Calvin Coolidge Says:

NORTHAMPTON, Mass., Dec. 16.—On December 17 Colombia, Venezuela, Peru and Bolivia will commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of the death of Simon Bolivar. Nearly twenty million people in those four countries honor him for changing the course of their history.

In a few years his military skill and leadership drove Spain from a territory two-thirds the area of the United States which she had held from the days of Columbus. He ranks as one of the great and true patriots.

Born in Venezuela, trained in Europe, he returned home to dedicate himself and his great possessions to the freedom of his countrymen. Having seen revolution in France and free government in the United States, he adapted them to his own country with the result that his efforts in the north, and those of San Martin in the south, finally made all Spanish South America independent.

To the action of a soldier he added the vision of a statesman. He founded governments. Recognizing the unity of interests of the Western Hemisphere, he called the first Pan-American conference at Panama in 1825. His public service and unselfish character entitle him to be named as one of the great figures of the New World.

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NORTHAMPTON, Mass., Dec. 17.—The world will be relieved at the reports indicating Spain is not to be involved in the catastrophe of a revolution and civil war. Although her jurisdiction over them has long since been lost, there are still many lands with many people who speak her language, follow her customs, look to her for cultural inspiration and regard her as the mother country. In that sense she still rules a great empire. Once she was the foremost power of the world.

It is difficult to determine why a people of so much ability, character and refinement could not hold their place. While many causes contributed, probably their chief weakness was the inability to cultivate and maintain the art of representative government. Failing that, they came under the influence of autocracy.

That appears to be the present trouble. The people have liberty and desire self-government, but they have no constituent assembly at hand experienced and strong enough to voice their requirements. The result is disorder and dictators. They will accomplish their reforms permanently only through an independent legislative body. The creation of true representative government took hundreds of years and many struggles among English speaking people. It cannot be improvised.

Calvin Coolidge