

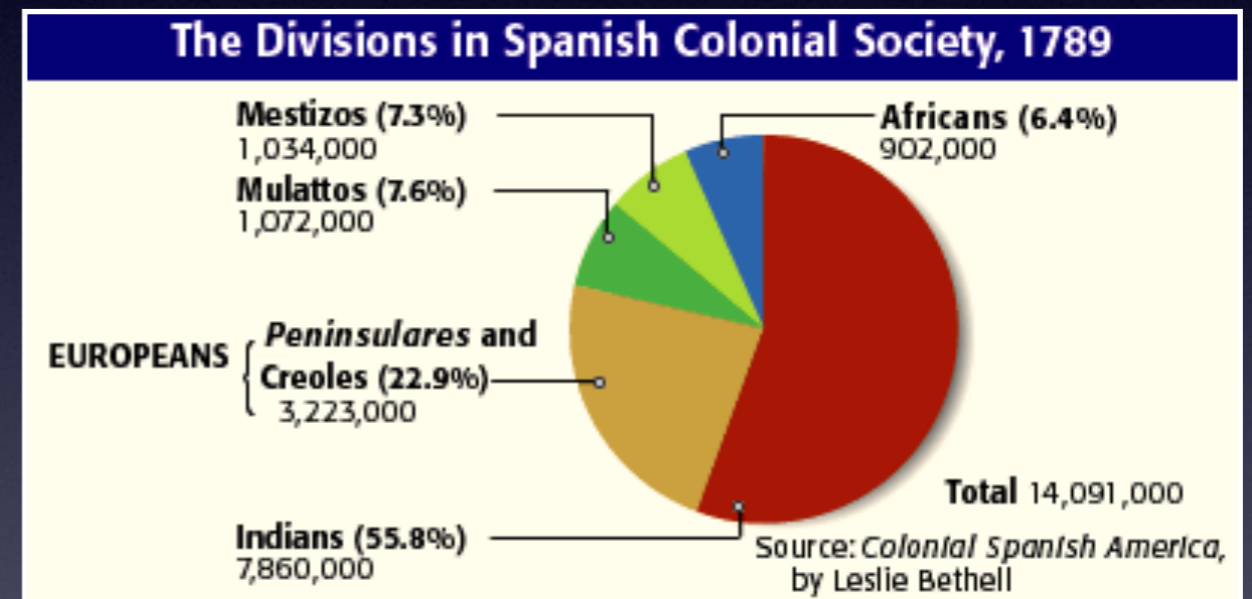


Enlightenment in Latin American Society

Morgan Roach

Latin America Colonial Society

- Peninsulares- They were born in Spain but they were European. They held high office in Spanish Colonial government. (0.1%)
- Creoles- Spaniards born in Latin America. They were the best educated but could not hold high office. They brought the idea of revolution. (22.8%)
- Mestizos- People of mixed European and Indian ancestry. (7.3%)
- Mulattos- Mixed European and African ancestry. (7.6%)
- Africans- Economic value to the Spaniards. (6.4%)
- Indians- Little economic value to the Spaniards. (55.8%)



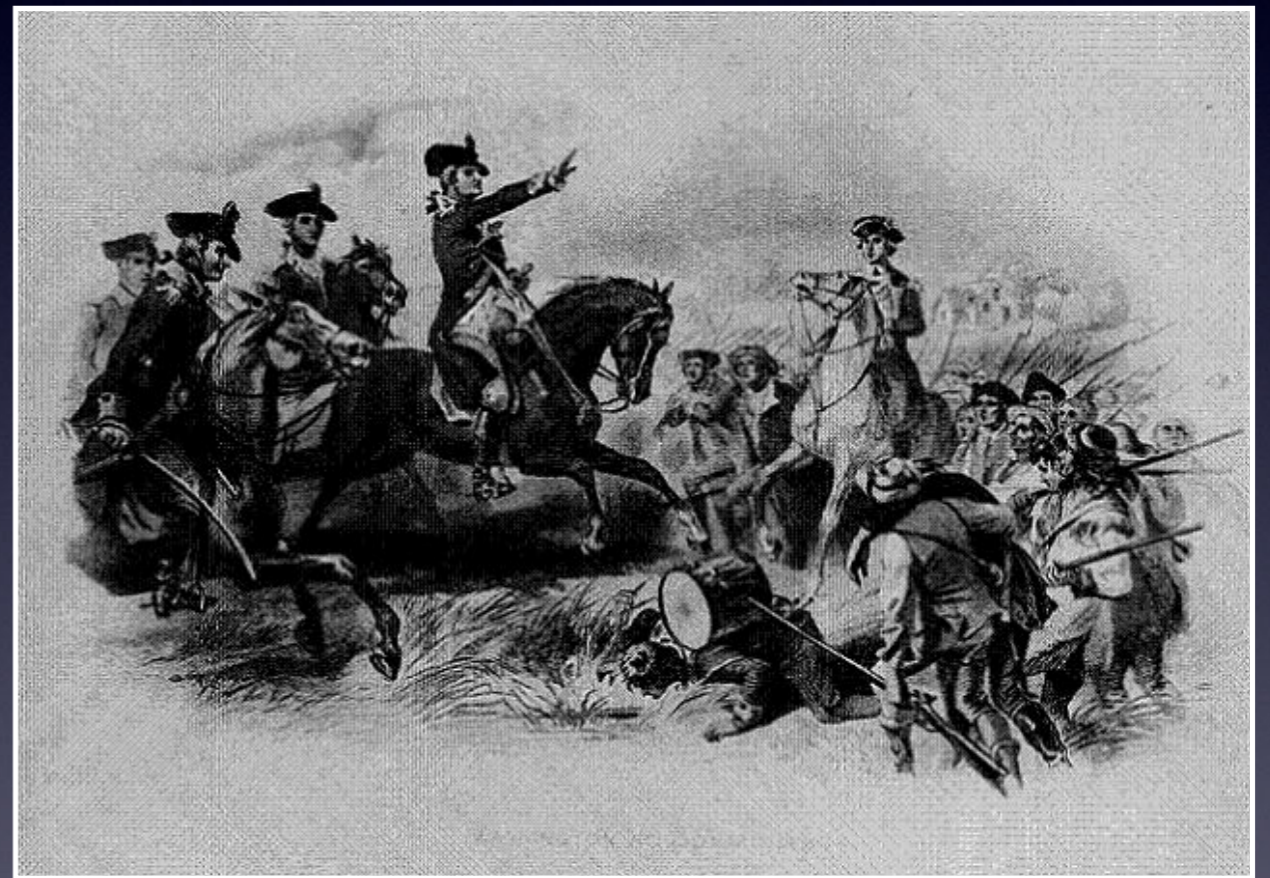
Beginning of Enlightenment



- Many wealthy Creoles traveled to Europe for their education. In Europe they read about and adopted Enlightenment ideas. When they returned to Latin America, they brought ideas of revolution with them even though they were the least oppressed of those born in Latin America.

Spreading the ideas of revolution

- Spanish, German, and French scientists brought their own knowledge and enlightened ideas with them.
- Many new school, colleges, and libraries were established during this time.
- A sense of national pride began to develop among the Creoles who referred to themselves as Americans instead of Spaniards.
- These people eventually lead the Latin American revolutions.



After the revolution



- Revolutionary leaders set out to recognize the rights of the Indians.
- The liberation of African slaves came with the revolutions.
- Economic and social status was no longer enforced by law as it had been under Spanish rule.
- Higher social classes were no longer based on physical characteristics.
- The economic changes that new enlightenment knowledge had brought to Latin America hadn't sustained through the revolutions despite the efforts of enlightenment leaders.