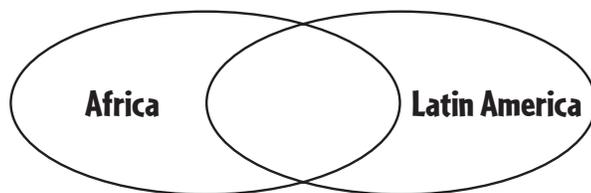


Chapter 21, Section 4 (Pages 708–715)

Nation Building in Latin America

Big Idea

Latin American countries gained their independence but became economically dependent on Western powers. As you read, create a Venn diagram comparing and contrasting colonial rule in Africa and in Latin America.



Notes

Read to Learn

Nationalist Revolts (page 708)

Determining Cause and Effect

The American Revolution inspired Latin Americans to revolt against Spanish or Portuguese rule.

Cause:

Effect:

New political ideas from the successful American Revolution influenced **creole** elites—descendants of Europeans permanently living in Latin America. They controlled land and business, but resented the **peninsulares**—Spanish and Portuguese officials—who treated them poorly and drained the Americas of their wealth.

Napoleon’s wars weakened the authority of Spain and Portugal in their colonies, and a series of revolts allowed most of Latin America to become independent. In Mexico in 1810, a priest named Miguel Hidalgo led Native Americans and **mestizos**—people of mixed European and Native American descent—in a revolt against Spanish rule, but the uprising failed. Creoles and **peninsulares** declared Mexico independent in 1821, keeping power for themselves. Initially a monarchy, Mexico became a republic in 1823.

Two members of the creole elite led revolutions throughout South America. They were José de San Martín of Argentina and Simón Bolívar of Venezuela. Between 1810 and 1824, forces led by San Martín or Bolívar overthrew Spanish rule in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela. Brazil became independent in 1822 and Central America in 1823. United States president James Monroe warned European powers not to try to restore European control. This was called the Monroe Doctrine.



Read to Learn

Nation Building (page 711)

Problems and Solutions

How did settlers in Texas solve the problem of corrupt government under Santa Anna?

Unclear boundaries led to wars among the new republics in Latin America. Transportation and communication were difficult. There was little sense of national unity.

The new republics had little experience in self-government. Strong leaders called **caudillos** came into power. For example, Antonio López de Santa Anna ruled Mexico 11 times from 1833 to 1855. He misused money and stopped reforms. In the Mexican state of Texas, settlers from the United States revolted against Santa Anna's rule. Texas became independent in 1836 and joined the United States in 1845. The United States conquered other Mexican territory by 1848 in the War with Mexico. The next strong Mexican leader was Benito Juárez. He brought many reforms: religious toleration, public schooling, and land for the poor.

Latin American countries had political independence, but became economically dependent on Great Britain and later on the United States. The United States pursued "dollar diplomacy," extending its influence by investing in Latin American development. Foreign investors built transportation and communication systems. National economies came to depend on **cash crops** such as sugar and coffee, produced for export. The landed elites continued to dominate society and government. Most people remained very poor.

Change in Latin America (page 713)

Predicting

If U.S. Marines stayed in a Latin American country for decades, how would the people of that country be likely to respond?

After 1870 Latin American governments wrote constitutions. They took ideas from the United States and democracies of Europe. However, the elites kept power by limiting the right to vote.

As the United States became a world power about 1900, it intervened in Latin America. The Spanish-American War of 1898 gave the United States control over Cuba and Puerto Rico. After helping Panama break away from Colombia in 1903, the United States built the Panama Canal from coast to coast. U.S. forces were sent to various Latin American countries to protect U.S. commercial interests.

Mexico had another revolution. The conservative dictator Porfirio Díaz ruled Mexico between 1877 and 1911. Wages declined and most rural people had no land. A liberal landowner, Francisco Madero, forced Díaz from power in 1911. A wider revolution followed. Bandits led by Pancho Villa swept the countryside. Emiliano Zapata led peasants to demand and enforce land reform. A new constitution in 1917 set up a presidential government, land reform, and limits on foreign investors.

