

# Bernardo de Gálvez

SPANISH MILITARY LEADER AND ALLY OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION



## BACKGROUND

Born on July 23, 1746, in Macharaviaya, Spain, Bernardo de Gálvez began his military career at a young age, serving in campaigns across Europe and the Americas. He rose through the ranks of the Spanish army and was appointed governor of Spanish Louisiana in 1777. From this strategic position in New Orleans, Gálvez became a key figure in Spain's efforts to challenge British power in North America during a time of global conflict.

## CAREER

During the American Revolutionary War, Gálvez led Spanish military operations along the Gulf Coast, securing key victories against British forces in Baton Rouge, Mobile, and Pensacola. His leadership expanded Spanish control in the region and disrupted British operations in the southern colonies. In addition to his battlefield success, he coordinated broader military strategy that strengthened Spain's position in North America.

## IMPACT

Bernardo de Gálvez's efforts helped shift the balance of power during the Revolutionary War by weakening British control along the Gulf Coast and limiting their ability to attack from the south. His leadership supported the broader American fight for independence and contributed to the eventual defeat of British forces. In recognition of his contributions, he was later named an honorary citizen of the United States, cementing his lasting legacy in American history while also bringing attention to the complexities of the era.

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