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Liberation from Colonial rule: Latin America – Bolivia

Spanish American war of independence 1808-1829

Historical background:

- Bourbon reforms: For better control of the admin & economy of colonies, reintroduced the practice of appointing outsiders (Peninsulares) instead of Creoles, to the royal offices. This meant that Spanish Americans lost the gains they made in getting in by the sale of offices during the previous 150 years. So it resulted in some revolt in New Granada, Peru etc. in 18th cent.

- Enlightenments: Atlantic revolutions (Haiti, French, American etc.)
  
  Desire for socio-economic reform, political reforms. Free trade, liberalism, nationalism

- Collapse of Bourbon dynasty: Peninsular war. Instability in Spanish world, rejected Napoleon's brother Joseph as monarch. Established "Junta" NO central authority.

- Creation of new govt:
  
  Creation of "supreme central and governmental body of Spain and the Indies" - 1808
  
  Peninsular congress, each sent 2 representatives, 1 for overseas Junta & 1 for local Junta.

- Vice royalties of New Spain, New Granada, Buenos Aires, Peru
  
  Capitanejos, general of Cuba, Puerto Rico, Guatemala, Chile, Venezuela, Philippines.

- Criticism of unequal representation. Several big cities didn't have equal representation (Guadalupe churcas etc.)

- 1810: Dissolution of central Junta by the French.

- Junta in Spanish colonies didn't recognize a govt which could easily captured by French. They created many local Junta to preserve their independence from French.

1st phase of the wars of independence: 1810-14

Junta challenged all royal officials.

Although they were created in the name of deposed king Ferdinand many of them promoted independence. Called themselves "patriots" but independence was not their initial concern. As very few areas declared independence in 1810, 11, 12.
Muhammad Ali's successors

1848 - Nasr Abbas - grandson of Ali

Abbas put an end to system of commercial monopolies. He began construction of railway from Alexandria to Cairo at the instigation of UK. Murdered by slaves in 1854.

Succeeded by Said Pasha - son of Muhammad Ali. Lack of strength and of mind and physical health needed to execute the projects he conceived.

In 1854, he was reduced to grant the French engineer Ferdinand de Lesseps a concession for the construction of the Suez Canal. However, British opposition delayed the ratification of the concession by Ottoman for 2 years. To the British, Said made concessions for the Eastern Telegraph Company, and another offer by allowing the establishment of Bank of Egypt. He also began national debt by borrowing £3.1 m from Europe.

In 1863, he died. Succeeded by Ismail the Magnificent

He attempted vast schemes of reform, personal extravagance, led to bankruptcy, led to European intervention, occupation;

- He re-established and improved Ali's administrative system;
- Remodeled customs system with the help of English.

1865 - He established Egyptian post office.

- Reorganized the military schools. gave support to the cause of education.
- Railways, telegraphs, lighthouses, harbor at Suez — All by European contractors. Suez canal was opened in 1869.
- Funds required for these public works were extorted from poor popul.

- Extreme poverty.

- Thousands of lives were lost and large sums expended in extending Ismaili domains in Sudan, Ethiopia.

By 1875, he couldn't raise any more loans from Europeans. So he sold Suez canal shares to the UK govt. for £1 m, securing Egyptian control of the waterway.
colonization
European expeditions
Portuguese navigated the Cape, but didn't colonisalise because of fierce weather & rocky shoreline which posed threat to their ships. By late 16th Century, English & Dutch began to challenge Portuguese domination in the trade routes.

Cape became a regular stopover for supply-ridden crews. Dutch settled there in Cape in 1657. Dutch East India Company (DEIC) established a settlement in 1652, the purpose was to supply food stuff to the sailors, not to colonise. Gradually Dutch farmers were settled there so that they could supply food to the sailors.

Farmers were mainly of Dutch ancestry. Numerous Germans, Scandinavians were also present. Mostly Calvinists. 1688- French Calvinists also joined to escape religious persecution.

Dutch brought slaves from Indonesia. They married Dutch settlers and their descendants came to be known as Cape Dutch.

Settlers expanded North & Eastwards. Drave Khoikhoi from their traditional lands. Introdued new diseases, waged many battles, killed Khoikhoi. Enslaved them, exploited them.

Bourger expansion
Farmers continued to expand into hinterlands. Many began to take up a semi-nomadic life- pastoralist lifestyle. They used to carry few guns, bible, tent, wagons. They used to build a mud-European cottage located near a settlement. They were the Trek Boers.

They were completely independent of official controls. Self-sufficient, isolated. Lead harsh lifestyle, well acquainted with the land. Christian.

They attempted to live their lives, and to construct a theocratic
British at the Cape

British seized the Cape in 1795 to prevent it from falling into the hands of France (Republic). It gave it back to Dutch in 1803, but conquered again in 1806. British sovereignty was recognised in 1815. Wenchia Congress.

British established a settlement Cape Town. Power in the white hands. Racism outside Cape Town & its hinterland, isolated black & white pastoralists populated the country. British had little interest in colonisation. They used Cape Town as a strategic port only. British tried settle trouble some border dispute between Boers and local tribes on the colony's eastern frontier, by settling some Britishers in between them as a buffer zone. It failed as many of these 1 migrated to towns - Port Elizabeth.

Gradually many English settled in SA. English yeomen were urbanised, dominated politics, trade, finance, mining and manufacturing, while largely uneducated Boers were relegated to their farms.

Slavery was abolished against the will of Boers in 1834, but in 1841, a burgher masters and servants ordinance was passed which perpetuated white control.

# of English increased rapidly in Cape Town, its western region, in Natal. Discovery of diamonds in Kimberley, and later discovery of gold in parts of the Transvaal led to a rapid increase in immigration of fortune seekers from all parts of the world.

Great Trek

Boers in Cape Town were dissatisfied with British rule, abolition of slavery in 1834, compensation they received for freeing their slaves, beginning. In 1835, several groups of Boers, together with their slaves, decided to trek off into the interior regions in search of greater independence. North & east of the Orange River (which formed
the borders of Cape Colony.), these Boers or Voortrekkers (pioneers) found vast tracts of apparently uninhabited grazing lands. These lands were because of the forced migrations of some tribes caused because of the expansion of Zulus.

In the plains, Boer's expansion was not challenged by the remaining local tribes. But in mountainous regions and valleys inhabited by Zulus, Boers met strong resistance.

British, Boers, Zulus

Great trek first halted at Bloemfontein. Trekkers established a republic there. Some Boers headed northwards, entered into Natal which was controlled by Zulus. After an agreement was signed between Zulus & Boers which gave Boers some land they Zulus killed some 600 Boers treacherously. Boers retaliated killing many Zulus in battle. Thousand Zulus were killed and only 3 Boers were slightly injured in the "Battle of Blood River" (Namece River became red with the blood of Zulus that time).

Natal republic was established in 1834. But in 1843, British annexed Natal. The area in to their own Natal colony at Durban.

British found labour shortage for their sugar plantations in Natal & had to confront with Zulus many times. Eventually Zulu land was annexed into Natal. 1879 - Zulus killed more than 1400 British soldiers in one battle.

British brought Indian labourers to work on their plantations (starting from 1860). By 1893, when Gandhi arrived in SA, Natal had more Indians than whites. Over 50 years (from 1860), more than 1.5 lakh indentured labourers immigrated from India.

Boer republics

Established Transvaal, Orange Free State republics. Diamonds were discovered in Kimberley in 1869. British annexed that area where diamonds were found. Flood of labourers into that area - Boer against Boers wishes.
Gupt tried to engage ANC, Mandela in the process of reforms.
1986, 88 - Some petty apartheid laws were repealed.
Ban on ANC-PAC-communists was lifted. Some political prisoners were released.
Many secret meetings, negotiations were held with ANC and other res.

Presidency of F. de Klerk (1989-94)
Land act was repealed. Ban on ANC, PAC, communists was lifted. Released Mandela. Freedom to press, media, political prisoners were released. 27 years in prison.

Namibia which was under the control of SA became independent on 21 March 1990.

Negotiations - Apartheid laws were dismantled gradually from 1991 to 1994. Elections - universal suffrage, between ANC & govt for peaceful transition of power.

Violence between Zulu & Xhosa tribes. Between Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) & ANC. Mandela accused govt of fanning the feuds.

1993 - Mandela and Kraker were given Nobel prize.

1994 - New constitution (temporary) was adopted. Elections were conducted. ANC got 63% vote share. > 66.7% required to change the constitution. 252 out 400 seats. NP - official opposition party.

National unity govt was established.
Trade unionism, socialism - workers. Elites sought to use imperial Singhism to accept the support of the industrial workers. New mass media promoted Singhism in the Spanish-American war (1898) and Boer war (1899-1902), Boxer Rebellion (1900).

Elites had advantages of empire building. Business classes wanted markets. Military officers wanted work and promotion. Landed gentry wanted formal titles, high offices.

Imperialism in Asia, Africa

India - 1858 - transfer of power.

Southeast Asia - 1880s - completion of British conquest of Burma.

France's takeover of Vietnam and Cambodia, annexation of Laos.

Borneo left Thailand as a neutral buffer state.

China - survived as a more-or-less independent state due to the resilience of her social and administrative structures, but can also be seen as a reflection of the limitations to which imperialists were willing to press their ambitions in the face of competing claims.

China's size and cohesion made formal subjugation difficult for any but the broadest coalition of colonizers. Not possible because of competing interests.

Africa

David Livingstone's explorations were continued from 1870s by H.M. Stanley.

1876 - King Leopold II of Belgium organised International African Association, which by 1882, obtained over 900,000 sq. miles (2311,000 km²) of territory in the Congo basin through treaties with African chiefs.

France and Germany quickly followed, sending political agents and military expeditions to establish their own claims to sovereignty.

Berlin conference sought to regulate the competition by defining (1884-85) "effective occupation" as the criterion for international recognition of territorial claims.

Leopold was allocated Congo Free State in 1885. (445 personal possession).

Atrocities committed by his agents. Territory came under Belgium government in 1908.

"Effective occupation" necessitated routine recourse to armed force against natives. Uprisings were put down ruthlessly in German-Southwest Africa (Namibia) and German East Africa in 1904-07.
1882 – UK occupied Egypt, (Sudan, Somaliland were under Egypt)
1870, 1882 – Italy took Eritrea, (part)
1884, – Germany declared took Togoland, Cameroons, South-west Africa under its protection.
1895 – French West Africa (FWF) headquarters.
1910 – Equitorial Africa (EAF) headquarters.
- Italy was defeated by Ethiopia in 1896. (1st war).
- 1890–1 Whole of Somaliland.
- 1911 – War with Ottoman, Italy got Tripolitania (Libya)

American colonization society and foundation of Liberia: –
USA – marginal role. – through ACS. – 1816.
- ACS offered emigration to Libya, Liberia (land of free), a colony founded in 1820, to free black slaves. This colonization was resisted by natives.
- ACS – 1st pres was James Madison He was pres of USA. (1817-25)

Monroe doctrine: – European powers should no longer colonize the Americas or interfere in the affairs of sovereign nations of America. In return, US would stay neutral in wars between European powers. If wars were waged by European powers on any state of Americas would be viewed by USA as war against itself.
- Basis for USA’s isolationism.

1847 – ACS proclaimed Liberia as free state under the perception that UK might annex it.

Crisis prior to the 1st war

Colonization of Congo: – 1870s
Henry Morton Stanley – explored Kongo kingdom. His plans of colonization of Congo was at first supported only by Leopold II of Belgium. Leopold organised IAA – International African Association in 1876.
Between 1869 to 1880, Stanley made treaties with several African chiefs along the Congo River. By 1882, he had a sufficient territory to form the basis of the Congo Free State. Leopold II personally owned it from 1885; he used it as a source of ivory and rubber.

While Stanley was exploring Congo, Pierre de Brazza raised the French flag in western Congo basin over newly founded Brazzaville in 1881. Thus he occupied today's Republic of the Congo.

Portugal also claimed the area due to old treaties with Kongo Kingdom. Portugal made a treaty with UK in 1884 to block off the Congo Society's access to the Atlantic.

By 1890, Brit SA company (Rhodes) was pushing upwards and Belgium (Congo Free state) was pushing south (downwards). Both were to meet at Katanga (Yeke Kingdom of Mismi). Mismi supplied large quantities of copper, ivory, slaves. There were rumours that gold was found in Yeke Kingdom. So both sent 2 missions to Katanga to negotiate with Mismi, but they were rebuffed in 1890.

Leopold II sent 4 missions to Mismi; 2 were rebuffed. But Alphonse 3rd one was given orders to take Katanga with or without Mismi's consent. It killed Mismi and 4th one established Belgian administration in Katanga. Congo Free state became 75 times larger than Belgium.

Congo Free State unleashed terror regime on the natives.

Mars killings – millions of victims. Slave labour. Under pressure from Congo Reform Association, Belgium took up its administration from the king in 1908.

8 million natives out of 16 m, died between 1885–1908. 4 reasons – indiscriminate war, starvation, reduction of births, disease.

French Congo – Resources mining companies killed 50% of natives. French govt appointed a commission under de Brazza, what but the report was not acted upon.
Suez canal:
1882 - (already written under Muhammed Ali dynasty).

Berlin conference:
1884-85.

Bismarck convened it in 1884-85, to discuss the African problem.

Diplomats put on a humanitarian facade by condemning the slave trade, prohibiting the sale of alcoholic beverages & arms to natives in certain regions, expressing concern about missionary activities.

They laid down the rules of competition, by which they agreed that area along Congo river was to be administered by Leopold as a neutral area, known as Congo Free State, in which trade and navigation were to be free. No nation was to stake claims in Africa without notifying other powers of its intention. No territory could be formally claimed prior to being effectively occupied.

These rules were ignored whenever convenient. War on several occasion war was only narrowly avoided.

British occupation of Egypt and Sudan:
(Egypt was not a protectorate, was neither colony, it wanted to secure the source of Nile.

Sudan, Nigeria, Kenya, Uganda were subjugated in early 1890s.

Fashoda Incident:
1898 - It brought UK & France to the verge of war, but ended in a major strategic victory for UK., and provided a basis for "cordiale Entente" in 1904, with France.

French wanted to have an uninterrupted link between the Niger river and the Nile, thus controlling all trade to and from the sahel region (singe, mali, niger, Chad etc.), by virtue of their existing control over the caravan routes through the sahara.

British wanted link their southern and northern colonies.

So Sudan was the key to their plans.
Numerous leaders - presidents of Congo, Burundi, Togo, Nigeria, Zanzibar, etc., leaders of Zimbabwe (ZANU), Chad, Morocco, etc., were killed by colonial powers and their stooges in those colonies.

The use of force to maintain power was a common strategy of these regimes. The struggle for independence was often marked by violence and bloodshed. The leaders and their supporters were often targets of assassination.

Despite these challenges, many people continued to fight for freedom. The struggle for independence was a difficult and often bloody road, but it eventually led to the establishment of independent nations. Today, these nations continue to face challenges, but they are stronger and more resilient thanks to the sacrifices of those who fought for their freedom.