The bicentennial celebrations of Latin American independences have given a new impulse to the study of the emancipation processes of the American nations that were once part of the Spanish and Portuguese empires. These revitalized enthusiasm, backed with institutional support and with a clear national underpinning, has sparked national studies as well new approaches that examine Latin American independences as a whole within an Atlantic and hemispheric revolutionary context. Therefore, this new third edition of Richard Graham's classic *Independence in Latin America* (first edition 1972, second edition 1994) is greatly welcome. Graham’s book analyzes the socio-economic and ideological intricacies that led to the emancipation movements in Latin America from a comparative and Atlantic perspective. Graham has again updated his textbook with new research, including the role played by non-elites and the effects of war and violence on Latin Americans. The addition of an appendix with primary sources to this edition makes the book more complete for undergraduate use. The book stands out for its concision and clarity of exposition, sharp analysis, and judicious selection of primary sources.

The book, like its two previous editions, follows a chronological organization in six chapters. After a succinct introduction the first three chapters overview the American and Iberian preludes to the wars for independence. Chapter one sets the historical context on the decades prior to independence, with a focus on the enlightened restructuring of the Spanish and Portuguese empires and the precedent set by the Haitian revolution. Chapter two outlines Latin American reactions to changes emanating from Lisbon and Madrid in the late eighteenth century.
Through comparative analysis among regions, Graham explains how two colonial empires eventually gave birth to multiple nations. Graham intriguingly contrasts Argentina and Uruguay to Chile, Venezuela to Mexico and Central America, and Peru to Brazil. The next chapter transfers the reader to European affairs and their influence on the Latin American revolutions. This chapter focuses on the institutional crisis on both sides of the Atlantic after the French invasion of the Iberian Peninsula.

Like in previous editions, Graham breaks the war events chronologically in two distinct wars around 1816, comprising each one chapter 5 and 6. The level of detail varies for each country, Mexico and Brazil standing out for lengthier discussions. While identity self-consciousness appeared more visible during the first war (1810-1816), Spanish violence and repression and Portuguese insensitivity widened the divides between Iberia and the colonies. Each of these two chapters concludes with an interesting comparative analysis of the distinct emancipation movements with a focus on socioeconomic aspects, ideological reforms, and leadership. The last chapter uncorks the consequences of the wars to the different social actors. Particularly interesting to U.S. readers, who commonly wonder why Latin American nations and the United States took different paths, Graham analyzes how extreme violence, geographical difficulties, the particular cultural realities, local vs. national leaderships, and economic dependency brought a swinging beginning to the new republics.

A novelty in this edition, Graham’s book includes an appendix with eight documents that range from laissez faire doctrines, racial divisions, excerpts from Bolívar’s famous letter from Jamaica to Mexican Vicente Guerrero’s view on Mexican independence. The sources do not stand alone. Graham judiciously refers to them throughout the text. The third edition further appends a list of five recent scholarly works. To help students and readers in general, the book
includes a Spanish-English term glossary and a detailed chronology. *Independence in Latin America* remains an outstanding undergraduate textbook as well as a useful introductory work to the lay reader. This is therefore a welcome updated third edition of an already popular book that comes at an opportune time.

David Rex Galindo  
Stephen F. Austin State University
Which of the following statements best describes the main purpose behind the independence movements in Latin America? The leaders of the independence movements wanted to become independent from Spain but did not want to change the social hierarchies in place. What statement best characterizes Brazil's independence? It was achieved without mass military mobilization. After independence, both Mexico and Brazil maintained social hierarchies almost intact. How did things change for Latin American Women when independence was achieved? Women witnessed the continuation of patriarchal control in nineteenth-century Latin America, a comparison of post-independence performance in other world regions will be required. Independence, that took place between 1808 and 1825, is seen as. Comparative Economic History of Latin America and the United States, in, Development and Underdevelopment in America: Contrasts in Economic Growth in North America and Latin America in Historical Perspective, Walther L. Bernecker and Hans Werner Tobler, eds. (New York, 1993). Tulio Halperin Donghi, “Economy and Society,” in The Cambridge History of Latin America, Leslie Bethell, ed., Vol. III, (Cambridge, 1985). Miguel Ángel Centeno, “Blood and Debt: War and Taxation in Nineteenth-Century Latin America,” American Journal of. Independence in Latin America book. Read reviews from world’s largest community for readers. In the course of fifteen momentous years, the Spanish- and t... Start by marking “Independence in Latin America: Contrasts and Comparisons” as Want to Read: Want to Read saving… Want to Read. Currently Reading. Read. Other editions. Enlarge cover. Latin America is a group of countries and dependencies in the Western Hemisphere where Romance languages such as Spanish, Portuguese, and French are predominantly spoken. Some subnational regions such as Quebec and parts of the United States where Romance languages are primarily spoken are not included due to the countries as a whole being a part of Anglo America (an exception to this is Puerto Rico, which is almost always included within the definition of Latin America despite being a territory of