

Essential Quotes:

Simón Bolívar's Cartagena Manifesto

“Motivated by a patriotic zeal, let me dare to address you, to outline for you the causes that led to Venezuela’s destruction; flattering myself that the awful and exemplary lessons that extinguished Republic has given us persuade America to improve her conduct, correcting the errors of unity, strength, and energy that are manifested in her forms of government.” **(Paragraph 3)**

“The codes consulted by our magistrates were not those that could teach them the practical science of government but those that have formed certain visionaries who, imagining ethereal republics, have sought to attain political perfection, assuming the perfectibility of humankind. Thus we got philosophers for leaders; philanthropy for law, dialectics for tactics, and sophists for soldiers. With such a subversion of principles and things, the social order suffered enormously.” **(Paragraph 7)**

The result provided Venezuela with harsh evidence of the error of their calculation, because the militiamen who went to meet the enemy, ignorant of the use of weapons and not being accustomed to discipline and obedience, were overwhelmed at the start of the last campaign, despite the heroic and extraordinary efforts made by their leaders to lead them to victory.” **(Paragraph 13)**

Popular elections conducted by the rustics of the countryside and by those engaged in intrigue in the cities add a further obstacle to the practice of federation among us, because the former are so ignorant that they vote mechanically and the latter are so ambitious that they turn everything into factionalism.” **(Paragraph 21)**

The influence of the church played a large part in the uprising of the towns and cities and the introduction of the enemies into the country, sacrilegiously abusing the sanctity of its ministry in aid of the promoters of civil war. However, we must candidly confess that these traitorous priests were encouraged to commit the heinous crimes of which they are justly accused simply because impunity for their crimes was absolute.” **(Paragraph 24)**

Let us hasten to break the chains of those victims who groan in the dungeons, ever hopeful of rescue by us. Do not betray their confidence; do not be insensitive to the cries of your brothers. Fly to avenge the dead, to give life to the dying, ease to the oppressed, and freedom to all.” **(Paragraph 42)**