Argentine War for Independence

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SPECIFIC CAUSES

BRITISH ATTACKS IN BUENOS AIRES

- British wanted the riches of Latin America
  - Agricultural land, natural harbours, and connection to South America interiors
- Buenos Aires could potentially be a location of a British trading base/colony
- The Maitland Plan in 1804 was the first plan discussed to attack South America
  - Plan to capture Buenos Aires, Chile, and Peru
- Both of the British invasions in Buenos Aires were unsuccessful due to the doubt of urban warfare
- In 1806, British made a move into Buenos Aires successfully
  - Many civic leaders were afraid of losing their colonial trade with Spain and competition of British merchants
  - Santiago de Liniers, a French born Spanish general reclaimed Buenos Aires with the help from the people who despised the British
SPECIFIC CAUSES

MORE BRITISH ATTACKS

- In 1807 the British attack Buenos Aires again with a force of 8,000 soldiers outnumbering the amount of forces in Buenos Aires
  - John Whitelocke made many mistakes which caused him to lose the battle for instance holding his forces when he had an advantage to invade and rushing into the city rather than firing artillery barrages
    - Split forces into 10 groups
  - Whitelocke underestimated warfare of Spanish
  - Santiago de Liners’ forces contained 686 African slaves, Spanish regulars and colonial militiamen
  - Citizens poured boiling water and hot oil on redcoats
- Neither could Spanish-Argentines or British troops were strong enough to engage in another battle
  - British left Buenos Aires and agreed to never return as invaders
SPECIFIC CAUSES

❖ Buenos Aires had developed one of the most extensive contraband trades in America.
  ➢ Essentially giving the impression that without trade and relations with their mother country, they can survive for themselves off their own economic trade system.
  ➢ Being highly profitable for merchants and even foreigners.
  ➢ And the development of this contraband trade becoming a problem from Spain, giving the impression that it is inefficient that the Spanish rule from afar.

❖ The need for contact with world markets
  ➢ Evidently, because Britain being the primary consumer of goods, and not Spain, idealizing trade with Spain to be unrealistic and unreasonable.
  ➢ And the May Revolution (May 25., 1810) essentially being a revolution for a free port, to expand the trade market to more exotic and profitable goods.
SPECIFIC CAUSES

Enlightenment Ideas

❖ Inspiration of American and French Revolutions
❖ The United States’ Declaration of Independence
   ➢ Led Creoles to believe that independence from Spain is possible
❖ Age of Enlightenment promoted desires of social change among the Creoles.
❖ Phrase “all men are created equal” used in the United States’ Declaration of Independence and by Spanish church emphasized equality among people
❖ Ideas such as equality for men, self-rule, freedom from tyranny/slavery, and representative government with input from working/middle class.
The Laws of the Indies: Highlighted are the Laws of Burgos

- Adaptations to Castilian Law by the Spanish Crown
  - Underwent constant rewrites
  - Heavily changed by the Valladolid debate

- Regulated social life between the colonists and the indigenous peoples
  - Restricted the colonists, making them feel unimportant in comparison to the indigenous peoples
  - Put the colonists in a rough position
    - They had to treat the indigenous with a certain level of compassion and make them feel safe
    - Still had to enforce manual labor under the encomienda system founded long before
  - The new regulations led to a change in social status for the indigenous that the colonists didn't approve of
    - It meant their money had to be used to pay the indigenous in order for them to buy clothes
    - They couldn't force married women or children to work in mines or anything else that was heavy labor
    - Indigenous were free to go after two years which is when they would reach “Pure Christian” status
Before The Wars for Independence

- When Europeans first settled into Argentina, the native people were forced into labor after they were conquered.
  - Being separated into small groups to be sent to work in other various settlements in Latin America.
  - Most other Argentine Indians were hunters and gatherers, who were eventually exterminated or driven away by Spain settlers.
  - In the colonial period, the population of natives in Argentina was 30%, with their population depleting from before colonization.
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

❖ After Argentine Independence
❖ Battle of Quero 1875
  ➢ Group of Kollo went up against the government who were trying to sell their indigenous land to people who were not.
  ➢
THE CHURCH IN ARGENTINA

❖ The Catholic Church within colonial Latin America
  ➢ The church was the single largest landowner within the colony, developing commercial agriculture to support most activities.
  ➢ Religious order in the church created those commercial activities such as sheep production and weaving, grape production and brandy.
  ➢ The challenge of recruiting people to the religion of the New World.
    ■ Proving to be a daunting task because of the significant differences cultural and social interpretations, especially with the natives in Colonial Latin America.
    ■ The Spanish Crown took an active role with the installment of the church in the New World.
      ● Taking upon himself to appoint bishops, archbishops, and major officials to administer the church.
WOMEN IN ARGENTINA

❖ Before independence in Argentina
  ➢ Most of the women would manage businesses and property while their husbands, and family were out participating for independence.
  ➢ Some women provided food and nursing for the militia, and few to actually participate in battle, if not by accident.
  ➢ In 1801, the first daily newspaper was founded by the colonial government in Buenos Aires.

  ■ Manuel Belgrano, a political leaders and writer, stressed the need for women to acquire skills to increase their economic independence, and to grant them more responsibilities and privileges within society.
The May Revolution

- A weeklong series of revolts, May 18-25, 1810
- Led to the “Primera Junta”
- Response to Peninsular War (1808)
  - Ferdinand VII abdicates his throne
  - Joseph Bonaparte gains control
  - Supreme Central Junta seen as ineffective
- Inspiration drawn from American/French Revolution
  - Trade bans
  - Appointment of nonsensical political candidates
  - Rivalries between classes
- Radical actions were taken and government sympathizers were harassed
Paraguay Campaign

- Manuel Belgrano led militia into Paraguay to promote revolutionary ideals and end royalist ideals.
- Ended in military failure and led to ties between Paraguay and Spain being snipped in two.
- Paraguayans didn’t originally want to partake in the independence movement, but Belgrano persisted and invaded the region.
- The aftermath of the defeat saw the Paraguayans gain independence from the Junta.
Peru Campaigns

- Led by Juan Jose Castelli in 1810
- Attempted to expand ideas of the May Revolution into modern-day Bolivia
- Initial victories were celebrated such as the Battle of Suipacha, but were short lived
- Royalist influences returned to the land after the Battle of Huaqui
- Jujuy Exodus led by Manuel Belgrano
- Royalists finally overthrown by Antonio José de Sucre y Alcalá
Banda Oriental Campaign

- After heavy losses in the aforementioned campaigns, they first took a peaceful approach when involving Uruguay.
- After accusations of treason and other conflicts, an army of Argentinians were finally led into Uruguay.
- Naval battles ensued and the battle of Buceo saw the royalist presence die out in Uruguay.
JOSE DE SAN MARTIN

- Argentine general who studied abroad from the age of seven
- Partook in the Peninsular War before returning to Argentina
- Led army to victory in the Battle of San Lorenzo and later coordinated the Crossing of the Andes
- Reorganized the economy for war production
- Resigned abruptly in 1822 before moving to France
Manuel Belgrano

- Argentine military leader
- Pioneered ideas of independence
- Member of the Primera Junta
- Leader of the Paraguay Campaign and Second Upper Peru Campaign
- Ordered the Jujuy Exodus and designed what would become the national flag
- Petitioned for improvements in education, agriculture, trade and communications
Key figure in the Primera Junta
Wrote the “Representation of the Landowners”
Became secretary of the military and political affairs
Protested previous government and organized military campaigns to Peru and Paraguay
Founded national library and established government newspapers
Sent on a diplomatic mission to Britain but died on the trip there
JUANA AZURDUY DE PADILLA

- Left her four children to join the liberation of Upper Peru
- Joined the ranks of Manuel Belgrano after helping overthrow the Vice Regency
- From 1811-1814, she persisted against the Royalists, fighting the Spanish Army at one point while pregnant
FOREIGN DIPLOMACY

- Most actions between other nations had occurred after independence.
- Britain relations with Argentina
  - Britain had stayed neutral throughout the conflict.
- Argentine National Organization (1853-1879)
  - Argentina began to outline a foreign policy favouring relations with Britain, who had become one of the main buyers of Argentina's raw materials and major source of investment.
- Monroe Doctrine, 1823
- Drago Doctrine. International law did not authorize European powers to use armed force to get New American Republics to pay debts.
- Ostend Manifesto
  - Written document describing the rationale for the United States to purchase Cuba from Spain. Implied that the United States should declare war if they refused.
Juan Manuel de Rosas

- Ruled during 1829-1832, 1835-1852.
- Rosas started his military career at age 15.
- He volunteered in the Buenos Aires forces to fight during the 2nd English invasion.
- He entered the power struggle between leaders in Buenos Aires and the landed aristocracy of the interior provinces.
- In 1820, governor Manuel Dorrego appointed Rosas as head of the provincial militia.
- The legislature unanimously elected Rosas as governor, he ruled as a centralist with Buenos Aires as the main power base in 1829.
RISE, POLICIES AND IMPACT - Juan Manuel de Rosas

Policies:

- Established a formidable dictatorship by model of tyrannical and personalistic leadership.
- Ruled by fiat, dictating policy directly to private secretaries.
- Private police force, *mazorcas*, violently force people to comply. The members acted as thugs and vigilantes.
- Rosas would only rule if he was granted extraordinary resources, absolute public authority, and extended governor term of office to 3-5 years.
- Show their loyalty
  - Citizens were required to wear red favours. Priests had to display a portrait of Rosas on the altars in churches.
RISE, POLICIES, AND IMPACT - Juan Manuel De Rosas

Impact:
- Increased the lands available for settlement.
- Stopped the cycle of civil wars between the provinces.
- He signed the Federal Pact in 1831.
- Recognized provincial autonomy and created the Argentine Confederation.
- Paid down foreign debts.
- Promoted the export of salted beef and hides.
- Some see him as a brutal ruler, compared to that of Spanish dictators.
- Others see him as a defender of Argentina’s sovereignty and culture.
SPECIFIC OUTCOME

- **Argentinian Constitution of 1853**
  - Sustaining Argentina with a “Nominal” form of republican, representative and federal government.
  - One part on the rights of the inhabitants and one part on the organization of the government.

- **Connections to The American Constitution of 1776**
  - Argentina's government consisting of the 3 branches, in attempt to re-create the aspect of separation of powers, and keeping those branches until today.
  - Having individual provinces (states) with their own governments.
SPECIFIC OUTCOME cont.

- In 1820, two political organizations could claim more than strictly local and provincial followings. The revolutionary government in Buenos Aires and the League of Free Peoples.
  - Both organizations collapsing within the same year
  - By then, military leaders had assumed power in almost every province.
    - Leading to Caudillo Rule within Argentina and Spanish America.
IMMEDIATE EFFECTS

- **Boundaries**
  - Formerly Spanish America, it had split into more than a dozen separate countries, with individual provinces within them.

- **Quickly organizing an “Open Cabildo”**

- **The Primera Junta**
  - Armed conflicts between the new Junta and those loyal to the Spanish Crown began in 1810.

- **The Argentine war of independence did not officially conclude until 1818.**
Impact of the War

Social Classes

❖ Creoles felt disrespected
   ➢ Peninsulares had more power in society because caste system was based on Spanish heritage
   ➢ Creoles felt that they were not represented enough in the government.
     ■ Many government roles has been given to Natives which disturbed creoles
   ➢ Creoles thought the power of peninsulares were unreasonable which led them to wanting a free radical status through independence.
AFTER INDEPENDENCE

❖ Economic consequences
  ➢ After separation from Spain in 1810, Argentina enjoyed a dramatic improvement in trade.
  ➢ The small group of peninsular merchants that controlled commerce, came to an end.
    ■ The Primera Junta, undertaking a protectionist policy, until their fall from government.
  ➢ The value of currency
    ■ Depending on which province you were in, each different currency would change value.
WOMEN IDEALS AFTER INDEPENDENCE

❖ Many women had devoted their lives to the independence cause
  ➢ Women often brought food and supplies to the troops, nursed the wounded, provided some funding and were even known to help in battle
  ➢ The women that fought were sometimes dressed as men, and others were completely open about their gender

❖ After independence was declared, attempts were made to change certain aspects of laws surrounding gender
  ➢ Some success is found in helping equalize punishments given to men and women
  ➢ Overall ideas about equality were still in need of development

❖ Unfortunately, much of the praise that many women should have gotten was overlooked
  ➢ This was somewhat of a “reality check” for some of them, since it showed that not a lot had really changed
  ➢ There were positive advancements, but no real leaps and bounds were made
The Church in Argentina

Once independence had been gained, the enlightenment ideals that had swept the nation were essential in reworking their political structure, social classes and economic relations.

Heavy emphasis on the Church wasn’t seen as vital as it was before

- The Church’s prior influence was minimized as certain reforms were made
  - Their annual *tithes* tax was brought to an end
  - Many of the Church’s back-pocket assets were transferred to the state such as certain hospitals and educational facilities
    - This also occurred during the years when they were seeking independence as was a key reason for the Church's later resentment of the State

- The relationship between the Church and State was drastically weakening
  - Disputes were not uncommon
    - About education, marital affairs and appointment of religious authorities
  - These tensions were carried for many years, and more than 60 years later (1880s), the two opposing side cut all relations
    - Things were not mended until after the turn of the century
Argentine Revolution Compare/Contrast

❖ AMERICAN REVOLUTION

➢ Similarities

■ Revolution was an attempt to break away from an oppressive mother country during a time when they were vulnerable

■ Stemmed from grievances revolving around taxation and the idea of being disregarded despite their significant role in economic profit

■ Their colonies were able to thrive alone economically, politically and culturally, therefore, independence was the only sensible action

■ Ideas of brotherhood in the 13 colonies were not unlike the Nativism that swept the viceroyalty

■ European nations were not fit to rule over colonies they didn’t know well and reasonable regulations were few and far between
Argentine Revolution Compare/Contrast

❖ AMERICAN REVOLUTION

➢ Differences

■ Argentine independence was somewhat more unified
  • Ideas of Nativism were vital to their victory
  • They were more focused on their countries independence, whereas the American colonists were focused on individual liberties and freedoms not granted previously

■ Argentine methods had a vendetta behind them that American tactics didn’t
  • Chants in America were for “Liberty” whereas Argentine revolutionaries wished death and tragedy upon Spaniards
“1807 Napoleon's Troops Enter the Iberian Peninsula and Usurp the King of Spain.” War and Nation: Identity and the Process of State-Building in South America (1800-1840), research.kent.ac.uk/warandnation/1807-napoleons-troops-enter-the-iberian-peninsular-and-usurp-the-king-of-spain/.


Manuel Belgrano Facts, biography.yourdictionary.com/manuel-belgrano.


