

UNIT 9

Revolutions and Imperialism

1775 to 1914

1785
Steam-powered loom is invented.

1815
Napoleon is defeated at Waterloo.

1821
Mexico wins independence from Spain.

1775

1800

1825

1775-1781
American Revolution frees United States from Britain.

1789
French Revolution begins.

1819
Bolívar becomes first president of Gran Colombia.

I ndependence in the Americas

Most colonies in the Americas—British, French, Spanish, and Portuguese—won their independence over a period of just 50 years.

- Colonists throughout the Americas resented European rule. They could not govern themselves. Their businesses were hurt by taxes and trade limits. Their protests were ignored by European governments.
- In 1776 colonists in 13 British colonies rebelled. Their struggle encouraged colonists in other parts of the Americas to fight for independence.

How does a revolution turn things around?

When King George III of England took away some of his colonists' rights, they declared a **revolution** (a circular movement) to get them back. The result was American independence. Now a "revolution" means an extraordinary change.



