

332 ❖ Chapter 20

strengthened the support for change. In Venezuela a revolutionary group of creoles (colonial-born whites) declared independence in 1811. The group supported the Enlightenment values of political democracy and individual liberty, but it comprised large landowners, who saw little need to liberate slaves or give additional rights to the majority mixed-race population. Loyalists used these facts to rally those groups to defend the crown.

The creoles turned to Simón Bolívar, one of their own, to lead the revolutionary movement. The charismatic Bolívar, a student of the Enlightenment, was able to inspire his troops while building coalitions with other segments of society. To bring additional numbers to his cause, he agreed to support emancipation for slaves. From 1813 through 1820 the battle raged between loyalists and Bolívar's revolutionary army.

Events in Europe again spurred revolutionary changes in the Americas. A military revolt in Spain in 1820 forced King Ferdinand VII to accept new restrictions on his power, which emboldened Bolívar's army to press for definitive military victories. By 1824 revolutionary troops had liberated what today are the nations of Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia, named after the "great liberator" himself. Bolívar and his supporters attempted to build a political confederation from the newly independent regions. Venezuela, Colombia, and Ecuador united to form Gran Colombia, and efforts were made to link Peru and Bolivia, but by 1830 unity had failed and several smaller nations were formed.

A second area of revolutionary activity centered around Buenos Aires, the capital city of Argentina. When news of Ferdinand VII's forced abdication reached Buenos Aires, local elites, military commanders, and ranchers formed a new junta to resist the power of colonial officials. The Argentine Junta claimed loyalty to the monarch, but when Ferdinand regained power the junta refused to give up control and in 1816 announced the independence of the Provinces of Río de la Plata.

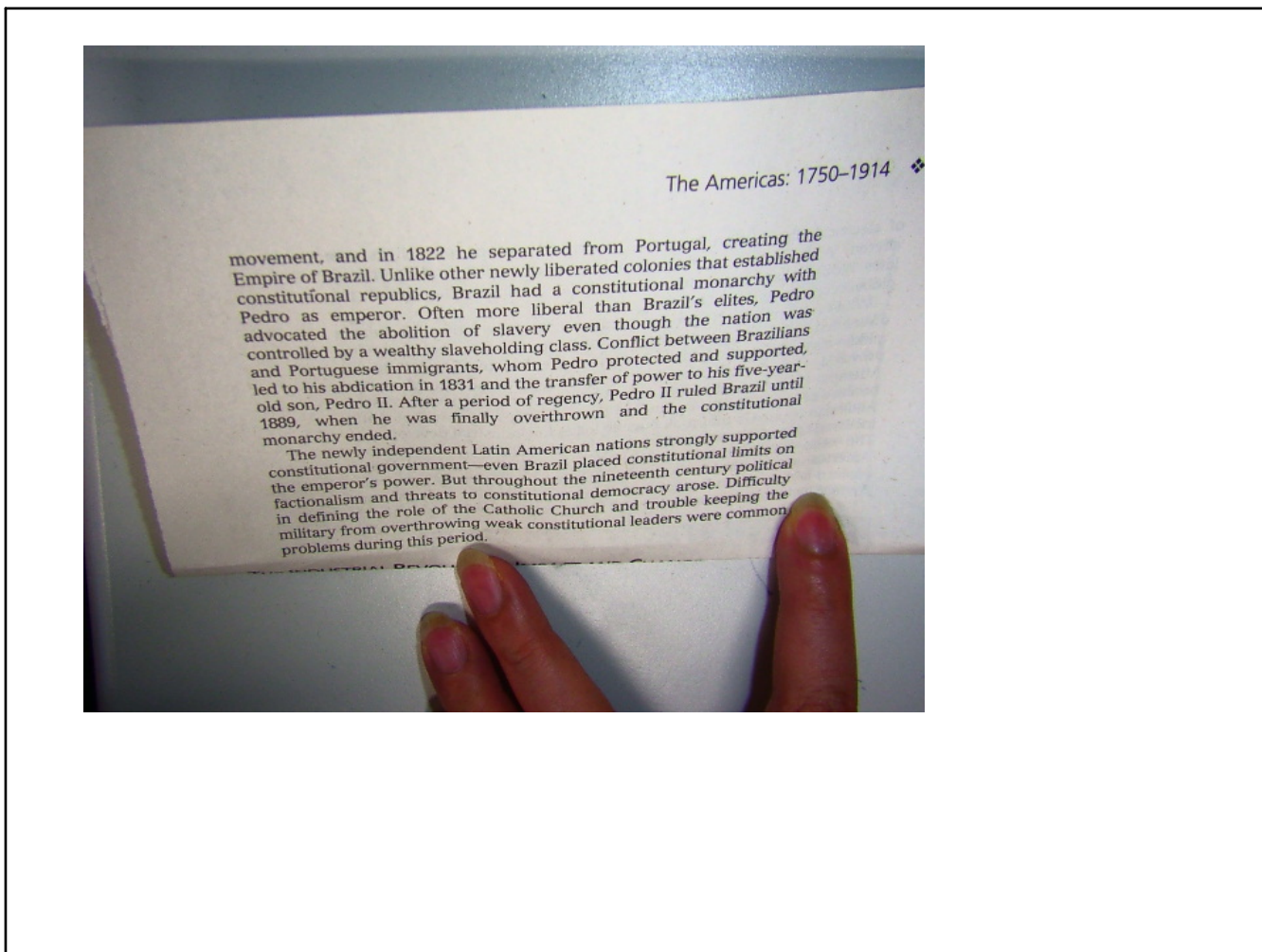
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Mexico, Spain's richest colony, contained large numbers of Spanish immigrants and owed much of its wealth to the exploitation of the rural poor and Amerindian population. This oppression of the peasants, as well as increasing political conflict and instability in Spain, gave rise to revolutionary action. In 1810 Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla, a priest in the small town of Dolores, urged peasants to rise up and fight oppression from Spanish colonial officials. A disorganized armed force began to attack mines and ranches, striking at both Spanish and creole elites. Though Hidalgo at first appealed to some wealthy Mexicans, the threat of a peasant-led revolution caused them to turn on Hidalgo, who was captured and executed in 1811. The uprising continued throughout the rest of the decade, by the end of which colonial rule seemed to be reestablished. But the crisis in Spain in 1820 greatly affected Mexico, which declared its independence in 1821. Creole elites replaced their colonial counterparts, demonstrating the conservative nature of the Mexican independence struggle.

The presence of the Portuguese royal family in Brazil, forced to flee Portugal after their defeat by Napoleon in 1808, shaped the colony's independence movement. When King John VI returned to Portugal to protect his power in 1820, he left his son Pedro to act as regent. Pedro, a student of the Enlightenment, supported the independence

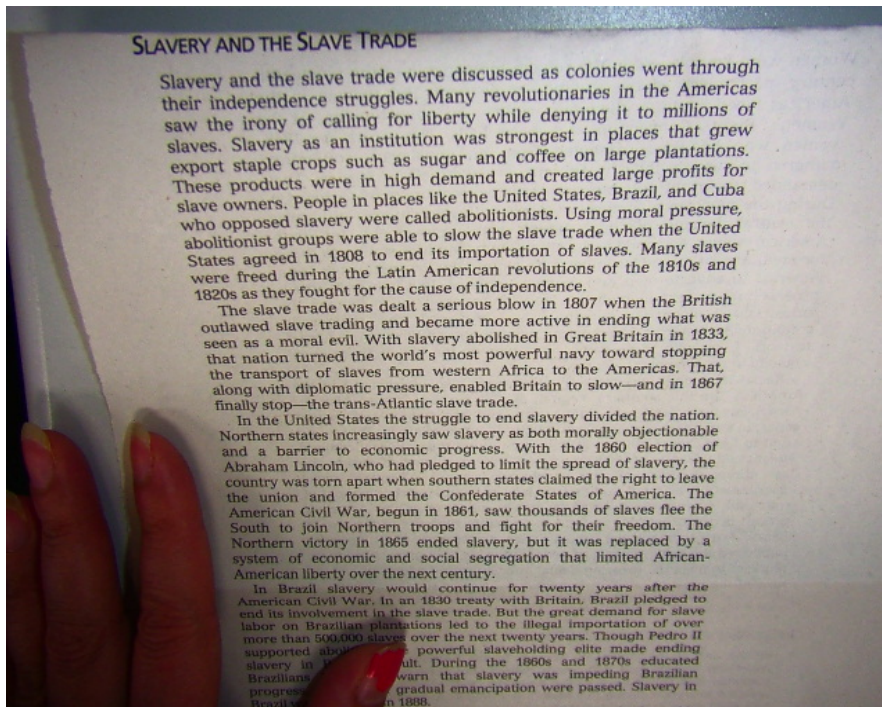
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The Americas: 1750-1914 ❖

movement, and in 1822 he separated from Portugal, creating the Empire of Brazil. Unlike other newly liberated colonies that established constitutional republics, Brazil had a constitutional monarchy with Pedro as emperor. Often more liberal than Brazil's elites, Pedro advocated the abolition of slavery even though the nation was controlled by a wealthy slaveholding class. Conflict between Brazilians and Portuguese immigrants, whom Pedro protected and supported, led to his abdication in 1831 and the transfer of power to his five-year-old son, Pedro II. After a period of regency, Pedro II ruled Brazil until 1889, when he was finally overthrown and the constitutional monarchy ended.

The newly independent Latin American nations strongly supported constitutional government—even Brazil placed constitutional limits on the emperor's power. But throughout the nineteenth century political factionalism and threats to constitutional democracy arose. Difficulty in defining the role of the Catholic Church and trouble keeping the military from overthrowing weak constitutional leaders were common problems during this period.

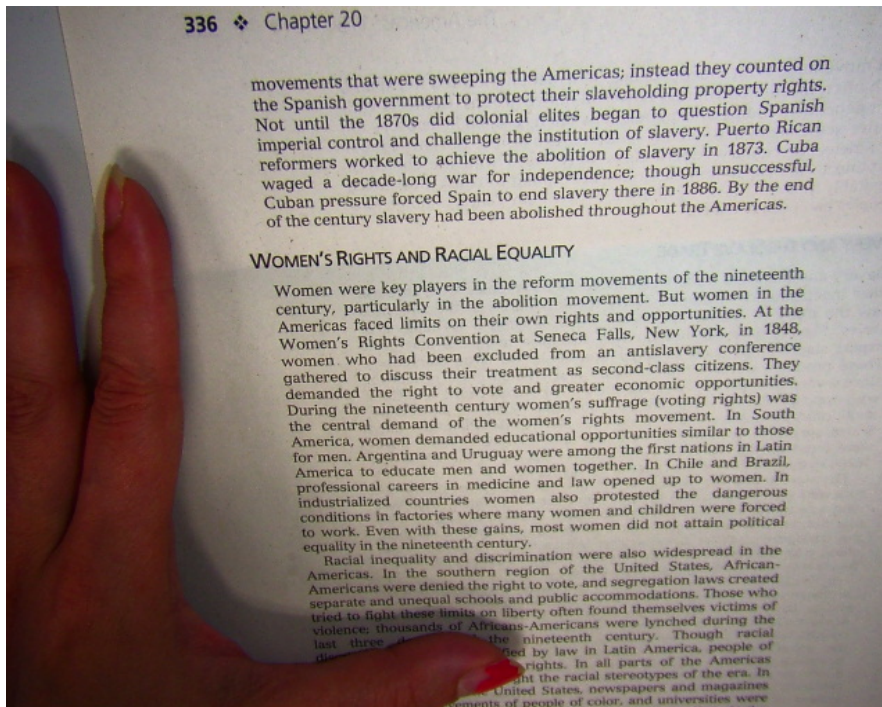


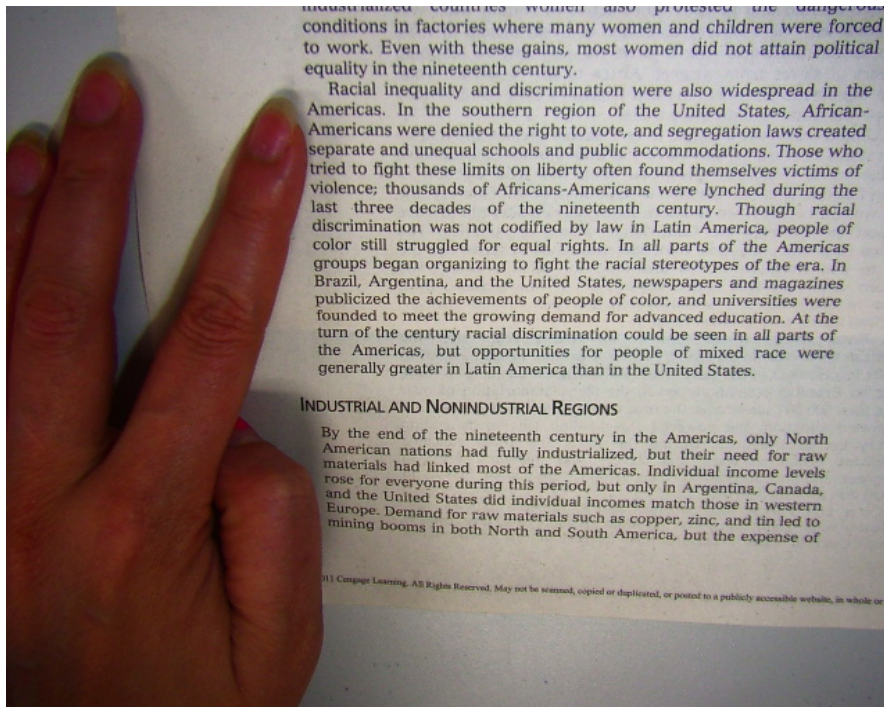
Northern states increasingly saw slavery as both morally objectionable and a barrier to economic progress. With the 1860 election of Abraham Lincoln, who had pledged to limit the spread of slavery, the country was torn apart when southern states claimed the right to leave the union and formed the Confederate States of America. The American Civil War, begun in 1861, saw thousands of slaves flee the South to join Northern troops and fight for their freedom. The Northern victory in 1865 ended slavery, but it was replaced by a system of economic and social segregation that limited African-American liberty over the next century.

In Brazil slavery would continue for twenty years after the American Civil War. In an 1830 treaty with Britain, Brazil pledged to end its involvement in the slave trade. But the great demand for slave labor on Brazilian plantations led to the illegal importation of over more than 500,000 slaves over the next twenty years. Though Pedro II supported abolition, the powerful slaveholding elite made ending slavery in Brazil difficult. During the 1860s and 1870s educated Brazilians began to warn that slavery was impeding Brazilian progress, and laws of gradual emancipation were passed. Slavery in Brazil was abolished in 1888.

Cuba and Puerto Rico, Spanish-held Caribbean colonies with valuable sugar plantations, worried about the successful slave revolt in Haiti. Colonial elites expressed little interest in the independence

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mining equipment forced nonindustrialized nations to cede control of these valuable natural resources to foreign corporations. International business interests often intimidated governments that needed their investment capital. Other new forms of industrial technology—for example, railroads and telegraph lines—also needed to be funded by companies from North America and western Europe, increasing their power in Latin America. By 1900 nations had either begun to develop industrial economies or become dependent on those economies, primarily exporting raw materials and creating low-wage jobs. These structural differences would have a long-term impact on economies throughout the Americas.

AP Tip

"Old imperialism," by which European powers played an indirect role, primarily as traders in Africa and Asia, began to change in the late nineteenth century. The industrial nations of Europe began to take political, economic, and cultural control of vast regions in Africa and Asia in what is called New Imperialism or neocolonialism. What about New Imperialism in the Americas? A form of New Imperialism first began in the Americas when Spain and Portugal defeated Amerindian empires such as the Aztec and Inca. These societies were reshaped politically, economically, and culturally, but in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries technology had not linked the global market as it would during the growth of industrialism. Though these colonies were profitable, their raw materials would not be essential for industrial production in Europe. By the time industrialism gave nations an economic motive for New Imperialism, the colonies in the Americas had achieved independence, and European imperialists did not have the same opportunity to occupy them as they had in parts of Africa and Asia. At the same time, you could argue that both the United States and international corporations did exert powerful political and economic influence without

during the growth of industrialism. Though these colonies were profitable, their raw materials would not be essential for industrial production in Europe. By the time industrialism gave nations an economic motive for New Imperialism, the colonies in the Americas had achieved independence, and European imperialists did not have the same opportunity to occupy them as they had in parts of Africa and Asia. At the same time, you could argue that both the United States and international corporations did exert powerful political and economic influence without actually occupying nations. For an essay question that deals with New Imperialism, consider contrasting it with the earlier forms of colonialism in the Americas.

THE UNITED STATES AND NEW IMPERIALISM
IN LATIN AMERICA

In 1823 the United States issued the Monroe Doctrine warning European nations, which exerted strong political and economic power over Latin America, to refrain from further expansion in the Americas. The Monroe Doctrine, however, did not stop the United States from intervening in the region. In 1846 the United States used a questionable border attack to declare war against Mexico. The short struggle that followed ended when United States troops took the

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338 ❖ Chapter 20

capital, Mexico City; in the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, a third of Mexico was ceded to the United States. The United States also had long been interested in Cuba, the wealthiest Spanish colony. A revolution led by Cuban nationalist José Martí that erupted in 1895 was supported by the American popular press. When the U.S. battleship *Maine* accidentally exploded in the Havana harbor, the United States was quick to implicate Spain. The war that followed brought an end to four hundred years of Spanish colonial rule in the Americas. The Treaty of Paris (1898) liberated Cuba (though the 1901 Platt Amendment granted the United States the right to intervene there if necessary) and gave the United States possession of Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines. The United States had become an imperial power.

By 1900 the United States had the largest economy in the world. Unlike European nations, which had used their economic and technological power to reshape Africa and Asia, the United States was not interested in occupying large parts of the Americas. Instead, New Imperialism was modified to free-trade imperialism—though the United States did use military force in the Americas in the early twentieth century when the supply of raw materials needed for their industrial economy was threatened.

Multiple-Choice Questions

1. The Enlightenment idea that had the greatest impact on revolutionary thinkers in the Americas advocated
(A) abolition of slavery
(B) equality of all people

