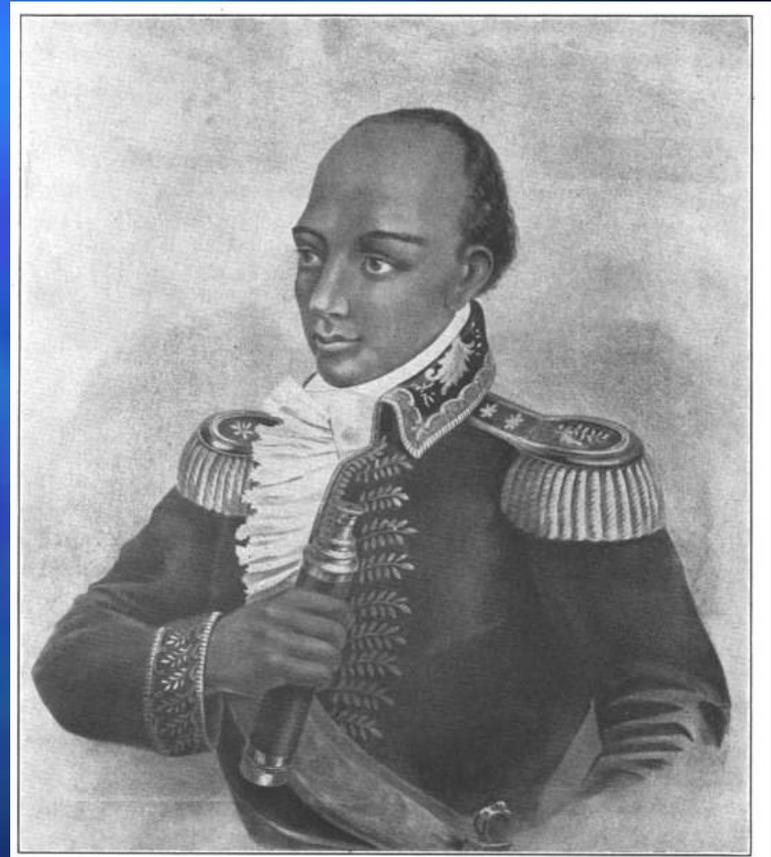
# Issues within the Haitian Revolution

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- Though most Frenchmen disagreed, Robespierre wrote about liberty even in places like Haiti
- Massive disagreement on the island about what the revolution really meant for them
- The handful of Frenchmen on the island had relied on freed slaves to run the place and control others. This kinda backfires when a sense of black nationalism develops.

# Results of the Haitian Rev.

- 1802- Napoleon tries to reconquer the island
- 1804, French surrender
- 1820- Haiti becomes a republic



# Impact of the Haitian Revolution

- Inspires the poor and lower classes in the rest of Latin America.
- Scares the bejeezus out of the ruling classes.
- “reforms” the economy, almost ensuring poverty.



# Obstacles to Latin American Revolutions

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- Latin Americas unique racial/social issues
  - Peninsulares
  - Creoles
  - Mestizos/Mullatoes
- Tupac Amaru

# Why they happen anyway

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- American revolution
- French Revolution
- Haitian Revolution
- Napoleon

# The Mexican Revolution

- 1810-Father Miguel Hidalgo leads a revolution
- Mostly poor Mestizos and Indians
- fought for major social and economic reforms.
- Obviously, he gets executed.



# Mexican Revolution, Part Dos

- If you can't stop it, steer it.
- 1820, Spain becomes a constitutional monarchy.
- Augustin de Iturbide declares "independence", and names himself emperor.
- He's soon overthrown, and Mexico becomes a republic.



# Impact of the Mexican Revolution

- Very little changes.
- Still economically dependant on others.
- The new gov't is weak, and power rests in the hands of landlords. (Caudillos)
- Post-revolutionary Mexico looks a lot like feudalism.
  - Peonage = serfdom



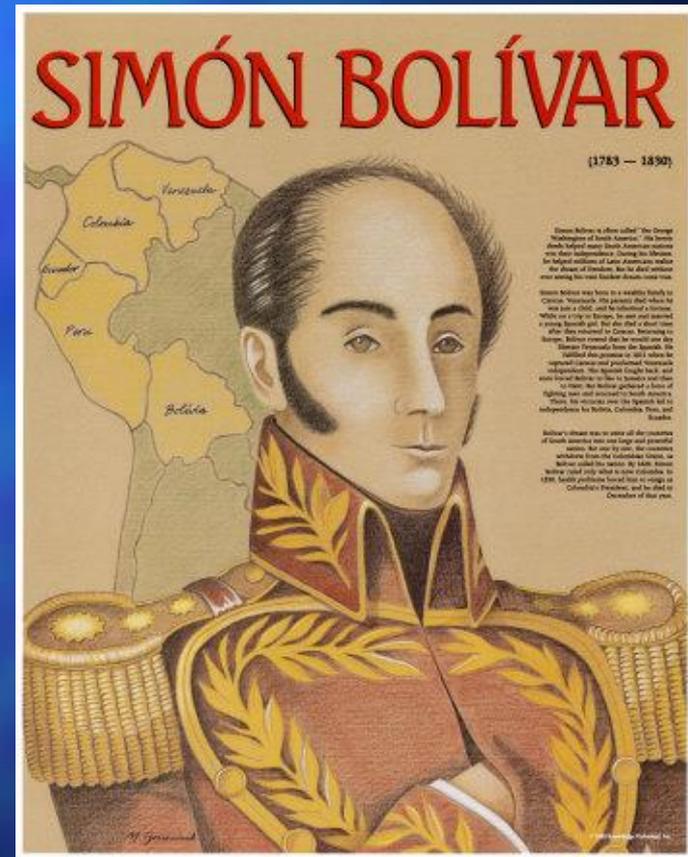
# Revolution in South America

- 1808- Simon Bolivar, Creole General, leads a revolution
- While Spain is so distracted by Napoleon, why not break free?
- The “Latin George Washington” inspired revolutions throughout New Spain.



# Impact of Simon Bolivar

- Very similar to American Revolution, most things stayed the same after independence.
- Wanted a United States of Latin America, but died with things still very fragmented.
- Latin America remained economically dependent on Europe.



# The Brazilian “Revolution”

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- When Napoleon conquers Portugal, the royal family flees to Brazil and runs the empire from there.
- When they go home, they leave jr in charge. Tell him, if you think revolutions coming, declare independence yourself.
- They finally switch from monarchy to republic in 1889.

# Now that we're free...

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- Regional warlords dominated
- Political instability
  - Liberals, conservatives, corporatists, socialists, centralists, federalists, etc.
- Strong class loyalties rather than nationalism
- Rapid turnover of governments and constitutions
- Basic questions about government and society are unresolved