Age of Revolutions, 1750-1900
I. Introduction

A. Global expansion of Western societies led to changes

- **Age of Revolution** - political/ economic upheavals, intellectual/ technological innovations
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I. Introduction

B. The World Economy, led by the Europeans, provided the economic foundation for great change.

- Revolution, industrialization, and imperialism envelop the West the next two and a half centuries.
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II. Age of Revolution

A. When? - Period of time beginning in late 1700s, with American and French Revolutions,

Continuing through 1800s in Eastern Europe and Latin America
B. 3 forces at work

- **Enlightenment thinkers:** encouraged change and reform
  - Example: Jean-Jacque Rousseau – *The Social Contract*

- **Commercialization:** challenged traditional notions of wealth and power
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Population revolution: better nutrition, less spread of disease

- More people in need of work, further urbanization of society

- Away from agriculture, towards manufacturing as center of economy

- Proto-industrialization – textile/metal production in the home
World Population Growth

Billions

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Begining of the Industrial Revolution

2010
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III. French Revolution (1789-1799)

A. Set the stage for political restructuring of western Europe

- Enlightenment thinkers: want to limit power of Catholic church (1st Estate), nobility (2nd Estate), monarchy (Louis XVI)

- Middle class: want greater political role

- Peasants (3rd Estate): want greater freedoms, more support
B. Political & social upheavals

- Summer, 1789 – Tennis Court Oath, Storming of the Bastille, *Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen*

- Reign of Terror – King and queen executed, thousands guillotined for opposing radical reforms of Maximilien Robespierre

- Rise of nationalism – feeling of national unity, identity based on common culture, race, ethnic origin
IV. Napoleon Bonaparte (1769-1821)

A. Out of the chaos of the French Revolution: Napoleon

- General in revolutionary army, instituted *coup d'état* (strike against the state), seized control of French government

- Crowned himself Holy Roman Emperor

-(Did not actually ride a T-Rex)
B. Impact on France

- Converted France to an authoritarian state

- Implemented a powerful police system, but also furthered many revolutionary reforms like:
  - Religious freedoms (Catholics and Protestants), political/social equality for men, centralized system of education to train bureaucrats

- Power hungry – attempted to take over much of Europe
  - Eventually defeated by alliance of European powers in 1815 (Battle of Waterloo)
Napoleon’s Empire (1812)
C. Impact of Napoleon on Europe

- Strengthened feelings of nationalism in other countries as people banded together to fight Napoleon’s forces

- Congress of Vienna – sought to restore the balance of Europe, restore monarchy in France, reverse radical reforms
Rise of political factions in wake of French Revolution

- **Conservatives** – opposed to revolutionary ideas and big reforms

- **Liberals** – mainly represented middle class, sought economic reforms, personal freedoms

- **Radicals** – apply many of the ideas of Liberals to all social classes

- **Nationalists** – allied themselves with Liberals and/or Radicals, called for national unity/glory over all
  - Big lead-in to smaller revolutions of mid-1800s, imperialism
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V. Latin American Independence Movements

A. Independence movements based on: class conflicts, the desire for self-government, and economic freedom
B. Haiti (1804)

- First American territory (outside of U.S.) to free itself
- African slaves rose up in revolt against French control; led by Toussaint L’Oevertue

C. Spanish South American independence

- Led by two Creole military leaders, Simon Bolivar and Jose de San Martin
  - Sought political and economic independence from Spanish crown and peninsulares
D. Mexico

- Independence movement originally began by lower classes (mestizos, Indians) and opposed by upper classes (creoles, peninsulares)

- By 1820, Creoles feared political and economic changes in Spain, declared independence (1821) in order to prevent loss of land, wealth
E. Brazil

- Won independence from Portugal without bloodshed
- 8,000 Creole elites petitioned king for freedom
- Portuguese couldn’t afford to control colonies, allowed independence
LATIN AMERICA PRIOR TO INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENTS

LATIN AMERICA AFTER INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENTS
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VI. Problems for New Latin American Nations

A. Many issues to deal with - social inequalities, political ideologies, role of the church, regionalism

B. Early independence leaders sought egalitarianism
   - After independence, equality not always the case
     - Many new nations depended on “old ways” to keep economy going
     - Voting rights only for men
     - Sociedad de castas did not disappear
C. Political Fragmentation – attempt to create a united Latin America (Gran Colombia) failed

- **Centralists** vs. **Federalists**
  - Centralists called for strong central government
  - Federalists called for regional governments
• Liberals vs. Conservatives
  ○ Liberals called for individual rights, more secular society
  ○ Conservatives argued for return of more traditional colonial aspects (traditional social classes, strong central gov’t)

• Rise of **caudillos**
  ○ Independent leaders who dominated local areas by force
    ▫ Sometimes seized entire national governments
  ○ Sometimes important: proved to be stabilizing factors for population when political fragmentation become too much
VII. Social Changes in Latin America

- Social changes slow to come, still influenced by Catholic Church and old European traditions

  - Remained a male-dominated society

  - Women gained very little after independence – still expected to be wives and mothers only
    - Could not vote, hold public office, become lawyers
    - Had access to public education
Caste-like systems mostly ended, but the stigma of skin color and status remained.

- Limited opportunities for many, especially native Americans and ex-slaves.
- Legacy of sociedad de castas remained.
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