

Latin America bicentenary

Much of Latin America is marking the start of emancipation struggles 200 years ago after the usurpation of Spain's throne in 1808 by Napoleon's brother, Joseph Bonaparte, precipitated the drive for independence



MEXICO

Sep 16, 1810

Miguel Hidalgo, parish priest of small town of Dolores, rings bells of his church to raise cry of rebellion against Spanish crown



VENEZUELA Apr 19, 1810

Citizens of Caracas declare self-rule until Spanish king is restored. Country achieves full independence in 1821 under "El Libertador", **Simon Bolivar**

ECUADOR Aug 10, 1809

Uprising in Quito – nicknamed "Luz de America" – inspires calls for independence around continent

COLOMBIA Jul 20, 1810

Citizens of Bogota create first ruling council to defy Spanish authority

CHILE Sep 18, 1810

National junta loyal to Spain's deposed king proclaims Chile as autonomous republic within Spanish monarchy

PARAGUAY

May 15, 1811

Independence gained after local Spanish administration in Asuncion is overthrown

ARGENTINA

May 25, 1810

"First Junta" set up to rule **Viceroyalty of Rio de la Plata** (roughly present day Argentina, Bolivia, Paraguay and Uruguay). Independence declared in 1816 after war fought under leadership of **Jose de San Martin**

URUGUAY Feb 27, 1811

National hero **Jose Gervasio Artigas** launches revolt against Spain

BOLIVIA May 25, 1809

Sucre revolt recognised as Latin America's first call for independence from Spain

