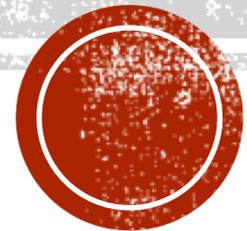


THE AMERICAS IN THE REVOLUTIONARY ERA

1776-1825ish



SCOPE:

- Between 1776 and 1825, wars for independence erupted all across Americas, from Boston to Buenos Aires.
- Within two generations, the vast European colonial empires in the Americas collapsed and 19 new independent nations emerged.
- Outbreak of war:
 - British North America in 1776 (American Revolution)
 - Saint Domingue in 1791 (Haitian Revolution)
 - South America-Brazil, Spanish South America by 1825
 - Mexico (1810 and 1821) and Central America
- Common cultural , economic, and political roots of revolutionary movements
 - Americas, Europe, and Africa in 18th century formed interconnected and interacting parts in THE ATLANTIC WORLD.
 - Set the stage for revolution: Enlightenment and Romanticism, Industrial Revolution, and French Revolution



INSPIRATION AND INFLUENCE:

- American Revolution was the first successful colonial rebellion in the Americas.
 - Inspiration for other colonies and colonial elites
 - Reflections of radicalism of A.R. and its significance in the history of the Atlantic world.
- Haitian Revolution
 - Most radical and revolutionary
 - Only successful slave rebellion
 - Directly out of influence of French Revolution
 - Most brutal slave plantation society and complex series of uprisings and invasions
 - Creation of independent nation of Haiti in 1804
- Influence of Napoleon Bonaparte due to French Revolution
 - Armies invade (and occupy) and Spain and Portugal in early 1800s
 - Spark for revolts across Spanish America and connection to indep. movements in Spanish and Portuguese colonies.



COUNTER-EXAMPLES

- Failure to achieve independence (Caribbean)
 - Cuba and Puerto Rico
- Complicated
 - Dominican Republic
- British West Indies
 - Did not experience revolts and remained under imperial control well into 20th century



ORIGINS OF REVOLUTION IN ATLANTIC WORLD

1. Americas, Europe, and Africa intimately connected by exchange of peoples, goods, and ideas
 - European immigration , slave trade, and commerce
 - Ideas crisscrossed the Atlantic

2. Modern world emerged in the 18th century
 - Intellectual and cultural transformation-Enlightenment (and later influence of romanticism during the movements- “Heroic Figure” of Simon Bolivar)
 - Economic terms-Industrial Revolution
 - Political revolutions-beginning with 13 colonies in 1776 and France in 1789



QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

- Why does the emphasis on reason lead to the questioning of all authority?
- How does economic change in the 18th century influence politics?



COLONIAL EMPIRES ON THE EVE OF REVOLUTION

- 1. Century and a half after 1492, Europeans invaded, conquered, and colonized much of the Americas from Canada to southern South America.**
 - A. Arrival of Columbus and the CE
 - First step towards “world supremacy” in the modern world
 - B. European powers established colonies in the Americas
 - Spanish constructed largest empires
 - Portuguese carved out wealthy colony of Brazil
 - In 17th century, the French and English moved into eastern North America and the Caribbean.

- 2. Spanish American Empire in the Americas had been in place for more than 250 years by the mid 18th century.**
 - A. Spanish America-Mexico, Lima, and Havana
 - B. Rich regions with well-developed Spanish and Creole elites



Social and Economic Structure New Spain

Peninsulars

ruling class-aristocrats from Spain

Creoles

descendants of Peninsulars

Mestizos

children of white and native parents

Castas

lower class - usually displaced natives

Slaves



COLONIAL EMPIRES ON THE EVE OF REVOLUTION

3. Portuguese America did not get off the ground as a colony until the late 16th century
 - A. Brazil-1560-planation labor and sugar, slaves, and gold
 - B. By 1750-well-developed colonial elite, but one without a strong sense of local identity.
 - C. Like Spanish America, the small white elite dominated enormous non-white labor force-African slaves and their descendants.



COLONIAL EMPIRES ON THE EVE OF REVOLUTION

4. French and English America emerge much later than Spanish and Portuguese America
 - A. French explore and set up colonies in 16th century but not substantial until 17th century
 - North America-Quebec is most important
 - By 18th century-Saint Domingue in Caribbean (by 1780 richest and greatest concentration of slaves in plantation society anywhere in Americas.)
 - B. British also latecomers in the 17th century.
 - Coast of North America from Canada→New England→ Georgia
 - By 1650s-move into Caribbean (wrestling control from Spain-Jamaica, Barbados, and the other islands from Spanish)
 - Canada and New England develop small-scale farming, commerce, and shipping.
 - Virginia to Barbados develop slave plantation societies is similar to Brazil and Spanish Caribbean.
 - Small white colonial elites in New England and Canada developed in very different circumstances than their peers in the slave plantation colonies→ increasingly restless in the last half of the 18th century.



QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

- Why does it make a difference that European colonial elites live in the midst of large populations of slaves or Indians?
- Why does the earlier emergence of Spanish and Portuguese colonies make such a difference when comparing them to the English and French colonies?



THE “NORTH” AMERICAN REVOLUTION EMERGES

1. Emergence of an “American” identity among English colonists (Anglo colonies).
2. 13 colonies part of larger process of European conquest, but they were different than most other colonies.
 - A. Similar to Spanish and Portuguese colonies (Iberian colonies)
 - Southern colonies developed plantation labor
 - Small white elites dominated, subjugated and annihilated Native Americas and African slaves
 - “English” elites were recent immigrants from England, families with long roots in N.A.
 - Roots of rebellion emerge out of grievances of colonial elites frustrated with reassertion of imperial authority.
 - B. Differences with Iberian colonies were dramatic → different historical paths
 - Relationship with imperial monarch-fleeing vs. work way up through system
 - Power of monarch weaker in England than in Spain and Portugal
 - Not all colonies dependent upon slavery and plantation labor (e.g. New England) but became centers of shipping, commerce, and trade.



THE “NORTH” AMERICAN REVOLUTION EMERGES

3. Imperial conflicts, especially between English and French, set the stage for emergence of colonial unrest and the American Revolution.
 - A. After period of "salutary neglect" England rediscovered North American colonies prompted by war and conflicts with French and Native Americans
 - N.A. colonies settled differently than Latin America
 - Colonies in place less than century by 18th century.
 - Economic activity rapidly expanded 1700-1750.
 - Wars and its costs compelled British crown and parliament to end period of salutary neglect and reassert power of crown (reforms=taxation of colonies).
 - Result of wars was expulsion of French from N.A. and the division of continent between England and Spain, east and west of Mississippi.
 - B. Rising costs of fighting wars in N.A. and continually defending mainland colonies eventually ruptured relations between colonists and crown.
4. English colonists began to develop a sense of identity as Americans.
 - A. Taxation and British authority in form of troops=catalysts for this change.
 - B. Calling of First Continental Congress in 1774.



QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- How does foreign debt play such a crucial role in colonial discontent?



THE RADICALISM OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

1. Radicalism debated for more than 200 years

A. Meaning of the term REVOLUTION

- Social upheaval and rise to powers of one social class and triumph over upper class.
- War as a revolt of oppressed peoples tossing aside monarchy and aristocracy.
- Conservative nature of rebellion-political revolt by a small white planter elite, rather than social transformation.

B. “Radicalism” of the American Revolution

- Profound social changes revolution released.
- Creation of most liberal, democratic, and commercially minded society in world history.
- Destroys aristocracy, privilege, and hierarchical social structures.



THE RADICALISM OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

2. Impact of revolution across 13 colonies was not uniform
 - A. Effects of war were widespread and far-reaching.
 - B. Northern and southern colonies had evolved along different paths for nearly 150 years before independence.
 - Geography, slave holdings and significance, economic cultures.
 - C. Southern colonies had emerged by 1750 as productive plantation and slave societies.
 - D. Aftermath of revolution, north and south increasingly diverge over the issue of slavery and states' rights.
 - Ideals of Declaration of Independence of Independence and the Constitution would make a resolution of issue of slavery unavoidable.
 - North became more commercial, democratic, and egalitarian.
 - Process in South was slowed by the presence and importance of slavery.
 - Seeds of the “second” Civil War planted in fights of the “first.”



THE RADICALISM OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

3. Revolution also hastened and heightened the growing differences among the political cultures and societies of the US, Canada, and Latin America.
 - A. Anglo American political culture (including Canada) had been diverging from that of the Iberian colonies since the early 17th century.
 - B. US most radical version of these traditions, and the revolution accelerated the pursuit of these values.
 - Canadians colonists tend to be more conservative and loyal to crown.
 - Immigration of loyalists after war to Canada.
 - C. Latin American political culture was much more centralists, hierarchical, paternalist, and collectivist.
 - 300 years of colonial rule had reinforced traditions
 - Emergence of a revolutionary culture in 18th century had same roots as that of British colonists but took shape in much different context.
 - American Revolution as model for colonies
 - Seeking change=brilliant model vs. Seeking to hold back change=avoided at all costs.



QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

- In what ways does slavery move the South in a different direction than the North?
- How radical was the American Revolution in your view?



SLAVE REBELLION IN ST. DOMINIGUE

1. Haitian Revolution is the only successful slave rebellion in the Americas.
2. Case of slaves rising up, taking power, and creating an independent nation.
3. Second major revolution in the Americas broke out in the French colony of Saint Domingue.
 - A. Classic example of harsh slave plantation labor societies in Americas.
 - B. One of most profitable sugar producers in the Americas and France's principle trading partner.
 - C. By late 1780s, 90% of the colony's inhabitants were slaves, primarily from Angola and the Congo.
 - Life on plantations was brutal and harsh.
 - Flood of arriving Africans profoundly shaped the creation of local culture and society, especially with the rise of *vodun (voodoo)*.
 - D. Colony developed a repressive and rigid racial hierarchy.
 - 25,000 whites born in Europe divided into *grand blancs* and whites born in new world or *petite blancs*.
 - 400,000 slaves
 - 20,000 mulattos (*gens de couleur*) lived above slave majority but looked down upon by white minority.
 - Harsh treatment of slaves (often Africans) and discrimination of free blacks and mulattos made colony a racial powder keg.



SLAVE REBELLION IN ST. DOMINIGUE

4. French Revolution more pivotal and powerful moment than the American Revolution
 - Collapse of old regime in France in 1789 touched off 10 years of bitter violence and upheaval in France and culminated with rise of Napoleon.
5. Ideals of French Revolution had an immediate impact on Saint Domingue.
 - A. “men are born free and equal in rights”- in Declaration of Right of Man and Citizen=message for free and slaves in Saint Domingue.
 - *Gens de couleur* immediately pressed for access to full citizenship, which whites bitterly opposed.
 - Colonial whites soon found themselves holding off both new French Assembly and *gens de couleur*.
 - B. Divisions within the elites opened path to upheaval and collapse of colonial regime.
 - C. Conflicts among the elites, the slaves in the colony rose up in revolt.



QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

- Why does the presence of so many Africans make such a difference in the formation of society of Saint Domingue?
- Why is it so important for elite divisions to emerge before a revolution can take place?



SEEDS OF REBELLION IN SPANISH AMERICA

1. By 1750, Spanish Empire in Americas had been in place for two and half centuries, and it was straining to survive.
 - A. Growing division emerged among those at the top of the social hierarchy-Creoles and Peninsulars
 - B. Sense of Creole identity had begun to emerge in Spanish America by mid-17th century
 - Reinforced by local pride
 - Open discrimination from Peninsulars
 - Like English counterparts, saw themselves as best judges of how to rule colonies

2. Process of modernization in Spanish America throughout the 18th century heightened growing tension between Creoles and Peninsulars.
 - A. As in N.A. Enlightenment culture forced Spanish Americans to rethink their relationship with the Spanish.
 - Different approaches after Bourbons succeeded after Habsburgs.
 - Questioning of Catholic Church.
 - Radicalism of French and American Revolutions impact Creoles.
 - B. Trading revolution in Atlantic World also had a powerful effect on the Creoles.
 - Felt inability to trade with English and restrictions on trading.
 - Larger population than Spain and produced more exports, but limited to trading with one port in Spain.
 - Heavily taxed and regulated.



SEEDS OF REBELLION IN SPANISH AMERICA

3. Spanish Crown made sustained effort in 1750s to revamp and revitalize empire with Bourbon Reforms.
 - A. Habsburgs dynasty ended in 1700
 - Struggle for succession (War for Spanish Succession)-Spanish, French, English, and Portuguese.
 - Replaced with branch of French Bourbon royal family on Spanish throne.
 - English won war-Achieved important economic and political concessions.
 - B. Bourbon Reforms-sweeping changes affected administration, commerce, and the relationship between the Crown and its subjects.
 - Centralized power in hands of king.
 - Weakened power of nobility and excluding older nobility from positions of power.
 - Attacked Catholic Church.
 - Reasserted control over the colonies after century of lax imperial rule (like in N.A.).
 - Trade still closed to English.
 - C. Reforms were too little too late to save an aging empire.
 - Reassertions (as in N. A.) angered and alienated many Creoles.
 - Inability of Creoles to trade freely with English produced dissatisfaction.
 - Few openly advocated a break- until events in Europe forced the issues.



QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

- Why would Peninsulars look down upon the Creoles?
- Why do you think Creoles continued to support the Spanish Crown even after the reforms were seen to be limited?



NAPOLEON INVADES SPAIN AND PORTUGAL

1. Although the process of modernization and reform set the stage for wars for independence, it was the NAPOLEONIC WARS in Europe and Napoleon's invasion of Spain that triggered the wars for independence in Spanish America.
 - A. Invaded in 1807-1808.
 - Deposed Iberian monarchs
 - Severed connection between Iberia and Latin Americans colonies.
 - Portuguese royal family fled to Brazil in 1807 and Napoleon imprisoned Spanish king and crown prince in 1808.
 - Spanish America would have to decide how to rule their own lands under new French control.
 - B. Influence of French Revolution as rise of Napoleon (1799-1815)
 - Armies across Europe until 1815.
 - 1803 British declare war of France, and the Austrian and Russian empires soon join coalition.
 - Concentrated on closing continent off to British trade.
 - Portugal and Spain only "holes" in blockade.



NAPOLEON INVADES SPAIN AND PORTUGAL

2. Spanish and Portuguese monarchs reacted in different ways to invasions.
 - A. Portuguese long allies with English and had been preparing for invasion by the French for more than a decade.
 - Ruling family in Portugal since 1640
 - Rise of French revolutionary army in 1790s, Portuguese monarchy secretly began planning for invasion.
 - In 1807, invasion occurs and royal family evacuates to Brazil under British escort.
 - Family resides in Brazil from 1808-1821, ruling from Rio de Janeiro.
 - B. Compared to Spanish Bourbons
 - Conspire against each other and with Napoleon at different times-within Spanish ruling family
 - Napoleon places half-brother Joseph on Spanish throne.



NAPOLEON INVADES SPAIN AND PORTUGAL

3. Spanish people resisted the French occupation with tenacity and at a great cost.
 - A. Spanish confronted the overwhelming force of the French with a form of fighting that came to be known as *guerrilla* warfare.
 - May uprisings 1808-Goya
 - B. Formation of *juntas* to rule in the name of the imprisoned Spanish king.
 - Joined together to form “supreme” Central Junta
 - Colonists also formed juntas
 - Pivotal shift- “people” ruling through the juntas rather than the king.



NAPOLEON INVADES SPAIN AND PORTUGAL

4. Events in Spain triggered the wars for independence in Spanish America.
 - A. First set of wars broke out after 1808, led by first wave of rebels.
 - Most colonists reluctant to break with Spain and chose to remain loyal to Spanish king in his absence.
 - Some chose to seize opportunity of the moment and call for independence.
 - Rebellions that broke out were nearly all defeated
 - B. Ironically, the return of the Spanish king to power in 1814 triggered second set of wars for independence.
 - Disappointed many loyalists colonists by attempting to return to absolutist, colonial regime of 18th century-stupid and disastrous
 - With wounds and divisions opened by first set of wars, his rejection of constitutionalism and the Constitution of 1812 sparked final collapse of Spain's empire in Americas.



QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

- Why did Portuguese royal family take such a different approach than the Spanish royal family to pressure from Napoleon?
- How would a constitutional monarchy have been different from the older absolutist monarchy?



MEXICO-RACE AND CLASS WARFARE

1. War for Mexican independence took place in two stages
 - A. Race and class warfare in 1810 and then brokered power deal in 1820
 - Began in 1810
 - Small elite of Spaniards (Creoles and Peninsulars) ruled over large population of Indians and racially mixed people
 - Two priests led uprising of poor people, largely Indians, and threatened to destroy upper-class whites.
 - Class and race warfare=nightmare of Latin American elites.
 - Both Creoles and Peninsulars closed ranks in Mexico to defeat insurgency and restore order.
 - B. Mexico richest colony of Spain and elites had more stake in struggle for independence.
 - Rich in silver and Indian labor and by end of 18th century produced enormous profits and created richest family fortunes
 - Population 6 million in 1800; Viceroyalty
 - Masses suffered greatly through 10 major famines before 1810
 - Catholic Church accumulated enormous wealth, primarily landholdings and loans.
 - C. New Spain was classic Spanish American colony, where thousands of Peninsular Spaniards ruled over a million Creoles, who ruled over 5 million Indians and *mestizos*.



QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

- In what ways is the rebellion in Mexico similar to the opening stages of the French Revolution?
- In what ways did Spain botch its efforts to keep Mexico in the empire?



BRAZIL-A ROYAL REVOLUTION

1. Path to independence in Brazil was similar to that of Spanish America but with important differences.
 - A. Did not fall under control Napoleon but instead royal family fled to Brazil and ruled from there.
 - Brazil became an empire with a monarchy and an aristocracy, a unique position in history of Americas.
2. War for independence in Brazil was brief and relatively bloodless.
 - A. Challenge for Brazil was not to defeat the Portuguese so much as it was a struggle to hold the regions of Brazil together through process of independence and beyond.
 - Similar to British North American colonies; string of settlements.
3. Little bloodshed and minimal social upheaval
 - A. More impressive than political stability was the ability of the Brazilian elites to maintain social peace.



QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

- How did the presence of the Portuguese royal family in Rio defuse the grievances of Brazilian elites?
- In what ways did monarchy provide stability and continuity for the newly independent Brazilian nation?

