STANDARD WHII.7a Colonial System

Latin American revolutions of the nineteenth century were influenced by the clash of European cultures in the development of governments and ruling powers.

Spanish conquests in Latin America saw the rapid decline of native populations and introduction of slaves from Africa. Conquistadors were given governmental authority by the crown, becoming known as viceroys.

Characteristics of the colonial system

* Colonial governments mirrored the home governments.
* Catholicism had a strong influence on the development of the colonies.
* A major element of the economy was the mining of precious metals for export.
* Major cities were established as outposts of colonial authority.
* Havana
* Mexico City
* Lima
* São Paulo
* Buenos Aires

Rigid class structure

* Viceroys / colonial officers
* Creoles
* Mestizos

**STANDARD WHII.7b Impact of the American and French Revolutions**

The American and French Revolutions took place in the late 1700s. Within twenty years, the ideas and examples of these revolutions influenced the people of Latin America to establish independent nations, most notably in Haiti and Mexico.

Influence of the American and French Revolutions on Latin America

* Slaves in Haiti rebelled, abolished slavery, and won independence.
* Father Miguel Hidalgo started the Mexican independence movement.
* French, Spanish, and Portuguese colonies gained independence.

Selected countries that gained independence during the 1800s

* Mexico
* Haiti
* Colombia
* Venezuela
* Brazil

STANDARD WHII.7c Toussaint L’Ouverture and Simón Bolivar

The contributions of Toussaint L’Ouverture and Simón Bolivar led to the development of independent states in Latin America in the nineteenth century.

Contributions of Toussaint L’Ouverture

* Former slave who led Haitian rebellion against French
* Defeated the armies of three foreign powers: Spain, France, and Britain

Contributions of Simón Bolivar

* Native resident who led revolutionary efforts
* Liberated the northern areas of Latin America

**STANDARD WHII.7d Monroe Doctrine**

After the American Revolution, the United States wished to prevent foreign interference in America. The Monroe Doctrine was issued in 1823, alerting European powers that the American continents should not be considered for any future colonization.

Impact of the Monroe Doctrine

* The Monroe Doctrine was issued by President James Monroe in 1823.
* Latin American nations were acknowledged to be independent.
* The United States would regard as a threat to its own peace and safety any attempt by European powers to impose their system on any independent state in the Western Hemisphere.