Venezuela & the Latin American Wars of Independence
The Viceroyalty of New Granada

- **Hierarchies**
  - Royal Bureaucrats/Peninsulares had top government posts
  - Spanish clergymen had top church positions
  - Creoles owned land and encomiendas
  - Mestizos (European and Native ancestry) and mulattoes (European and African ancestry) lower classes, had no political influence or social class, working class usually forced labor
- Established in 1717 under Spanish rule
- Included Panama (after 1751), Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela
- Capital at Santa Fe (now Bogota)
- Colony had some ruling over their own regions
- A new desire for colonial products in Spain caused an arts and intellectual movement
- 18th century an arts and intellectual movement flourished; however, it deepened the divide between the peninsulares and the creoles
1. Specific Causes
Specific Causes

- Creoles declared in 1797 that they're an independent republic
  - Pushed other independence movements
- 1806, Francisco de Miranda was a general in the French Revolution who tried to land in Venezuela on the coast with a group of mercenaries from NY.
  - Was for the Venezuelan rev. tried to start a war then got sent to Spain because Venezuelan citizens did not want a war
  - Tried to take control of juntas
- Simon Bolivar appointed revolutionary junta leader in 1813
  - A wealthy creole landowner from Caracas
- Ideas Of Enlightenment
  - Popular sovereignty
  - Natural rights of the people
- Challenge monarchy (Spain)
- Haitian Revolution showed that revolts like what had happened in American Rev. and French rev. Could also work in Latin America inspire action in other Latin American countries like Venezuela
Specific Causes

- High taxes and oppressive working conditions pushed more people towards rev.
  - Slaves served in the military
- Venezuela was oppressed after European explorers took control of the land
  - Europeans were elevated in this system, and the original Americans were undermined
  - Creoles direct support of Simon bolivar because of their feelings towards the later settlers
- The colonists were enraged by Napoleon's march into Spain in 1808. Many of the generals and viceroys fell back under Spain's control, which caused the colonists to demand liberation.
- The French Revolution helped the people of Latin America realize that they could fight for freedom as well, and it was a motivator
2. Major Events and Battles
Battle of La Victoria (I +II)

DATE: June 20-29, 1812
WHERE: La Victoria, Venezuela
WHAT: Spanish assaults on the city
WHO: By captain Domingo de Monteverde who was targeting the forces of Francisco de Miranda

DATE: February 12, 1814
WHERE: La Victoria, Venezuela
WHO: royalist forces under José Tomás Boves
WHAT: tried to take the city of La Victoria, held by General José Félix Ribas.
The battle of Boyaca is considered the beginning of the independence of the North of South America, and is considered important because it led to the victories of the battle of Carabobo in Venezuela, and occurred on August 7th, 1819.

Brigadier Generals Francisco de Paula Santander and José Antonio Anzoátegui led a combined republican army of Newgranadians to defeat in two hours a Royalist Newgranadian forces led by Spanish Colonies José María Barreiro and Francisco Jiménez.

The battle occurred 150 km from Bogotá in the Andes Mountains, in a place known as Casa de Teja, close to a
Battle of Boyaca

The Battle of Boyaca is important because it led to the victories of the battle of Carabobo in Venezuela and considered the beginning of the independence of the Northern part South America.

Simon Bolivar, Francisco de Paula Santander and José Antonio Anzoátegui led an army of 3,000 Newgranadians to defeat in two hours a Royalist Newgranadian forces led by Spanish Colonels José María Barreiro and Francisco Jiménez.

The battle occurred 150 km from Bogotá in the Andes Mountains, in a place known as Casa de Teja, close to a bridge called el Puente de Boyacá.

This was after beating the Spaniards in Gámeza (July 12) and Pantano de Vargas (July 25) and captured Tunja on August 5.

Santander and Bolivar strategize so that Santender would block off a bridge while Bolivar attacked from the main side.
CONSEQUENCES OF THIS WAR

- It was the end of the royal Spanish control in New Granada along with the Latin American provinces, and weakened of the rest of the forces in all America
  - However fighting with the royalists continued for years
- The creation of Gran Colombia and independence for Venezuela, Peru, Ecuador and gration of Bolivia.
- The start of individual governments for the Latin American province
Battle of Carabobo

DATE: June 24, 1821
LOCATION: The plains west of Caracas, in Carabobos, Venezuela
WHO: Fought between people fighting for independence led by Venezuelan General Simón Bolívar and the Royalist group led by Spanish Field, Marshal Miguel de la Torre.
WHO WON: The South American patriots
IMPACT: Nearly freed Venezuela from Spanish control.
WHY THE SPANISH GAVE UP

- After many unsuccessful battles being defeated by the Venezuelans and other groups, it was hard for the Spanish to retain their vigor and continue to fight against the people for land they already had little control over.

- Emotionally, the people of Venezuela were overjoyed that the fighting was over and the opportunity to create their own country, however, during the wars it was very emotionally and physically taxing for the people of Venezuela to fight for their land and freedom.
Monroe Doctrine
Monroe Doctrine

- warning given in 1823 to Europe to not get involved in the western hemisphere affairs (given by U.S.)

Four main points

- The United States would not involve themselves in internal wars of European between European powers and leaders
- The United States recognized the countries and would not interfere with existing colonies of the western hemisphere
- No one could colonize the western hemisphere anymore
- Any oppression by a European power on any nation in the western hemisphere would be viewed as a hostile act against the United States
Monroe Doctrine

- The First draft included a reproof of the French invasion of Spain, an acknowledgement of Greek independence in revolt against Turkey, and some further indications of American concern in European affairs.
- Monroe doctrine meant basically nothing outside of U.S.
- In 1845 and 1848 President James K. Polk clarified Monroe's doctrine as a warning to Britain and Spain not to establish hold over in Oregon, California, or Mexico's Yucatán Peninsula specifically when the French tried taking land in Mexico and ruling over it.
- Created to hold back the European countries wanting to bring monarchical power back this scared Monroe because he didn't want this to be in the West.
- 1823 after Spain won Peninsular War this was instead as to hold them back by the United States.
- Important because it created to separate hemispheres and made both sides stay out of each other realms of control.
3. Foreign Diplomacy
Venezuela’s new government was the first to initiate a foreign diplomatic mission, by getting guns and arms.

Bolivar went to London and there, he was highly praised, but not highly protected.

- He got weapons and tried to recruit people for his cause

Next to no connect between them and other countries before hand

1870 Guzman Blanco had attachment to liberal party ideas and began foreign investment in goods again through his position as head of ministry of foreign affairs

José Tadeo Monagas 1848 to 58 brought a decay to the economie pulling all foreign relationships apart

Country never reached stable foreign bound because they could never reach stable internal bounds

United states recognized gran colombia (Monroe Doctrine)
Simon Bolivar wrote the Jamaican Letter of September 6, 1815 describing the political affairs in Spanish America and the benefits of a final victory for the Patriots.

Jamaicans offered little support.

Bolivar reached out to the President of Haiti, Alexandre Sabes Petion who helped get Bolivar's army and supplies numbers up in order to defeat the British.

Bolivar also gained the respect of the Llanos (the plainsland cowboys), and a few British and Irish volunteers who presented themselves for his military campaign and efforts to end royal rule in Latin America.
4. Major Leaders
Simon Bolivar -

"The Liberator of Venezuela renounces forever and declines irrevocably to accept any office except the post of danger at the head of our soldiers in defense of the salvation of our country." —Simón Bolívar

- 1811 Independence of Venezuela from Spain; Miranda’s failure
- 1813 Bolívar reconquered Caracas; General Boves counterattacked
- 1815 Morillo’s campaign; Bolívar exiled in Jamaica; Jamaican letter
- 1819 Royalists defeated at Boyacá by Bolivar
- 1820—21 Venezuela and New Granada liberated

**Born:** July 24, 1783 in Caracas, Venezuela
**Died:** December 17, 1830 in Santa Marta, Colombia due to tuberculosis
**Nationality:** Venezuelan
**Occupation:** Military leader who was also known as El Libertador; “The Liberator of Venezuela renounces forever and declines irrevocably to accept any office except the post of danger at the head of our soldiers in defense of the salvation of our country.” —Simón Bolívar
SIMON BOLIVAR (CONTINUED)

- His whole intention was to liberate the Countries of Latin America and give the people freedom.
- He created Gran Colombia from Venezuela, Colombia Panama and Ecuador, this was after more than 200 battles with the imperial Spanish.
- Born into Elite Creole family
  - Both of his parents died when he was young, so he lived with his uncle and continued his education.
- His education was based in the foundation of the Enlightenment and the philosophy of Locke's, Hobbes, and Rousseau. He educated himself about the French Revolution and became a supporter of liberal actions for the people.
- When he traveled again to Europe he observed public opinion and the ways of liberalism.
- Caracas was the birthplace of Latin American Independence.
He led Venezuela, Colombia, Panama, Ecuador, and Peru to their independence and even briefly united them as a single nation called Gran Colombia. Bolívar knew that self-government had problems such as the heterogeneous nature of the population, the illiteracy, the lack of a middle class, the superstitious nature of an adulterated Catholicism; and the lack of civic cohesiveness.
SAN MARTÍN

Born: February 25, 1778 in Yapeyu, Argentina  
Died: August 17, 1850 in Boulogne-sur-Mer, France  
Patriotic military leader for Argentina, Chile and Peru

- He had a prior 20 years to pursue his military career in Spain. During this time frame, San Martin was a cadet loyal to the Spanish monarch.
- Napoleon and his rule over Spain was a turning point for San Martin in 1808.
- After the Battle of Bailen, San Martin was elevated to a lieutenant colonel, and asked to be moved to Lima to organize a corps of grenadiers who were against the Spanish royalists in Argentina, wanting to stop Latin American independent government.
  - This switched his alliance and he was no longer faithful to Spain.
    - James Duff (a man from England who inspired him)
    - wanted to take a stand for his native land.
SAN MARTIN CONTINUED

- He fought hard for Peru and Chile

- He met with Bolivar in 1822 in Guayaquil, and had a secret meeting, and what was said between the two of them in unknown, yet San Martin rushed back to Lima, sick and tired, never to fight for revolutionary causes again, then lived in exile in France with his daughter until his death in 1850

- San Martin was not a direct help to Venezuela, however his role in Chile and Peru, helped influence the other countries such as Venezuela to take a stand in the fight for independence. Also, his collaboration and agreements with Bolivar helped in the long term fight for all of Latin America.
5. Specific Outcomes
Specific Outcomes

- Bolivar was exiled by constitution of 1830
- Venezuela even though fought for independence didn't have a strong government
- Led and fought for by military leaders
- Jose Paez was the first he fought against Simon Bolivar for power and later fought for freedom from Gran Colombia 1830 to 47
Specific Outcomes

- Mostly rural extremely hard to get a cohesive government and the political leader had next to no power
- Caudillos and pardos continued to have many revolts post revolution
- Paez started out as a leader who wanted republican leader ideals but ultimately fell to a dictatorship
- Antonio Guzmán Blanco was a military leader who fought his way into power for 3 terms 1870 to 1887
6. Immediate Effects
The New Republic of Gran Colombia

The New Republic of Gran Colombia (Great Columbia)

- Simon Bolivar
  - Simon Bolivar formed the Gran Colombia in 1821
  - He tried to mimic American style federations
- Included Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama,
- State was officially named the Congress of Cucuta
- It had a constitutional congress, presidency, bicameral congress, and a high court
- The United States recognized the legitimacy of Gran Colombia
- Economic and political rivalries between the countries in the federation caused inner turmoil
1828 there was a split in the united federation, some countries were for a centralized government, some not
- Venezuela was a strong federalist country and tried to secede from Gran Colombia
- Bolivar in an attempt to make Gran Colombia stronger, drafted a highly unpopular constitution and other reforms
- his supporters opposed his reforms and left the constitutional convention without signing it
- In an effort to save the federation, Bolivar declared himself dictator in 1828, however Gran Colombia was on the brink of a civil war between Bolivar’s followers and the people who wanted their countries to secede
- After an assassination attempt on Bolivar in 1830, he resigned and fled to Europe and Gran Colombia dissolved in 1831
7. Rise, Policies, and Impact of the Caudillo Rule
● Caudillo- military dictators
  ○ Exercise power for their own personal benefit and not for the nation
● Simon Bolivar fled to Europe, causing Gran Colombia to dissolve, and leaving Venezuela with no leader or intact government
● President Paez assumed presidency twice
  ○ As long as coffee was the economic boom, he ruled with the creole elite in unity to the mestizo caudillo; coffee plunged, causing two factions to occur
● Two caudillos- liberal caudillo, conservative caudillo
  ○ Conservative caudillo wanted Paez to remain in power, however, Paez chose the Monagas brothers to be his successors, they were dictators from 1840-1858
● After the Monagas brothers dictatorship, the factions could not agree on a new leader
● The liberal caudillos won Federal War and general Juan C. Falcon was named president
  ● federalism failed due to his lack of interest in the presidency and his failure to exert strong power, which allowed the local caudillos to push their authoritarian control over their fiefdoms
Caudillos Policies and Impact

Impacts

● A continuation of military dictators until 1945
● In 1945 a coup overthrew the government and established a civilian government
  ○ The first elected president, Romulo Gallegos, elected in 1948 was overthrown in 8 months by a coup
● Political rivalries still occur today within the government

Policies

● If restrictive rules or laws are placed on the “presidents” they can bend and break them
  ○ For example; term limits were often ignored and excused
8. Comparisons to American Revolution
Causes

Similarities

● High taxation
  ○ War debt from fighting with the English caused Spain to administer higher taxes
  ○ England had war debt from seven years war and already was taxing the mainland, had to administer higher taxes to the american colonies

● Little representation in the Spanish government
  ○ The juntas created in spain “included” south america, however, they did not allow any south americans to give input or be apart of the juntas, particularly the Supreme Central Junta
  ○ American colonists had no representation in their gov, parliament wrote all laws and rules
Causes

Similarities Continued

- Government Reforms
  - In Spain the Bourbon reforms angered the colonists, churches began to be underfunded and all colonial gov. Was replaced with iberian born politicians, trade with the colonies was closed to all countries except for spain, colonists wanted free trade
  - In england the reforms replaced colonial gov with english-born people, changed the currency to silver and gold, controlled the trade, and pushed higher taxes
Causes

Differences

● Social Class
  ○ Venezuela patriots were mainly the wealthy creoles who wanted the top jobs instead of the peninsulares who were automatically given them due to their birth place
  ○ American patriots were mainly the middle to lower class because they were not being represented in their gov
Effects isabell

Similarities

- Patriotism
  - Royalists in Venezuela were shunned and humiliated from society
    - Patriot creoles ensured that the social hierarchy remained
  - Loyalists in North America were kicked out and also were humiliated from society
Effects

**Differences**

- **Social Class**
  - Venezuela’s social class remained largely intact, no slave rebellions, wealthy landowners (Creoles) were still in charge of their land.
  - America’s social class was changed, slaves remained slaves even with abolitionist groups.

- **Government**
  - Venezuela became a part of the new republic of Gran Colombia with three other countries, it lasted for 12 years (1819-1831), within those years a constitution was unsuccessfully drafted leading to a dictatorship following not long after, then it dissolved.
  - American gov had the articles of confederation, which colonists then amended with the declaration of independence and the bill of rights, the government is still in use today.
Venezuela Art Piece and its meaning
Art Pieces Importance

The Battle of Boyaca
❖ Beginning of the war for independence in Venezuela
❖ Occurred by the Andes mountains and Bogota the capital of Venezuela
❖ Simon Bolivar helped lead the battle
❖ The win inspired ideas of independence and patriotism
❖ First defeat of the Spanish and end of royal rule
❖ Beginning of Gran Colombia

Address at the Congress of Angostura" Simón Bolívar 1819
➤ The natives and Europeans are not separate anymore but the true people are fighting for native land
➤ Run passively by nature making liberty difficult
➤ Given no rights reduced to less than slaves because they couldn’t even uprise
➤ Should change rule to morals based in nature law and liberty
➤ There old weak and complicated government made it hard to rule
➤ Can’t use a European government because its a unique republic with the problem of whose native which isn’t faced anywhere else
➤ Hereditary senate should be used to keep order and not be clouded by the people’s judgement
➤ This senate would be a neutral power between the people and the representatives

Proclamation of 1813 by Simón Bolívar
➤ The Congress of New Granada was coming to free the Republic of Ven.
➤ From the Spaniards
➤ Spaniards must change their ways to that of the New Constitution or be killed at firing squad
➤ Spanish government must be overthrown to have complices and they must admit there wrong doings
➤ Americans are guilt free and were just acting behind ignorance
➤ The Spanish took away rights and liberties that would be given back if they pushed them out and became a piece of New Granada and complied with their government
How it All ties Together

This piece that we used as our inspired art piece is a depiction of the Battle of Boyaca on letters written by one of the leaders of the battle Simon Bolivar. This battle was the turning point for the revolution taking place in New Granada. It inspired others to fight for their freedoms and ultimately led to Venezuela’s liberation from Spain. There are two primary sources the first is the address of Congress of Angostura which is a letter Simon wrote speaking on Latin America’s diverging society from every other country and the need for a unique knowledgeable government that will be a neutral power weakening the attacks of Europe. The other source is Simon address congress directly as he speaks of the violations against Venezuela and the absolute need for revolution because of the violations of basic rights. This art piece is important to your country because it incorporates both one of the most important leaders for Venezuela and the whole of New Granada’s revolution and the battle that caused the turning point.