

## Chapter 14 Section 4 Notes

### I. Nationalist Revolts (pages 453–455)

**A.** By the end of the eighteenth century, the political ideals of the revolution in North America were threatening European control of Latin America.

**B.** Social classes based on privilege divided colonial Latin America. The top level, the *peninsulares*, held the important positions. **Creoles** (descendants of Europeans born in Latin America who lived there permanently) controlled land and businesses. Mestizos, the largest segment, worked as servants or laborers.

**C.** The creole elites were especially influenced by revolutionary ideals. They found the ideas of a free press, free trade, and equality before the law very attractive. They resented colonial control of trade, as well. They especially resented the *peninsulares*—Spanish and Portuguese officials who resided temporarily in Latin America for political and economic gain and then returned to their mother countries.

**D.** The creole elites denounced the rule of Spain and of Portugal. There was a series of revolts between 1807 and 1825, due to the weakened condition of Spain and Portugal from defeats at the hand of Napoleon.

**E.** The unusual revolution led by François-Dominique Toussaint-Louverture on the island of Hispaniola took place before the main independence movements began. More than one hundred thousand slaves rose up and seized control of the entire island. In 1804 the area now called Haiti became the first independent state in Latin America.

**F.** Mexico experienced a revolt beginning in 1810. Miguel Hidalgo was the first hero of the Mexican movement for independence. Inspired by the French Revolution, he urged the **mestizos** (people of European and Indian descent) to free themselves from the Spanish.

**G.** In 1810 Hidalgo led an unsuccessful armed attack on the Spaniards. They were defeated and Hidalgo was executed, but his memory lives on. September 16, the first day of the uprising, is Mexico's Independence Day.

**H.** The involvement of Indians and mestizos in the revolt against Spain frightened both the creoles and *peninsulares*. They cooperated in defeating the popular revolutionary forces. They then overthrew the Spanish in order to preserve their own power.

**I.** In 1821 Mexico declared its independence from Spain. The creole military leader Agustín de Iturbide named himself emperor in 1822, but was deposed. Mexico became a republic.

**J.** Two members of the creole elite—**José de San Martín** of Argentina and **Simón Bolívar** of Venezuela—are considered the liberators of South America.

**K.** San Martín believed the Spanish had to be removed from all of South America if any South American nation was to be free. He freed Argentina by 1810. In 1817 he led forces against the Spanish in Chile. He crossed the Andes in an amazing march during which many soldiers died. The arrival of his army in Chile surprised the Spanish, and their forces were defeated.

**L.** San Martín wanted to move on to Lima, the center of Spanish authority. He knew he would need the help of the man who had freed Venezuela from the Spanish—Simón Bolívar. They allied.

**M.** By the end of the 1820s, South and Central America were free of the Spanish. The one threat left was that the Concert of Europe favored using troops to restore Spanish rule in Latin America. Britain disagreed because it wished to trade with Latin America. The United States president, James Monroe, issued the **Monroe Doctrine**, which warned against European involvement in Latin America and guaranteed the independence of the new Latin American nations.

### II. Difficulties of Nation Building (pages 455–458)

**A.** The new Latin American nations faced many serious problems between 1830 and 1870, such as border wars, a huge loss of property and people, and no modern infrastructure.

**B.** Over the nineteenth century these new countries would become economically dependent on Europe and the United States once again.

**C.** The new nations began as republics, but soon strong leaders known as **caudillos** came to power. They ruled by force, and the landed elite supported them. Some of them were destructive, such as Mexican ruler **Antonio López de Santa Anna**. He misused state funds, halted reforms, and created chaos. In 1835 American settlers in the Mexican state of Texas revolted against him.

**D.** Texas gained its independence in 1836; war between Mexico and the United States soon followed (1846 to 1848). Mexico lost almost one-half of its territory to the United States after losing the Mexican War.

**E.** Santa Anna's disastrous rule was followed by a period of reform (1855 to 1876), dominated by **Benito Juárez**, a reformer, national hero, and child of Native American peasants.

**F.** The United States's intervention in Latin America led to the building of the Panama Canal (opened in 1914). The United States controlled it for most of the twentieth century.

**G.** Political independence did not translate into economic independence. Britain and other Western nations dominated the Latin American economy. Latin America continued to be a source of raw materials and food for the industrial West. Finished consumer goods, especially textiles, were imported. The continuation of this old pattern assured that Latin America would depend on Europe and the United States.

**H.** A basic problem for all Latin American nations was the domination of society by the landed elite. Large estates remain a way of life in Latin America.

**I.** Land remained the basis of wealth, prestige, and power in Latin America throughout the nineteenth century. The landed elite ran governments and made huge profits, while the masses lived in dire poverty.

### **III. Political Change in Latin America (page 458)**

**A.** After 1870 Latin American governments wrote constitutions similar to those in the United States and Europe. Ruling elites kept their power, however, often by restricting voting rights.

**B.** After the Spanish-American War, Cuba became a United States protectorate and **Puerto Rico** was annexed to the United States. In 1903, the United States supported a rebellion that allowed Panama to become an independent nation. In return the United States received the land on which it built the **Panama Canal**.

**C.** American investments in Latin America soon followed. Since 1898, military forces have been sent into Latin America to protect American interests. The United States Marines were in **Haiti** from 1915 to 1934, and **Nicaragua** was occupied from 1909 to 1933. Resentment built against the big power from the north.

**D.** In Mexico, among other Latin American countries, large landowners supported dictators who looked out for the interests of the ruling elite. The dictator Porfirio Díaz ruled Mexico between 1877 and 1911 with the support of the army, the Catholic Church, the aristocrats, and foreign capitalists.

**E.** Wages declined under this dictator, and 95 percent of the rural population did not own land. A liberal landowner forced Díaz out, and a wider revolution started. Emiliano Zapata demanded agrarian reform. He aroused the peasants against the wealthy.

**F.** A new constitution enacted in 1917 set up a government led by a president, created land reform, established limits on foreign investment, and set out to help workers.

### **IV. Economic Change in Latin America (page 459)**

**A.** Latin America had a period of economic prosperity after 1870 due to the exportation of a few major items, including wheat and beef from Argentina, coffee from Brazil, and bananas from Central America.

**B.** After 1900 Latin America began doing more of its own manufacturing.

**C.** Due to the prosperity, the middle sectors of Latin American society grew, even though they were too small to make up a genuine middle class. The middle sectors were only 5 to 10 percent of the population.

**D.** Members of the Latin American middle sectors had shared characteristics: they lived in cities, sought education and decent incomes, and saw the United States as a model, especially for industrialization. They sought reform, not revolution, and usually voted with the landed elites.