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Simon Bolivar Tests Don't Rule Poisoning In or Out

Posted by [aandrews](#) on July 25, 2011 9:20 PM

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Simon Bolivar, who led South America's Venezuela, Ecuador, Peru, Columbia and Bolivia to independence from Spain, wasn't necessarily murdered as Venezuelan president Hugo Chavez claims, according to news reports.

Bloomberg reported that Vice President Elias Jaua read a forensic report on state television that said, in part, "The hypothesis many historians had about Bolivar's death by poisoning was ruled out," He also said, "The possibility that he may have consumed medicines that poisoned him unintentionally remains open."

Bolivar died in 1830 and according to the BBC, the cause has widely been reported to have been tuberculosis. Jose Antonio Lorente, a forensics expert, of the University of Granada, led the study of DNA samples from Bolivar. The Associated Press reported that the remains have been confirmed to be those of Bolivar. The BBC reported that Jaua said more testing would be done.

On Sunday, Venezuelans celebrated the anniversary of the birth of Bolivar in 1783. Chavez returned from medical treatment he'd been receiving in Cuba in time for the celebrations.

Reuters reported that Chavez, in a telephone interview broadcast on television, maintained his convictions: "'I think they murdered him.'" Reuters also said Chavez went on, saying, "I assume my humble responsibility before the people and before history. I don't have proof, I don't know if we will have, but those are the circumstances." Bloomberg also reported that Chavez said, "Some people say we are trying to change history, to alter history." He added, "It's they who altered it. The alteration of history began early, even before Bolivar died." "I tell you: that glorious skeleton must be Bolivar because you can feel its flame," Tweeted Chavez upon the exhumation of Bolivar's remains from their Caracas mausoleum, reported Bloomberg. The Associated Press reported that the research team commissioned by Chavez included more than 50 people, both Venezuelans and others.

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