

~~Latin America~~

Latin American Independence DBQ

For more than 300 years the Spanish ruled Latin America, but in the 1800's, the empire began to collapse and smaller groups began to takeover. Creoles were a group of people with pure Spanish blood, but they were born in America. The Creoles made up 23% of the population in colonial Latin America, but still were not at the top of the colonial Latin America social hierarchy. In the struggle for Latin American Independence, why did the Creoles lead the fight? (The Creoles led the Fight for Latin America due to the ideas of more political power, control of economic interests, and emerging national identity.)

One of the reasons that the creoles led the fight was because of the lack of more political power. Document B reinforces this idea when it states, "The creoles had growing economic and social influence but the peninsulares monopolized all administrative positions... The Creoles began to think of doing away with the inconvenience of Spanish colonialism, and move toward independence." This quote in document b shows that although the creoles did have economic and social influence, they were denied political power that they needed, so the Creoles then needed to lead the fight to get that political power from the peninsulares. Document D also backs up the idea that the creoles led the fight due to the lack of political power. This is shown when Document D states, "In 1808-09 drought produced a great mortality among Mexico's livestock and decimated [destroyed] the harvest... food prices tripled." This quote from document d shows how the peninsulares didn't know how to use their power in a way that was useful, leading the creoles to blame them and fight because they thought they could do a better job with the power. This goes back to what I said at the beginning of this paragraph, that the reason that the creoles led the fight was because they lacked political power, which is shown by both of the quotes stated above.

Support ✓

Support ✓

Another reason that the Creoles led the fight for Latin American independence is because of the control of economic interests.

This idea is shown prominently in document C, when it states, "...sell our products at artificially low prices and buy what we need at artificially high prices. This is the result of Spanish commercial monopoly system, combined with taxes and official fees." This quote shows that the Creoles wanted to protect economic interests, and to do this, they would need independence. Another idea that this quote portrays is that the Creoles thought that they could change and improve the economic during that time, and to do this, they would have to have more power. The second document that also portrays this main idea is document D. It states, "Crisis soon affected the rest of the economy: mining and manufacturing faltered and unemployment." This quote helps show how the economy went wrong due to the Creoles not having the political power needed, and the peninsulares not controlling economic interests well enough.

The last reason why the Creoles led the fight for Latin American Independence is because of emerging national identity. Document A supports this idea very well when it states, "We are not Europeans; we are not Indians; we are but a mixed species of aborigines [native born] and Spaniards. This helps show the idea that just because they were not completely Spanish, they still have Spanish blood in them, the Creoles were just born in the colonies. This shouldn't have made them unequal in the ways of the social hierarchy, yet they still weren't equal. This one of the reasons that the Creoles led the fight. Another document that supports the main idea of national identity is document B. Document B shows this idea when it states, "One of the main sources of independence sentiment was the growing rivalry between Creoles and peninsulares... Creoles began to think of doing away with the inconvenience of Spanish colonialism and move towards independence. This helps support the idea that the Creoles and the peninsulares had many ideas that were different from each other, such as the inequality of social groups. This helped the Creoles move toward independence and lead the fight."

Although the peninsulares gave the Creoles the social and economic power of the Latin American colonies, what they really needed was the political power to help make the colonies a better place. Due to the ideas of more political power, control of economic interests, and emerging national identity, the creoles led the fight for Latin American Independence.