

**CHAPTER**  
**8**

**Section 1**

**GUIDED READING** *Latin American Peoples  
Win Independence*

**A. Recognizing Facts and Details** As you read this section, fill out the chart below to help you better understand why and how Latin Americans fought colonial rule.

**Independence for Haiti**

Reasons
1. Why did slaves in the French colony of Saint-Domingue revolt?

Strategy
2. What events led up to General Dessalines's declaration of independence for Haiti?

**South American Wars of Independence**

Reasons
3. How did events in Europe lead to revolution in the Spanish colonies?

Strategy
4. What tactics did José de San Martín and Simón Bolívar use to defeat Spanish forces in South America?

**End of Spanish Rule in Mexico**

Reasons
5. What is the significance of the <i>grito de Dolores</i> ?

Strategy
6. What role did Indians, mestizos, and creoles play in Mexico's independence from Spain?

**B. Writing Expository Paragraphs** On the back of this paper, explain the divisions within Latin American colonial society. In your writing, use the following terms:

*peninsulares*      *creoles*      *mulattos*

CHAPTER  
**8**

## Section 1

## SKILLBUILDER PRACTICE *Hypothesizing*

*Historians develop hypotheses to explain why events happened, what the consequences were or might be, and why the events are significant. Like scientists, they test the validity of their hypotheses against historical evidence. In this section, you have read about independence movements in Latin America. In the chart below, write a hypothesis about the role of creoles in the independence movements in Latin America. Then read the passage below and record three facts from the passage in the chart. Tell whether each fact you recorded supports your hypothesis. (See Skillbuilder Handbook)*

In Latin America, creoles took the lead in battles for independence. The creoles had a number of long-standing grievances against Spain. *Peninsulares* held almost all of the high government offices in Spain's Latin American lands. Of some 170 viceroys who held office between 1492 and 1810, for example, only 4 were creoles. One creole aristocrat complained to the Spanish king: that the "viceroys here and their retainers. . . mock, humiliate and oppress us" and deprive creoles of "any honorific office of consequence."

Spain also kept tight control over the economy of its colonies. Merchants in Spanish colonies could trade only with Spain. They could transport their goods only on Spanish ships. The valuable mines

of Mexico and Peru were under direct Spanish control, which the creoles resented.

The direct cause of the Latin American revolts, however, was Napoleon's conquest of Spain in 1808. Napoleon made his brother Joseph king of Spain. Many creoles might have remained loyal to a Spanish king, but they felt no loyalty at all to a Frenchman placed on the Spanish throne by force.

Fighting broke out in 1810 in several parts of Latin America. These wars for independence were complicated and confusing, since loyalties were divided. The viceroys and their armies remained loyal to Spain, as did some creoles. Native Americans and mestizos fought on both sides, often forced into armies against their will.

<b>Hypothesis:</b>		
<b>Fact 1:</b>	<b>Fact 2:</b>	<b>Fact 3:</b>
Does it support hypothesis? yes/no	Does it support hypothesis? yes/no	Does it support hypothesis? yes/no

CHAPTER  
8

Section 1

**PRIMARY SOURCE** *from* Proclamation of 1813  
by Simón Bolívar

*Venezuela declared its independence from Spain in 1811. However, Spain regained control of the country by July of 1812. Simón Bolívar fled to New Granada—present-day Colombia—to continue the fight against Spain. Chosen to lead an army to drive the Spanish from Venezuela, Bolívar issued this proclamation in June 1813. He appealed to Venezuelans in the city of Trujillo for support in liberating Venezuela from Spanish rule. By August, Bolívar's army captured the capital, and Venezuela gave Bolívar the title of liberator. According to the proclamation, what was Bolívar's mission?*

Venezuelans: An army of your brothers, sent by the Sovereign Congress of New Granada has come to liberate you. Having expelled the oppressors from the provinces of Mérida and Trujillo, it is now among you.

We are sent to destroy the Spaniards, to protect the Americans, and to reestablish the republican governments that once formed the Confederation of Venezuela. The states defended by our arms are again governed by their former constitutions and tribunals, in full enjoyment of their liberty and independence, for our mission is designed only to break the chains of servitude which still shackle some of our towns, and not to impose laws or exercise acts of dominion to which the rules of war might entitle us.

Moved by your misfortunes, we have been unable to observe with indifference the afflictions you were forced to experience by the barbarous Spaniards, who have ravished you, plundered you, and brought you death and destruction. They have violated the sacred rights of nations. They have broken the most solemn agreements and treaties. In fact, they have committed every manner of crime, reducing the Republic of Venezuela to the most frightful desolation. Justice therefore demands vengeance, and necessity compels us to exact it. . . .

Despite our just resentment toward the iniquitous Spaniards, our magnanimous heart still commands us to open to them for the last time a path to reconciliation and friendship; they are invited to live peacefully among us, if they will abjure their crimes, honestly change their ways, and cooperate with us in destroying the intruding Spanish government and in the reestablishment of the Republic of Venezuela.

Any Spaniard who does not, by every active and effective means, work against tyranny in behalf of this just cause, will be considered an enemy and

punished; as a traitor to the nation, he will inevitably be shot by a firing squad. On the other hand, a general and absolute amnesty is granted to those who come over to our army. . . .

And you Americans who, by error or treachery, have been lured from the paths of justice, are informed that your brothers, deeply regretting the error of your ways, have pardoned you as we are profoundly convinced that you cannot be truly to blame, for only the blindness and ignorance in which you have been kept up to now by those responsible for your crimes could have induced you to commit them. Fear not the sword that comes to avenge you and to sever the ignoble ties with which your executioners have bound you to their own fate. You are hereby assured, with absolute impunity, of your honor, lives, and property. The single title, "Americans," shall be your safeguard and guarantee. Our arms have come to protect you, and they shall never be raised against a single one of you, our brothers. . . .

Spaniards and Canary Islanders, you will die, though you be neutral, unless you actively espouse the cause of America's liberation. Americans, you will live, even if you have trespassed.

*from* Vicente Lecuna and Harold A. Bierck, eds., *Selected Writings of Bolívar* (New York: Colonial Press, 1951), Vol. I, 31–32. Reprinted in Peter N. Stearns, ed., *Documents in World History* (New York: Harper Collins Publishers, 1988), 89–90.

## Discussion Questions

### *Recognizing Facts and Details*

1. What did Bolívar hope to accomplish?
2. According to the proclamation, why were Venezuelans justified in rebelling against Spain?
3. **Making Judgments** Do you think Bolívar's policies in dealing with the Spanish and the Americans were fair? Why or why not?

CHAPTER  
8

Section 1

LITERATURE SELECTION *from All Souls' Rising*  
by Madison Smartt Bell

*All Souls' Rising by American author Madison Smartt Bell is a novel about Toussaint L'Ouverture and Haiti's liberation from European rule. This excerpt from the novel's prologue, which is narrated by a French sailor, takes place on board ship after Toussaint has been captured and is being sent to prison in France. Like other Latin American colonies, Haiti was strictly divided into social classes based on birth; the narrator takes great pains to describe the ancestry of Toussaint and his company. What are the narrator's overall impressions of Toussaint?*

June 15, 1802

Aboard *Le Héros*

The weighing of our anchor with this morning's tide brought me a lightening of my heart. These last few days we've been in port were most uneasy, owing to rumors of renewed disturbances, perhaps a more serious revolt, to be inspired by the deportation of the brigand chief Toussaint, our passenger and prisoner. All factions in the city of Le Cap or what remains of it are once again aroused against one another. As for the harbor itself, it is alive with sharks, which feed most avidly upon the flesh of those who take the losing part in struggles on the shore.

Thus I was greatly comforted to see us well away, to stand on the stern with the breeze freshening in my face, watching the broken soot-stained ruins sink rapidly enough to the horizon. The town of Le Cap has twice been burned to the ground these last ten years, but even at the height of its ostentation it could not, when seen at such a distance, have seemed any more than a most precarious foothold on this savage shore. Rounding the cape, I see that city give way to rocky escarpments plunging vertically into the waves, and above these the incomprehensible blankness of the forests or, where the trees are cut, the peaks standing out as bare and sharp as needles' points. My sojourn here was brief but more than long enough to satisfy me. Here no enterprise has managed to achieve a good result—the hand of civilized man has done no more than make of a wilderness a desert. Perhaps before Columbus landed, it was some sort of savage Eden here. I believe it would have been better for all if he had never come.

As we set sail, there stood near me, among my fellow officers of the ship, some members of the company of the renegade slave Toussaint, though

that gentleman himself remained carefully sequestered, under guard in his cabin below. The others of his party had so far the freedom of the ship, and I observed them closely as I might, with some thought of indicting their descriptions, though for what audience I do not know.

The eldest (and by far the blackest) of the women is Suzanne, the wife of Toussaint. She is said to be older than he and showed her years, appearing confused at moments, appearing not to know just where she found herself or how she came there. But for the richness of her dress (which was, however, modest) she might easily have been taken for any ordinary household servant in the colony. The three young mulattresses in her train (a niece, a daughter-in-law, and a companion as I gathered) struck me as rather more *soignées*, wrapped in that thin layer of hastily acquired sophistication with which one often meets in women of their type.

The lightest of the men is Toussaint's eldest son, Placide, though as our Captain Savary has suggested there are some doubts as to his parentage, suspicion that he may be an illegitimate child of Suzanne's prior to the marriage (yet Toussaint acknowledges and indeed is said to favor him). His light color may have occasioned this speculation, though often the Aradas, from which tribe Toussaint is extracted, are similarly light or of a reddish hue.

As for the two younger sons, Isaac and Jean, it is plain at a glance that they are full-blooded Negroes. The former wears a most extravagant uniform, every inch of it bedizened with gold braid and rosettes, complete with an enormous sword, the tip of it dragging the boards of the deck, whose bearer appears to have no notion of its use. The hilted weapon seems only to encumber the natural movement of his hands along his sides. With all its meaningless pomp this uniform shows marked

signs of wear, hard wear at that, and Isaac seems to sulk inside it—a bedraggled peacock, caught in a rainstorm.

I have heard, from Captain Savary and others, that this uniform was the personal gift of Bonaparte to Toussaint's second son. Placide was presented with another like it, on the same occasion, but no longer wears it.

The eighth and last of the party looks a miscellany of ill-assembled and badly chosen parts, being overly tall, gangly, poorly proportioned and clumsy in all respects, all thumbs and elbows. His neck is elongated, with a busy Adam's apple the size of a garden spade, and, above, his head appears ridiculously small. He rolls his eyes and stutters when he speaks, and his outsized, long-fingered hands creep about all over his person like great agitated spiders the while. This singular creature is Toussaint's valet, known by the fanciful appellation of Mars Plaisir. For the moment, he cannot practice his intended vocation, since Toussaint is held strictly apart from all this retinue, not permitted to see any of his retainers or even any member of his family. A pointless severity, I should think, yet I would willingly be deprived of the attentions of a Mars Plaisir. In almost any European village I would expect a creature such as he to be set upon and stoned to death.

Now the very thought of Europe makes me puzzle at my enterprise, for these notes are addressed to no one, nor could I find opportunity to send them anywhere at all these next six weeks at sea. Yet I continue, for there have been other curiosities this day. At even (his family and retainers being at table below), Toussaint was fetched on deck to take the air, under guard of two dragoons detached from Captain-General Leclerc's expedition. Those soldiers seemed to tower over him, for he is only a small Negro man and unremarkable at first glance, more noteworthy for the incongruity of his dress than for any distinguishing feature of his person. He wore a loose white shirt or smock, coarsely woven and open at the neck, over tight trousers from a military uniform, and a pair of high cavalry boots. There was a kerchief bound over his head, and I remembered hearing that Toussaint affected such a covering, not only in his *déshabillé* but often even on occasions of state.

I had the watch, but the sea was calm and the sky clear, with the first stars just beginning to emerge, and I approached a little nearer. He did

not seem at all aware of my proximity, but stood near the stern rail to stare most intently down at the water (there being no longer any land in view). Not knowing what to say to him, or if I ought to speak at all, I was silent for some minutes before inquiring, what it might be that he was so carefully regarding.

And here the sentinel's attention abruptly returned to his charge, and he undertook to prevent our conversation, but I overrode him, repeating my question and adding to it, whether Toussaint was looking back toward the island of which he had lately been master, and whether he regretted it.

At this, Toussaint turned half toward me and looked at me with half a smile, but without immediately speaking. I suppose he must have gone a lengthy while without much benefit of human discourse. Still, there was a sort of slyness in that smile. His lips were full and heavy, his teeth long and yellow; he lacked an eyetooth on the left side. The jaw long and slung far forward, stretching and lowering the deep oval of his face. His nose was long also and typically flat, but his forehead was high and his eyes, with their yellowing whites, were large and expressive—his best feature. All in all, a most arresting ugliness.

He was smaller than I somehow had expected, standing no higher than my breastbone. His disproportionately long trunk was set on little bandy legs—undoubtedly he would appear to best advantage on horseback. Some grizzled hair appeared at his shirt's neck, and the gray pigtail hanging from under the kerchief was fastened with a bit of frayed red ribbon. I would have put him in the middle fifties. He was narrow-hipped and distinctly thin, though not to the point of frailty—his arms were disproportionately thick and muscular.

He returned my looks, taking my measure also it may be, and then resumed his staring at the water.

"*Guinée*," he said, but so softly I scarce caught the word at all.

"Africa?" I said, with some surprise.

Of course he was not looking in the right direction, but one would hardly expect him to be a master of geography, outside of the colony. He is himself a Creole and I believe this must have been the first time he had ever been to sea. I found that my gaze was drawn after his; he continued to inspect the surfaces of the ocean for some time before he spoke. The water had taken on a red metallic glimmer from the light of the setting sun.



“*Guinée, on dit, se trouve in bas de l'eau.*” Still Toussaint kept his eyes fixed on the water. *They say that Africa is at the bottom of the ocean.*

“But you are a Christian,” I said, for I was again surprised, though it was not the first time I had heard of this belief. One often finds the slavers complaining of it—how their new-bought slaves will fling themselves off the ships in droves, believing that they may pass beneath the ocean to regain their original homes in Africa.

Toussaint glanced up at me with the same sly smile. “Of course I am a Christian,” he said, “but I should like to see Africa all the same.”

Our colloquy could not continue past that point, for the dragoons quite brusquely led him away. Improbable as it is that anyone aboard should enter into conspiracy with such a one as he, his reputation for cunning is sufficient that his guard evidently has been ordered to permit that he converse with no one.

Unfortunate fellow, I should not suppose him likely ever to see Africa—not, at least, in this lifetime.

It was well past dark when I was relieved of my watch, and in groping along through the darkness below toward my own repose I must pass the cabin where Toussaint was held secure. Going along the passage, I heard a voice coming from behind the door, and (the sentinel having absented himself, perhaps to the jakes) I paused to listen. The occupant was reading in a loud sonorous voice, this passage from the end of Deuteronomy:

*And Moses went up from the plains of Moab under the mountains of Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, that is over against Jericho. And the Lord showed him all the land of Gilead, unto Dan.*

*And all Naphtali, and the land of Ephraim, and Manasseh and all the land of Judah, unto the utmost sea.*

*And the south, and the plain of the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees, unto Zoar.*

*And the Lord said unto him, This is the land which I swear unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, saying, I will give it unto thy seed: I have caused thee to see it with thine eyes, but thou shalt not go thither.*

*So Moses the servant of the Lord died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the Lord.*

*And he buried him in a valley in the land of Moab, over against Bethpeor, but no man knoweth his sepulchre unto this day.*

*And Moses was a hundred and twenty years old when he died. His eye was not dim, nor his natural force abated.*

*And the children of Israel wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days: so the days of weeping and mourning for Moses were ended.*

Here Toussaint stopped, and after a little period of silence began again but in a lower and less certain tone, a murmur unintelligible to me—perhaps it was a prayer. This was for all the world like a regular church service, though with the one man playing the roles of both priest and communicant.

I took my way toward my own berth, but sleep continues to elude me, though the hour is late. Therefore I write—to no one. The wind has risen and the seas run higher than they did at sunset, so that the lamp swings like a pendulum on its chain; it blots my page with shadow, and then once more returns its light. Though the ship is densely packed with men and I can hear my fellows snoring, I feel myself much alone this night.

Out of the groaning of the ship's timbers come again the words that Captain Savary repeated to a few of us at table: a sentence he claimed Toussaint had spoken when first taken onto the ship. *En me reversant, on n'a abattu à Saint-Domingue que le tronc de l'arbo de la liberté des noirs; il poussera par les racines, parce qu'elles sont profondes et nombreuses.* [In overthrowing me, you have done no more than cut the trunk of the tree of black liberty in Saint Domingue—it will spring back from the roots, for they are numerous and deep.]

## Research Option

### Using Research in Writing

Use the Internet, an encyclopedia, and books about Haiti to find out more about Toussaint L'Ouverture. Write a brief biographical sketch and share it with your classmates. Then discuss how your findings compare with the fictional portrait of Toussaint in this excerpt.



## HISTORYMAKERS **Simón Bolívar** *The Liberator*

### Section 1

*“The bonds that united us to Spain have been severed.”—Bolívar, The Letter from Jamaica (1814)*

Simón Bolívar led his people’s fight for independence from Spain. He envisioned the formation of a single country extending from present-day Venezuela to modern Bolivia. However, his plans clashed with those of his followers, and the grand nation he dreamed of creating fell apart.

Bolívar was born in 1783 to a wealthy family from the colony of Venezuela. His education included several years of study in Europe. While there, he married, but soon after the couple reached South America his wife died of yellow fever.

Bolívar then returned to Europe and met with several important thinkers and politicians. One of them told Bolívar that the Spanish-American colonies had vast resources that could make them powerful—if only they could become free of Spanish control. Bolívar returned to South America and joined the movement for independence.

In 1810, a group of rebels in Venezuela removed the Spanish governor from office and took control. The next year Venezuela declared itself independent. By 1813, Bolívar commanded the army. In 1814, however, the Spanish fought back and defeated his troops, forcing him to flee the country.

During Bolívar’s exile, he called for all Spanish colonies to rise against European rule to “avenge three centuries of shame.” In 1814, he wrote a famous call to arms, *The Letter from Jamaica*, which outlined a plan to create republics reaching from Mexico to Argentina and Chile. Unable to win British or American support, he turned to Haiti. With money and guns from this newly independent republic, he returned to Venezuela to face the largest army Spain had ever sent across the Atlantic.

From 1815 to 1817, neither side won any decisive battles. However, Bolívar began to build the foundation of victory. He declared the end of slavery to be one of his goals, thus winning wider support. He made alliances with two groups of guerrilla soldiers, who harassed the Spanish army. He also hired veteran European troops. Then in 1819, he devised a daring plan to cross the Andes Mountains and surprise the Spanish. His army of 2,000 first had to cross the hot jungles of the Orinoco River

and then the freezing mountain passes. Many died, but Bolívar’s army was strong enough to defeat the Spanish in four different battles.

Bolívar returned to the city of Angostura, Venezuela, and joined a congress working on forming the new government. With his urging, members voted to create the republic of Gran Colombia, which would include modern Colombia, Ecuador, and Venezuela. “The lessons of experience should not be lost on us,” he said. Europe had too many countries that constantly fought each other. “A single government,” he argued, “may use its great resources [to] lift us to the summit of power and prosperity.” Bolívar was named president and military dictator of the new republic.

Bolívar won independence for Venezuela in 1821 and Ecuador in 1822. He freed Peru from Spain in 1824 and Upper Peru in 1825, which renamed itself Bolivia. He was president of Gran Colombia, Peru, and Bolivia. Bolívar hoped that these nations would unite and thus become stronger.

Others did not share this vision. Even Bolívar’s closest allies in the fight for independence believed that there should be several countries, not one large one. By 1826, civil war had broken out. Two years later, Bolívar reacted to the crisis by declaring himself military dictator. Opponents attacked his palace and tried to assassinate him. The Liberator was now seen as an enemy of the state. Venezuela withdrew from Gran Colombia, and Ecuador followed. Finally, with his body wracked by tuberculosis and his heart sick over the conflict, Bolívar retired in 1830. He died later that year.

### Questions

- Perceiving Relationships** Was Bolívar a better military or political leader? Explain.
- Organizing Facts and Details** What lesson did Bolívar draw from European history? What did he suggest doing in South America to prevent this problem?
- Making Judgments** Would you say that Bolívar was a success or a failure? Explain.

CHAPTER  
**8**

Section 1

RETEACHING ACTIVITY

# Latin American Peoples Win Independence

**Determining Main Ideas** The following questions deal with struggles against colonial rule in Latin America. Answer them in the space provided.

1. Describe the class system in Latin American countries.

---

---

2. What events and ideas helped bring about revolution in Latin America?

---

---

3. What was Simón Bolívar's role in the independence movement in the Spanish colonies?

---

---

4. How did Brazil achieve independence?

---

---

**Reading Comprehension** Find the name or term in the second column that best matches the description in the first column. Then write the letter of your answer in the blank.

- |   |                         |
|---|-------------------------|
| ___ 5. Men who had been born in Spain and were at the top of Latin American society | a. Creoles              |
| ___ 6. Spaniards born in Latin America  | b. Padre Miguel Hidalgo |
| ___ 7. Persons of mixed European and African ancestry                               | c. <i>peninsulares</i>  |
| ___ 8. Persons of mixed European and Indian ancestry                                | d. mestizos             |
| ___ 9. Venezuelan-born liberator of Spanish colonies in Latin America               | e. Simón Bolívar        |
| ___ 10. Priest who issued the <i>grito de Dolores</i>                               | f. mulattos             |