Final Exam Instructions

Please read the question below carefully. In answering the question you are only to use the sources provided in class, Canvas and the textbook. Your work will not be accepted if I find sources used in writing this paper that are not from the course. Your paper should be formatted as follows:

- A cover page that includes the title of your paper, your name and course information.
- Your answer must have an introduction, body and conclusion
- 5 pages of content that must include an introduction and a conclusion
- 1 inch margins
- 12 point Times New Roman font double-spaced.

Final Exam Question

Writing within the confines of 19th century Europe, Karl Marx “contended that an urban proletariat with a developed awareness of their role in society would lead revolutionary changes.” When considering Latin American and its role in the realm of revolutions, Marx “considered Latin America, with its lack of an advanced industrial economy, not yet ready for a revolution.” Interestingly enough, it was 20th century Latin America that experienced more revolutions than any other region of the world. In contrast to Marx’s revolutionary prophecies, it was rural peasants rather than industrial workers that spearheaded many of these revolutions with the first of these challenges to established authority taking place in Mexico. What would be the impact of the 20th century’s first revolution? One historian has boldly stated that “the revolutionary promises from Mexico provided a model and inspiration for social reformers elsewhere on the continent throughout the twentieth century.” However, these revolutions were not created ex nihilo. In fact, many historians turn to the second half of the 19th century to find causes for the revolutions of the 20th century.

- What were some of the economic, political and social characteristics that dominated Latin America during the second half of the 19th century?
- What changed and what remained the same economically, politically and socially with the advent of the 20th century?
- What course of action did the Mexican Revolution and the Cuban Revolution take and how were each of these revolutions in their own way representative of Latin America’s quest to end poverty and inequality?