

### North/Central/South America: Part 1

In the 1500s, the Europeans proved to be efficient and ruthless colonizers. The Europeans were hungry for resources and gold. The people who had come pouring into the Americas had been at the bottom rung of life in Europe and the Americas offered an opportunity to move up in society and change their families' fortunes. The Europeans used guns, germs, and steel to act ruthlessly in taking over the resource-rich lands in the Americas and eliminating anyone who tried to oppose them. The Europeans installed a race-based social structure called *Encomiendas*. The more European a person was, the more power they possessed. The less European, the less power. This left the natives and Africans with basically zero power.



By the 1700s, the colonies had grown distant from their European founding countries. The first colonizers in 1400 had been born in Europe and were devoted to their country of birth. However, after three hundred years the population was made up mainly of people born and raised in the colony. Over 95% of the colonists had never been to Europe. Most of the European Monarchs had never stepped foot in their colonies. Thus, the American Colonists had developed a unique identity and experience that was nothing like their European counterpart. A colonist in Brazil viewed himself as Brazilian, not Portuguese. A colonist in North America viewed himself as American, not British; Mexican, not Spanish.

As the ideas of the Enlightenment made their way to the Americas, the colonists began to ask questions like: "Who has the right to rule us?" and "How much say should we have in making laws?" The European countries wanted 100% of the power and that the colonies should just obey gratefully. The colonists, however, did not agree...

### Europe/Asia/Americas: Conflict & Revolution

Seven Years War... In 1753, Mercantilism and massive intercontinental empires caused the first truly global conflict: the Seven Years War. Land disputes in Europe, and competition for trade supremacy in American and Asia caused the European powers to begin fighting a full scale war. At the center of the war were France and England, who both wanted to dominate North America and trade to India. Fighting took place in Europe, Asia and the Americas. England and her allies won, giving England a monopoly on Indian trade as well as French land in the Americas. Britain now had the largest empire in the world and was the world's most powerful country.

The American Revolution... The Seven Years War was a costly success. While England had won it had cost her a fortune. Much of the fighting had taken place in the Americas and the colonists received most of the benefits, having more land to expand into. The British Parliament raised the tax and laws on the colonists to help cover the costs of the war, as well as the cost of protecting the colonies in the future.



The American colonists were outraged over the new taxes and how the taxes were created. The colonists believed in the Enlightenment ideas and wanted a say in the creation of laws and would not pay any of these new taxes. On July 4, 1776 the colonies declared their Independence and began a revolution. A revolution is an attempt to overthrow a government or social order to put a new one in its place. With financial and military help from the French, the George Washington and the American Colonists won their independence and created the United States of America.

The American Revolution a shock wave around the world. The British were the most powerful country and its colonists had successfully broken away. European kings began to fear the impact of this event. What if their subjects revolted? What if their colonies tried to break away? What if their poor began to believe that they had rights and power?

## ASSIGNMENT

- 1) Read & Update the Content Matrix
- 2) Fill out this chart with the the strengths/positives and weaknesses/negatives of each region.

| Region                | Strengths | Weaknesses |
|-----------------------|-----------|------------|
| Europe                |           |            |
| North & South America |           |            |

- 3) Create an impact chart. As you read you are to evaluate each area on the level of impact the people in that region had on the world culturally, militarily, and economically.
  - Rate each area as to how impactful you believe them to be at the at 1640 AD ( ) and at 1815 AD ( ▲ ).
  - Draw arrows to show whether they grew or shrunk in impact and influence.
  - If there is change, ask yourself “What caused them to grow or shrink or stagnate in their influence?” and make note of it on your chart.

## Examples





