**LESSON 4: POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CHALLENGES**

How did Latin America change after colonial rule?

**INDEPENDENCE AND CONFLICT**

*Although Spanish South America was now independent, life there continued almost unchanged. A small group of creóles controlled the land and wealth in the new countries.*

**E**ach of the nations of Latin America has its own history. However, they all have faced many similar problems since gaining their independence. Latin American nations hoped their countries would become democracies. Instead many were ruled by **dictators,**or leaders with complete power over a country.

**The Rise of Dictators**

One major problem was frequent political conflicts. Individual countries fought over boundary lines. Tensions also developed between rich and poor.

Meanwhile, strong leaders made it difficult for democracy to develop. These were known as **caudillos.**Caudillos were usually rich men, supported by the upper class. They often ruled as dictators. Some built roads, schools, and new cities. Many, however, favored the wealthy over the poor. In order for a dictator to maintain control, he usually had to control the army. Dictators used the army to put down any opposition. If a dictator lost control of the army, he could sometimes be removed from power.

**The Economy Grows**

In the late 1800s, events throughout the world brought other changes to Latin America. The growth of industry in Europe and the United States created new demands for South America's natural resources. These demands expanded economies throughout Latin America.

Over time, old colonial seaports, such as Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and Buenos Aires, Argentina, grew into booming centers of trade. These bustling cities were home to a new and growing middle class.

**LATIN AMERICA AND THE WORLD**

The United States and other industrial countries began to demand more Latin American products. Businesspeople from these countries set up companies in Latin America to export products such as bananas, sugar, coffee, copper, and oil.

**Rising Exports**

As the number of Latin American exports grew, many countries began to grow only one or two products. These exports created income for Latin America, but they also could cause problems. If the price or demand for a product dropped by a large amount, the change could seriously hurt a country that grew a lot of that product. Price drops were often followed by losses in jobs and incomes. As always, the people most hurt by economic problems were the poor.

Latin American exports did bring some benefits. Foreign investors built ports, roads, and railroads. Cities increased in size and population, and a middle class of lawyers, teachers, and businesspeople grew.

**SHARE OF MAJOR LATINAMERICANEXPORTS, 2005**

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| MEXICO 40.9% | Petroleum and petroleum products, vehicles, engines, cotton, machinery, coffee, fish, fertilizers, and minerals |
| BRAZIL 22.6% | Iron ore, coffee, fruit, timber, sugar, vehicles, and beef |
| VENEZUELA 10.6% | Coffee, oil, iron ore, textiles, fruit, and aluminum |
| ARGENTINA 7.7% | Wheat, corn, rice, meat, hides, and wool |
| CHILE 7.6% | Copper, iron, fruit, and wood pulp |
| COLOMBIA 4.1% | Coffee, emeralds, petroleum, coal, flowers, and meat |
| PERU 3.1% | Copper, lead, fish products, iron, zinc, oil, coffee, llama and alpaca wool, cotton, and sugar |

**The Spanish-American War**

By the 1890s, Spain had only two colonies in the Western Hemisphere—the Caribbean islands of Puerto Rico and Cuba. In 1895 the people of Cuba began a revolt against their colonial government. Thousands of Cubans were jailed or killed by Spanish troops.

**“Remember the Maine”**

In January 1898 U.S. President William McKinley sent the battleship USS *Maine*to Havana, Cuba, to protect Americans there. On February 15, an explosion sank the *Maine*and killed 260 United States sailors. There was no proof that Spain was involved, but many Americans blamed it for the sinking. “Remember the Maine” became the country’s battle cry. On April 25, 1898, the U.S. Congress declared war against Spain.

The U.S. Navy defeated Spain’s ships near Cuba. On July 1, 1898, Theodore Roosevelt led a charge against the Spanish in Cuba called the Battle of San Juan Hill. The Americans were victorious. U.S. battleships also sailed to the Spanish colony of the Philippines and destroyed a Spanish fleet there.

In August 1898 the Spanish-American War was over. The treaty that ended the war gave Cuba independence from Spain. The United States gained control of Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines. In 1946 the Philippines gained independence from the United States Guam and Puerto Rico are part of the United States.

**DICTATORS IN NICARAGUA**

During the early 1900s, dictators ruled many Latin American countries. Nicaragua is one example of a country where the harsh rule of dictators led to a revolution.

In the early 1930s, a former Nicaraguan general, Augusto César Sandino, opposed the American-supported government in Nicaragua. He led an army against the U.S. Marines in parts of Nicaragua. The people who fought alongside Sandino called themselves Sandinistas.

There were many clashes between the Sandinistas and the United States Marines. Although the Sandinistas were never able to defeat the marines, they refused to give up. As Sandino explained:

In 1933 the marines finally left Nicaragua. In their place, they left a new Nicaraguan army led by Anastasio Somoza. Somoza and members of this family would control Nicaragua for the next 45 years.

**The Somoza Dictatorship**

Somoza wanted to rule without any opposition. In order to stop any future rebellions, Somoza had his army kill General Sandino in 1934. Three years later, Somoza became president of Nicaragua. He ruled the country as a dictator.

During the Somoza dictatorship, the Somoza family became very rich. The dictator used his power as president to acquire land at low prices and forced some business owners to turn their businesses over to him.

Somoza was disliked by many Nicaraguans. In 1956 he was killed. His oldest son took office, and then his youngest son, Anastasio "Tachito" Somoza. Tachito continued to rule as his father had.

The Somoza family became richer over time, while most Nicaraguans became poorer. Many Nicaraguans did not have jobs, were poorly fed, and were unable to read and write.

**The Sandinista Revolution**

Many Nicaraguans believed that revolution was the only way to bring about change. In 1972 a massive earthquake destroyed large parts of Nicaragua and created even more tensions. Thousands had been killed, hundreds of thousands were homeless, and the government did not move quickly to help its people. Anti-government forces started to organize. Small groups of rebels began to form in towns across Nicaragua. These rebels called themselves Sandinistas, after Augusto César Sandino and his followers. The Sandinistas began to demonstrate against the Somoza government. By 1978 their rebellion had become a civil war.

After battling Somoza's army for 18 months, the Sandinistas succeeded. Tachito, the last Somoza dictator, was driven out of Nicaragua in 1979. The war had taken more than 50,000 lives. Many more people were left homeless.

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| **MODERN TIMES**After the Spanish-American War, large businesses quickly became important to the economies of Cuba and Puerto Rico. They bought up the best land and planted it with sugarcane. By the 1950s, companies had gained control of more than 75 percent of Cuba’s farmland.**Struggling Economies**In many parts of Latin America, economies were controlled by a small number of people. Owners of big businesses made profits, but often farmers and factory workers did not share in the wealth. Poverty was widespread throughout most of Latin America. To aid their countries, Latin American leaders often borrowed large amounts of money from the United States and other countries. This debt seriously weakened Latin American economies. Prices rose, wages fell, and people lost jobs.**Fidel Castro**Many leaders in Latin America were ruthless rulers. Angry groups in some countries rebelled against their leaders. In 1959 a young lawyer named Fidel Castro carried out a revolution in Cuba. Castro set up a system of government based on **communism**. Under a communist system, the entire economy of a country is controlled by the central government. People under a communist system have limited rights to own property.In 1960 Castro ended free elections and began to nationalize United States companies in Cuba. To nationalize means to place formerly private property under the control or ownership of the government. Many people in the United States were angry that they were not paid for this property. They were also concerned about Castro’s ties to other communist countries. As a result, the United States government banned all trade with Cuba. |
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**Allende and Pinochet**

By 1970 changes were also taking place in Chile. Salvador Allende was elected president of Chile in 1970. Allende believed that **socialism** would help solve many of Chile's problems. Under socialism, major businesses, factories, and farms are owned and run by the government, rather than by individuals. Allende was the first socialist to be democratically elected to lead a country in the Western Hemisphere.

Allende nationalized some of Chile's industries and large farms. But the people in Chile and the United States who lost land and businesses did not approve of the changes. In 1973 the United States helped General Augusto Pinochet take control of Chile by force. Pinochet became a dictator.

**A Return to Democracy**

By the 1980s, the people of Latin America began to demand a return to democracy. In many countries, the dictators were forced to give up control to elected leaders. For example, elections in 1989 toppled the rule of Augusto Pinochet in Chile. In some countries, one political party had controlled the government for so long, that it was no longer effective. In the early 2000s, angry voters in Venezuela, Bolivia, Peru, Mexico, and Chile elected new leaders. These leaders promised sweeping changes that would treat the poor more fairly.

Science Chapter 2 Lesson 3- Newton’s 3rd Law

Week of 5/4/20- 5/8/20

Directions: Complete the “Before you read” question at the top of page 27.

Read the text on pages 27-30.

During reading answer the following questions;

 page 28, questions 1 and 2.

 page 29, question 3 and 4.

Please review key vocabulary words and definitions at the top of page 30.

After Reading: Answer questions 1, 2, and 3 on page 30.