

LA MARTINIÈRE MODEL UNITED NATIONS

2026

BACKGROUND GUIDE



GRAND CONVENTION OF OCAÑA



Key Terminologies and their Modern-Day Interpretations **(only for reference)**

Southern District- Ecuador (centered around Quito)

Northern District- Venezuela (centered around Caracas)

Central District- New Grenada (centered around Bogotá, the seat of national power)

Administrative Divisions of Colombia

1. Northern District (Distrito del Norte):

A. Apure Department (2 Provinces)

- Barinas Province and
- Achaguas Province.

B. Orinoco Department (4 Provinces)

- Cumaná Province,
- Barcelona Province,
- Guayana Province and
- Margarita Province.

C. Venezuela Department: (2 provinces)

- Caracas Province and
- Carabobo Province.

D Zulia Department (4 provinces)

- Maracaybo province
- Coro Province,
- Mérida Province and
- Trujillo Province.

2. Central District (Distrito del Centro):

A. Boyaca Department (4 provinces)

- Tunja Province,
- Casanare Province,
- Pamplona Province, and
- Socorro Province.

B. Cauca Department (4 provinces)

- Popayán Province,
- Buenaventura Province,
- Chocó Province,
- Pasto Province.

Key Terminologies and their Modern-Day Interpretations
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C. Cundinamarca Department (4 provinces)

- Bogotá Province,
- Antioquia Province,
- Mariquita Province,
- Neiva Province.

D. Isthmus Department (2 provinces)

- Isthmus Province
- Veraguas Province.

E. Magdalena Department (3 provinces)

- Cartagena Province
- Riohacha Province
- Santa Marta Province

3. Southern District (Distrito del Sur):

A. Azuay Department (3 provinces)

- Cuenca Province
- Loja Province
- Jaén de Bracamoros y Maynas Province.

B. Guayaquil Department (2 provinces)

- Guayaquil Province
- Manabí Province.

C. Ecuador Department (3 provinces)

- Pichincha Province
- Chimborazo Province
- Imbabura Province.

Colombian War of Independence and Historical Background (1808-1819).

Napoleon Bonaparte invaded Spain and deposed King Ferdinand VII, hence creating a massive power vacuum. This eventually led to the local patriots in Quito to form an autonomous junta in the region, the first of its kind. Although it was swiftly and brutally crushed by the Spanish, it had already sparked a revolutionary fervor in the hearts of the locals. Spanish atrocities, like the massacre of Quitoan patriots and revolutionaries (roughly 200 to 300 of them, equivalent to around 1% of the total population of Quito) acted as a catalyst and the Colombian independence was hence only a matter of time.

However, the period of 1812 to 1816 in particular, was particularly bitter as Spanish royalist counter-offensives and the 1812 Caracas Earthquake. Following Napoleon's defeat in Europe, King Ferdinand VII sent a massive military expedition under General Pablo Morillo, who began to reconquer regions brutally with the 105 day-siege of Cartagena serving as a key example. However, the Colombian spirit remained unshaken as Simón Bolívar, following the Caracas Earthquake, famously stated:

“If nature opposes us, we will fight against it and make it obey us.”

He also gained troops, money and weapons from the Haitian President Alexandre Pétion while he was in exile post Morillo's reconquests, in exchange for freedom of slaves in all the liberated territories.

This resulted in the Llanero Alliance, in which Simón Bolívar allied with José Antonio Páez and his *llaneros* (plainsmen cowboys). Once they crossed the Andes and launched a surprise attack on the Spanish army, the royalists were defeated.

Colombia was established on December 17, 1819, following Simón Bolívar's victory at the Battle of Boyacá on August 7, 1819, which effectively ended Spanish royalist control over New Granada. This was briefly followed by the subsequent independence of Venezuela, Peru and the Southern District along with the creation of Bolivia on August 06, 1825, named after our Most Excellent Lord Liberator President, Simón Bolívar as a tribute to his constant efforts to ward off Spanish royalists and bring freedom to our lands.

Simón Bolívar, proclaimed the creation of the Republic of Colombia at the Congress of Angostura, thereby legally uniting New Grenada, Venezuela and Ecuador. The Constitution of 1821 (also known as the Constitution of Cúcuta) was drafted between May and August 1821, turning Simón Bolívar's military victories into a formalised and organised republic.

The Constitution of 1821

The foundation of Colombia was laid at the Congress of Cúcuta in 1821, exclusively designed to bind together the liberated territories of New Grenada and Venezuela. Ecuador was incorporated into the union in 1822, after General Antonio José de Sucre had defeated Spanish forces at the decisive Battle of Pichincha, liberating the capital city of Quito. Following the victory, Simón Bolívar traveled to the coastal Free Province of Guayaquil. After negotiating with local leaders and meeting with Argentine liberator José de San Martín, Bolívar formally incorporated the remaining coastal territories of Ecuador into the union.

Despite numerous issues that Columbia faced at the time of its independence and during the drafting of the Constitution at Cúcuta, the Colombian Constitution of 1821 emerged not only as the first significant law of the land but also as a ray of hope for the Colombian hopes and aspirations of a bright future.

The Colombian Constitution of 1821 was adopted by the Congress of Cúcuta. Colombia as per the Constitution, was established as a centralised representative republic, adopted on August 30, 1821 and entered into force on October 06, 1821, once it was sanctioned by Most Excellent Lord Liberator President, Simón Bolívar.

The Constitution provided for the establishment of three branches- legislative, executive and judicial, with a bicameral legislature in the form of the Senate (Upper House) and Chamber of Representatives (Lower House). It allowed the President of the Republic of Colombia to serve as the Head of State and the leader of the Executive, hence resulting in the formation of a highly centralised structure, prioritising the Central powers, which were seen as a way of promoting a sense of patriotism and fostering national unity among various regions that made Columbia...

The Constitution was divided into ten titles (Titles I-X) which are as follows:

1. **Title I:** Defines what constitutes the new country of Colombia and who legally holds the rights of citizenship
2. **Title II:** Outlines the geographic borders and lays foundations of a centralised state system
3. **Title III:** Details the voting procedures, qualifications and parameters of local assembly elections in Colombia
4. **Title IV:** Establishes the rules, length of terms and responsibilities of both the Upper and Lower Houses of the Colombian Legislature
5. **Title V:** States the powers, duties and constraints placed on the President and the Vice-President of the Republic of Colombia
6. **Title VI:** States the organizational structure of the High Court and regional judicial tribunals to enforce laws independent of military intervention
7. **Titles VII:** Explains the administrative management of departments, provinces and cantons under governors appointed by the capital
8. **Title VIII:** Guarantees core civil liberties including individual property rights and freedom of expression, along with highlighting a path towards ending slavery by law.
9. **Title IX:** Requires all leaders, soldiers and civil servants to swear an oath of absolute loyalty to the Republic before taking office

ABOUT THE COMMITTEE

10. Title X: Sets up rules to transition out old Spanish laws along with locking the new Constitution from amendments for ten years.

Key Features of the Constitution of 1821

From the introduction of a gradual path towards the end of slavery to the absolute destruction of the Spanish inquisition, the Constitution incorporates various issues and highlights that are best suited for the short-term as well as long-term growth of Colombia. The Constitution mentions that all the children born to enslaved mothers after the enactment of the Constitution are not to be enslaved but they shall remain under the service and tutelage of their mother's master until they reach 18 years of age to compensate the owner for their upbringing.

Furthermore, the right of citizens to write, print and publish their thoughts without prior government censorship or fear of political retribution is explicitly guaranteed, indicating the modern and liberal style of thought being openly incorporated into the Constitution and hence the Columbian minds. Indigenous tributes, i.e. a forced racial tax that native populations have been paying to the Spanish Crown for centuries have also been abolished. The absolute Spanish monarchical rule has been entirely replaced by three distinct branches of government, i.e. powerful Executive, a bicameral Legislature and an independent Judiciary. Restrictions on government, no matter how strong, are also made, especially with respect to strong protection of private property. It is now illegal for the government to arbitrarily seize a citizen's land or goods as a direct response to any disagreement or conflict with the government. A national treasury system has also been adopted, making international trade and customs easier to manage. The construction of roads, postal networks and navigable waterways are legally promoted in order to improve communication and infrastructure standards in the country.

The Constitution also restricts the government from arresting a citizen without a written warrant from a legal authority. With open door immigration and smooth naturalisation laws Colombia was meant to rise as a nation full of opportunities and liberties under a strong central control.

However, certain disagreements and concerns among the policymakers have led to numerous debates in Colombia, on whether the Constitution adopted is just and safe. Certain policymakers argue that a strictly centrist nature of the Constitution is not suitable for Colombian prosperity and overall growth. Bolívaristas have however tried to justify the centrist approach by calling it vital to prevent anarchy and/ or a Spanish reconquest.

Furthermore, regions like the Northern District (Venezuela) and the Southern District may feel reduced to mere provinces of New Grenada (Colombia) as important towns and cities like Quito and Caracas need to prosper without any limitations or boundaries. However the current government under Most Excellent Lord Liberator President, Simón Bolívar aspires to prioritise national unity, integrity and security with a plan on improving infrastructure as one of the methods to improve cooperation and communication between various provinces.

ABOUT THE COMMITTEE

IV. Timeline of Events

- A. Early Administrative Tensions (pre-1826)
- B. La Cosiata- The Venezuelan Rebellion (April, 1826)
- C. The Guayaquil Uprising in Ecuador (January, 1827)
- D. Mutiny in Lima (January, 1827- Present)

IV. Overview

A. Political

- I. Administrative Disputes
- II. Border Disputes

- 1. Military
- 2. Economic
- 3. Social

More Contents Coming Soon.

