Outline History of Latin America: 
Argentina, Mexico, and Brazil, with Notes on the Spanish 
Caribbean and Colombia

I. Colonial Period
1492: October 12. Columbus reaches the Bahamas; October 28, Cuba.
June, 1494: Treaty of Tordesillas between Spain and Portugal, 
negotiated by Pope Alexander VI (a Borgia, a Spaniard) divides 
the New World: Portugal gets lands "370 leagues west of the Cape 
Verde Islands," Spain the rest. Thus Portugal gets Brazil. 
Columbus dies on May 20, 1506, after his fourth voyage, still 
convinced he'd reached the Orient.

1517 Diego Velázquez, governor of Cuba, sends expedition to 
Yucatán.
1518 Juan de Grijalva reaches Cozumel and sails coast to site of 
current day Veracruz.
1519 Hernán Cortés, sent by Velázquez on third expedition: sails 
to Yucatán, Tabasco (where he acquires doña Marina, La Malinche). 
Cortés founds the Villa Rica de la Vera Cruz on Good Friday, 1519
creates a cabildo (see below) and places municipality (in which, oddly enough, he holds several key offices) under the direct control of King Carlos I (or V Holy Roman Emperor).

1521 Tenochtitlan subdued; Mexico renamed "Nueva España"

1535 Pizarro's conquest of Peru complete.

Early Government: To assure royal control over the its possessions in the New World, the crown abandoned the system of adelantados (conquistadores with royal charters) used in the Castilian reconquest of Moorish Spain and replaced it with the Aragonese system (see: J. Elliott, Imperial Spain) of viceroys mixed with other institutions such as cabildos, audiencias, and capitanías. The cabildo was a city council made up of regidores (councilors) and alcaldes ordinarios (magistrates). The cabildo took care of local administration (constables, tax collectors, notaries, weights and measures, jails, public building, militias.) Criollos (people of supposedly Spanish "blood" born in the New World) could be members of the cabildo, but this did not give American-born Spaniards the same kind of administrative experience their North American contemporaries would acquire in the 17th and 18th centuries--the criollos still served the crown. The term cabildo abierto means an open town meeting--the kind held when independence came to Spanish America. The audiencia: a court (often a circuit or travelling court) made up of oidores (judges who "heard" (oir) cases) who came from Spain. Buenos Aires got its audiencia in 1661.

The viceroy (virrey) represented the king; he served for three years (supposedly), could not marry local women, could not engage in trade. Could appoint people to civil and church positions. Under scrutiny of visitador, a kind of inspector-general who checked finances, listened to complaints; under review of residencia, which evaluated his three-year term. The two major vicerealties were New Spain (Mexico) and Peru. New Granada (1717; Colombia, Ecuador, Venezuela), La Plata (1776, Argentina, Paraguay, Bolivia, Uruguay). With the disintegration of the Spanish empire after 1810, local warlords, Juan Manuel de Rosas in Argentina for example, would aspire to reconstruct the territory comprised by the viceroyalty. Capitanias, etc. were lesser administrative units, nominally subject to the viceroy but often independent because of difficult communication. Thus the viceroy of Peru had only limited control over the captain-general in Chile. Corregidores were sent out to the hinterland to "take care" of the Indians--collect taxes, be the police, and the court; most got rich. Alcaldes mayores went even further afield, received no salary--were, therefore, expected to live off the land. Like most systems, the colonial administration was open to corruption; like most, it had its ups and downs, thieves and honest administrators. It lasted until the 19th century.

Notes on the Río de la Plata

Discovery: The Paraná, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Pilcomayo rivers
all flow into the Río de la Plata and constitute a basin which is
divided into Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, Bolivia, and Brazil.

1516: Juan Díaz de Solis entered the Río de la Plata, landed
on the eastern, Uruguayan side. He made such a hit with the local
Indians that they asked him to stay for and be dinner.
1520: Magellan explores estuary; does not stay to supper.
1526: Sebastian Cabot sails all the way to where the
Argentine city of Rosario is located; names the Río de la Plata
(Cabot was a good sailor but a bad miner; there is no silver.)
1535: Pedro de Mendoza founds Santa María de Buenos Aires;
destroyed by Indians.
1537: Pedro de Mendoza's remaining troops sail up the
Paraguay for 1,000 miles, found Asunción, the first
permanent settlement in the Río de la Plata.
1553: expedition from Potosí (Alto Perú, now Bolivia) founds
Santiago del Estero, the oldest city in Argentina.
1565: Tucumán founded.
1573: Córdoba founded.
1580: Juan de Garay, with troops from Asunción, founds
Buenos Aires for the second time.

1806: June 27. Sir Home Popham and 1,700 men led by Col.
Beresford land at Buenos Aires and occupy the city. Viceroy
flees, a porteño army led by Santiago Liniers expels the British
during June of 1807. Liniers designated by cabildo abierto.
Argentines refer to this as the "Reconquista."

Independence 1810-1829: Must be seen in the context of the
Napoleonic wars, especially Napoleon's continental strategy,
which involved occupying Portugal. He invades in 1807; Portuguese
royal family flees to Brazil; the first reigning royal family to
come to the new world, start of the Empire of Brazil. 1808:
Napoleon captures Carlos IV of Spain and his son, the future
Fernando VII. Napoleon names his brother Joseph to the Spanish
throne. September, 1809: Mariano Moreno (criollo) publishes
demand for free trade (Napoleon's sealing off of Europe pushed
the English to seek New World markets). November, 1809: Viceroy
gives in to criollo demands for free trade. In 1810, the cabildos
of Caracas, Buenos Aires, Bogotá, Quito, and Santiago refuse to
recognize Joseph. Pledge loyalty to Fernando VII. Primarily, it
was the criollos who took this position, which was the prelude to
independence. Buenos Aires: "el 25 de mayo de 1810." Cabildo
abierto creates government to rule in Fernando VII's name.

Paraguayans repel Buenos Aires force led by Belgrano; 1813: José
Gaspar Francia leads movement for Paraguayan independence.

Uruguay: presence of Spanish Viceroy, Elio, provokes struggle
among centralists in Buenos Aires, royalists (for Elio), and José
Gervasio Artigas, warlord. 1813: Artigas opts for independence.
1814, porteños return to Montevideo; 1816, Brazilians return,
take control: intermittent war, including the April, 1825 attack on the Brazilians by the "33 orientales," [Uruguay= Banda Oriental; Uruguays= "orientales"] involving Brazil and Argentina until treaty mediated by Britain creates independent Uruguay, 1828.

9 de julio 1816: representatives of Argentina, Alto Perú break with Spain in Congreso de Tucumán. Crystallization of split between unitarios (centralized power) and federales. Congress did not speak for all of the old viceroyalty of La Plata (now called, ironically, the Provincias Unidas), which was rapidly disintegrating: Paraguay separate, Uruguay being fought over by Artigas and the Brazilians, Alto Perú in hands of royalist forces. Interior, "river provinces," of Santa Fe, Corrientes, and Entre Ríos were behind Artigas and sent no representatives.

What kind of government? Projects for a monarch in La Plata put forward by Juan Martín Pueyrredón (a royalist), by Manuel Belgrano, and by Bernardino Rivadavia. All fell through: the English would not allow any Portuguese or French monarchs, Belgrano's idea of an Incan monarch ruling from Cuzco was laughed out. Real power resided with local warlords or caudillos and their gaucho armies. Thus the provinces, jealous of each other, were all against the central authority of Buenos Aires. By 1820, there was no more central government, except in the province of Buenos Aires. The rest was anarchy.

Bernardino Rivadavia (minister 1821-24, president 1826-1827) transforms province of Buenos Aires into a working state—other provinces still under warlord control.

1829-1852: Juan Manuel de Rosas, a veteran of the Reconquista and a landowner, takes charge of the anarchic province of Buenos Aires (600,000 people in all Argentina; 150,000 in province of B.A.). Declares self federal and attacks unitarios. (meets Charles Darwin in 1833 while "pacifying" Indians south of B.A.) Tries to recover Uruguay, fails (siege of Montevideo [1843-52], with Giuseppe Garibaldi and many porteño writers present, birthplace of literatura gauchesca, but resists Anglo-French blockade of Río de la Plata, 1845. Rosas protects estancieros; defeated by Urquiza at Monte Caseros (1852), ultimately dies in exile in England (a farmer, he introduces a species of pumpkin to England).


Radicals: 1890-1930. La Noventa: popular uprising, an expression of the people's unhappiness with oligarchic control of politics, economics. 1890-1916 old guard retains power; 1916
radicals take control, ejected in military coup of 1930. Under Hipólito Irigoyen (1916-1930), the weaknesses of Argentine institutions become manifest in la semana trágica, January, 1919: labor unrest leads to riots, then repression, attacks on Jews and real or imaginary Communists. Military coup lead by General José F. Uriburu brings political right into sharper focus, links to Mussolini, a prelude to Perón.


Perón: 1943-1955; Evita sees to it women get vote in 1947; Evita dies in 1952, 33 yrs old. doctrine of justicialismo: state has right to intervene in economy, state rules over individual rights.

Civilians and Military Men: 1955-Present: Arturo Frondizi ('58-'62); Arturo Illia ('62-'66), General Juan Carlos Ongania ('66-'70); May 1969 el cordobazo, uprising of students/workers in Córdoba: chaos until 1973, when Perón returns; he dies July 1, 1974; guerra sucia begins: military repression and takeover 1976-84; runaway inflation, reaching 400% in 76; 1982 Falklands/Malvinas war with Great Britain (Margaret Thatcher) brings discredit to military; democracy restored in 1983. Current president: Menem.

Uruguay: 1830-1903 anarchy, formation of two parties: colorados (nominally liberal) and blancos (nominally conservative). After Artigas, José Batlle y Ordóñez is the key player in Uruguayan history: in control 1903-1929. A colorado, he turns Uruguay from an anarchic oligarchy into a welfare state. Economic stagnation coupled with almost total literacy and social services; Perón threatens nation, as did Rosas. Muddling through, until military governments of seventies bring severe repression.

Paraguay: 1811-1870, three dictators: Dr. Francia (1811-40), Carlos Antonio López (1841-62), Francisco Solano López (1862-70). 1864-70 War of the Triple Alliance: Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay against Paraguay, population reduced by half (to 221,000 in 1871).

1870-1928 semi-anarchy; in 1900, Asunción, fewer than 100,000 people, no water supply, sewers, fire department, paved streets. 1928: beginning of the Chaco War between Paraguay and Bolivia. Bolivia had lost access to sea in the War of the Pacific (1879-84), wanted to secure ports on the Paraguay River. Supposed oil deposits in the Chaco region were also at stake. War breaks out in 1932, lasts until 1935. Paraguay wins, if you can call it that. Next major dictator, Alfredo Stroessner, who takes over in 1954 and steps down in 1989. Despite U.S. support, Argentine capital runs the nation.

I. Mexican History: Mostly the Twentieth Century
a. Six Periods of Mexican History:
1. 1821-55 Santa Anna (criollos)
2. 1855-1876 Benito Juárez (Indian-Mestizo)
3. 1876-1910 Porfirio Díaz (Mestizo/criollo)
4. 1910-20 Revolution
5. 1920-40 presidents/caudillos
6. 1940--present PRI

Independence: 1810: Padre Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla, priest from town of Dolores (north of capital). Hidalgo, with a combination of mestizos and Indians, begins revolution on Sunday, September 16, 1810: "¡Viva Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, muera el mal gobierno, mueren los gachupines!" The "grito de Dolores" 1811 Hidalgo captured

Agustín de Iturbide, officer in royal army, gains power; after 1820, Iturbide proclaims self emperor; falls in 1823.

Antonio López de Santa Anna (The Alamo, 1836):1846-47 war with U.S. (loss of half of national territory, 1848--$15 million for California, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, Utah, part of Colorado, Texas).

1855-76 Benito Juárez: La Reforma: civil war 1858-60; 1861 Napoleon III tries to impose Hapsburg emperor in Mexico: Maximilian and Carlotta; Maximilian shot on June 19, 1867 (Manet); Juárez governs until 1876. [Maximilian: Austrian Archduke, 1832-67, a liberal reformer; alienates conservatives in Mexico; threat of U.S. intervention after Civil War causes Napoleon III to withdraw French troops in 1866-7; Carlotta 1840-1927, goes mad in 1866.]

Porfirio Díaz (personalism triumphant); Porfirio Díaz (mestizo), hero of the struggle against Santa Anna and then against Maximilian. Coup in 1876, seizes power and keeps it until 1911. Invites foreign investment, rules with iron hand, development at the expense of the people. On May 24, 1911, Porfirio Díaz leaves the presidency and goes to Paris, where he dies in 1915.

The Mexican Revolution: the new president of Mexico is Francisco Madero, who officially begins to govern in November of 1911. 15 Coup in February, 1913: Madero powerless against supporters of Díaz, reformers, landowners, and foreigners. On February 22, Madero shot.

Victoriano Huerta seizes power. After February, 1914 armed struggle begins. Several simultaneous revolutions led by Zapata, Obregón, Carranza, and Pancho Villa. By April, 1914, Obregón y Carranza corner Huerta between the capital and Vera Cruz. Woodrow Wilson chooses that moment to occupy Vera Cruz: the end of Huerta.

Pancho Villa defeated by Obregón y Calles at Celaya (1915).
Carranza seizes power, and in 1917 publishes a new constitution (February 5, 1917); classic constitution on the French, U.S: individual rights guaranteed, separation of powers, but puts well-being of nation above individual. Also contains idea that national territory belongs to the nation: the nation may grant title to land to an individual, but may reclaim its title. Foreigners limited with regard to property ownership. Workers protected; 8 hour work day; no child labor, insurance, legalizes unions; secular education, churches are national property.

1919: Carranza begins to lose power; flees in 1920, but shot. Obregón triumphant.

Alvaro Obregón 1920–24, manages to retain power, sidestep the United States, and control his enemies. Minister of education, José Vasconcelos, creates public education system and stimulates muralists—Rivera, Orozco, Siqueiros.

Plutarco Elias Calles rules 1924–1934; create a national party: the Maximato (name from "líder máximo;" facade of democracy, oligarchic rule). Cristero War, peasants in favor of Church, rages 26–29. Vasconcelos' attempt to become president thwarted in 1929.


Present: PRI still technically in power, but challenges (Indians in Chiapas, minority parties) strong. North American Free Trade (NAFTA) creates economic stir, but collapse of peso a destabilizing factor.

Caribbean Societies

Entails: Cuba, Haiti, Dominican Republic + Panama and Central American republics.

Cuba: history fatally linked to sugar, first introduced in the 1520s. Sugar cultivation requires many hands during specific seasons and is essentially a loathsome task. For this reason, sugar production called for slave labor. Another agricultural cash crop, tobacco, requires intense care and is also based on cheap labor.

Always the first stop for Spanish ships coming to the New World, Cuba was simultaneously cosmopolitan and backward: until the advent of rail transport, sugar had to be carried in carts over dirt (=mud) roads to be shipped abroad. Havana was briefly
occupied by the British between 1762-63, a sign of Cuba's importance both in geopolitical and economic terms. After 1803 (Louisiana Purchase) and 1819 (U.S. acquisition of the Florida territory), U.S. interests sought to incorporate Cuba. The problem: the British would not allow the U.S. to take control of Cuba, and neither wanted the French to do so.

Cuban independence movements begin during the 1840s (Narciso López) and then grow: in 1868, in the grito de Yara, Cuban patriots embark on the 10 Years War. In 1895, a second revolt begins, with José Martí as one of its protagonists. The initially successful revolt stalls, and General Valeriano Weyler takes command of Spanish troops, effecting a turnaround. (Weyler also invented concentration camps, herding peasants into restricted areas to deprive the revolutionaries of support.) The U.S. intervenes in 1898, after the mysterious sinking of the battleship Maine. Cuba is nominally free but under U.S. control until 1902. The U.S. imposed the Platt Amendment—sanctioning U.S. intervention in Cuba—on the new Cuban government: it remained in force until 1934.

Gerardo Machado becomes president in 1925 (-33). At first popular, he became a tyrant. He would ultimately be replaced by Fulgencio Batista, who dominates Cuban politics from 1934 until 1959. New Year's Day 1959 brings in Fidel Castro.

Haiti: named La Isla Española by Columbus, it was renamed Hispaniola, but has also been referred to as Santo Domingo and, of course, Haiti. In 1697, Spain cedes the western end of the island to France, which then turns it into a sugar plantation. In the 1790s, civil war erupts, and Toussaint L'Ouverture leads the slaves to victory. In 1804, Haiti is free. (Santo Domingo, traded back and forth between Spain and France, becomes free in 1844 as the Dominican Republic.)

In 1790, there were 30,000 Frenchmen and 500,000 slaves in Haiti. By 1804, the number of Frenchmen was practically zero. The true rulers of Haiti after independence were mulattoes, gens de couleur.

The U.S. took control of Haiti in 1915 and remained until 1934—the nominal reason was a German presence on the island. Independence was restored in 1934, with a series of dictators (Duvalier) or military rulers.

Note on Colombia: a country sharply divided between its tropical coast land (cities of Cartagena, Barranquilla) and highlands. The Andean region of the country, where the capital, Bogotá, is located is also where most of the population lives. Thus, a key to understanding Colombia is regionalism. Another is the struggle between advocates of central government and regional sovereignty. This reflects the differences between Conservatives (Catholic defenders of central government) and Liberals (states' rights, separation of church and state, universal suffrage).

Violent history: since 1830, more than 20 civil wars. 1830-49,
inconclusive strife between Liberals and Conservatives. 1849-
1880s: Liberals in power; 1880s-1930 Conservatives. 1930-46,
Liberals. 1946 Conservatives return.

1819: battle of Boyacá. Bolívar's victory assures independence of
New Granada. Bolívar and Francisco de Paula Santander clash in
desires: Bolívar wants to keep the region a political totality,
Santander wants a free New Granada. The total area--between the
Orinoco and Guayas River in Ecuador--was Gran Colombia,
recognized by the U.S. in 1822. In 1830, it disintegrated:
Venezuela and Ecuador go their own way. Bolívar dies in December
of 1830. Santander takes power, but plagued by sporadic uprisings
from 1839-1842.

1840-80: country united under Conservatives prospers: coffee
production, steamboats on Magdalena River. 1855 railroad, built
by U.S. engineers, runs across Panama--still a part of Colombia.
1849: Liberals take over: abolish slavery, establish religious
freedom, introduce lay education, federalism returns. Economy =
disaster. 1860 civil war, Liberals win and rule 1861-80.
1879: Rafael Nuñez elected president, a Liberal who would become
a Conservative. Eventually he becomes a dictator, suppressing the
press and any dissidents. 1899-1902 civil war. 1903 Panama
declares independence. Conservatives return under Rafael Reyes in
1904 and stay in power until 1930. Liberals take power in 1930--a
peaceful election. War years bring problems with U.S. because of
German presence and much pro-Franco support among Conservatives.
U.S. chief market for Colombian coffee, oil, and bananas.
Conservatives return in 1946. Incident of April 9, 1948:
assassination of Jorge Eliécer Gaitán (on the left) sparks 18
years of skirmishing between Liberals and Conservatives--la
violencia. Fidel Castro in Bogotá, a witness.Coup in 1953 brings
Rojas Pinilla to power (1953-57): bloody tyrant. Nation muddles
through in much the same fashion, alternating power, with
addition of drug traffic after the 1960s.

Brazill: History falls into 7 phases:
1. Colony 1500 (Pedro Álvares Cabral-1808-1822)
2. Emperor Pedro I (1822-31) "Grito do Ypiranga"
3. Regency (1831-41)
4. Pedro II (1841-89)
5. First Republic (1889-1930)
6. Getulio Vargas (1930-45)
7. Second Republic (1945-
I. Colony: Pedro Álvares Cabral: supposedly blown off course,
lands in what would be Brazil in 1500. Name comes from "brazil,"
a dyewood. 1501 3 ships, with Amerigo Vespucci aboard one of
them go south of Natal. 1503 another expedition, Amerigo along as
well, goes inland. The dyewood industry flourished. French
incursions stimulate Portuguese development.
1530 expedition of Martim Affonso de Souza: 5 ships,
reconnoiters 3,000 miles of coast from Maranhão to Rio Grande do
Sul. 1532, founds São Vicente (near Santos) and Piratininga (near
1533 King João III creates donatorio system, rather like the Spanish adelantado. Person given land grant and obliged to stimulate colonization, foment farming/commerce, provide protection. Didn't work, Portugal too small, stretched too thin. Portuguese Jews flee to Brazil in 1536; criminals sent as settlers.


1580-1640 Spain controls Portugal. 1630 Dutch seize Recife, control 1200 miles of coast. Dutch West India Company turns profit. 1654, Dutch withdraw.

1640-1808 Colony. mines developed in 18th century Minas Gerais (gold, jewels). Economic development (such as it was) in hands of 3 companies: 1649-1721 Company of Brazil, 1678-84 Maranhão Company (slaves), General Company of Pará and Maranhão 1755-78. Northern Brazil developed as plantation (fazenda) economy. Cities small: Rio in 1800 has 80 thousand, Bahia 70 thousand, Pernambuco 25 thousand, São Paulo 15 thousand.

1808 Portuguese Royal family flees Lisbon (Bonaparte) on English ships and goes to Bahia; then it moves south to Rio. King returns to Portugal after fall of Napoleon, but son stays.

1822 "grito do Ypiranga" Pedro I's shout of independence. Constitutional monarch; fights Argentina (1825-28), loses Uruguay. Father dies in 1826, Pedro goes to Portugal in 1831. He dies in 1834--age 36.

Regency 1831-41. Pedro II king at age 5. Civil wars quelled during 30s. At age 15, in 1840, Pedro II declared "of age."

Pedro II rules from 1841-89. Six feet, three inches tall, blond, blue eyes. Marries Princess Thereza of Kingdom of Two Sicilies--short and lame; but live happily ever after for half a century. Politics: conserve integrity of nation by quelling civil war--he did so. Slavery=Key economic/social issue; 1864-70 War of Triple Alliance: Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay against Paraguay: guess who won. Technological development in second half of nineteenth century (trains, steamships, telegraph). Exports: coffee, sugar, tobacco.

With prosperity, spread of education, comes intellectual ferment: Positivism (Auguste Comte) dominates military education. 1888 sees end of slavery and with it the end of empire. Pedro II abdicates in 1889, dies in France in 1891.

First Republic: 1889-1930; the work of the army, with generals Deodoro da Fonseca and Floriano Peixoto leading.

Economic shift: from sugar-cotton-tobacco-cacao (north) to coffee-cattle (south) By end of century, Brazil produces 75% of world's coffee. Rio rebuilt and made sanitary in early years of this century. Republic always in uneasy relationship with military: in 1930 army backs takeover by Getulio Vargas (o pai do povo/the father of the people).
Getulio Vargas (army officer, lawyer, politician). 1930-37 rules through congress; after 1937 dictator. Fearing Communists (Luiz Carlos Prestes) and integralistas (mystical fascists in military), Vargas effects coup: the Estado Novo (new state). Vargas steps down and Eurico Gaspar Dutra elected (1946-50); economy sinks, Vargas returns (1950-54), but corruption overwhelms him. Commits suicide rather than face enemies. 1954-56: election despite military threats, Juscelino Kubitschek president (56-61); he decides to build Brasilia. 1961 Jânio Quadros takes over Brazil: promises to curb inflation, balance budget, expresses admiration of Fidel Castro, and vows to get rid of foreign exploiters. Doesn't do it all. 1961-64 João Goulart, a tawdry sort gifted at graft. Under Goulart cost of living rises by 300%, value of cruzeiro drops 83%, foreign debt up to 3.7 billion, no foreign investment. 1964-67 army comes back: Humberto Castello Branco. The waltz of military and democratic governments continues, with greater or lesser repression: military in from 74-83, now civilians back, with Collor de Melo giving them the same bad name . . . Today: currency stable, Brazil definitely a player on the international economic scene.

United States History: an outline for comparative purposes

1607: Jamestown (Virginia) settlement; managed by Virginia Company, which then ceded control to crown.
1620: Plymouth Colony (Massachusetts): corporate colony (Pilgrims); Mayflower Compact of 1626: colonists buy out stock holders in England. 1630: Massachusetts Bay Colony; Puritans: corporate colony (controlled by itself) To crown colonies and corporate colonies add royal grants of land, as in Maryland (to Calvert family) and Pennsylvania (William Penn). Indenturing begins in 17th century: binding oneself over for a period of time as laborer; criminals also exiled to colonies.
1700s: progressive growth of crown control over colonies: by 1702, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, New Jersey royal colonies, then Carolinas, Georgia; Pennsylvania and Maryland under crown control but technically self-governing. Connecticut and Rhode Island still corporate colonies= name their own governors; other governors named by crown.
1734: Great Awakening; Jonathan Edwards (ultimately leads to founding of Princeton, Brown, Rutgers, and Dartmouth for missionary activity and opposition to pro-crown Anglicans).
1754-60: French and Indian Wars: consolidation of power, removal of French threat.
1775-1783: American Revolution
1776: Declaration of Independence (July 4)
1781: Articles of Confederation
1787: Constitution drawn up at Federal Constitutional Convention; ratified June 21, 1788. Bill of Rights (amendments 1-9), added between '88 and '90.
1789-1797: George Washington President
1801-1809: Thomas Jefferson President
1803: Louisiana Purchase
1812: War with England
1823: Monroe Doctrine
1819: Florida annexed
1829-1837: Andrew Jackson President
1835: Texas Revolution
1836: Texas Declaration of Independence
1836: Battle of San Jacinto (Houston defeats Santa Anna)
1845: Texas annexed: Mexican War; Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.
1853: Gadsden Purchase
1861-1865: Abraham Lincoln President
1861-65: Civil War
1867: purchase of Alaska
1898: Annexation of Hawaii
1898: Spanish American War (Puerto Rico, Philippine Islands, Guam, Cuban protectorate)
1899-1901: Philippine Insurrection
1901-1909: Theodore Roosevelt President
1903: Panama comes into existence; canal 1904-14
1913-1921: Woodrow Wilson President (interventions: Nicaragua 1912-33; Mexico 1914)
1914-1918: World War I; U.S. enters 1917.
1929: Great Depression
1933-1945: Franklin Delano Roosevelt President
1939-1945: World War II; U.S. enters 1941
1950-1953: Korean War
1959: Cuban Revolution
1961: Bay of Pigs
1962: Cuban missile crisis
1964: Gulf of Tonkin Resolution
1965: intervention in Dominican Republic (Lyndon Johnson President)
1973: Viet Nam peace treaty signed.