The Caudillo of the Andes

Born in La Paz in 1792, Andrés de Santa Cruz lived through the turbulent times that led to independence across Latin America. He fought to shape the newly established republics, and between 1836 and 1839 he created the Peru-Bolivia Confederation. The epitome of an Andean caudillo, with armed forces at the center of his ideas of governance, he was a state builder whose ambition ensured a strong and well-administered country. But the ultimate failure of the Confederation had far-reaching consequences that still have an impact today. The story of his life introduces students to broader questions of nationality and identity during this turbulent transition from Spanish colonial rule to the founding of Peru and Bolivia.

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The Caudillo of
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Andrés de Santa Cruz

Natalia Sobrevilla Perea

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Timeline for Santa Cruz

1717 Creation of the Viceroyalty of New Granada
1729 Viceroyalty of New Granada suspended for financial difficulties
1739 Viceroyalty of New Granada is reinstated
1767 Expulsion of the Jesuits
1776 Creation of the Viceroyalty of Río de la Plata
1780 Túpac Amaru rebellion
1781 January – death of Tomas Katari
   March – First siege of La Paz
   April – Death of Túpac Amaru
   October – Second siege of La Paz
1783 Defeat of Túpaj Katari
1786 Joseph de Santa Cruz is sent to Caupolicán
1788 3 May – creation of the Audiencia of Cuzco
   27 August – Agustín Gamarra is born in Cuzco
1792 5 December – Andrés de Santa Cruz is born in La Paz
1801 Intendant of Potosí proposes that Cuzco should become the capital of a viceroyalty
1804 Napoleon is crowned emperor in Paris
1805 Rebellion in Cuzco
1806 25 June – first British invasion of Buenos Aires
1807 5 June – second British invasion of Buenos Aires
1808 Napoleon takes over the Spanish Peninsula
1809 25 May – junta set up in Chuquisaca
   16 July – junta set up in La Paz
   10 August – junta set up in Quito
1810 9 April – junta set up in Caracas
   25 May – junta set up in Buenos Aires
TIMELINE FOR SANTA CRUZ

20 July – junta set up in Santa Fe de Bogotá
18 September – junta set up in Santiago de Chile

20 June – battle of Guaqui

19 March – Cádiz constitution enacted

February – capitulation of Salta

1 October – battle of Vilcapuquio

14 November – battle of Ayohuma

2 August – revolution erupts in Cuzco

September – barracks in La Paz set alight; Santa Cruz’s father dies

March – Ramírez takes Cuzco from rebels

29 November – battle of Viluma

9 July – independence of United Provinces of the River Plate in Congress of Tucumán

12 February – battle of Chacabuco

April – Santa Cruz is captured and taken as prisoner to Buenos Aires

5 April – battle of Maipú, independence of Chile

January – blockade of Peruvian coast

7 August – battle of Boyacá independence of Colombia

January – Santa Cruz arrives in Lima

10 March – Trienio Liberal begins in Spain with return of Cádiz Constitution

4 September – Cádiz Constitution is reinstated in Peru

8 September – San Martín disembarks in Peru

November – Tarma and Jauja declare for independence

6 December – Battle of Cerro de Pasco – Arenales wins; Santa Cruz changes sides

20 December – independence of Trujillo and northern Peru

29 January – mutiny in Aznapuquio – Pezuela is deposed, La Serna made viceroy

24 June 1821 – battle of Carabobo, independence of Venezuela

28 July – declaration of independence in Peru

September – José La Mar relinquishes Real Felipe in Callao

April – battle of Maimona

24 May – battle of Pichincha – Santa Cruz excels in the battlefield

26 July – interview in Guayaquil between San Martín and Bolívar

22 September – first Peruvian Congress is sworn in

January – first campaign of intermedios disembarks in Moquegua

26 February – mutiny at Balconcillo Santa Cruz leads group that calls for the fall of the triumvirate and presidency of José de la Riva Agüero
March – second campaign of intermedios sails south
April – end of Trienio liberal in Spain
June – royalists retake Lima for a month
July – Riva Agüero establishes government in Trujillo with some representatives
25 August – battle of Zepita, triumph for Santa Cruz
October – Santa Cruz is forced to abandon Upper Peru
12 November – Peruvian Constitution is enacted
25 November – Riva Agüero is captured and sent into exile
December – Bolívar arrives in Peru
1824
24 February – mutiny at Real Felipe; the fort returns to royalist hands
March – Pedro Antonio de Olañeta declares loyalty to the king, not the constitution
April – Bolívar organizes his troops in the northern Andes
6 August – battle of Junín
9 December – battle of Ayacucho
1825
February – Sucre crosses the Desaguadero and arrives in La Paz
6 August – assembly declares independence of Upper Provinces
25 October – Bolívar arrives back in Peru
December – tribute is abolished
1826
23 January – capitulation at Real Felipe in Callao
February – Bolívar returns to Lima; discussions over possible federation
July – Santa Cruz arrives in Lima and takes over government in the name of Bolívar
October – negotiations on possible federation with Bolivia
9 December – lifelong constitution is enacted in Lima
1827
31 January – mutiny in army barracks calling for return of 1823 Charter
April – José La Mar is elected president
1828
Santa Cruz sent on official mission to Buenos Aires
April – Santa Cruz arrives in Santiago; uprising in Bolivia where Sucre is shot
August – Santa Cruz is elected to the presidency of Bolivia
December – Santa Cruz accepts presidency of Bolivia
1829
April – Santa Cruz is confirmed as president by electoral colleges
June – Gamarra strikes against La Mar in northern Peru, La Fuente in Lima
August – alleged plot by Santa Cruz in southern Peru
1830
17 December – death of Bolívar in Santa Marta, Colombia
TIMELINE FOR SANTA CRUZ

1831  New constitution is enacted and new tax codes introduced; France recognizes independence of Bolivia
1833  National Convention elected in Peru to review constitution
1834  January – Luís José de Orbegoso is elected in Peru to replace Gamarra
       24 April – embrace of Maquinguayo
       May – Gamarra and Santa Cruz meet in Cochabamba
       June – peace is restored in Peru
       November – Orbegoso leaves Lima for Arequipa
1835  23 February – Felipe Santiago Salaverry takes power in Lima
       4 April – Cuzco and Puno declare independence from Peru
       June – Peace in Peru, co-operation agreement signed between Santa Cruz and Orbegoso
       July – Santa Cruz is reelected president of Bolivia
       13 August – battle of Yanacocha, Santa Cruz defeats Gamarra
       September – Santa Cruz enters Cuzco to great acclaim
       December – Lima proclaims its adhesion to Orbegoso and Santa Cruz
1836  7 February – battle of Socabaya; Salaverry is defeated by Santa Cruz
       19 February – Salaverry is shot by firing squad
       17 March – Congress of Siczuani – Southern Peru is created
       10 April – Santa Cruz made Supreme Protector by Congress of Siczuani
       28 July – Congress is set up in Huaura
       11 August – Congress of Huaura accepts Southern Peru and the Confederation
       15 August – Santa Cruz enters Lima to great acclaim
       October – Confederation created by decree
       November – Congress of Tapacarí meets and accepts Confederation
1837  1 May – Pact of Tacna between the three states
       6 June – Portales is killed in an army uprising
       June – treaty signed between Confederation and Great Britain
       August – war between the Peru-Bolivia Confederation and the Argentine Confederation
       September – Blanco Ecalada sails from Valparaíso
       17 November – Treaty of Paucarpata is signed
1838  Gamarra arrives in Chile
       May – Bolivian Congress meets in Cochabamba
       21 August – battle of Guía
TIMELINE FOR SANTA CRUZ

1839  30 January – Battle of Yungay
1840  Santa Cruz is exiled in Quito with all his family
1841  February – Santa Cruz is proclaimed president in La Paz
       July – Gamarra given powers by Congress to invade Bolivia
       27 September – Ballivián declared president of Bolivia
       18 November – Battle of Ingavi; Gamarra is killed
1842  Anarchy in Peru
1843  October – Santa Cruz is captured off the coast of Peru trying to
       return to Bolivia
1845  Santa Cruz is sent from his prison in Chillán, Chile, to exile in
       France
1848  Ballivián is ousted from power by Manuel Isidoro Belzú
       Santa Cruz is appointed Minister to the courts of France, Great
       Britain, and the Vatican
1851  Santa Cruz signs concordat with the Vatican
1855  Santa Cruz returns to America, settles briefly in Salta, and runs for
       presidency of Bolivia
1865  25 September – Santa Cruz dies in France
1965  Santa Cruz’s body is returned to La Paz
This book came to being thanks to Stuart Schwartz who, knowing of my work on caudillismo and my interest in biography, asked me if I would like to write about Santa Cruz. James Dunkerley and his unrivaled knowledge of Bolivia made the task more possible and rewarding, but I doubt I would have managed without the constant encouragement of my father Luís Sobrevilla. I am also very grateful to the two anonymous readers who backed this project from its very inception and who provided insightful comments from the proposal to the final draft. I am particularly indebted to Scott Eastman and Matthew Brown for reading the entire manuscript and improving its content with their questions and comments. Thanks are also due to my sister Julia Sobrevilla, who made it more readable.

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