

American Revolutions, American Nationalism



...that time when the Americas get their own history

In the United States, the American Revolution is successful. The Constitution survives even today. But it is conservative because the rich stay rich and the poor stay poor. And black people stay slaves.



True/False

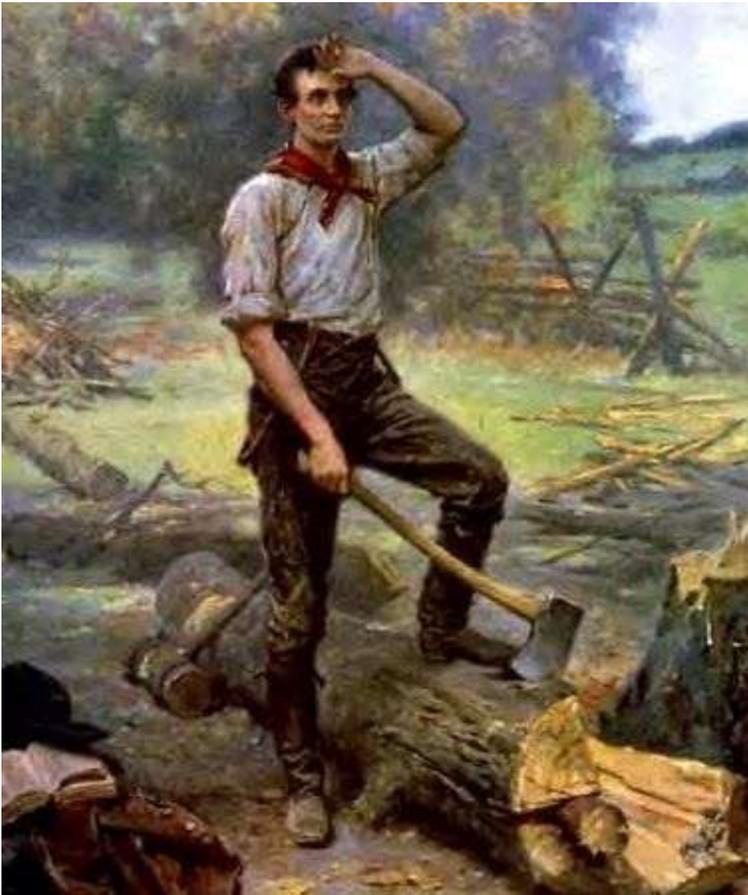
1. The American Revolution fails.
2. The United States end slavery when it becomes a new country.

Conservative means there is not a big social change.



What Revolution was NOT conservative? (Hint: Many people died and they tried to change society.)

Thomas Jefferson writes about “Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness” in the Declaration of Independence. He imagines a democracy filled with farmers who go off to vote.



Rewrite

1. Thomas Jefferson wrote about Life, Liberty, and Property.
2. Thomas Jefferson wanted a land filled with rich bankers and poor people.

But Jefferson himself owned slaves. So did George Washington. In the USA, the Southern states had slavery; the Northern states didn't.

The USA could never be a real democracy until they ended slavery. Racism and slavery made people in the South corrupt. They would do anything to keep slavery because they depended on it for money.

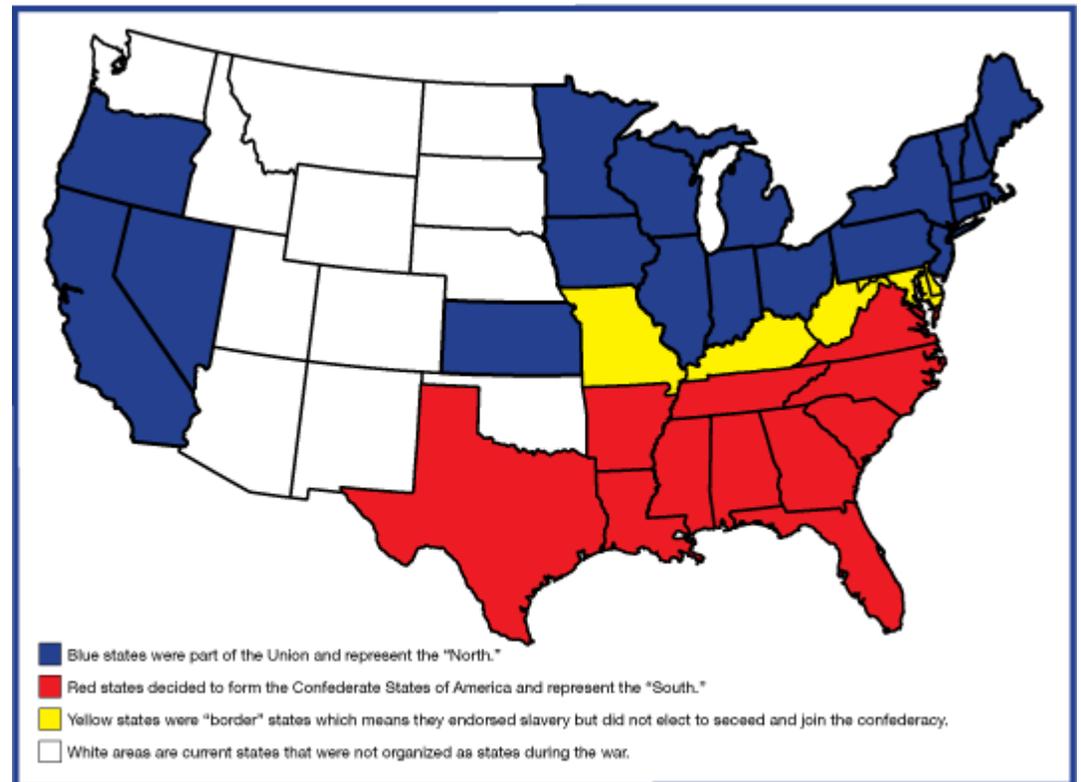
Rewrite

1. The USA can be a real democracy and have slavery at the same time.
2. Slavery does not cause corruption.

Complete

1. Why does slavery cause corruption?

In 1865 the USA fights a Civil War. The North fights the South. More Americans die in this war than any other USA war. The war is over slavery and democracy. You can't really have a democracy while you treat one group of people bad.



Rewrite

1. The Northern states have slavery.
2. The Southern states are free.

Complete

1. The United States fights a Civil War between _____ and _____.
2. The Civil War is about _____ and _____.



This problem in the South is even worse in Latin America.
We can call the problem racism, except it isn't exactly the same as what we think about as racism.

Racism is economic. Latin America had many great plantations and mines. Plantations are big farms that produce cash crops.

The workers were almost always Black slaves, Indians, or mixed people.

The owners of the farms were almost always whites. The whites depended on their workers. They also needed to pay them very little for their work.

Rewrite

1. Racism is different in this historical period because it is only about color.
2. The owners of the farms and mines are mostly black and mixed.
3. The workers of the farms and mines are all white.

So, the whites didn't want a full democracy because they couldn't give power to blacks, Indians, and mixed people. If they did, they might lose their farms and mines.

Complete

1. Why didn't the white in the Americas want democracy?

But they did want a revolution. There were revolutions in Spanish America. There were revolutions in French America. And there were revolutions in Portuguese America.

Here's what happened...

Complete

1. What is one country that is Portuguese America?
2. What is one country that is French America? (Hint: it's an island)

Let's think about who lives in Spanish America in the year 1800.

Peninsulares (Officers) are whites from Spain. They are the most powerful. But there are very few. They are loyal to Spain even if they live in America. Everyone else hates them.

Peninsulares are called officers or viceroys on the SOL.



Creoles are whites born in the Americas. They have European heritage. There are many more of them than Peninsulares. But they don't have as much power. They don't have the connections to Spain.

They resent (don't like) the Viceroy/Officers. They want to have a Revolution.

Complete

1. What is heritage?
2. What is European heritage?

Indians and blacks are at the bottom. Blacks are slaves. Indians are treated like slaves. Then, there are the mixed people. Mixed Indian people are called *mestizos*. Mixed black people are called *mulattos*.

Mestizos become the majority of many countries like Mexico and Central America.

Black slaves are the majority in Brazil and the Caribbean.

Indians are the majority in Peru.

Rewrite

1. Peninsulares were whites born in America.
2. Creoles were mixed Indians from America.
3. Mestizos were mixed blacks from America.
4. Mulattoes were mixed Indians from America.
5. Indians and slaves had the most power.



The Creoles don't want to give political power to poor people or nonwhite people. So, they wait until they have a good chance.

Think

1. Why do you think the Peninsulares had all the power?

2. Why do you think the Creoles didn't have as much power as the Peninsulares?

3. Why do you think the people with white heritage are afraid of mixed people?

This chance comes after the American Revolution. They feel like they want to have a revolution and separate from Spain. But, they don't want to lose control of the mixed people. They don't want to fight the Peninsulares, their white brothers. Napoleon gives them the perfect chance.

1. Why do you think Napoleon gives them the perfect chance? If you don't know, it's OK.

When Napoleon beats Spain in war, he makes his brother Joseph king. Joseph Bonaparte is King of Spain for 10 years. He is a drunk—they call him Pepe Botellas. Nobody likes him. So this is the chance... The Latin American countries declare independence because they don't respect him. They don't recognize Pepe Botellas as the real king, so they can declare independence.

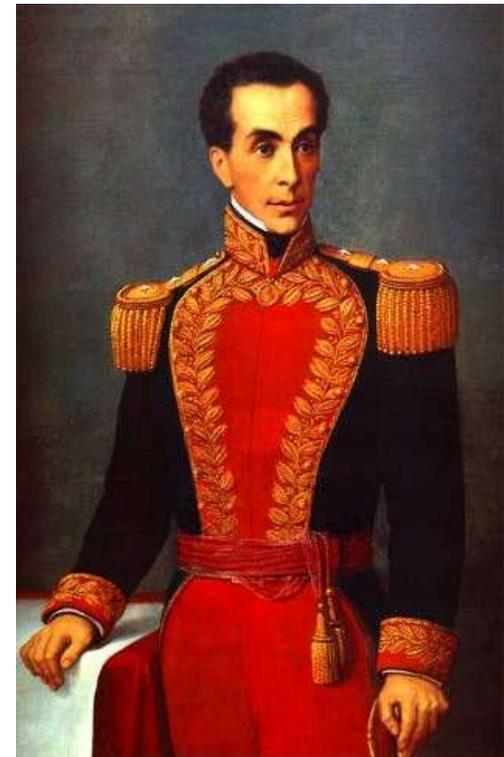


Complete

1. Napoleon puts
_____ as King of
Spain.

2. The colonies don't respect
Pepe Botellas so they
_____.

The heroes of Latin America are Simon Bolivar and Jose de San Martin. Simon Bolivar is from the area that is now Venezuela and Colombia. San Martin is from the area that is now Argentina. They are the revolutionary leaders. They kick out the Spanish.

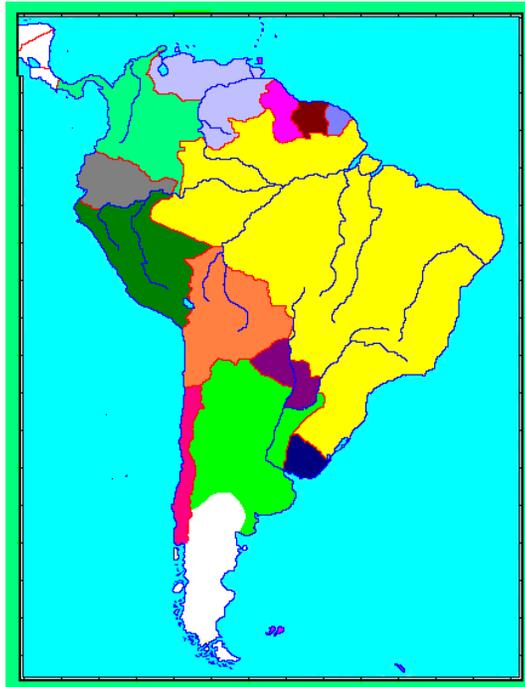


Complete

1. The heroes of South America are _____ and _____.
2. Where is Simon Bolivar from?
3. Where is San Martin from?
4. So... who are the revolutionary leaders of South America?

Simon Bolivar, especially, wants to make a country like the United States in South America. He wants to join together all of the South American states into one powerful nation. But South America is actually pretty unlucky because it is super rich compared to North America in the 1800s.

Sometimes it's not good to be rich. When you are rich, you have many powerful people. And they fight... So, instead of having one powerful South America country, there are many little countries that are always fighting.



South America
1860

Complete

1. Why doesn't Simon Bolivar get what he wants?

Rewrite

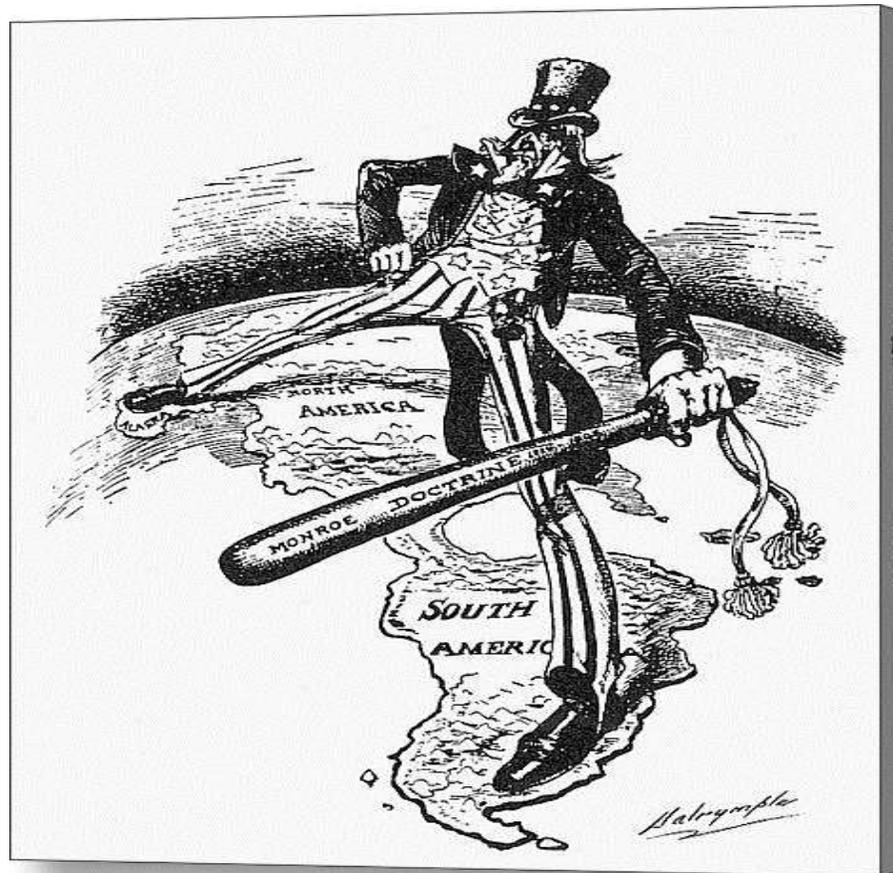
1. Simon Bolivar wants many little countries in South America.
2. There are not enough rich people in South America, so they can't have a united confederation.

The United States takes advantage of this bickering. The US President James Monroe makes a threat to Europe. It is called the Monroe Doctrine. It says that European countries CANNOT interfere in the Western Hemisphere.

Complete

1. What countries are in the Western Hemisphere?
2. What president makes the Monroe Doctrine?

If they mess with Latin America, the USA will fight them. This sounds nice but the USA is going to use it later to try and control Central and South America, especially for US businesses.



Rewrite

1. The Monroe Doctrine says that European countries have permission to interfere in the Western Hemisphere.
2. The USA never takes advantage of the Monroe Doctrine.

Think

How do you think the USA takes advantage of the Monroe Doctrine? What could the USA do to make business better in Central America?

There are two countries where we really see racism and its effect on revolutions. These countries see much more bloodshed and death than the rest of the Americas.



They are Mexico and Haiti.

The hero of Mexican independence is Father Hidalgo. He leads a group of mostly Indian fighters against the Spanish. But he actually ended up fighting against other Mexicans. They were rich, white Creoles who were afraid of the Indians. After the Creoles stop Hidalgo, they get independence.



Rewrite

1. The hero of Mexican independence is Simon Bolivar.
2. Father Hidalgo leads an army of Creoles of European heritage.
3. The Creoles stop Father Hidalgo because they love the Spanish King.

Mexico is so large and powerful. But their government is always a mess. One person makes himself president; then he is overthrown; then someone else overthrows him.

And most of the population is *mestizo*.

Mexico doesn't have its big Revolution until 1910. Around 2,000,000 people die. This is more than the American Civil War. It's the biggest war in the Americas ever.



True/False

1. Mexico gets independence, but they don't have a revolution until 1910.
2. Mexico's government is stable and democratic.
3. The Mexican Revolution comes after the South American Revolutions.

Complete

1. The biggest war in the Americas is the _____.

Haiti is part of France. It is a French colony. They have many sugar plantations there. And most workers on plantations are black slaves.

Why do you think most of the workers in Haiti are black slaves?

During the French Revolution, the slaves in Haiti revolt against the whites. They heard that the king freed them. It was a rumor. The French attack them.

The leader of the black slaves is Toussaint L'Overture. He joins with the Spanish against the French. The French get all stressed out, so they decide to free the slaves so they won't stay with the Spanish.

But...

Rewrite

1. Haiti is a colony of Spain.
2. The hero of the Haitian Revolution is George Washington.

Napoleon takes over. He says that they were just kidding about freeing the slaves. He says that slavery is back. Toussaint L'Overture fight back against the French. He wins. Haiti is free. By the way, Toussaint beat the armies of Spain, France, and England. Not bad for an ex-slave.

Rewrite

1. Napoleon frees the slaves.
2. Haiti never gets its independence.

Haiti is the second country to get independence. It is the first free black nation in the Americas. But it is the victim of racism. No other country wants to recognize Haiti. They won't do business with them because they were slaves. They won't do business with them because they are black.

This bad treatment is bad for Haiti. Over time, Haiti becomes the poorest country in the Americas.

Full Rewrite

1. The American Revolution is successful because they have a long-lasting military.
2. Conservative means there is a big social change.
3. People with African heritage born in America are called Creoles.
4. George Washington and Thomas Jefferson are the heroes of South America.
5. Father Hidalgo is the hero of South America.
6. Simon Bolivar is the hero of Haiti.

RABBIT TIME

1. Explain why nationalism and racism lead to conservative Revolutions.