War of Independence: Spanish Royalist Forces (SRF)
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**Chair’s Letter:**

Welcome, delegates, to the world of the Latin American Wars of Independence (c. 1822)! Over the next few days, you will become part of the Spanish Royalist Forces (SRF) led by King Ferdinand VII, clashing with the Grand Colombbian Alliance (GCA) led by Simón Bolivar and the Andean Independence Forces (AIF) led by José de San Martín. It is now our darkest hour in the history of the Spanish Empire. Terrorists in the colonies have seized power, disrupting the order and stability that the Empire brings to its subjects. They may flaunt their ideals of “republicanism” and “egalitarianism,” but they are scum all the same. The main goal in this committee is restore order and stability to the Latin American colonies, giving a stern reminder that they are still subjects of the Empire. What will be the fate of 19th century Latin America? You will ultimately decide how the path of history will unfold!

This committee will deviate a bit from the actual history. What weakened the Empire in the 1820s was the tyrant Bonaparte’s invasion of Spain, which caused a divide to open between the home country and the Spanish Creoles. In this idealized version of history, Spain remains unified enough to send a force to counter attack and crush the rebels. European conservatives triumphed over the bourgeois liberal ideals that brought the nation to its knees. For the purposes of this simulation, forget all about the Monroe Doctrine of 1823. The nation to the north is not particularly relevant in this simulation.

You still have substantive forces in Peru and Ecuador, and you should be able to use them to fight back hard against the rebel scum until reinforcements arrive from Spain. Furthermore, for as much as the reviled “ideology” of the rebels is called into question, it is imperative that this committee define the ideological basis of the Empire in this post-revolutionary Latin America. Many of the core tenets of the Empire have been called into question. How do you fight back against the rebels’ propaganda? Europe has taken a conservative turn - how do you respond to the rebels’ demands for Republicanism, constitutionalism, democracy, and popular sovereignty? Additionally, as it stands now, there are two major rebel armies in South America led by Simon Bolivar and Jose de San Martin. The two rebel leaders, however, are distrustful of each other. It would be very beneficial for this committee if those divisions were to be exploited, perhaps even pitting the two Libertadores
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against each other. Lastly, new nations have been created all throughout South America. It is up to you to figure out how to interact with them, or perhaps conquer them if you choose to do so. It may seem like a grim time for the Spanish Empire, but fear not! The rebel scum will soon cower before the might of your armies, and you will send them crawling back into the holes from whence they came.

Best,

Joyce Lee
Revising History:

First, a brief rundown of relevant history is necessary. At the turn of the 19th century, Spain was in turmoil, faced with several political, economic, and social issues both domestic and abroad. Perhaps its biggest domestic problem was shared with the rest of Europe: in 1808, Napoléon Bonaparte, seeking to incorporate Spain into his expanding empire, overthrew Ferdinand VII (and his father, Charles IV) by forcing him to abdicate. In 1814, Ferdinand VII returned to reclaim the Spanish throne.

Throughout the Peninsular War (1808-1814), major changes were underway halfway around the world, in the Spanish colonies of Latin America. In 1810, Venezuela declared independence, taking advantage of the political troubles on the Iberian peninsula to become the first Spanish colony to successfully do so. The revolutionaries overthrew Captain-General Vicente Emperán, who headed the Spanish administrative district in control of the region, and agreed to the terms of a provisional independence in Caracas. What this meant was independence only from French-occupied Spain; control of Venezuela would ultimately revert back to Spain if Ferdinand VII ever returned to the throne. But it was only a year later that the independence movement decided to seek

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3 “The Peninsular War, 1808-1813.”
4 “Peninsular War.”
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complete independence from Spain and establish the First Republic of Venezuela, under the Supreme Caracas Junta.\(^7\) The young landowner Simón Bolívar and exiled revolutionary Francisco de Miranda soon emerged as the leaders of this movement.

Unfortunately, the First Republic of Venezuela met an ill-fated end after the devastating Caracas Earthquake of 1812 and debilitating royalist attacks under Captain Domingo de Monteverde. In 1812, the leaders of the Venezuelan independence movement were defeated: Miranda, who had settled for an armistice with Monteverde, was arrested by the Spanish with the aid of Bolívar and Bolívar himself was exiled.\(^8\)

However, Bolívar gathered a large supporting army in the neighboring United Provinces of New Grenada and, in 1813, launched an offensive to take back Caracas.\(^9\) (Previously in 1811, the Viceroyalty of New Grenada had, inspired by Venezuela’s declaration of independence, started its own independence movement and established the United Provinces of New Grenada.\(^10\) Bolívar’s march became known as the “Admirable Campaign” and succeeded, eventually leading to the creation of the Second Republic of Venezuela. However, this republic did not last long either, despite the combined efforts of the revolutionaries Bolívar, Santiago Mariño, and Manuel Piar, and fell in 1814.\(^11\) Of note during this time was royalist José Tomás Boves, who led llaneros forces, most of whom were mixed-race or pardo, to fight against the independence movement.\(^12\)

The movement for Latin American independence did not end yet. From 1814 to 1819, both independence and royalist forces made Venezuela and neighboring New Grenada their battleground as they clashed over the question of independence.\(^13\) New Grenada, in particular, had a period of such instability that the era was given a name: la Patria Boba or the Foolish Fatherland.\(^14\) At roughly the same time, José de San Martín was working on the independence movement from the South, heavily involved in liberation movements in the former Viceroyalty of the Río de la Plata as well as in Peru and Chile. In 1819, Bolívar, bolstered by support in New Grenada,

\(^7\) Ibid.
\(^8\) “Venezuelan War of Independence.”
\(^9\) Ibid.
\(^12\) “Venezuelan War of Independence.”
\(^13\) “Independence from Spain in Venezuela.”
\(^14\) “Foolish Fatherland.”
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achieved military victories in the Battle of Boyacá and the Battle of Carabobo against Captain-General Miguel de la Torre.\textsuperscript{15} Finally, in 1821, the Republic of Gran Colombia was declared with Bolívar as its leader; the new republic encompassed parts of present-day Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Panama, Peru, Guyana, and Brazil.\textsuperscript{16}

Meanwhile, back in Spain, Ferdinand VII returned to a country that was starting to realize liberal and democratic ideals, inspired by the French Revolution and the Enlightenment. During his imprisonment, liberals had congregated to form a national assembly called the Cortes and create the Constitution of Cádiz, also known as the Constitution of 1812, which placed restrictions on the absolutist monarchy Spain had possessed previously.\textsuperscript{17} Among the changes it proposed were the creation of a parliament and a centralized administration that would emphasize and epitomize critical ideas of equality and democracy.\textsuperscript{18} Upon his return in 1814, Ferdinand VII rejected the constitution and attempted to affirm absolute power over Spain and its colonies.\textsuperscript{19} This sparked discontent among the liberals and in 1820, a revolution forced Ferdinand VII to accept the Constitution of 1812.\textsuperscript{20} Thereafter, three years of liberalism reigned in a period called the Trienio Liberal and a Progresista government was created. One of the driving factors behind the revolution were the troubles with the Spanish colonies: there were some liberals who thought that the independence movements would be satisfied if they were allowed to take part in the newly reformed centralized administrative system in Spain. Unfortunately, the leaders of the movements, such as Bolívar and San Martín, had different goals in mind, including achieving complete independence from Spain.

\textsuperscript{15} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{16} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{19} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{20} “Ferdinand VII.”
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Setting the Stage:

The year 1822 is when we begin our simulation, and as such, we must survey some of the most critical issues Spain faced at the time. Included in the issues we should consider are questions associated with political ideals, economic realities, social stratification, military holdings, and international relations.

Political Ideals: In light of the French Revolution and the Enlightenment, Spain was now being influenced by numerous liberal ideals, despite the fact that Ferdinand VII was staunchly absolutist and politically conservative. Reactions to these ideals took the form of the popular revolt in favor of the Constitution of 1812 in Spain, and movements for complete independence in the colonies. How should Spain proceed to respond to the growing drive for liberalism, republicanism, and democracy both domestically and abroad?

Economic Realities: Spain was in considerably bad shape in the aftermath of Napoléon’s rampage through Europe. It relied heavily on income in the New World, especially in the form of taxes on the colonists and business in Trans-Atlantic trade. How should Spain continue to advance economic interests and protect trade routes? In addition, much discontent arose in the colonies over how land was distributed among the people. How should Spain deal with such property rights?

Social Stratification: The relationship of Spain to the Church was under much contest during this period of time, especially with the newly liberal government being established under the Constitution of 1812 that restricted some powers of the clergy. What should the role of the church be in Spain and in the colonies? In addition, in the colonies, social class (based on race and wealth and birthplace) determined much of the power and status one should hold. This caused frictions to emerge among different social groups. How should social stratification be preserved or be changed under Spanish rule?

Military Holdings: Spain’s military and navy had been brought down by Napoléon’s army previously, but much of its power remained in the colonies in the form of royalist support. What kind of military strategies should Spain pursue? How should Spain react to Simón Bolívar and José de San Martín?

International Relations: Spain’s liberal government was under close watch of the rest of Europe, especially after the agreements about balance of power were made in the Congress of Vienna. Now, with troubles in the Spanish colonies, it is more critical than ever to proceed with the international community in mind. How should Spain
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preserve legitimacy in the eyes of the international community? How should Spain garner support for control over the colonies?
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**Positions:**

**Miguel de la Torre**
- Miguel de la Torre is the Captain General of Puerto Rico. In other words, he, along some others, is the direct representative of the Spanish King within the colonial territories. As the Commander of Royalist guerrilla bands in Venezuela, he is at the forefront of combating Simon Bolivar’s powerful army. Given the time it takes to communicate between the Crown and its subjects in Latin America, Captain Generals might have more freeway when it comes to taking decisions within crises.

**Pascual Enrile**
- Pascual Enrile is a respected Navy commander in the Caribbean. Within this portfolio, he can control and communicate with what remains of the Spanish Navy in the Caribbean. Finally, he has access to the numerous contraband trade routes that so characterize the declining Spanish Empire.

**Rafael Moroto**
- Rafael Moroto is a military General in charge of special forces in Peru. However, as a Carlist, he has competing views with that of the Crown. Nevertheless, his prowess lies in his valuable diplomatic skills, as he is able to effectively negotiate with different elements of the rebels.

**José de la Serna e Hinojosa**
- José de la Serna e Hinojosa is a Peruvian Royalist commander that has deep and personal contacts with the local population and rebels. In fact, de la Serna has been able to recruit local aid for the Spanish cause. Expert of the terrain and people, his loyalty is sometimes questioned, but has remained firm for the time being.

**Vicente Benavides**
- Vicente Benavides is an interesting character, for he is a Chilean Pro-Spanish guerrilla later. While he is trusted by the local communities, he earns the distrust of many of the rebels obviously. Finally, he has access to the Mapuche, or indigenous people of the region. He has effectively organized the Mapuche before in favor of the SRF.
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Jose Antonio Pareja
- As a Naval commander in Chile, he has access to the remaining Spanish fleet in the South Atlantic. While he can effectively control and communicate with these fleets, the number of ships has gone down, something that poses a serious threat to the SRF. José Antonio Pareja must think of ingenious ways to coordinate with the Caribbean naval forces and drive the rebels back.

Gabino Gainza
- Gabino Gainza is a Royalist commander that has numerous rebel contacts throughout the region. His alliance to the Crown, although tested, has not swayed. However, his close connections to the Latin American rebels does promise something to gain if he defects from the SRF. Nevertheless, he has been effective at organizing local forces for the SRF while not gaining any animosity from rebels.

José Ramón Rodil, 1st Marquis of Rodil
- José Ramón Rodil is both a military and religious figure in Latin America. His advantage is thus twofold: he controls the ground Spanish troops in Peru, and also has much sway over the local Catholic population. The Catholic Church, representative of the Spanish Crown, is a powerful ally in this war, and Ramón Rodil has been keen to take advantage of this.

Gonzalo O’Farrill y Herrera
- As Minister of Defense, Gonzalo O’Farril y Herrera is in charge of the overall strategy concerning the Latin American campaign. He is tasked with organizing the different naval fleets available, in the Caribbean and in the South Atlantic, and with organizing the ground troops of the different generals. This is an extremely daunting tasks, for as we will see in committee, each general has a different, hidden interest when it comes to employing their troops and resources.

Pablo Morillo
- Known as the “Pacifier”, Pablo Morillo is a military commander fighting Bolivar’s armies. He is an effective and creative diplomat, one that knows how to balance both sides and knows how to deescalate conflict at opportune times. Morillo will be integral in ground battles and strategizing moves against the insurgent rebels.

Francisco Javier de Elío
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- Francisco Javier de Elío is Governor of Montevideo and Viceroy of Rio de la Plata. While he does not have the favor of the local population, the Spanish descent aristocrat has large sums of money ready to use for the cause SRF and has the terrain to train troops, something that is much needed at this point in time.

**Juan José de Sámano y Uribarri**

- As the Viceroy of New Granada, and with an extensive lineage within the military, Juan José de Sámano y Uribarri would be the most effective leader, other than the Generals themselves, at mobilizing military and economic forces. Since he can cut throughout the extensive Spanish bureaucracy, using his numerous contacts and financial resources, he would be able to mobilize forces at times of emergency.
Questions:

1. Does the Empire strike back or find some other way to exert influence over Latin America? Shall we (ECom) conduct a massive counterattack strategy to restore the former glory of Imperial Spain or shall we interact (more like hedge our bets) with the rebellious scum to boost our position? Shall certain people begin to vote? What is the composition of our pertinent governments; courts, legislatures, governors? How do we project legitimacy at the world stage? Shall we consider continental cooperation or even continental political unity?

2. Now that the Empire has lost the gold from Latin America, how can the economy of Spain be sustained? How shall we protect trade routes within LA and abroad? Coins? Loans from America, France? How shall we deal with ports still embargoed? Smuggler economy? Black market developing more than ever because of the Spanish Navy stretched and the LA forces declaring and fighting for independence?

3. How will you maintain the institutionalization of social status? How shall we deal with the injured and lost property? What are we to do with uncooperative rebel cells? What shall we do with peninsulares/royalists and what shall we do with the creoles sympathizing con los libertadores?
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