

PROJECT: IMPACT OF AMERICAN AND FRENCH REVOLUTIONS

Revolution can be contagious. When people from one country see people in another country successfully overthrow an oppressive government, they can be inspired to do the same. The American and French Revolutions did just that.



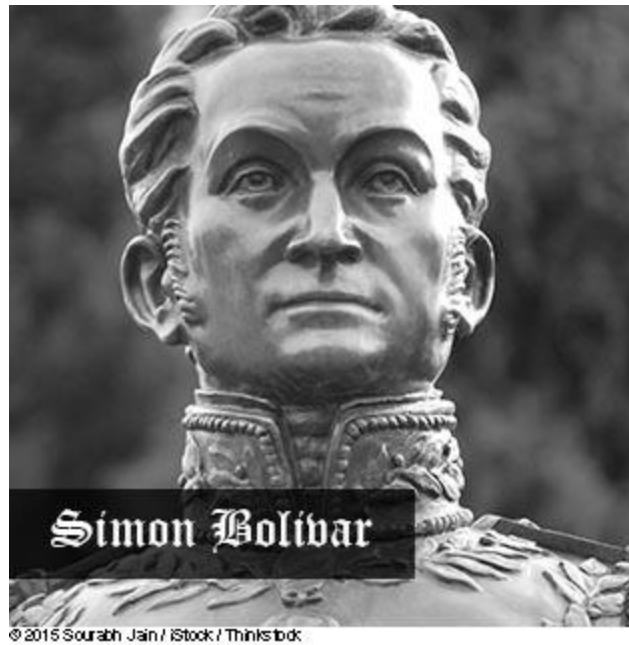
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The American Revolution was a case of a New World colony overthrowing its Old World colonial rule. It was more like a civil war, with a good part of its population loyal to and fighting for Britain. The result, different from England's Glorious Revolution, was that a brand new country was formed out of the fragmented colonies, one that was not ruled by a monarch, but rather by a document - the U.S. Constitution and its Bill of Rights.

Similarly, the French Revolution gained momentum after Louis XIV refused to sign the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen. What was in these documents that inspired revolution both in their own countries and around the world?

Before You Begin

Think about the French and American revolutions, how they developed, and what the people wanted. Think about the documents that guided these revolutions, the Declaration of Independence and the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen. Think about how these documents, along with the U.S. Constitution and the revolutions themselves, would have inspired Simón Bolívar and his fellow Latin and South Americans in light of Spanish colonial rule.



Directions

The Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution, and the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen are all powerful documents. Fill in the attached organizer and answer the questions analyzing how each of these documents and the revolution it inspired influenced revolutions and revolutionaries, including Simón Bolívar and at least one or two of his fellow revolutionaries. Take special note of the impact of the political and legal ideas contained in the documents mentioned. Where possible, compare them to the Declaration of Independence of Venezuela.

1) Discuss the similarities and differences among the French, American, and Spanish colonial revolutions.

	French Revolution	American Revolution	Spanish Revolution
Similarities			
Differences			

2) What influence did the American and French revolutions have on South American revolutionaries, such as Simón Bolívar? Be specific.

3) Identify the influence of revolutionary documents the *Declaration of Independence*, the U.S. Constitution, and the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen on South American revolutions.