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Antonio Jose de Sucre (1745-1830)

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Sucre, Antonio José de (1795—1830) A gifted military leader and statesman in the Spanish American independence movement against Spain, Antonio José de Sucre was originally commissioned as a lieutenant in the provincial armed forces of the Venezuelan republics. He served under Gen. Santiago Marino and later under the liberator Simón Bolívar: buying arms, issuing military orders, recruiting and assigning personnel, and enlisting spies and subverting royalists. As Bolívar's chief lieutenant, Sucre found his diplomatic ability tested when he was dispatched to negotiate an armistice with the Spanish forces in 1820. By 1822, he was a general leading troops at the Battle of Pichincha, defeating the Spanish forces and securing the independence of Ecuador. He subsequently won the decisive Battle of Ayacucho in 1824, capturing the Spanish viceroy and securing Peru's independence. The Assembly of Upper Peru supported self-determination and created the independent Republic of Bolivia, honoring the name of Bolívar. Sucre became Bolivia's first elected president in 1826. With a war-weary Bolivia in economic decline, Sucre's reform efforts were not well received, and an internal revolt, compounded by an invasion from Peru, forced his resignation in 1828. In his final military campaign in 1828 and 1829, Sucre repelled Peruvian forces to keep them from invading Ecuador. He then presided over a Bogota conference in 1830, which unsuccessfully attempted to reconcile divisiveness in the Republic of Colombia. Returning to Quito, Sucre was assassinated on June 4, 1830, in a forest near Pasto, Colombia.

Janet Butler Munch

See also Anticolonialism and Anti-Imperialism, Bolívar, Simón; Bolivia; Peru; Spanish Empire; War and Warfare

For further reading

Gil-Montero, Martha. "The Liberator's Noble Match" *Americas* 45, 3 (May-June 1973): 6-17.

Hoover, John P. *Admirable Warrior: Marshal Sucre, Fighter for South American Independence*. Detroit, MI: Blaine Ethridge Books, 1977.

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