

Learn More at the Library

Books and Videos Available from CCRLS Libraries:

For Adults:

The Life and Times of Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla

by Arthur Howard Noll (1973)

Hidalgo: la Historia Jamás Contada

DVD in Spanish with English Subtitles (2011)

For Children:

Father Miguel Hidalgo: A Cry for Freedom

by D.E. Perlin (1991) In English with Spanish Translation

Use the Library's online databases to find the sources listed below:

^a Columbia Encyclopedia, Edition 6, Columbia University Press, 2000, p. 17828

^b New Catholic Encyclopedia, v. 6. 2nd ed. Detroit: Gale, 2003 p. 820

^c Encyclopedia of Latin American History & Culture, v. 3. 2nd ed. Detroit: Charles Scribner's Sons, 2008 p. 687

^d New Catholic Encyclopedia, v. 6. 2nd ed. Detroit: Gale, 2003 p. 820

^e Encyclopedia of Latin American History & Culture, v. 3. 2nd ed. Detroit: Charles Scribner's Sons, 2008 p. 687

^f "The Spread of Revolution to Latin America, 1790-1911." *Discovering World History Online*. Detroit: Gale, 2003.

^g Columbia Encyclopedia, Edition 6, Columbia University Press, 2000, p. 17828

^h "Grito de Dolores." *Americas [English Edition]* Nov.-Dec. 2010: 64.

ⁱ Columbia Encyclopedia, Edition 6, Columbia University Press, 2000, p. 17828

^j "El grito de Dolores." *Calliope*, May 2005 v. 15 p. 4.

^k "Grito de Dolores." *Americas [English Edition]* Nov.-Dec. 2010: 64.

^l "Grito de Dolores." *Americas [English Edition]* Nov.-Dec. 2010: 64.



280 Garfield St. | Woodburn, OR 97071 | 503-982-5252
woodburnlibrary.org

Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla Father of Mexican Independence



“On the 200th Anniversary of Mexico’s independence, Guanajuato, Mexico and the Mexican Consulate present this bust of Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla, the Father of Mexican Independence, to the City of Woodburn.” —September 16, 2010

A Man of Enlightenment

Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla (1753-1811) is a national hero of Mexico^a, and he is known as the “father of Mexican Independence.”^b Born in Guanajuato on May 8, 1753, he was the son of a hacienda administrator.^c He studied theology, earned a bachelor’s degree from the University of Mexico, and was ordained as a priest in the Roman Catholic Church in 1778. Ultimately he became the rector of the parish church of Dolores.^d

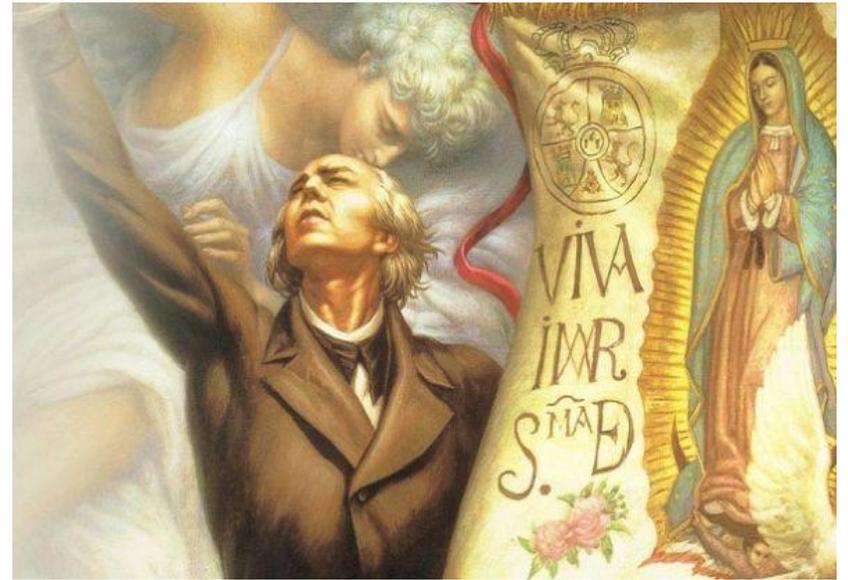
“A landowner, educator, and restless reformer, Hidalgo devoted much of his time to stimulating industrial development at Dolores, introducing a pottery works, a brick factory, mulberry trees for silkworms, a tannery, an olive grove, apiaries, and vineyards. He knew the French language, which was unusual for a Mexican cleric, read modern philosophy, learned Indian languages, and loved music. He spent much of his time in the nearby city of Guanajuato, where he was highly respected in intellectual circles.”^e

“El Grito” – “The Cry”

The European Enlightenment, Napoleon’s invasion of Spain and the supplanting of King Ferdinand VII, as well as the unhappiness of Spanish creoles (American-born people of European descent) led to a century of struggle for independence in Latin America.^f

“On September 16, 1810, [Hidalgo] issued the Grito de Dolores [Cry of Dolores], launching the [Mexican] revolt against Spain. Hidalgo gathered an immense army of Native Americans. With the banner of Our Lady of Guadalupe as his standard, he injected religious zeal into the insurrection, but the Native Americans’ cry for freedom and land was just as fervent.”^g “His cry was against bad government and for death to the Gachupines (peninsular Spaniards).”^h After a series of initial military successes, royalist general Calleja del Rey crushed Hidalgo’s army on January 17, 1811.

“Hidalgo, after being [defrocked] by the Inquisition, was shot. His schemes for social reform, exemplified in the emancipation of slaves, the cessation of the tribute tax, and the return of the land to Native Americans, had come to nothing, but the war for Mexican independence continued.”ⁱ



Mexican Independence

“The grito for independence survived his death. A decade later, the struggle for independence begun by Hidalgo finally succeeded and New Spain became the new nation of Mexico.”^j Father Hidalgo’s “Grito de Dolores” is remembered because “it was this single act of defiance that initiated Mexico’s wars of independence.”^k “Mexico became independent in 1821 and since 1825, September 16 has been celebrated as Mexico’s Independence Day.”^l

The bust of Don Hidalgo, a gift to the people of Woodburn from the people of Guanajuato, Mexico, is prominently displayed in the main reading area of the Woodburn Public Library. Our librarians are eager to help you learn more about the Father of Mexican Independence.