

## Module 6: Revolutions and Unity

### Topic 2 Content: Revolution in Latin America

#### Inspiration



#### Narration Script

Enlightenment ideas about democracy and self-rule inspired the American and French revolutions. In turn, these revolutions inspired many of the colonies in Latin America to revolt against colonial rulers.

The American Revolution overthrew the British and established an independent nation with a limited democratic government. The experiences of many Latin American colonies were similar to what the American colonies had been subjected to under British rule. The colonial powers in Europe were exploiting the colonies' wealth for the mother countries' gain.

The French Revolution of 1789 overthrew an absolute monarchy and established a democracy based on the natural rights of man. Many of the people living in the Latin American colonies did not have equal rights with the European-born colonizers. Some of them wanted to break away from the colonial rulers so that they could create their own governments.

During the late 1700s and early 1800s, many Latin American colonies were inspired by the American and French revolutions and tried to become independent from the colonial powers in Europe.

# Haitian Revolution

## Haiti Rebels



### Narration Script

At the time of the French Revolution, the island of Hispaniola, where Columbus landed in 1492, was split into two colonies. France controlled the western half of the island called Haiti, and Spain controlled the eastern half, now called the Dominican Republic. The French half was the most profitable slave colony that France owned during the late 1700s.

In Haiti, French colonists owned very large sugar plantations that were worked by nearly 500,000 slaves. These plantations were profitable, but sugar production was very labor intensive. The slaves were overworked and underfed. The island also had about 25,000 people of mixed African and European ancestry. These people tended to be wealthy and some even owned slaves; however, they did not have full equality with people of European ancestry.

Between 1789 and 1791, while the French Revolution was going on in France, the Haitian slaves started to demand their own freedom. In 1791, the slaves revolted under the leadership of Toussaint L'Ouverture, a self-educated former slave. Although he was not trained as a soldier, L'Ouverture was a brilliant general. The Haitian revolt was very long and very deadly. More people died in battle than during any other revolution in the Americas.

The Haitian rebels achieved a victory in 1798, when the French National Assembly freed the slaves in all French colonies. At that time, L'Ouverture's forces controlled a majority of the land on the island, even though it was still a French colony. The rebel army kept France from re-taking control of Haiti and established independence, naming L'Ouverture as governor for life. Also, the rebels were able to defeat the forces from Spain and Britain who tried to take control of Haiti's sugarcane plantations.

## Independence, Finally

Revolution in Latin America

### Independence, Finally

L'Ouverture was betrayed by the French at a "peace" meeting and was arrested and brought back to France where he died in prison.

Haiti becomes fully independent in 1804 - 1st Latin American country to gain independence.

Independence, Finally

Roots Haitian Revolution Mexican Revolution South America Impact

### Narration Script

In 1799, Napoleon Bonaparte became the military dictator of France. He was angry that France lost its most profitable colony and sent 33,000 troops to re-conquer Haiti. Once again, the Haitian rebel army took up arms to fight for its freedom.

Eventually, the French commander called for a truce because his Army was ravaged by yellow fever. Out of the 33,000 troops sent by Napoleon, 29,000 contracted the deadly disease within a year of their arrival in Haiti. The French commander agreed to peace negotiations; however, the French betrayed the agreement. They captured L'Ouverture and sent him to France. He died ten months later in a French prison.

Even though their leader was gone, the Haitian rebels continued to fight. In 1804, the rebels were victorious over French forces and Haiti declared independence from France. For the next sixteen years, Haitian leaders fought each other over who would rule the country. In 1820, Haiti became a republic.

# Mexican Revolution

## Mexico Rebels

The image shows a screenshot of a presentation slide titled "Mexico Rebels" within a "Revolution in Latin America" window. The slide contains the following text:

- Creole Catholic priest Father Miguel Hidalgo started independence movement in Mexico
- 1810 - Hidalgo leads revolt against Spain
- 1811 - Hidalgo is captured executed
- 1821 - Mexico becomes independent

To the right of the text is a black and white illustration of Father Miguel Hidalgo, a man in a dark coat and white sash, standing with his arms outstretched. Below the slide is a navigation bar with five colored arrows pointing right, labeled "Roots", "Haitian Revolution", "Mexico Rebels", "South America", and "Impact". The "Mexico Rebels" arrow is currently selected and highlighted.

### Narration Script

In 1810, Father Miguel Hidalgo, a Creole Catholic priest, inspired Mexicans to fight for independence from Spain. At this time, Spain had been the colonial ruler of Mexico for about 300 years. Hidalgo and his followers wanted to overthrow the Spanish rulers and abolish slavery.

Hidalgo's rebels were made up of Mestizos and Native Americans. One of their first actions was to march on Mexico City. At first, Creoles supported the uprising, but eventually they realized that they would lose power and wealth if slavery was abolished.

The rebel army had some early successes, but also some setbacks. Father Hidalgo was captured by the Spanish and executed. He is considered to be the father of the Mexican Independence movement, and his death made him a martyr to the Mexican people. Finally, in 1821, after many years of armed struggle, Mexico won its independence from Spain.

## South America

### Simon Bolivar

Revolution in Latin America

Simon Bolivar

- Wealthy Venezuelan Creole
- Highly educated
- Skilled general
- Promised to end slavery in South America and drive out the Spanish.

Simon Bolivar

Roots    Haitian Revolution    Mexican Revolution    South America    Impact

#### Narration Script

The independence movement in South America was led by a wealthy Venezuelan Creole named Simon Bolivar. He was highly educated and a skilled general. Bolivar was very charismatic and appealed to Creoles, Mestizos, Native Americans, and slaves. He promised to end slavery in South America and to drive out the Spanish.

First, Bolivar's army freed areas in northern Latin America from Spanish control. These territories now make up Bolivia, Columbia, Venezuela, Peru, and Panama. For this, he is called "the liberator." Then, Bolivar joined forces with Jose San Martin, another revolutionary, to liberate the southern areas of South America.

Simon Bolivar remains a national hero to many countries in South America. His image and ideals are important to many countries in the region today.

# Impact

## Europe Loses Colonies

Revolution in Latin America

### Europe Loses Colonies

- Portugal lost Brazil
- France lost Haiti
- Spain lost many possessions in Central and South America

Painting:  
Haitians fighting French Forces at San Domingo by January Suchodolski (1797-1875)



Europe Loses Colonies

Roots    Haitian Revolution    Mexican Revolution    South America    Impact

### Narration Script

By the end of the 1820s, most of Latin America had won independence from Europe. Brazil became independent from Portugal in 1822, leaving Portugal with no colonies in the Americas. France lost Haiti, their most important colony, and Spain lost many of its possessions in Central and South America.

Europe still wanted the resources and wealth that came from owning colonies, so they conquered lands and established new colonies in Africa and Asia. Meanwhile, the newly-independent Latin American countries feared that other European powers would try to re-colonize the continent.

## Monroe Doctrine

The image is a screenshot of a presentation slide titled "Monroe Doctrine" within a "Revolution in Latin America" context. The slide features a portrait of President James Monroe on the left and a text box on the right. The text box contains the date "1823 - U.S. President James Monroe issues Monroe Doctrine" and two bullet points: "Warns Europe not to threaten new countries in Latin America" and "Establishes the U.S. as the protector of the Americas". At the bottom of the slide, there is a navigation bar with five colored arrows pointing right, labeled "Roots", "Haitian Revolution", "Mexican Revolution", "South America", and "Impact". The "Monroe Doctrine" label is positioned above the "Impact" arrow.

Revolution in Latin America

### Monroe Doctrine



1823 - U.S. President James Monroe issues Monroe Doctrine

- Warns Europe not to threaten new countries in Latin America
- Establishes the U.S. as the protector of the Americas

Monroe Doctrine

Roots    Haitian Revolution    Mexican Revolution    South America    Impact

### Narration Script

With so many newly-independent countries in Latin America, the United States realized that these new countries would be weak. European colonial powers might try to re-conquer and re-colonize these countries. President James Monroe issued his Monroe Doctrine as a warning to European powers. This document stated that the U.S. recognized that the countries in Latin America have a right to be independent and free from European control.

The Monroe Doctrine stated that any attempt by Europe to influence or control any part of the Western Hemisphere would be interpreted as a direct threat to the peace and security of the United States. This document established the U.S. as the protector of the Americas.