

## Independence and the Enlightenment Jigsaw Factsheets Venezuela Fact Sheet

**Directions:** Study the following information about the Venezuelan experiment with enlightened ideals. After you have read over this individually, you will have the opportunity to work in an expert group to discuss the affect the Enlightenment had on Venezuela after it became independent from Spain and how effectively those ideals were enacted. Afterward, you will be responsible for teaching another group about Venezuela. Your group will take notes on the Jigsaw Graphic Organizer. Your teacher may assign you to do additional research on Venezuela.

As you study this information, think about the following:

Enlightened ideals included equality for men, self-rule, representative government with input from the working and middle classes, and, most important, freedom from tyranny and slavery. In Venezuela, some of these ideals were met and some were discussed and then ignored.

1. To what extent were enlightenment ideas carried out in Venezuela following independence?
2. How did this impact the different social classes in Venezuela?

Venezuela had its first revolt against the Spanish colonial system in 1797. This was directly inspired by the enlightened ideals that spread from Europe during the French Revolution. Although the revolt failed, it set the stage for further rebellions. After Napoleon Bonaparte conquered Spain in 1810, local city councils created their own governments with Caracas as the lead city. Soon after, Venezuela declared independence in 1811. In this declaration, Venezuela stated that it had the right to self-government. By 1821, most of the fighting had decreased and

Venezuela, along with neighboring countries, was free. During the fighting, mulattoes, mestizos, and Native American Indians joined the fighting for independence. However, after independence was achieved, the criollos, a person of pure Spanish descent born in Spanish America, refused to change the social structure. The Roman Catholic Church, usually very conservative and supported by Spain, initially suffered from the wars. However, after Venezuela recovered from the wars, the Roman Catholic Church began to take a more active role in Venezuela.



**Simon Bolivar (center) at the Congress of Cúcuta in 1821 [1]**

In 1821, Venezuela became a part of a union of Latin American countries. The Congress of Cúcuta, which started this movement, created the first Fundamental Laws for Gran Colombia. At this Congress, a law-making body was created that gave executive powers to the president. It did not, however, establish any rights for the people, nor did it state that all men were created equal. In the following year, slavery was banned and some

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fundamental rights were given to the people by means of a constitution. However, outside of slavery, these rights were not always guaranteed to people outside of the rich, landowning criollos.

Soon after Gran Colombia was created, there were already too many problems to solve. The countries were too spread out and too different to remain together. As a result, Venezuela declared independence from Gran Colombia in 1830. General Jose Antonio Paez was named president of Venezuela by a small group. He ruled as part of a group called an oligarchy, and held the title of “president” for almost 16 years. He would retire and then return as a dictator for a few years before his death. Although Venezuela had a constitution, most of the wealth and power remained in the hands of the criollos.

After Paez, many dictators (called caudillos in Spanish) would come and go. Between 1829 and 1899, Venezuela had about 41 different leaders. As a result of this constant changing of leadership, Venezuela remained a very poor country and was victim of civil wars.

[1] Source: This image from [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Congreso\\_de\\_C%C3%BAcuta.jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Congreso_de_C%C3%BAcuta.jpg) is in the public domain.

## Independence and the Enlightenment Jigsaw Argentina Fact Sheet

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**Directions:** Study the following information about the Argentinean experiment with enlightened ideals. After you have read over this individually, you will have the opportunity to work in an expert group to discuss the affect the Enlightenment had on Argentina after it became independent from Spain and how effectively those ideals were enacted. Afterward, you will be responsible for teaching another group about Argentina. Your group will take notes on the Jigsaw Graphic Organizer. Your teacher may assign you to do additional research on Argentina.

Enlightened ideals included equality for men, self-rule, representative government with input from the working and middle classes, and, most important, freedom from tyranny and slavery. In Argentina, some of these ideals were met and some were discussed and then ignored.

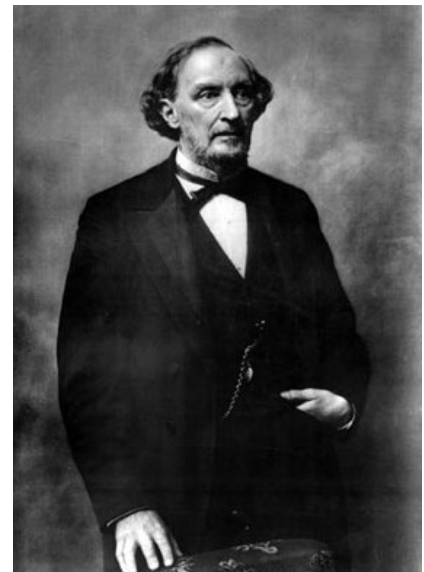
1. To what extent were enlightenment ideas carried out in Argentina following independence?
2. How did this impact the different social classes in Argentina?

A British ship reached the Spanish colony of Rio de la Plata (Argentina) in 1810 with shocking news: the Spanish government was defeated by Napoleon Bonaparte and it no longer had control over Argentina. Soon after, the local leaders in Buenos Aires declared a new government, the Primera Junta (first government). This government began to prepare Argentina for self-rule. In 1816, Argentina declared independence from Spain and created provisions for a new constitution. For two years Argentina fought for its survival by defeating Spanish troops and the royalists who supported them.

In the fight for independence, mulattoes and Africans, who comprised a large portion of the population, played a huge role in the war. They were the soliders, led by criollos, a person of pure Spanish descent born in Spanish America, who fought against the Spanish. In exchange for fighting, the slaves were offered freedom. Those who were not slaves were fighting for more rights.

The Roman Catholic Church suffered from this war. Usually supported by the peninsulares, the Roman Catholic Church lost power in the new governments. Finally in 1818, Jose de San Martin, a criollo Latino hero, helped bring an end to the Spanish attempts to recolonize Argentina.

The people of Argentina faced difficulties in establishing an independent country. Most of the areas of Argentina did not like how the capital, Buenos Aires, was given special treatment in regards to the new constitution and government. Additionally, the first president, Juan Manuel de Rosas, ruled from Buenos Aires and believed in strict dictatorship and social segregation. Most people did not have any say in government; only those with money and land had any real power. This, of course, led to



**Bartolome Mitre, the president of Argentina from 1862-1868, saw many changes take place during his short term. [1]**

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uprisings. To appease everyone, the constitution was changed to create a loose confederation with no president. Most of the provinces had set up their own local governments. Even with this accommodation, Argentina fought a series of wars, both civil and foreign, until 1853. The provinces of Uruguay, Bolivia, and Paraguay all declared independence from Argentina.

The year 1853 was a turning point for Argentina. A new constitution was written that banned slavery and gave more men equal rights. A new president of the Argentine republic was elected in 1862 that paved the way for more changes. This new president saw to it that the economy was the number-one priority. He allowed foreign countries to invest millions into the economy, while millions of immigrants came to the country in search of a better life. Most important, the rule of law was created with more restrictions placed upon the government and more rights given to the people. These rights included marriage rights for men and women, more limits on government, and the right to private property. Eventually, all men were given the right to vote by secret ballot in 1912.

[1] Source: This image from <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:BartolomeMitre.jpg> is in the public domain because its copyright has expired.

## Independence and the Enlightenment Jigsaw Brazil Fact Sheet

**Directions:** Study the following information about the Brazilian experiment with enlightened ideals. After you have read over this individually, you will have the opportunity to work in an expert group to discuss the affect the Enlightenment had on Brazil after it became independent from Portugal and how effectively those ideals were enacted. Afterward, you will be responsible for teaching another group about Brazil. Your group will take notes on the Jigsaw Graphic Organizer. Your teacher may assign you to do additional research on Brazil.

Enlightened ideals included equality for men, self-rule, representative government with input from the working and middle classes, and, most importantly, freedom from tyranny and slavery. In Brazil, some of these ideas were achieved while others were discussed and then ignored.

1. To what extent were enlightenment ideas carried out in Brazil following independence?
2. How did this impact the different social classes in Brazil?

When Napoleon Bonaparte defeated Portugal in 1808, the government of Portugal fled and settled in the capital of its main colony, Rio de Janeiro. While living there, the King of Portugal made Brazil equal with Portugal and no longer just a colony. The royal family and government stayed there until 1821. Before they left, the King named his eldest son, Dom Pedro, ruler of Brazil.

One year later and after a short war for independence, Brazil declared itself an independent country. Dom Pedro I assumed the title of Emperor of Brazil. No constitution was created, no new rights were granted, and slavery continued to exist. In this case, the criollos and the Roman Catholic Church dominated the independence movement. Anyone who was a slave or of a lower social class (mulattoes, Native American Indians, and Africans), was not involved with the independence movement and therefore was not given any rights or responsibilities in the new government.



**Celebration after slavery was banned in 1888.  
Princess Isabel can be seen on the left-hand side. [1]**

This continued until 1831 when Dom Pedro I resigned and allowed his infant son to be ruler. Under Dom Pedro II, the country was ruled by a group of men, known as regents, who ruled the country in Dom Pedro II's name. During this time, the country faced a series of riots and rebellions. In 1840, Dom Pedro II assumed the throne as Emperor of Brazil.

Dom Pedro II was a stronger leader than his father. He was able to establish national unity among Brazilians and he created a national economy under which many people prospered.

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Dom Pedro II wanted to see slaves set free and he freed his own slaves in 1840. However, it was more difficult to get land-owning aristocrats to do the same.

By the 1870s, republicanism (representative democracy) was gaining momentum in Brazil. These men wanted to see an end to slavery and the establishment of a republic. In 1888, while Dom Pedro II was on vacation, his daughter ended slavery in Brazil. One year later, the army overthrew Dom Pedro II and created a new republic. A new republican constitution was approved in 1891 and a new president was elected in 1892. Like many other new representative democracies, however, women were not allowed to vote.

[1] Source: This image from [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Missa\\_17\\_maio\\_1888.jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Missa_17_maio_1888.jpg) is in the public domain because its copyright has expired.

## Independence and the Enlightenment Jigsaw Haiti Fact Sheet

**Directions:** Study the following information about the Haitian experiment with enlightened ideals. After you have read over this individually, you will have the opportunity to work in an expert group to discuss the affect the Enlightenment had on Haiti after it became independent from France and how effectively those ideals were enacted. Afterward, you will be responsible for teaching another group about Haiti. Your group will take notes on the Jigsaw Graphic Organizer. Your teacher may assign you to do additional research on Haiti.

Enlightened ideals included equality for men, self-rule, representative government with input from the working and middle classes, and, most important, freedom from tyranny and slavery. In Haiti, some of these ideals were met and some were discussed and then ignored.

1. To what extent were enlightenment ideas carried out in Haiti following independence?
2. How did this impact the different social classes in Haiti?

Saint Domingue (Haiti) was a colony of France, and, as such, was impacted by the French Revolution in 1789. The impact began in 1791 when enlightened ideals about the abolition of slavery and equality spread to the colony from France. The first slave revolts started in 1791 and continued until slavery was banned in 1794. One of the leaders during this time was Toussaint L'Ouverture. Considered the father of Haiti, he was governor while it was still a colony of France. He worked hard to modernize Haiti, educate the people, and keep other countries from trying to take it over.

By 1801, it became clear that Napoleon Bonaparte wanted to establish his power over the island when he sent troops to Haiti. They were ordered to defeat the former slaves and reinstitute slavery. Those troops were defeated. Soon after, Napoleon sent another army and it too was defeated.

During this revolutionary period, mulattoes and slaves played an enormous role in fighting for independence. At this time, 98% of the population was African or of mixed ancestry. As a result, their impact on the independence was monumental. Without these groups, the revolution would have never succeeded.



**Jean Jacques Dessalines became Haiti's first emperor in 1804. [1]**

In 1804, the leader of Haiti, Jean Jacques Dessalines, declared independence in Haiti and named himself Emperor. He established freedom of religion and designated everyone as being "black" so that lighter-skinned people did not try to take advantage of darker-skinned people. This meant equality to Dessalines. Dessalines also banned all white men from owning property.

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From 1811 to 1867, Haiti saw many dictators and coups. Most of the men who took power established a military dictatorship and when the military tired of them, someone else would take power and declare himself Emperor of Haiti. Finally in 1867, a new constitution was created and it was fully enforced by the newly found republic. This peaceful and relatively prosperous time period allowed Haiti to begin to allow enlightened ideals to thrive.

By 1911, Haiti's prosperity came to an end. Worried about foreign influence from Germans, the United States invaded and occupied Haiti. This led to approximately 20 years of rule by Haitian dictators, backed by the United States government. All of the enlightened ideals that were being implemented ceased in 1911.

[1] Source: This image from <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Dessalines.jpg> is in the public domain because its copyright has expired.