



South American Politicians

History Study Guide Version 3.1

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Politicians are listed chronologically.

Answer	Details
José Miguel Carrera Chile	led Chilean forces in the war of independence against Spain; took power in an 1811 coup and often clashed with Bernardo O'Higgins, who replaced him as ruler multiple times; was executed after opposing José de San Martín
Simón Bolívar Venezuela	" Liberator " of Venezuela, Bolivia, Columbia, Ecuador, Peru, and Panama against the Spanish after a conflict that included his " Decree of War to the Death " and battles at Pichincha and Carabobo ; president of Gran Colombia , a massive unified territory in northern South America
Pedro I of Brazil	first emperor of Brazil, from 1822 to 1831, when he abdicated to attend to matters in Portugal; gave the 1822 "Cry of Ipiranga," launching Brazil's independence movement from Portugal
Bernardo O'Higgins Chile	Spanish/Irish ancestry; led Chile's independence movement against Spain and became Supreme Director of Chile; won the 1817 Battle of Chacabuco alongside José de San Martín
José de San Martín Argentina	independence leader throughout South America against Spain; served as Protector of Peru; met with Simón Bolívar at the Guayaquil Conference
Francisco Solano López Paraguay	president of Paraguay from 1862-1870, succeeding his father as president; was killed at the Battle of Cerro Cora , which ended Paraguay's War of the Triple Alliance against Brazil, Argentina, and Uruguay
Pedro II of Brazil	second and final Emperor of Brazil from 1831-1889; was called the "Number One Volunteer" for going to the front during the War of the Triple Alliance against Francisco Solano López; exiled after an 1889 coup
Isabel of Brazil	commonly acted as Regent while Pedro II was abroad; signed the Golden Law emancipating all slaves in Brazil in 1888
Getúlio Vargas Brazil	president and dictator of Brazil from 1930-1945 and 1951-1954; known as "Father of the Poor" for promoting social welfare and ending the " coffee with milk " political system; established the " Estado Novo ," or "New State," in a self-coup in 1937
Leopoldo Galtieri Argentina	military-backed President of Argentina for six months in 1981-1982; ordered an invasion of the Falkland Islands , triggering a war with the United Kingdom
Juan Perón Argentina	president of Argentina from 1946 to 1955, after which the military exiled him; returned to power in 1973; husband of the incredibly popular Eva "Evita" Perón , who died of cancer in 1952, and of Isabel Perón , who succeeded him as president after his death in 1974
Salvador Allende Chile	socialist who was president of Chile from 1970 until a 1973 coup d'etat, in which he committed suicide in La Moneda palace; nationalized Chile's copper industry, angering the United States
Augusto Pinochet Chile	overthrew Allende in the 1973 coup and served as dictator until 1990, when he stepped down; instigated the US-backed Operation Condor to murder and imprison political opponents; was economically advised by the "Chicago Boys" and embezzled millions of dollars
Juan Manuel Santos Colombia	president of Colombia from 2010 to 2018; won 2016 Nobel Peace Prize for organizing a peace treaty with Colombia's FARC rebels, even though that treaty was initially voted down in a public referendum
Hugo Chávez Venezuela	socialist dictator from 1999 until his death from cancer in 2013; fierce opponent of George W. Bush, whom he called "the devil" at the United Nations
Nicolás Maduro Venezuela	Hugo Chávez's handpicked successor; took power in 2013 and ordered sham elections in 2018; ordered arrests of opposition leaders, including Leopoldo López during 2014 protests against inflation and food shortages; opposed by Maria Corina Machado, who won the 2025 Nobel Peace Prize for her work opposing him