

The Caribbean and Latin America: Revolution and Independence

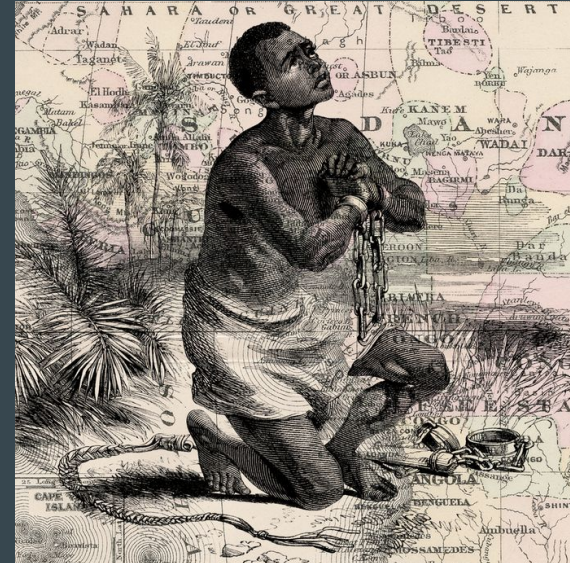
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The Haitian Revolution, 1791-1804

Racial Equality Pre-Revolution

- The Haitian Revolution took place in Saint Domingue
- The Haitian Revolution made ideas of racial equality impossible to ignore
- Before the revolution, social/legal divisions based on race.
- Whites were the dominant group in society (pop.: 40,000)
 - Divided by class
 - Equal in legal privileges
- Free non-whites (*gens de couleur*, pop.: 30,000)
- Slaves were the most populous group (pop.: 500,000)

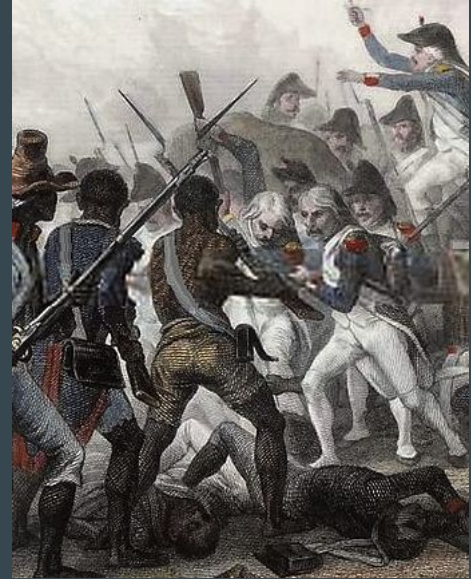


The Start of the Revolution

- The French Revolution inspired the beginning of the Haitian Revolution
- Gens de couleur granted political rights (1790)
- The whites defied this by executing leaders of armed demonstration (1791)
- This sparked a series of revolts and riots by gens de couleur and slaves
 - Goal: rid the the colony of slavery and all whites
- Slaves eventually perfected use of guerilla warfare
- 6,000 French troops dispatched to Saint Domingue (1792)

➡ civil war

- French commissioner abolished slavery (1793)



Toussaint L'Ouverture

- Restore order, enforce rights of gens de couleur (1792, 6K French troops to Saint Domingue)
- Fighting intensified, (French Commissioner) led to abolishment of slavery (1793)
- Establish control, strong leader emerged, organized against invasions (French)
- Arrival of British, advantage of chaos (power of colonial armies)
 - Support (white plantations)
 - Key coastal areas-- Multiple armies (guerrilla tactics), war of attrition (small scale action over time) (1798)
- Negotiations of peace, support (Toussaint) exchange for promises
 - Trade continues, not to send revolutionary expeditions to British owned
- Blacks vs. gens de couleur (1800) --- (1801) Toussaint conquer eastern, Spanish part of island
- Constitution for country (1801)
 - Bid for independence (Napolean)



Pictured above: Toussaint L'Ouverture

Napoleonic War

- January 1802: Napoleon sent an expeditionary force to Saint Domingue to prevent it from breaking away from the French Empire
- Toussaint attempted negotiations with the French, but instead they arrested him and sent him to be imprisoned in France, where he died of malnutrition
- May 1803, the French resumed the Napoleonic war with Great Britain, which drained their resources to fight the Haitian revolutionaries
- November 1803 Napoleon decided to evacuate remaining French soldiers from Saint Domigue



Haiti

- January 1, 1804 - republic proclaimed
- Few whites, black people in power
- Jean-Jacques Dessalines (faithful lieutenant)
 - Ruthless military rule
 - Emperor of Haiti
- Massacre whites, return to plantation labour (economy)
 - Gens de couleur oversee plantations (Africans slaves again)
- Opposition and Assassination (1806)
- Gens de couleur replaced whites (dominant group)
 - Africans below
- Beacon of hope for Abolitionist in North America, and warning for creole in Spanish America.



Pictured above: Jean-Jacques Dessalines

The End