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| **LESSON 3: FORMING NEW NATIONS**How did countries of Latin America gain their independence? |
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| **REVOLUTION IN HAITI***Enslaved Africans and Native Americans had been kidnapped, separated from their families, forced to work, and punished harshly. In Haiti, enslaved people decided to fight for their freedom.*In the late 1700s, revolutions in the United States and France inspired the people of Latin America to fight for their independence. While European colonists called for self-rule, Native Americans and Africans wanted to be free from slavery.**The End of Slavery**The first successful revolt of enslaved persons broke out in the French colony of Haiti. Enslaved people and free people of mixed races were treated unfairly. They wanted the same rights as white colonists. In August 1791 enslaved Africans attacked their owners, shouting, “Better to die than be slaves.” Two months later, 1,000 people were dead and 180 plantations had become mounds of ashes.Toussant L’Ouverture, a Haitian soldier, shaped 100,000 rebels into a strong army. This army conquered all of Hispaniola. The army also named L’Ouverture its ruler. His first act was to emancipate, or free, all enslaved islanders. When the ruler of France, Napoleon Bonaparte, heard the news, he was furious.In 1802 Napoleon sent a large force of French troops to Hispaniola. But the Haitians fought back. In 1804 Napoleon’s forces were defeated. Haiti became the first colony in Latin America to gain independence.After Haiti, a movement to end slavery began to spread across Europe. Between 1833 and 1863, Great Britain, France, and the Netherlands all ended slavery. |

**FREEDOM FOR MEXICO**

Under Spanish rule, it was illegal to grow olives and grapes in Mexico. Spain wanted Mexicans to buy only olives and grapes grown in Spain. Many felt Spanish laws kept Indian and **mestizo** farmers in a life of poverty. A mestizo is a person of mixed Spanish and Indian heritage.

**Miguel Hidalgo**

In 1803 a Catholic priest called Miguel Hidalgo was assigned to a church in Dolores. Dolores was a very poor village in central Mexico. Hidalgo tried to help the farmers by teaching them to grow olives and grapes. Officials chopped down the new olive trees and grapevines. Hidalgo was shocked. He felt that the only way to help his people was to end Spanish control of Mexico. He decided to organize a march, but first he gave a speech:

**The Cry of Dolores**

On September 16, 1810, church bells rang in the village of Dolores. Hidalgo told the crowd his people had been in bondage for 300 years.

His speech, known as the “Cry of Dolores,” was the beginning of the War for Independence. Eight hundred men, women, and children followed Hidalgo out of the village on the way to Mexico City.

As they reached Mexico City, their rebel army grew to 80,000. But the rebels were poorly armed and lacked training. A force of 7,000 Spanish soldiers attacked and scattered Hidalgo’s army. In 1811 Hidalgo was captured and later killed.

**Morelos and Iturbide**

The struggle for independence did not end with Hidalgo’s death. José Morelos, a mestizo priest, continued to lead the poor in the rebellion. Morelos became a skillful leader who won many victories in battle. But the Spanish, with their well-armed troops, finally exhausted the rebels. Morelos was captured and killed.

Small bands of rebels continued to make scattered raids on the Spanish troops. A creole officer, Agustín de Iturbide, was assigned to defeat the rebellion. Creoles were descendant of the Spanish and Portuguese settlers and often owned huge farms. Iturbide saw a way to gain power and decided to support the rebels.

In August 1821 Iturbide’s troops surrounded the Spanish viceroy and forced him to sign a plan for independence. Iturbide also wanted control of Central America.

On September 15, 1821, Central America declared independence from Spain. Creoles agreed to make Central America part of Mexico. However, Iturbide ruled so badly that he was soon driven from power. Mexico became a republic in 1823, and Central America became the United Provinces of Central America.

**EVENT**

**Cinco de Mayo**celebrates Mexico’s victory over the French on May 5, 1862. In the Battle of Puebla, Mexico’s force of >4,500 men faced 6,000 men of Napoleon III’s well-trained French army.

**INDEPENDENCE IN SOUTH AMERICA**

In the northern part of South America, Simón Bolívar led the fight for independence in 1810. By 1813 he had driven the Spanish out of Venezuela. However, a year later, a Spanish army returned and defeated Bolívar.

Bolívar was determined to free all of South America from Spanish rule. In 1817 Bolívar returned to Venezuela and defeated the Spanish army. Then he moved on.

In 1819 Bolívar crossed the steep Andes Mountains into present-day Colombia, where he defeated the Spanish forces. In 1821 he again defeated Spanish troops in Venezuela.

**José de San Martín**

While Bolívar was leading the fight in the north, José de San Martín led the fight in the south. In 1816 San Martín, a former Spanish officer, defeated Spanish forces in Argentina. Next he wanted to fight the Spanish in Chile.

San Martín knew crossing the snow-covered peaks of the Andes would be difficult. So he trained his troops to do the impossible. Despite the hardships, most of San Martín’s troops made it to Chile. They joined rebels led by Bernardo O’Higgins. By 1818 these forces had freed Chile from Spanish control.

**Independence for Brazil**

When Napoleon invaded Portugal in 1807, the king, John VI, set sail for Brazil. King John was popular in Brazil. He opened Brazilian ports to all countries and built libraries and schools. Then he issued a **decree**, or royal command, making Brazil part of Portugal rather than a colony.

After Napoleon was defeated, King John returned to Portugal. He left his son, Pedro, in charge of Brazil. But trouble soon broke out between Portugal and Brazil. Portuguese leaders wanted Brazil to be a colony again, not a part of Portugal. Laws were passed to end many of the improvements King John had made.

People in Brazil wanted Pedro to declare independence from Portugal. In 1822 Pedro called an assembly and declared independence. He called himself Emperor Pedro I of Brazil.

The people of Brazil soon found Emperor Pedro I to be a harsh ruler. He made many enemies. In 1831 the emperor was forced to give up his throne and leave Brazil. His 5-year-old son became Emperor Pedro II.

**The Last Emperor**

Emperor Pedro II was a much wiser ruler than his father. He ruled Brazil for 50 years and helped it grow into a strong nation.

Brazil was a rich agricultural country, with sugar and coffee as its two leading exports. Both crops were grown on large plantations using enslaved Africans. Pedro II wanted to end slavery, but the plantation owners were the most powerful group in Brazil.

The emperor first approved laws that freed children and people over the age of 60. Then, in 1888, the General Assembly passed a bill freeing all remaining enslaved people.

The plantation owners were angry because they were not paid for the people who were freed from slavery. They blamed Pedro II for the end of slavery. With the landowners’ support, the army rebelled against the emperor and declared Brazil a republic.

**PEOPLE**

Emperor **Pedro II**was widely respected by Brazilians of all social levels. He was known to be bright, level-headed, and moderate. Pedro II spent his final year in Portugal, but his remains were returned to Brazil in 1939 for burial.

**TWO LIBERATORS MEET**

In 1820 San Martin landed his small army on Peru's coast. By 1821 he had liberated its capital, Lima. But most of the colony was still held by forces loyal to Spain.

In 1822 San Martin wrote to Bolivar suggesting that they combine their armies. The two leaders met in Guayaquil, Ecuador. No one knows what was said at the meeting. After the meeting, San Martin gave command of his troops to Bolivar.

On December 9, 1824, Bolivar's forces met Spanish troops near Ayacucho, Peru. Bolivar achieved a quick victory. Within weeks, Spanish troops left Peru.