**Latin America: Independence & Today Notes**

* **HAITI:** Toussaint L’Ouveture, a Haitian (French Colony) slave, believed that God wished to abolish slavery and had called him to lead his people. L’Ouverture was tricked by the French and thrown in jail in France where he died. UNFORTUNATELY, the European powers refused to trade with a free-slave country, so Haiti became very poor. Today, they are still poor.
* **GRAN COLOMBIA (**Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama, Bolivia, Peru**)**: As a Creole, Simon Bolivar was tired of being ruled by unfair Europeans. He wanted to free his homeland. He was successful, but to a point. When Bolívar realized he was never going to be able to unite South America into one country, he retired from politics (and then got sick and died). Ultimately, Bolivar freed his people, but was a dictator. Today, these countries still have a sick cycle of having revolutions and worse dictators. They also have a drug trade that leads to SO MUCH VIOLENCE.
* **MEXICO:** Miguel Hidalgo, a Mexican priest, wanted Mexicans to recover the land for natives & stop Spanish abuse of Mexicans. Hidalgo was captured while trying to escape into the U.S. and he was executed. It took 11 more years for Mexico to be independent. Mexico struggles with a violent drug cartel and bad governments. The people are holding a revolution now against their corrupt government for killing 400 students and hiding the evidence.

**Knowing what you now know, what could happen to these 3 areas in their future?**

**What would you do to help 1 country?**