Venezuela and the Viceroyalty of New Granada (includes Columbia, Ecuador, Venezuela and Panama.)

By Keegan Brown
Causes and Origins of Independence Movements

- **Bourbon Reforms**
  - Philip the 5th initiated Reforms to the Colonial Structure to favored Peninsulares and get more money out of Latin America
  - Mercantilism policies implemented successfully to bring more profit for Spain and served as a primary revenue for Spain in its costly wars
  - Reforms in general took power from the Creole Elite by taking away high governmental and church positions. Also restricting their ability to trade with other nations

- **Spain's instability and wars**
  - Spain went through numerous wars with other European nations like the War of Spanish Succession and the American Revolutionary War putting Spain heavily in debt
  - The Revolutionary and subsequent wars put Spain at war with Britain
  - Napoleonic Wars directly Responsible for Venezuela's first republic rendering Spain incapable of fighting off colonial revolutionaries.
Causes and Origins of Independence Movements
Continued

- The caste system created an unstable social structure
- Nativism unified Creoles and rest of the separates classes against Peninsulares
- Enlightenment Ideas couldn't spread to lower classes because of lack of literate people and printing press
- The military leaders who eventually liberate republics were inspired by thinkers and revolutionary movements spawned by them
- Nativism unified latin america into the Americanos while not introducing any real social change
Francisco De Miranda, El Precursor

- Born in 1750 Caracas, Venezuela to Creole.
- Served in Spanish Military from 1772 to 1783.
- Inspired by American Leaders like George Washington and independence movement, and the French revolution where he spent some time being a General.
- He unsuccessfully invaded Venezuela in 1806 with U.S. volunteers and British support.
- In 1811 he was convinced to return to Venezuela where he was a part of the Junta council then became its dictator.
- Failed to move or make any tangible victory against royalist, and wasn’t supported by anyone other than Creoles.
- Summer 1812 Miranda surrendered republic to Spanish but was given over to them by rebellious officers.
Simón Bolívar El Libertador

- **Youth of Simon Bolivar and inspiration**
  - Born in Caracas Venezuela 1783 to one of the wealthiest Creole Families in Venezuela
  - His Tutor Don Simon Rodriguez introduced him to the enlightenment thinkers Montesquieu and Rousseau
  - At the age of 16 he went to Spain to study in a military academy

- **Contributions to the First and Second Republics**
  - Financial Support aided Venezuela's first Junta who eventually declared independence
  - Was an officer in First Republics army although it was unsuccessful
  - Simon Bolivar began the “admirable campaign” liberating Venezuela forming a short lived second Republic
Simon Bolivar Continued

- **Fall of the Second Republic**
  - Simon Bolivar became the dictator of the Republic after his victory at the Battle of Los Horcones
  - Jose Tomas Boves the leader of a large group of Llaneros known as the “Legion of Hell” helped out remaining Royalist forces retake the Republic

- **The formation of the Third Republic/Gran Colombia**
  - Simon Bolivar fled to Jamaica and then Haiti where he got the support of the President Alexandre Petion, who required him to free slaves,
  - He freed New Granada after a treacherous crossing of the Andes
  - A lot of his calvary consisted of Llaneros lead by Jose Antonio Paez
  - After victory at the Battle Carabobo he marched into Caracas and freed Venezuela from Spain for the last time
  - Ecuador and were later incorporated into Gran Colombia with the capital at Bogota
Reformation to the Republic and the Simon Bolivar’s Dictatorship

- Up until 1826 Simon Bolivar spent most of his time administering Upper Peru/Bolivia creating its first constitution
- In 1826 Venezuela and other states tried to rebel and only stop for the Ocana convention in 1828
- Bolivar took direct control of the Republic for two years where he tried to get rid of all rebellious fractions although he mostly failed
- In 1830 Simon Bolivar left his position and President and soon after died of Tuberculosis. Gran Colombia soon after dissolved into the republics of Ecuador, New Granada/Colombia and Venezuela which were all highly centralized governments lead by Caudillos.
Jose Antonio Paez

- Born in Carpa Venezuela as a mestizo. His early childhood was hard with him working like a slave but he eventually became a cattle trader.
- Joined a calvary squad that was fighting against colonial government.
- He became his own leader and eventually had control of a large amount of llaneros, always fighting for Republican forces despite their defeats.
- He became Venezuelan hero with such victories as the Battle of Las Queseras del Medio and the Battle Carabobo.
- His alliance with Simon Bolivar provided him with the necessary calvary to defeat the Royalist forces who were also using Llaneros as a cavalry force.
Caudillo Rule in Venezuela

- Jose Antonio Paez ruled from 1830 to 1848 as president and puppeteer
- Under his leadership the church was separated from state
- Due to his victories Jose was seen as a war hero and was loved by the masses
- His government had a president and congress but was controlled by the wealthy elite in Venezuela
- His Caudillo rule was an exception to others being prosperous for Venezuela
- Tadeo Monagas and Jose Gregorio Monagas rule Ruled from 1847 to 1858 with each other switching presidency
- Introduced liberal policies such as the the abolishment of slavery which Simon Bolivar never implemented for the wider public and extended suffrage for males.
- After their subsequent overthrow Venezuela spent a long time switching between Caudillo rulers either supporting liberal or conservative ideas
Effects of Revolutions

● Politically
  ○ From Jose Antonio Paez in 1830 to Juan Vicente Gomez death in 1935 Venezuela was ruled by Caudillos but their rule differed
  ○ Jose Paez formed a strong centralized government supported by a wealthy oligarchy with a congress.
  ○ The Mongagas rule saw no congress and power mainly being in the Mongagas hands
  ○ Succeeding rulers went through many civil wars and conflicts.

● Economically
  ○ Free trade between many European countries was established. Cocoa being the primary export of the merchants of Venezuela
  ○ Under Jose Antonio Paez the economy grew and foreign credit was established which was the most economic movement the country would see for a while
  ○ For the majority of the other years the government couldn't pay its debt
Effects of Revolutions Continued

- **Economic Continued**
  - The economy would either be in stagnation or decline due to corrupt administration and war constantly stopped trade.

- **Culture**
  - Caracas Earthquake cause the clergy to conspire against the first republic. The later Venezuelan republic under Paez didn’t allow the church to have much power because of this.
  - Jose Paez broke the church from state permanently diminishing the power of the church in Venezuela and effects on their daily lives.

- **Socially**
  - Paez and other conservative governments the government never changed but during the liberal governments like the Monagas the social policies were but rarely did these have immediate effects.
  - Slavery was abolished by the Montagas which used to play a big role in Venezuelan Cocoa industry.
U.S. in Venezuela/Gran Colombia

- Francis Miranda was slightly supported by U.S. in 1806.
  - Had strong relationship with Thomas Jefferson the president
- America Remain neutral in all Latin American Independence wars
  - Punished anybody who tried to support the revolutionary movements
- America recognized the Venezuelan Republic in 1835.
- First Ambassador was John G.A. Williamson