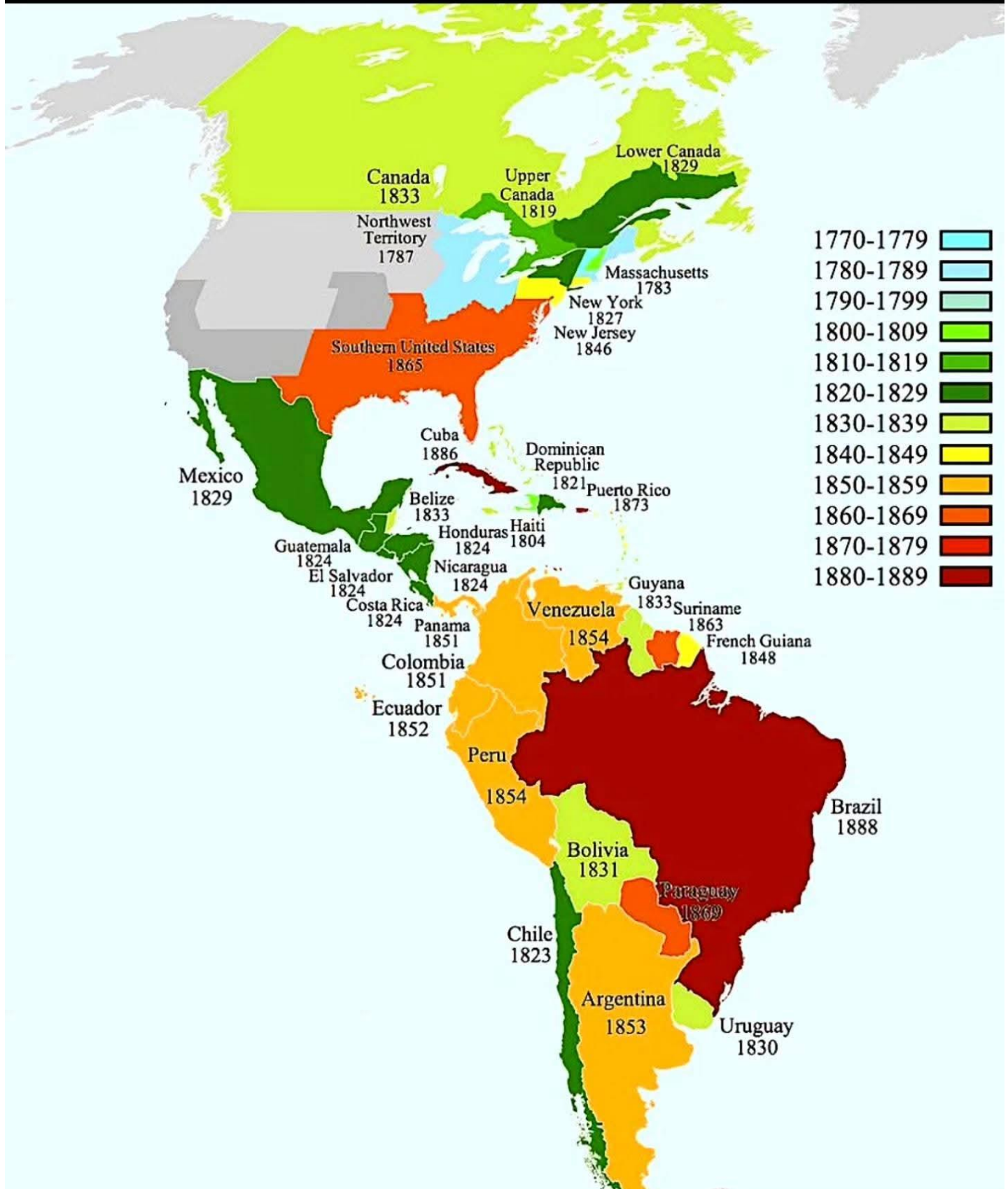


When slavery was abolished in the Americas...



When Slavery was abolished in the Americas?

Slavery in the Americas was dismantled gradually over the 19th century, with each country following its own path shaped by revolution, war, and political reform.

The first decisive break came in 1804, when Haiti abolished slavery after the Haitian Revolution, the only successful large scale slave revolt in history, which not only ended slavery but also established the first Black republic.

In South America, early steps toward abolition often came through gradual measures, beginning with Argentina in 1813, where children born to enslaved mothers were declared free, with full abolition finalized in 1853. Chile abolished slavery outright in 1823, while Mexico followed in 1829 under President Vicente Guerrero, himself of mixed African descent, making the decision symbolically powerful.

In the Caribbean, abolition was heavily influenced by European powers. The United Kingdom passed the Slavery Abolition Act in 1833, ending slavery across most of its colonies, including Jamaica and Barbados, though formerly enslaved people were forced into an “apprenticeship” system for several years before full freedom.

France abolished slavery in its colonies in 1848 after pressure from abolitionists and uprisings in places like Martinique and Guadeloupe. Meanwhile, in the United States, slavery became the central issue of the American Civil War, and it was formally abolished in 1865 with the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, though the end of legal slavery did not bring immediate equality.

The final holdouts were in the Spanish and Portuguese empires. Cuba, still under Spanish control, abolished slavery relatively late in 1886 after decades of resistance and gradual reform. Brazil, which had received more enslaved Africans than any other country in the Americas, was the last to abolish slavery in 1888 through the Lei Áurea, signed by Princess Isabel.

By that point, slavery had been eliminated across the entire Western Hemisphere, marking the end of a system that had lasted for centuries, though its social and economic consequences continued long afterward.