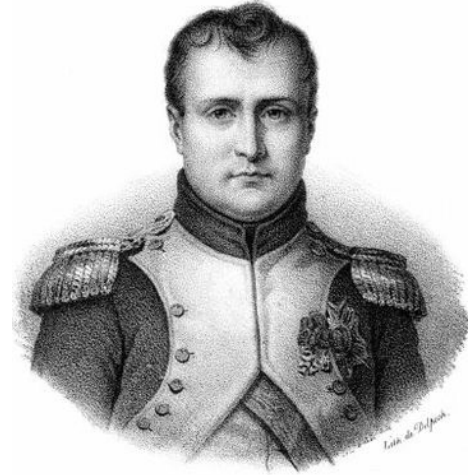


What Is the Connection Between the French Revolution and the Independence of Mexico?

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Education

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The 18th Century Enlightenment philosophers espoused the end of absolute monarchy rule, the rights of the individual and shared sovereignty of citizens in government. Haitian citizens embraced these philosophies and overthrew French rule to become an independent Latin American country, setting an example for other Latin American colonies. Spain's involvement in Napoleon's French Revolution led Mexico to make a similar bid for freedom.

Financial Concerns

The Spanish monarchy levied taxes on Catholic Church holdings to refill the treasury depleted by Spain's involvement in the French Revolution. Between heavy Spanish taxes, disrupted trade, an attack on the Catholic Church and poor harvests, many Mexican citizens were dissatisfied with Spanish rule.

Mexicans Desire Control

In 1808 Napoleon placed his brother Joseph on the Spanish throne. Many upper-class Mexican citizens resented the move. The Mexican-born Creoles and Spanish-born peninsulares united to gain more control of the Mexican government. They attempted to prevent the native-born lower classes from taking an active part in Mexican politics.

A New Vision

Creole priest Father Miguel Hidalgo started the war for Mexican independence to remove peninsulare control. After Hidalgo's execution, Father Jose Maria Morelos took over, desiring that all Mexican-born citizens be Americans and share governmental power. Agustin de Iturbide united Mexico after Morelos' execution and achieved independence by advocating a Mexican monarch, equal rights for the upper-class Creoles and peninsulares and recognition of the Catholic church as the official church of Mexico.