

# Haitian Revolution Overview

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**Spanish Colonists**

**1492-1697**

**French Encroachment**

**1750-1784**

**The French Revolution**

**1788—1790**

**Developing Slave Resistance**

**1790—1791**

**Haitian Revolution Commences**

**August–September 1791**

**The Revolution Gains Momentum**

**1791–1792**

**Changes in France and Saint-Domingue**

**1792–1796**

**Toussaint L'Ouverture Takes Control**

**1796–1801**

**Napoleon: The Empire Strikes Back**

**1801–1802**

**The Final Years of the Revolution**

**1802–1803**

**Haitian Independence**

**1804–1805**



# Spanish Rule 1492-1697



1492

1514

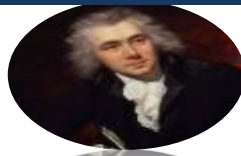
1522

1600s

1620s



# Spanish Rule 1492-1697



DEC 6: Columbus lands on Hispaniola, which the original Taino inhabitants call "Ayti," meaning "mountainous land."



1492

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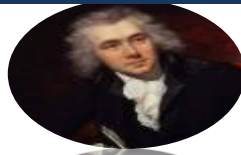
1522

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# Spanish Rule 1492-1697



1492

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1600s

1620s

Fray Bartholomew de las Casas goes to the colony to "stop the suffering of the Indians under Spanish exploitation." Bartholomew, shocked by the treatment of "this most lovable and tractable people," begins importing African slaves as an alternate labour force.





# Spanish Rule 1492-1697



Slaves revolt against Spanish rule for the first time. The revolt is the first of many as slaves fight colonial rule throughout Saint-Domingue's history using various forms of resistance.



1492

1514

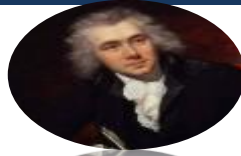
1522

1600s

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# Spanish Rule 1492-1697



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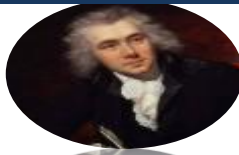
1620s



The first French settlers begin to occupy western Hispaniola. The first settlers are of a “dubious nature,” composed of former pirates and buccaneers.



# Spanish Rule 1492-1697



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1600s

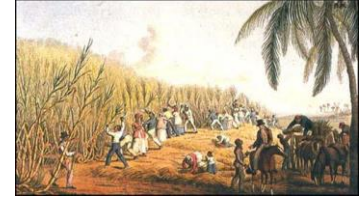
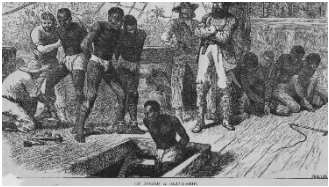
1620s



British and French settlers increasingly occupy the western third of Hispaniola, threatening Spain's claim on the island and its colonial empire. The three nations would battle each other up until the end of the Haitian Revolution for control of Saint-Domingue..



# Spanish Rule 1492-1697



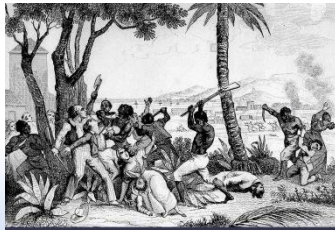
1670s

1679

1685

1697

1700s





# Spanish Rule 1492-1697



French settlers begin tobacco production, thus initiating the transition to a plantation-oriented economy. The shift to plantations necessitates a much larger labor force, and the colonists begin importing more slaves from Africa.



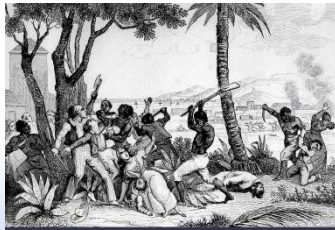
1670s

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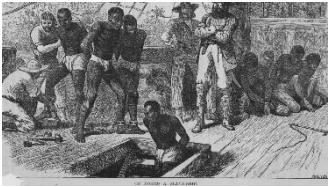
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1700s



# Spanish Rule 1492-1697



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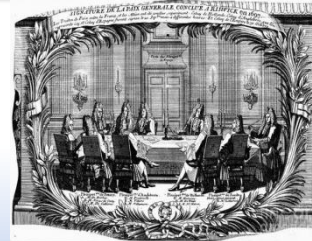
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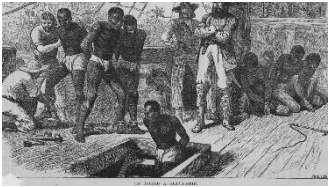
1697

1700s

From 1679 to 1704 there are four armed conspiracies organized by slaves. All are “aimed at the massacre and annihilation of their white masters.” The rebellions, quickly suppressed, demonstrate the slaves’ continual unrest and resistance.



# Spanish Rule 1492-1697



Slaves revolt against Spanish rule for the first time. The revolt is the first of many as slaves fight colonial rule throughout Saint-Domingue's history using various forms of resistance. [Code Noir is introduced \(amelioration behaviour pattern\)](#)



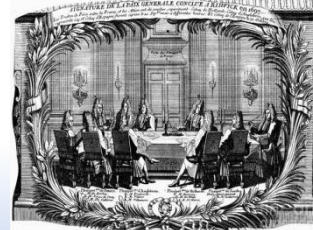
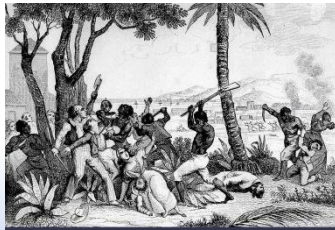
1670s

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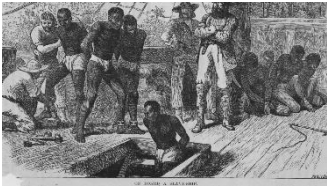
1697

1700s





# Spanish Rule 1492-1697



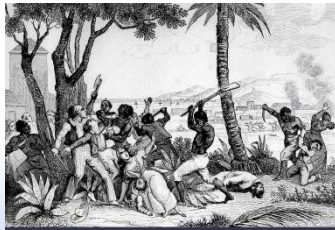
1670s

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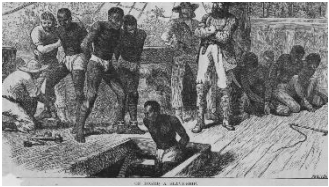


SEP 20: The Treaty of Ryswick: Spain recognizes France's presence on Hispaniola and cedes the western third of the island. The French call their new territory Saint-Domingue and the Spanish call their territory Santo Domingo. Saint-Domingue, known as the "Pearl of the Antilles,"





# Spanish Rule 1492-1697



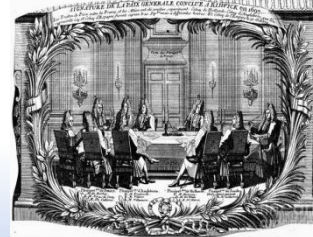
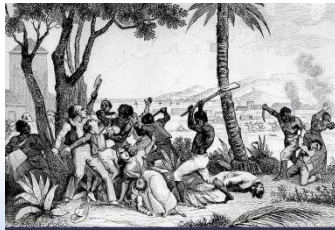
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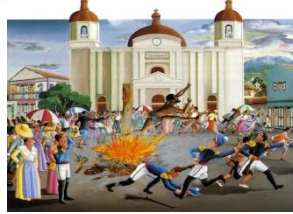
1700s



Large-scale, labor-intensive sugar production begins, creating a pressing need for a larger labor force. Saint-Domingue begins importing 2,000 slaves a year to meet the colonists' needs.



# French Rule and Tensions in the Colony - 1750-1784



1750s

1757

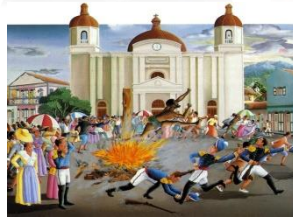
1758



# French Rule and Tensions in the Colony - 1750-1784



Free blacks and mulattoes begin to amass wealth and power. Many acquire plantations, especially coffee plantations in the West and the South.



1750s

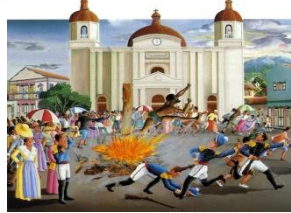
1757

1758

These men are beginning to fill the continually increasing amongst the whites, with fortunes often greater than those of the whites . . .



# French Rule and Tensions in the Colony - 1750-1784



1750s

1757

1758

Makandal – a maroon leader  
- conspires to poison all the  
whites in the North in a plot  
intended to spread to “all  
corners of the colony.”  
Female slave betrays the  
rebel leader,.





# French Rule and Tensions in the Colony - 1750-1784



MARCH: Makandal executed. Colonists burn Makandal at the stake in the middle of the square in Le Cap. Despite witnessing his death, many slaves insist in Makandal's immortality and he becomes a major inspirational figure for the slaves during the revolution.

1750s

1757

1758



# French Rule and Tensions in the Colony - 1750-1784



1771

1773

1776

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1784



## French Rule and Tensions in the Colony - 1750-1784



**MAY:** Louis XV instructs Administrators, to issue new restrictions against blacks and mulattoes. Aka **Code Noir** of 1685 strips mulattoes of many of their freedoms and privileges in the colony.



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# 1776

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1784



# French Rule and Tensions in the Colony - 1750-1784



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1784

Over 800,000 African slaves are brought to Saint-Domingue from 1680 to 1776. Over a third of them die within their first few years in the colony. Slaves imported are primarily from the kingdoms of the Congo and Angola. The Atlantic slave trade expands and some slaves are brought Mozambique.





# French Rule and Tensions in the Colony - 1750-1784



The US declares independence from England. Declaration of Independence influence the thinking of slaves in Saint-Domingue ...



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Adam Smith writes that Saint-Domingue is "the most important of the sugar colonies of the West Indies."



## French Rule and Tensions in the Colony - 1750-1784



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1784



France and Spain sign the Treaty of Aranjuez which officially recognizes French Saint-Domingue on the western third of Hispaniola.



# French Rule and Tensions in the Colony - 1750-1784



France re-imposes the **Code Noir** from 1685 due to planter abuses of slaves. Code restricts punishments and establishes minimal controls over the whites.

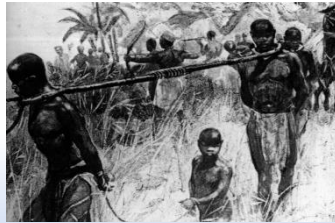
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Note: Brits copied this idea in 1790's then 1823 when considering gradual abolition. At this time the French do not have a trade as large as the English so it makes sense to encourage births to keep down costs...



# The French Revolution Begins 1788—1790



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# The French Revolution Begins 1788—1790



**JUNE:** The eve of the French Revolution. The Third Estate assembles in the tennis court at Versailles to write a new constitution and declares itself “the nation, the true representatives of the people,.



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Mulattoes and free blacks pursue representation and equal rights as free persons and property owners, but are blocked by white colonists. In the National Assembly, absentee planters prevent the reemergence of the “mulatto question” to avoid a debate that could grant these rights.



# The French Revolution Begins 1788—1790



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Slaves in Martinique revolt, partly due to the influence of the French Revolution. Saint-Domingue is increasingly unstable as well: at the end of the year the colony experiences a devastating drought and marronage increases as slaves abandon their plantations



# The French Revolution Begins 1788—1790



**JUNE 17:** The Third Estate proclaims itself the National Assembly in France and votes to seat six delegates from Saint-Domingue.



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# The French Revolution Begins 1788—1790



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**AUG 26:** The Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizens is adopted by the National Assembly. The Declaration's articles include:  
Men are born and remain free and equal in rights. Social distinctions may be founded only upon the general good.





# The French Revolution Begins 1788—1790



SEPT 26: Le Cap is burned to the ground by rebelling slaves.

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# The French Revolution Begins 1788—1790



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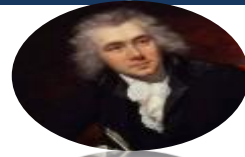
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# The French Revolution Begins 1788—1790



**OCT 5:** Louis XVI assents to the Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizens, saying that the rights are “granted to all men by natural justice.”



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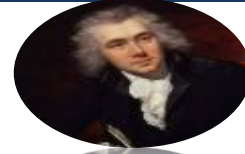
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# The French Revolution Begins 1788—1790



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OCT: 12 The French National Assembly accepts a petition of rights for “free citizens of color” from Saint-Domingue.





# The French Revolution Begins 1788—1790



OCT: In Saint-Domingue the Colonial Assembly forms to combat actions the French National Assembly has taken on behalf of free blacks and mulattoes.



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# The French Revolution Begins 1788—1790



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**MARCH 8:** A new decree in France grants full legislative powers to the Colonial Assembly, giving the colony almost complete autonomy. The decree sidesteps the mulatto issue, leaving it to the planters to interpret and declares that anyone attempting to undermine or to incite agitation against the interests of the colonists is guilty of crime against the nation.

# The French Revolution Begins 1788—1790



**MAY:** News of the March 8 decree reaches Saint-Domingue. The Colonial Assembly in Saint Marc begins issuing radical decrees and reforms, pushing the colony further toward autonomy from France and creating conflict between the colony's royalists and patriots.

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# Slave Resistance Gains Momentum 1790—1791



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# The French Revolution Begins 1788—1790



**MAY 28:** The Colonial Assembly declares that its laws, like those made by the National Assembly in France, are subject only to the sanction of the king; that any National Assembly law regarding colonial affairs are subject to colonial veto;



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# The French Revolution Begins 1788—1790



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**OCT 12:** The French National Assembly dissolves the Colonial Assembly at Saint Marc. The governor of Saint-Domingue amasses troops to dissolve it by force. The colony is now divided between royalists and patriots; both groups court mulattoes' support.



# The French Revolution Begins 1788—1790



**OCT 21-28: The Ogé Rebellion:** a revolt against the white colonial authorities in Saint-Domingue. Ogé manages to escape to England, where he is secretly helped by abolitionists. From there he sails to the United States, where he buys weaponry before arriving in Saint-Domingue on October 21.



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# The French Revolution Begins 1788—1790



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**MARCH 9:** Ogé is extradited from Spanish territory and executed at Le Cap. He is forced, cords hanging from his necks, to repent for his crimes on bended knee before being tied to a wheel and killed on a scaffold. His head is cut off and displayed on a stake. Two days later 21 of his supporters and troops are sentenced to death. The next month 13 more are sentenced to the galleys for life.





# The French Revolution Begins 1788—1790



**APRIL:** General insurrection breaks out amongst the 10,000 to 15,000 slaves in the Cul-de-Sac plain. Slaves mobilize around Mirebalais, Arcahaye, Petite-Rivière, Verettes, and Saint Marc until nearly half the province is in armed rebellion. Blacks throughout the colony become increasingly restless.

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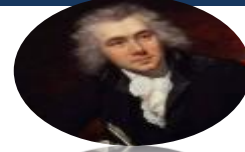
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# Haitian Revolution Begins August–September 1791



Many free blacks found work as barbers.



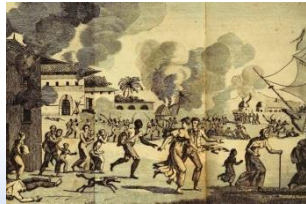
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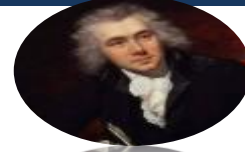
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# Haitian Revolution Begins August–September 1791



**APRIL:** Insurrection breaks out amongst the 10,000 to 15,000 slaves in the Cul-de-Sac plain.

**MAY 15:** The debate on mulatto and free black rights resumes in heated discussions in France.



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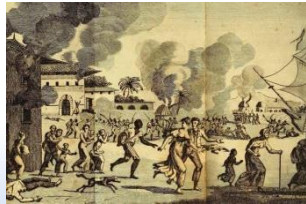
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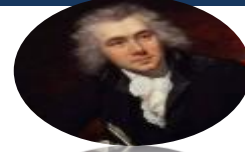
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The National Assembly responds by declaring a limited number of free-born persons of color eligible to be seated in future assemblies, with the rights of voting citizens. Only applicable to persons born of free parents and “possessing the requisite qualifications” – colonists are furious.





# Haitian Revolution Begins August–September 1791



Many free slaves found work as barbers.

**MAY:** Slaves in the Cul-de-Sac plain are disarmed and returned to their plantations. In the West, rebels surrender in exchange for their leaders' freedom. In the South, slaves refuse to back down and continue to agitate for the freedom.



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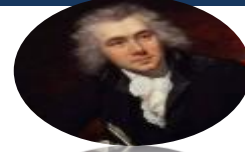
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At this point the slaves are not fighting for general emancipation. Instead, they are demanding freedom for their leaders, additional free days during the week, and abolition of the whip as punishment. However, colonists refuse to negotiate at all. Meanwhile the slave forces continue to grow, reaching nearly 4,000 by the end of July..





# Haitian Revolution Begins August–September 1791



Many free Blacks found work as barbers.

**SUMMER:** Black and mulatto leaders increase their organization efforts. Mulattoes agitate in the South for their rights separate from the efforts of the slaves. At the same time the slaves begin to form their independent movement for emancipation.



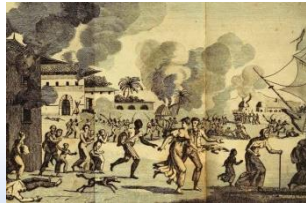
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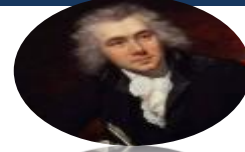
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# Haitian Revolution Begins August–September 1791



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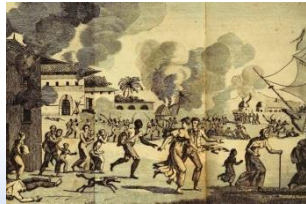
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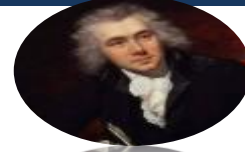
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**JUNE:** Slaves in the Cul-de-Sac plain begin abandoning their plantations including: those from the Fortin-Bellantien plantation near Croix-des-Bouquets. The slaves begin holding frequent gatherings in the woods to plot their revolution. When the planters attempt to break up the meetings, the slaves resist

# Haitian Revolution Begins August–September 1791



Many free Blacks found work as barbers.



**JULY:** Colonists revolt against the May 15 decree issued by France. Different factions from the white community all unite to subvert the decree and reestablish the legislative powers of the colony.

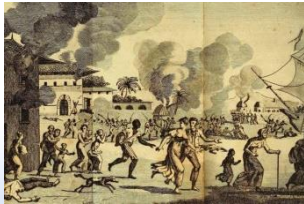
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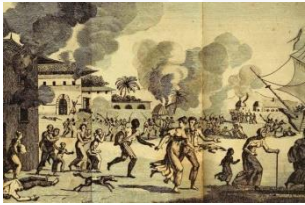
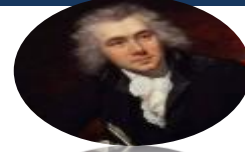
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# Haitian Revolution Begins August–September 1791



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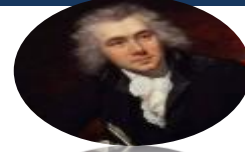
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# Haitian Revolution Begins August–September 1791



**JULY 29:** Violence breaks out in Les Cayes after failed negotiations between colonists and rebel slaves. 2,000 slaves attack a plantation being used as a military camp by the planters. In response, the colonists charge Governor Blanchelande with disarming the slaves and suppressing the insurrection.



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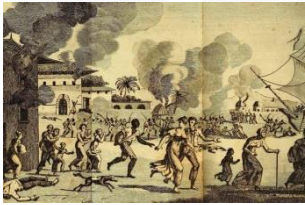
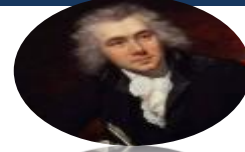
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# Haitian Revolution Begins August–September 1791



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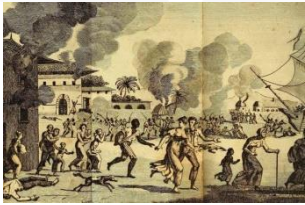
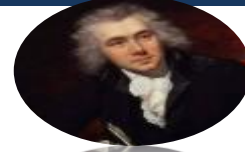
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AUG 4:: Mulattoes respond in the South with armed rebellion Free Black slaves join them.

Blanchelande's troops are attacked by slaves. The rebels descend on Port-Saltu. The slaves succeed in destroying the coordination of the whites' Rebels in the west seize Port-au-Prince capital, before they are overcome by the French troops.



# Haitian Revolution Begins August–September 1791



AUG 8: Blanchelande returns to Les Cayes with his dilapidated army. Blanchelande replies that the planters would have been better off negotiating with the slaves and granting their initial demands.



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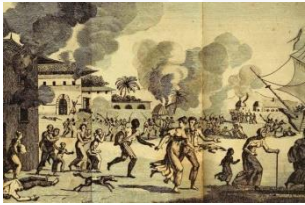
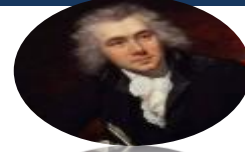
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# Haitian Revolution Begins August–September 1791



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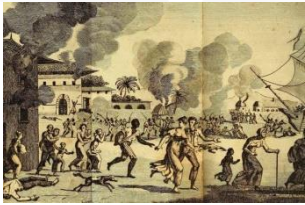
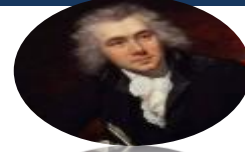


AUG 10: Blanchelande goes to Le Cap, fleeing angry colonists in Les Cayes. He is later deported to France. Despite their defeat, Les Cayes planters still refuse to negotiate with slave leaders.





# Haitian Revolution Begins August–September 1791



**AUG 10:** The Ogé Rebellion: A revolt against the white colonial authorities in Saint-Domingue. The colonists manage to disband Ogé's army by outnumbering the rebels. Ogé escapes and goes into hiding in the eastern part of the island in Spanish Santo Domingo.

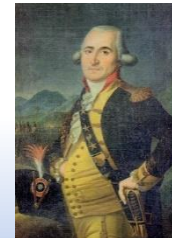
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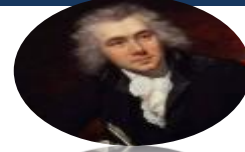
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# Haitian Revolution Begins August–September 1791



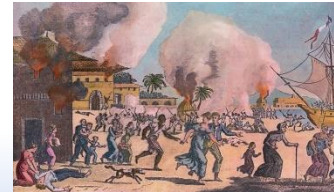
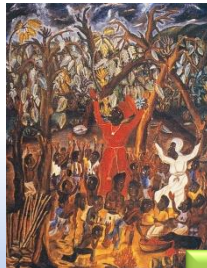
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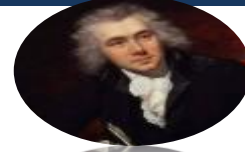
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# Haitian Revolution Begins August–September 1791



**AUG 14:** The Haitian Revolution begins with the Bois Caiman ceremony. Ready to carry out their plans, the slaves meet in Morne-Rouge to make final preparations and to give instructions...



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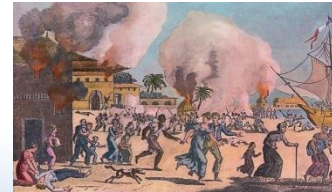
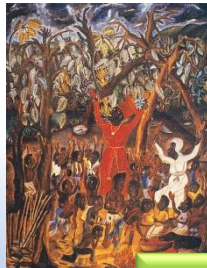
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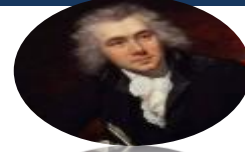
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**AUG 16:** Slaves in the Limbé district stray from the leaders' plan, apparently due to a misunderstanding, and are caught setting fire to an estate. During their interrogation they reveal the conspiracy and the names of the leaders.  
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# Haitian Revolution Begins August–September 1791



**AUG 22:** The slaves launch their insurrection in the North. That night Boukman and his forces march throughout the region, taking prisoners and killing whites...



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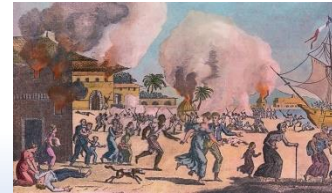
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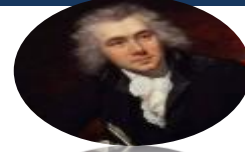
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**AUG 23:** The slaves march to the Limbé district, adding to their forces. The group moves from plantation to plantation, seizing control and establishing military camps. Along the way more slaves join the rebellion, and those who don't are cut down mercilessly.





# Haitian Revolution Begins August–September 1791



AUG 25: The rebels march to Le Cap, against the whites' cannons and guns, meeting armed resistance for the first time. Though the whites manage to drive the slaves back, the rebels divide up and regroup, returning by two different routes to successfully seize the city ...



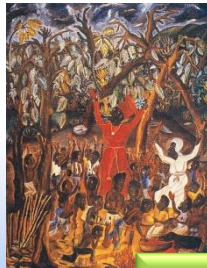
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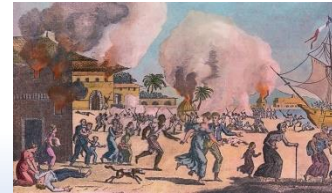
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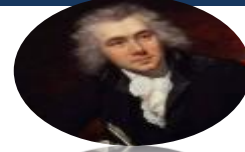
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The slave forces reach nearly 15,000. Slaves join because they "had deserted their plantations, by will or by force, or by the sheer thrust and compulsion of events purposefully set in motion by the activities of a revolutionary core."



# Haitian Revolution Begins August–September 1791



SEP 8:

The revolution spreads, becoming more militant and organized. On the plantations it takes less incite riots.



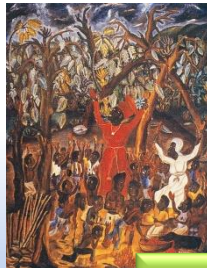
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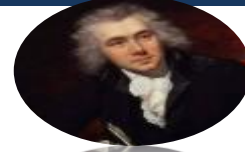
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SEP MID: Slaves continue to make demands, but with the entire colonial system at stake, the planters can't concede...



# Haitian Revolution Begins August–September 1791



**SEP 21:** The Colonial Assembly at Saint Marc recognizes the May 15 decree and grants citizenship to mulattoes and free blacks. White planters object violently and tensions in the colony rise.

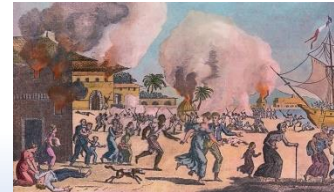
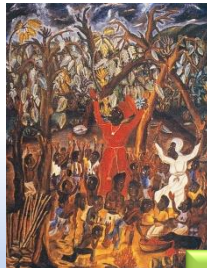
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# The Revolution Gathers Momentum

1791–1792



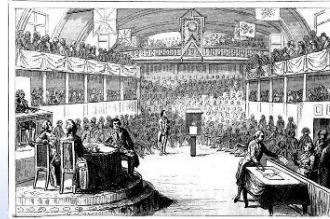
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# The Revolution Gathers Momentum

## 1791–1792



**SEPT 24:** The National Assembly in France revokes the May 15 decree, granting limited rights to free blacks and mulattoes. 3 commissioners sent to restore order in Saint-Domingue.



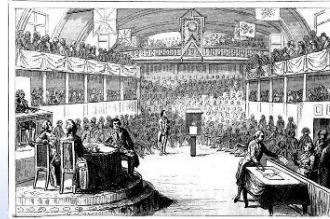
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# The Revolution Gathers Momentum

## 1791–1792



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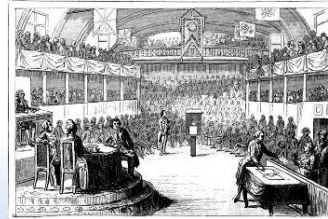
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SEPT 24: Mulattoes respond in the South with armed rebellion. Free Black slaves join them.

Rebels in the west seize Port-au-Prince capital, before they are overcome by the French troops.



# The Revolution Gathers Momentum

## 1791–1792



SEPT 26: Le Cap is burned to the ground by rebelling slaves.



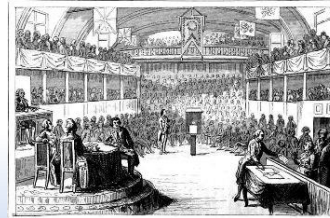
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# The Revolution Gathers Momentum

## 1791–1792



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SEPT 28: The National Assembly in France issues a decree granting amnesty to all free persons in Saint Domingue charged with "acts of revolution." The slaves however are still intent on continuing warfare





# The Revolution Gathers Momentum

## 1791–1792



**OCT:** Port-au-Prince is burned to the ground during fighting between whites and mulattoes.

Toussaint L'Ouverture, joins the revolution

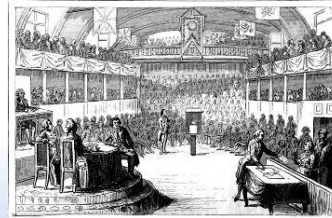
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# The Revolution Gathers Momentum

1791–1792



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# The Revolution Gathers Momentum

## 1791–1792



NOV: 80K / 170K slaves in the North Province, have joined the rebel forces.  
The 3 new civil commissioners arrive in Haiti



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# The Revolution Gathers Momentum

## 1791–1792



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**NOV:** Boukman is the first of the original leaders to die in battle. His head is cut off by colonists and exposed on a stake in Le Cap. The slave troops vow that they will continue fighting for freedom.





# The Revolution Gathers Momentum

## 1791–1792



**JAN 9:** Governor Blanchelande marches against the slaves encamped at Platons. The rebel army, retreats to the mountains. Women and children left behind are massacred.



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# The Revolution Gathers Momentum

## 1791–1792



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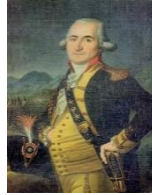


JAN 22-23: Slaves begin their attack to recapture the Ouinam in the northeast of Saint-Domingue, attacking Le Cap to secure ammunition and replenish their supplies.



# The Revolution Gathers Momentum

## 1791–1792



**APRIL 4:** Louis XVI affirms the Jacobin decree, granting equal political rights to free blacks and mulattoes. A second commission is assembled, led by Léger Félicité Sonthonax, to enforce the ruling.

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# The Revolution Gathers Momentum

1791–1792



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# The Revolution Gathers Momentum

## 1791–1792



**JUNE 20** - Blacks and mulattoes in the South ally with the British and begin an open rebellion. Le Cap, civil commissioners Blanchelande and Sonthonax flee for protection as rebels attack the city.



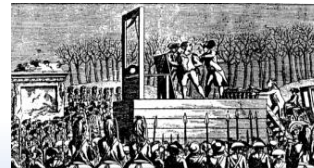
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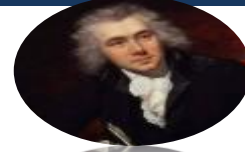
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# France and Saint-Domingue in 'Crisis'

## 1792–1796



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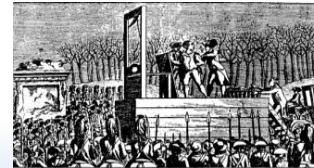
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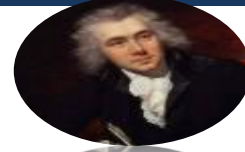
JUNE 21 -

Over 10,000 slaves in Le Cap in open revolt. French colonists need the slaves' support to keep. Commissioners guarantee freedom and French citizenship to all slaves who join them to defend France from foreign and domestic enemies.



# France and Saint-Domingue in 'Crisis'

## 1792–1796



SEPT 17: Civil commissioner Étienne Polverel arrives from France and the slaves offer to negotiate with the colonists once more. Polverel refuses to meet their demands  
Polverel, is forced to attack the slaves in response to the pressure from the colonists



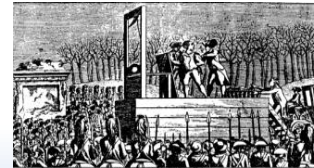
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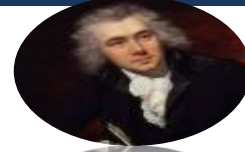
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# France and Saint-Domingue in 'Crisis'

## 1792–1796



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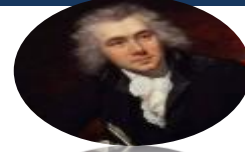
**SEPT 21:** In France, The Republic is declared, abolishing the monarchy. In January of the following year Louis XVI is beheaded.





# France and Saint-Domingue in 'Crisis'

## 1792–1796



OCT 21: Vicomte de Rochambeau is appointed Governor General of Saint-Domingue.

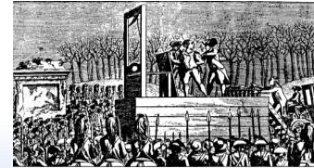
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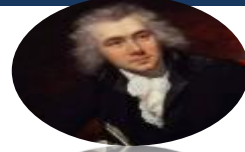
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# France and Saint-Domingue in 'Crisis'

1792–1796



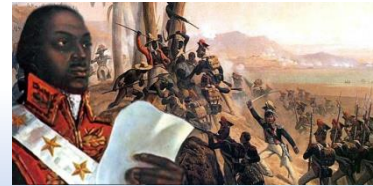
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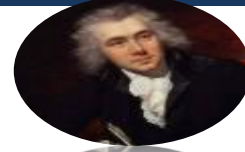
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# France and Saint-Domingue in 'Crisis'

## 1792–1796



**FEB:** Rebel leaders, including Toussaint L'Ouverture, join Spanish forces to fight against the French. France declares war on England and Holland



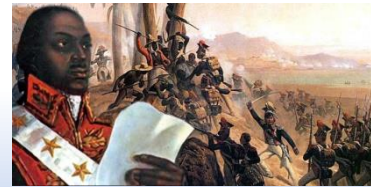
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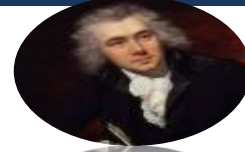
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# France and Saint-Domingue in 'Crisis'

## 1792–1796



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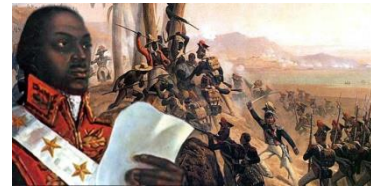
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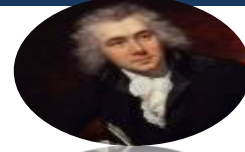
MAR 10–13: The Reign of Terror sweeps through France after royalist uprisings and military reverses. Tens of thousands of opponents of the Revolution are executed along with common criminals.





# France and Saint-Domingue in 'Crisis'

## 1792–1796



JUNE 93: L'Ouverture offers to aid General Laveaux, Chief Commander of the republican forces in the North. L'Ouverture offers 5,000-6,000 troops in exchange for full amnesty and emancipation. Laveaux refuses and L'Ouverture continues to aid the Spanish for another full year.



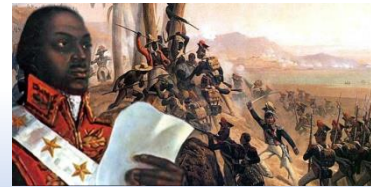
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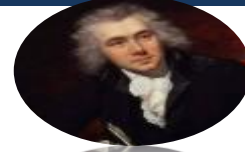
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# France and Saint-Domingue in 'Crisis'

## 1792–1796



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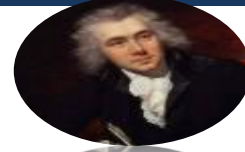
JUNE 20: Le Cap is again consumed by flames and deserted by white residents.

The French continue to court the support of the rebel troops. A new decree is issued proclaiming that any slave wishing to join republican army will be granted his freedom.



# France and Saint-Domingue in 'Crisis'

## 1792–1796



**AUGUST 27:** Polverel declares that the certain slaves are now free, specifically those on sequestered plantations in the West, those belonging to émigré planters and deportees, insurgent maroons, and Black Jacobins. Sonthonax is planning more radical action in the North

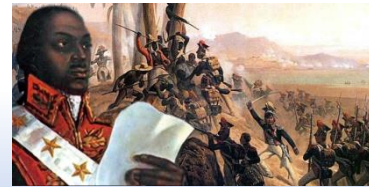
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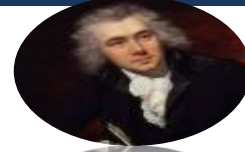
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# France and Saint-Domingue in 'Crisis'

1792–1796



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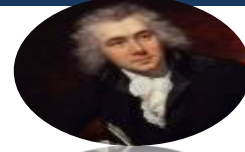
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# France and Saint-Domingue in 'Crisis'

## 1792–1796



**AUG 21:** The first anniversary of the French Republic. Civil commissioner Polverel, gives the slaves on his plantation their freedom. Planters in the West to follow, pressured by Polverel.



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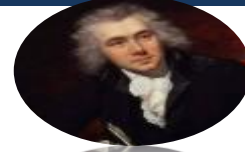
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# France and Saint-Domingue in 'Crisis'

## 1792–1796



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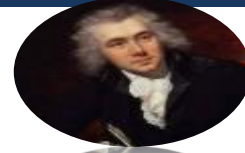
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AUG 29: Sonthonax decrees emancipation in the North. Slaves daily lives change little. Toussaint L'Ouverture makes his historic speech to rally the blacks, signifying that the revolution lives on.



# France and Saint-Domingue in 'Crisis'

## 1792–1796



SEP 20: British troops sever ties between the North and South, isolating the provinces from each other as the Europeans, planters and rebels all fight for control. The British intend to restore order, make Saint-Domingue a British colony, and reinstate slavery.



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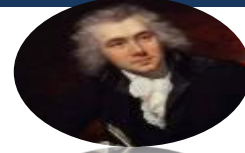


SEP: 93-95: A series of national reforms sweep through France from September 1793 through October 1795. The measures include the abolition of colonial slavery, economic measures to aid the poor, and support for public education



# France and Saint-Domingue in 'Crisis'

## 1792–1796



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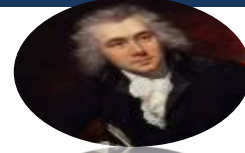
SPRING: France has lost control of nearly the entire colony. The British and Spanish control most of the North, Môle St. Nicolas in the West, and Jérémie and Grand-Anse in the South – help by Blacks and Mulattoes





# France and Saint-Domingue in 'Crisis'

## 1792–1796



April-May: The civil commissioners from France are forced to depart. André Rigaud, consolidates the colony's authority in the South. Relative peace ensues

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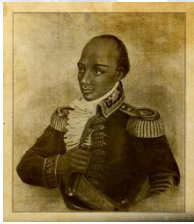
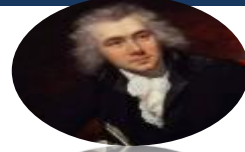
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# France and Saint-Domingue in 'Crisis'

1792–1796



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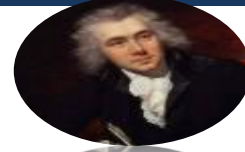
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# France and Saint-Domingue in 'Crisis'

## 1792–1796



**MAY:** L'Ouverture abandons the Spanish army in the east and joins with the French forces after the Spanish refuse to take steps to end slavery. His chief officers are Jean-Jacques Dessalines, Henri Christophe, and his nephew Moïse



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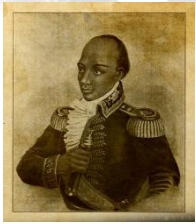
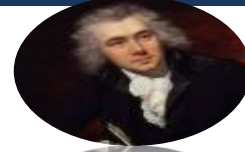
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# France and Saint-Domingue in 'Crisis'

## 1792–1796



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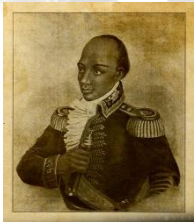
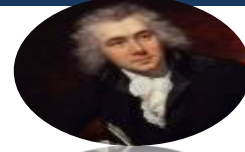
**JUNE:** The British capture Port-au-Prince led by General Thomas Maitland. British troops occupy most major seaports in the west and south. Spanish troops, along with a number of former slaves, occupy much of the western provinces.





# France and Saint-Domingue in 'Crisis'

## 1792–1796



**JUNE 25:** The French legislature recalls commissioners Polverel and Sonthonax. Sonthonax later is tried and triumphantly acquitted of the charges of treason brought against him by colonists.



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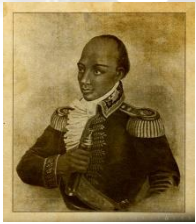
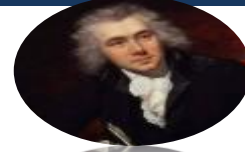
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# France and Saint-Domingue in 'Crisis'

## 1792–1796



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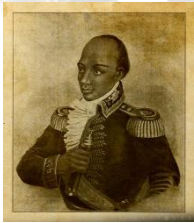
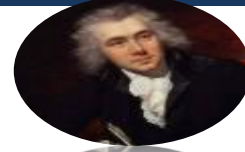
**JUNE:** After five months of fighting, L'Ouverture takes control of Mirebelais, northeast of Port-au-Prince in the center of the colony.

This a result of a) various maroon bands had joined L'Ouverture's forces and b) L'Ouverture and Rigaud along with other military leaders launching simultaneous attacks against the British.



# France and Saint-Domingue in 'Crisis'

## 1792–1796



JULY 22: France and Spain sign a peace treaty ceding Saint Domingue to France after months of battle. The agreement is ratified the following year in the Treaty of Basel

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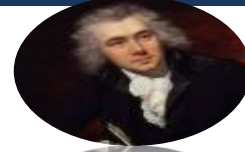
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# France and Saint-Domingue in 'Crisis'

1792–1796



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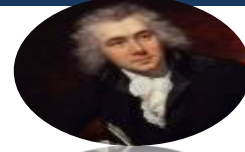
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# France and Saint-Domingue in 'Crisis'

## 1792–1796



**OCTOBER:** The National Convention in France dissolves and the Directory is established. 5 new civil commissioners sent to Saint-Domingue "to keep Saint Domingue 'both French and free,' and to restore its economic prosperity based emancipation.



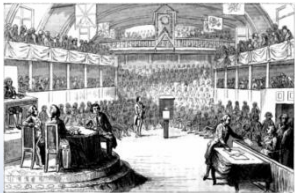
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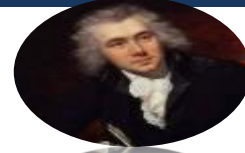
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# France and Saint-Domingue in 'Crisis'

## 1792–1796



**MARCH 20:** L'Ouverture is the strongest leader in the colony when Governor General Laveaux returns to Le Cap from Port-de-Paix. Laveaux attempts to reins in the mulattoes, who he believes have been abusing their new rights, and frees blacks from the prisons.



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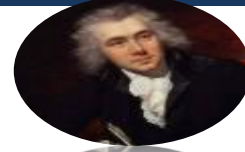


Mulattoes, threatened by his new policies and association with L'Ouverture, charge Laveaux with tyranny and begin mobilizing forces against him. The situation climaxes when a group of mulattoes arrest Laveaux and throw him in prison, where he is kept until L'Ouverture orders his release.



# France and Saint-Domingue in 'Crisis'

## 1792–1796



**JUNE:** Final withdrawal of Spanish forces from Hispaniola per the peace treaty signed by France and Spain in July 1795.

**MAY 11:** Three new civil commissioners from France, including Sonthonax, arrive in Saint-Domingue.



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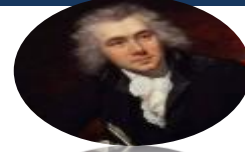
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# France and Saint-Domingue in 'Crisis'

## 1792–1796



**JULY 18:** Rochambeau is dismissed as Governor General after clashing with Sonthonax and returns to France. Rigaud replaces him.

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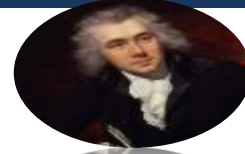
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# France and Saint-Domingue in 'Crisis'

## 1792–1796



OCT : Laveaux sails to France as deputy while Sonthonax reluctantly stays in Saint-Domingue to perform his duties as civil commissioner. He plans to depart the colony in eighteen months when his assignment ends.

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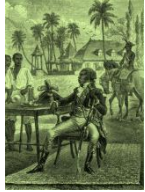
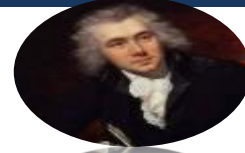


OCT: Power struggles develop in the face of L'Ouverture's growing power. To solidify his position and strengthen his ties, Sonthonax appoints L'Ouverture Commander-in-Chief of the army.



# France and Saint-Domingue in 'Crisis'

1792–1796



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# Toussaint L'Ouverture the Great

## 1796–1801



**AUG:** Primary electoral assemblies are formed to elect colonial representatives to the legislative body in France. The outcome, facilitated by L'Ouverture, results in positions for Laveaux and Sonthonax as deputies to the French legislature.



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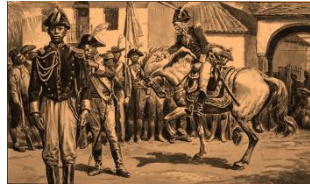
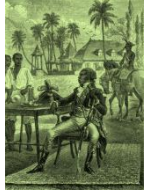
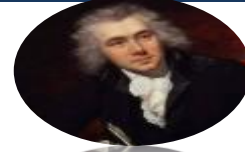
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# Toussaint L'Ouverture the Great

## 1796–1801



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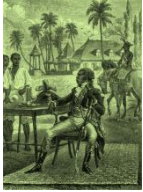
OCT: Power struggles. To solidify his position and strengthen his ties, Sonthonax appoints L'Ouverture Commander-in-Chief of the army. Laveaux sails to France as deputy while Sonthonax reluctantly stays in Saint-Domingue to perform his duties as civil commissioner. He plans to depart the colony in eighteen months when his assignment ends.





# Toussaint L'Ouverture the Great

## 1796–1801



AUG 25: L'Ouverture forces Sonthonax to return to France prematurely. L'Ouverture misjudges, however, and instead of gaining favor abroad his audacity threatens the French and he is quickly seen as a major threat.



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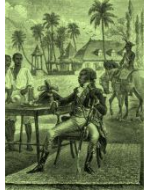
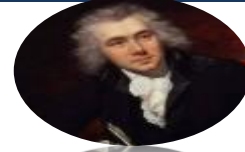
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# Toussaint L'Ouverture the Great

## 1796–1801



**MARCH:** British surrender and negotiate peace with L'Ouverture. L'Ouverture grants full amnesty to French citizens who didn't fight with the British, all black troops enrolled in the British army, and to the émigrés who had abandoned the British prior to the opening of negotiations.

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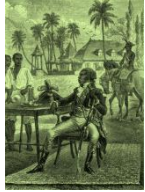
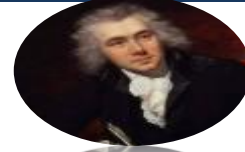


**WINTER:** L'Ouverture's army conquers most of British-occupied Saint-Domingue in the West in 15 months. In the South, Rigaud's army conquers the British at Jérémie.



# Toussaint L'Ouverture the Great

## 1796–1801



**MARCH:** France sends another official agent to Saint-Domingue upon the return of Sonthonax. Commissioner Hédouville arrives in Le Cap. His mission, to - when opportunity arises -restore white supremacy by sewing seeds of discord among people of colour.

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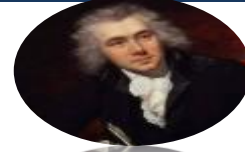
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# Toussaint L'Ouverture the Great

## 1796–1801



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# Toussaint L'Ouverture the Great

## 1796–1801



JUN 13: L'Ouverture signs a secret alliance treaty with England and the United States.



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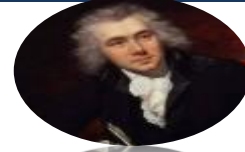
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# Toussaint L'Ouverture the Great

## 1796–1801



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**OCT** : British forces evacuate Saint-Domingue as part of an agreement not to interfere with trade with France's colonies. The French economy, depressed during its wars against Spain and England, reopens to colonial imports. At the same time merchant bourgeoisie lobby to reinstate the slave trade.



# Toussaint L'Ouverture the Great

## 1796–1801



OCT 23: Hédouville tries to have Moïse arrested. Moïse, "the idol of the black workers" and L'Ouverture's nephew, manages to escape, issuing a call to arms to black workers throughout the plain. L'Ouverture orders Dessalines and his troops to march on Le Cap to arrest Hédouville.



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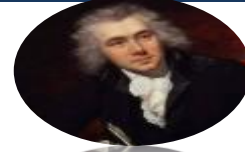
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# Toussaint L'Ouverture the Great

## 1796–1801



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Bonaparte's overthrows the Directory in France, destroying the democratic republic and its anti-slavery principles. He declares himself Consul-for-Life, restores the pre-Revolution status quo of white rule, and turns his attention to France's colonies.





# Toussaint L'Ouverture the Great

## 1796–1801



**JULY:** Civil war between L'Ouverture and Rigaud breaks out: Rigaud takes over command of Léogâne and Jacmel while L'Ouverture take over Petit-Goâve ...

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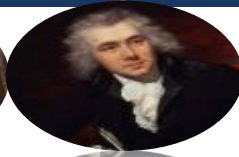
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# Toussaint L'Ouverture the Great

## 1796–1801



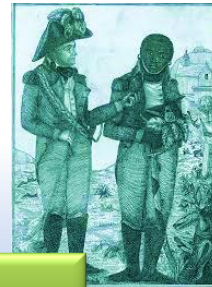
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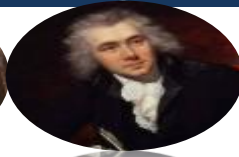
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# Toussaint L'Ouverture the Great

## 1796–1801



**APRIL:** The governor of Spanish Santo Domingo cedes control of his territory to L'Ouverture. To make his achievements permanent, L'Ouverture writes a new constitution for all of Hispaniola that abolishes slavery on the entire island.



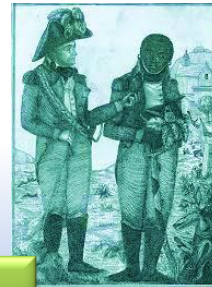
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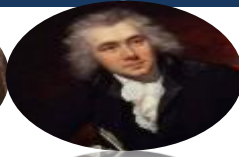
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# Toussaint L'Ouverture the Great

## 1796–1801



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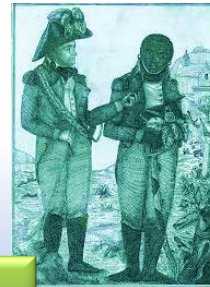
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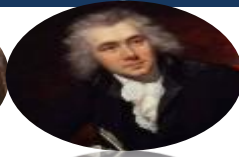
APRIL: L'Ouverture sends a military expedition into Spanish Santo Domingo to bring the territory under his rule. At the same time a mass uprising of armed black workers breaks out in the North in support of L'Ouverture...





# Toussaint L'Ouverture the Great

## 1796–1801



MAY: L'Ouverture, meanwhile,  
is focused on ending civil war  
in the South and disarming  
Rigaud and his army.



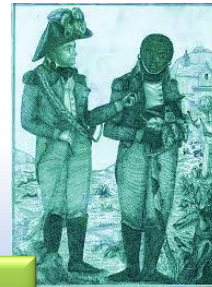
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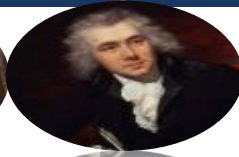
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# Toussaint L'Ouverture the Great

## 1796–1801



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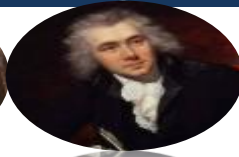


MAY: Bonaparte sends a new commission to Saint-Domingue to confirm L'Ouverture's power in the colony and instate France's most recent constitution. The new constitution proclaims that French colonies are to be governed by a set of "special laws". Nothing in there about emancipation. It invokes L'Ouverture's suspicion.



# Toussaint L'Ouverture the Great

## 1796–1801



**JUL 25:** Dessalines defeats Rigaud with the help of American vessels at the Jacmel port. L'Ouverture exiles Rigaud to France and re-divides the areas of conflict. He grants general amnesty to every person who helped him fight Rigaud.

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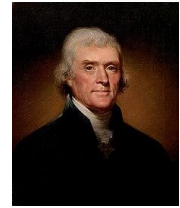
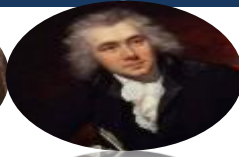
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# Toussaint L'Ouverture the Great

## 1796–1801



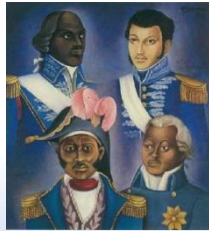
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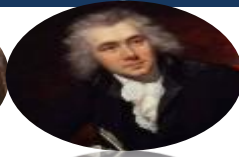
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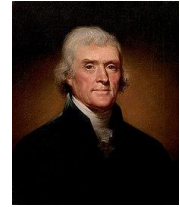


# Toussaint L'Ouverture the Great

## 1796–1801



AUG 30: L'Ouverture is Supreme Commander-in-Chief. he begins to impose a military dictatorship. He has an army of 20,000 men



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L'Ouverture enforces the traditional plantation system so that the colony's shaken economy can produce exports for France.  
L'Ouverture's imports Africans to increase the Saint-Domingue's labor force and buoy its economy.

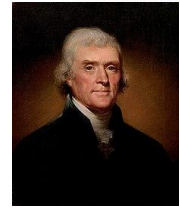


# Toussaint L'Ouverture the Great

## 1796–1801



JAN 28: The governor of Spanish Santo Domingo cedes control of his territory to L'Ouverture. To make his achievements permanent, L'Ouverture writes a new constitution for all of Hispaniola that abolishes slavery on the entire island.



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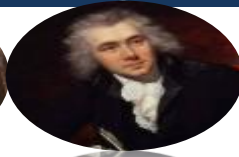
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L'Ouverture's achievements during his years in power include social reforms, structuring and organizing a new government, establishing courts of justice and building public schools.

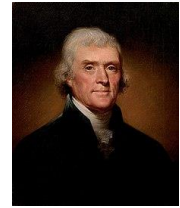


# Toussaint L'Ouverture the Great

## 1796–1801



JUL 8: L'Ouverture is declared Governor General for life. The constitution, which is sent to France, sanctions the structures L'Ouverture has already set in place, and emphasizes the bourgeois principles of the French Revolution.



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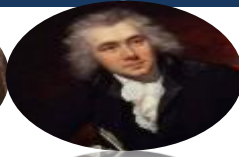
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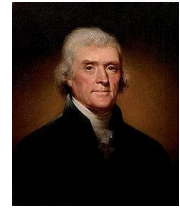


# Toussaint L'Ouverture the Great

## 1796–1801



**JUL 8:** General Victor-Emmanuel Leclerc, Bonaparte's brother-in-law, is sent to Saint-Domingue to re-impose slavery and the Secret Law.



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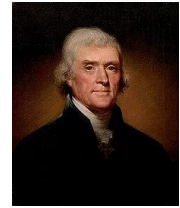
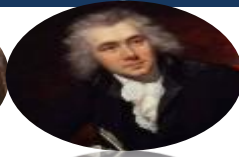
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# Toussaint L'Ouverture the Great

## 1796–1801



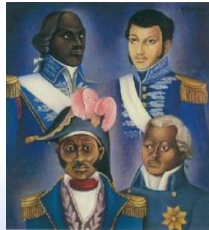
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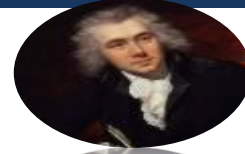


JULY 19: In the United States, President Thomas Jefferson reassures the French that he opposes independence in Saint-Domingue and pledges to support Napoleon's agenda.



# Napoleon: The Empire Strikes Back

1801–1802



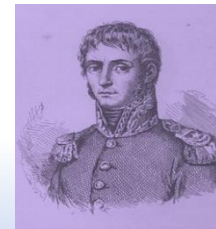
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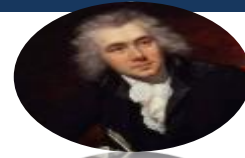
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# Napoleon: The Empire Strikes Back

## 1801–1802



OCT: A massive uprising against L'Ouverture's regime breaks out in the North and Moïse is rumored to be involved. In Limbé, west of Le Cap, 250 whites are killed and rebels occupy Gonaïves with the goal of killing whites, uniting mulattoes and blacks...



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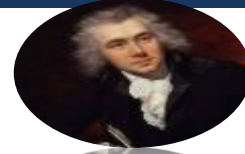
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OCT: L'Ouverture has Moïse arrested and shot. He brutally suppresses the uprising and 1,000 rebels are killed. He becomes completely isolated from whites, mulattoes, and blacks, his former base of support..



# Napoleon: The Empire Strikes Back

## 1801–1802



OCT 24 - 31: Leclerc sails from France for Saint-Domingue. He is Commander-in-Chief of France's largest expeditionary army ever with 20,000 European troops, who are called "the elite of the French army." Rochambeau is named second in command.



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Bonaparte's specific instructions

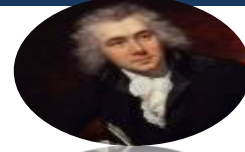
First stage, 15-20 days: Leclerc is to convince Saint-Domingue residents of France's good  
Second stage: wage war  
Third stage: disarm all reinstate slavery. captains to be deported.





# Napoleon: The Empire Strikes Back

## 1801–1802



FEB 4: General Christophe sets fire to Le Cap, burning it to the ground in anticipation of the European troops' arrival.



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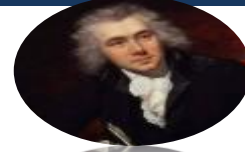
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# Napoleon: The Empire Strikes Back

## 1801–1802



In France, Bonaparte is undeterred, and from February 1802 to November 1803 sends 80,000 troops and 408 ships to reinforce Leclerc's troops, some of who have been in Saint-Domingue since 1792.



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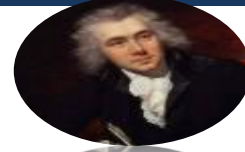


FEB 4: Leclerc enters Le Cap, which is now completely destroyed. He carries with him a letter from Napoleon Bonaparte requesting L'Ouverture's surrender..



# Napoleon: The Empire Strikes Back

## 1801–1802



**FEB 6:** Leclerc enters Le Cap, which is now completely destroyed. He carries with him a letter from Napoleon Bonaparte requesting L'Ouverture's surrender..

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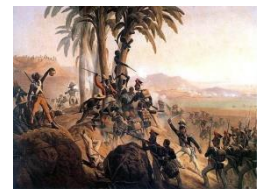
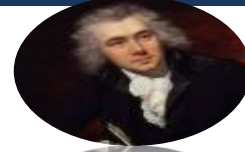
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# Napolean: The Empire Strikes Back

1801–1802



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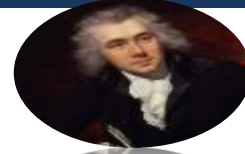
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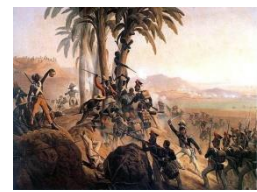


# Napoleon: The Empire Strikes Back

## 1801–1802



**FEB 6:** L'Ouverture hastily sends instructions to his leaders throughout the colony, warning that the French intend to restore slavery. All of his letters are intercepted and one by one his generals defect to fight for the French...



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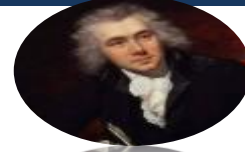
Dessalines and Christophe are trapped in the North. By mid-February nearly half of L'Ouverture's army is fighting under Leclerc, who gains entire control of the South.

L'Ouverture's only option is to hold out until the rainy season, several months away. Leclerc is forced to request an additional troops



# Napoleon: The Empire Strikes Back

## 1801–1802



MAR 24: The French suffer a major loss in the Battle of Crête-à-Pierrot when European troops attack a fort defended by Dessalines. Dessalines' forces are outnumbered, Undeterred, Dessalines urges his countrymen to fight for independence



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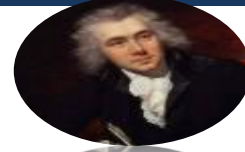
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Dessalines holds out against two attacks launched by Leclerc and then manages a "brilliantly maneuvered" evacuation of his troops through enemy lines ten times their own number. Leclerc's inability to defeat Dessalines and his resistance army signifies a major turning point in the war...



# Napolean: The Empire Strikes Back

## 1801–1802



MAR 25: France, England and Spain sign the Treaty of Amiens, achieving peace for 14 months during the Napoleonic wars. By this point France has gained back control of many of the colonies it had lost in recent years.



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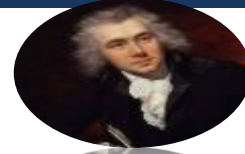
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# Napoleon: The Empire Strikes Back

## 1801–1802



MAR 26: A warrant is issued in the colony for the arrest and capture of L'Ouverture and Christophe. L'Ouverture tries once more to reach a settlement with the French, sending Christophe to confer with Leclerc in order to discover his intentions. Christophe deserts.



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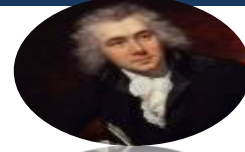
Leclerc makes an offer to L'Ouverture which would allow him to retire with his staff, retain his army ranks and functions, and retire to a place of his choosing. L'Ouverture, realizing that he can't survive another loss, accepts. As a result Dessalines is forced to submit as well, and reluctantly joins the French, breaking ties with L'Ouverture in the process.





# Napolean: The Empire Strikes Back

## 1801–1802



**APRIL 27:** Bonaparte approves a decree reestablishing slavery and the slave trade in Martinique, Tobago and Sainte-Lucie. Bonaparte insists that slavery won't be restored in Saint-Domingue and Guadeloupe ...

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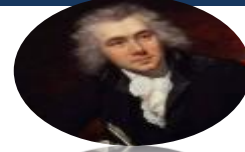


By now European troops are dying in hospitals. In order to maintain his current position and take the mountains in the North and the West where the resistance army is concentrated, Leclerc estimates he needs 25,000 additional troops.



# Napoleon: The Empire Strikes Back

## 1801–1802



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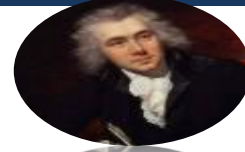
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# Napoleon: The Empire Strikes Back

## 1801–1802



AUG: Saint-Domingue at last receives news of Bonaparte's May decree that re-established slavery in Martinique, Tobago and Sainte-Lucie.



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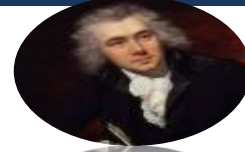
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Henri Christophe points out "the danger (for France) is in the general opinion of the blacks." As a result, Leclerc realizes he would have to kill all the blacks in Saint-Domingue to successfully complete his mission.



# Napoleon: The Empire Strikes Back

## 1801–1802



**AUG:** In Saint Louis in the South blacks rise up against the whites, taking advantage of an insufficient level of troops. Black militia, many deserting the French, capture the fort during the night and take the city.



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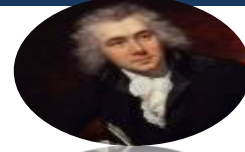
Insurrections throughout the region of black soldiers and low-ranking officers. These troops, forced to fight for the French when their leaders deserted, use their positions and arms to aid insurgent movements. France is steadily losing its campaign to control Saint-Domingue.





# Napoleon: The Empire Strikes Back

## 1801–1802



Sep 26: A general insurrection spreads throughout the entire Grande-Anse region. Maroons descend from the mountains. One rebel leader had “established a whole network of spies and agents



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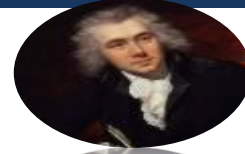


Black and mulatto officers and soldiers desert with the French troops' equipment and begin attacking cities. Entire plantations are abandoned or overthrown. There are multiple uprisings throughout the South.



# Napoleon: The Empire Strikes Back

## 1801–1802



Oct 02: Leclerc realizes that in order to accomplish his goals it will be necessary to completely restart the colony, eliminating the rebels and importing new slaves to run the plantations.



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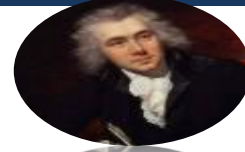
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# Napoleon: The Empire Strikes Back

## 1801–1802



OCT 13-14: Revolutionary leaders, including Dessalines and Christophe, at last defect from the French, taking with them black and mulatto generals and issuing a general call to arms.

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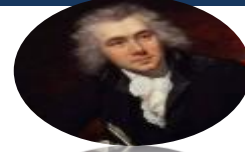


A new revolutionary army forms with mostly black officers and rank-and-file soldiers. Blacks and mulattoes begin to form a national identity around their common goal of expelling the French.



# Napoleon: The Empire Strikes Back

## 1801–1802



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# The Final Years of the Revolution

## 1802–1803



Leclerc dies of yellow fever. Before his death, Leclerc recommends to Bonaparte that Rochambeau succeed him: "He is a person of integrity, a good military man, and he hates the blacks."



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Rochambeau takes command as captain general of the colony, writing to Bonaparte for an additional 35,000 troops to defeat, disarm and drive back the blacks. He becomes known for his ruthless violence and massacres, even bringing man-eating dogs from Cuba to hunt the blacks.



# The Final Years of the Revolution

## 1802–1803



**JAN 01:** Rochambeau requests special permission to immediately proclaim the restoration of slavery as the French lose control of more and more of the colony. Rebellion erupts in Port-Salut in the South.



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Dessalines is threatened by the laborers' independence and resistance to his leadership, and in response kills independent leaders who refuse to submit, saying they had "become obstacles to freedom and therefore had to be liquidated."



# The Final Years of the Revolution

## 1802–1803



APRIL 07: The French troops launch a final effort to subdue the rebel forces. The Europeans are without any money or supplies. The troops are heavily afflicted by yellow fever and weakened by famine.



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In Grand-Anse, the French's last stronghold, a new insurrection breaks out. Masses of black plantation laborers and local officers burn and devastate the region and spread their insurrection.



# The Final Years of the Revolution

## 1802–1803



**MAY 18:** The Louisiana Purchase Treaty is signed and France cedes its North American territory to the United States. The sale marks Bonaparte's withdrawal from the western hemisphere as he turns his attentions away from the failed campaign in Saint-Domingue.



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Dessalines creates the Haitian flag at Arcahaie: He rips the white fabric from the French tricolor, with the red and blue representing the unity of blacks and mulattoes against the whites. With this, the Haitian flag is born. Black and mulatto generals swear allegiance to Dessalines, creating a cross-class alliance to fight their common enemy of slaves.





# The Final Years of the Revolution

## 1802–1803



AUG: The French evacuate their troops from Jérémie in the South.

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# The Final Years of the Revolution

## 1802–1803



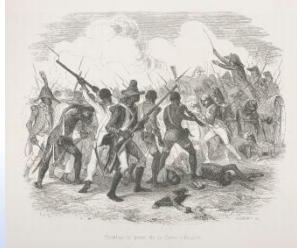
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# The Final Years of the Revolution

## 1802–1803



OCT 17: The French evacuate their troops from Jérémie in the South.



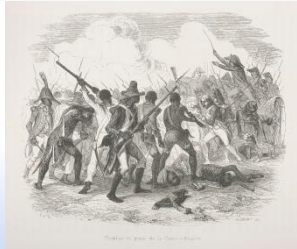
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# The Final Years of the Revolution

## 1802–1803



NOV 17: General Rochambeau surrenders to Dessalines after losing the Battle of Vertières, agreeing to a cease-fire as long as French forces evacuate within 10 days.



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Over the course of the campaign begun by Leclerc, France lost 50,000 men, and "In the name of slavery, she lost what had been the wealthiest and most flourishing colony in the Caribbean.





# The Final Years of the Revolution

## 1802–1803



NOV 28: The remaining French troops evacuate Môle-Saint-Nicolas in the North.



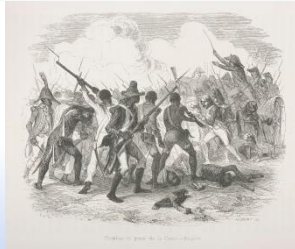
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# The Final Years of the Revolution

## 1802–1803



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NOV 30: Dessalines, leading 8,000 men, takes possession of Le Cap, officially named Cap Français, and renames it Cap Haïtien. Rochambeau capitulates and flees.



# The Final Years of the Revolution

## 1802–1803



**JAN 01:** In Gonaïves, Dessalines proclaims Haiti's independence, signaling the formation of the world's first black republic. He publishes a Declaration of Independence, signed by himself and Christophe. The original Taino name of Hayti is officially restored.

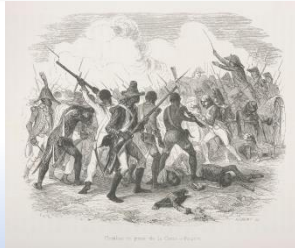
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Though Haiti is independent, Haitians still fear that they will be invaded. French troops remain in the eastern part of Hispaniola and France is actively lobbying England, Spain and the United States to isolate Haiti commercially and diplomatically.



# The Final Years of the Revolution

## 1802–1803



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# The Final Years of the Revolution

## 1802–1803



JAN – FEB: Dessalines orders the slaughter of the remaining French residents in Haiti after promising them protection. As many as 4,000 are killed.



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# The Final Years of the Revolution

## 1802–1803



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OCT 08: Dessalines is crowned  
Emperor Jacques I of Haiti.



# The Final Years of the Revolution

## 1802–1803



**MAY 20:** Dessalines ratifies Haiti's first constitution. To strengthen national unity and bring together the country's various factions, the constitution proclaims all Haitians black.

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