Graphical user interface

Description automatically generated**Haitian Revolution (1791-1804)**

*Hispaniola (island in the Caribbean)*

* *Santo Domingo (Spanish)= Dominican Republic*
* *= (French)= Haiti*

*The revolution was the only slave uprising that led to the founding of a state which was both free from*[*slavery*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slavery_in_the_Americas)*(though not from*[*forced labour*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Forced_labour)[*[4]*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Haitian_Revolution#cite_note-4)*) and ruled by non-whites and former captives*

**1st Phase (Fight to End Slavery)**

Colonial society in Saint-Domingue divided into 4 groups:

* + Grand Blancs
  + Gens de Couleur (free people of color) 🡪 resentful b/c legal discrimination
  + Petit Blancs (poor whites) 🡪 resentful of people of color’s wealth
  + Slaves 🡪 resentful b/c slaves

1789 slaves hear rumor French King Louis XVI had freed them/ Declaration of the Rights of man give hope to ppl of color and slaves

1791 Petit Blancs think they are oppressed because can’t afford slaves and thought if they could become independent from France they could take power away from people of privilege= radical Petit Blancs seize the city of Port-au-Prince

Graphical user interface, application

Description automatically generated1791 French gov granted citizenship to all FREE people of color (had to own property too)= fighting breaks out between Petit Blancs and Gens de Couleur = eventual massive slave revolt

In the late 1790s [**Toussaint Louverture**](https://www.britannica.com/biography/Toussaint-Louverture)**,** a military leader and former slave, gained control of several areas and earned the initial support of French agents.

French fighting a war against British, Spanish, and now slaves= French freed slaves 1794

1801 Toussaint had himself named “governor-general for life.” He put the peasants back to work on the plantations under [military rule](https://www.britannica.com/topic/military-rule) and encouraged many of the French proprietors to return.

1801 French emperor Napoléon Bonaparte, wishing to maintain control of the island, attempted to restore the old regime (and European rule) by sending his brother-in-law, Gen. [Charles Leclerc](https://www.britannica.com/biography/Charles-Leclerc), with an experienced force from Saint-Domingue. Toussaint struggled for several months against Leclerc’s forces before agreeing to an armistice in May 1802; however, the French broke the agreement and imprisoned him in France. He died on April 7, 1803.

**2nd Phase (Fight for Independence)**

Some of Toussaint’s lieutenants—most notably [Jean-Jacques Dessalines](https://www.britannica.com/biography/Jean-Jacques-Dessalines)— resumed the war against the French in 1802. The French were weakened by an [epidemic](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/epidemic) of [yellow fever](https://www.britannica.com/science/yellow-fever)—Leclerc [succumbed](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/succumbed) to the disease in November 1802—and the conclusion of the [Louisiana Purchase](https://www.britannica.com/event/Louisiana-Purchase) in May 1803 signaled Napoleon’s intention to withdraw from [North America](https://www.britannica.com/place/North-America). Less than three weeks later, the French position in Haiti became truly hopeless with the [renewal of hostilities between France and Britain](https://www.britannica.com/event/Napoleonic-Wars/The-Third-and-Fourth-Coalitions-1803-07#ref336846) on May 18, 1803.

On January 1, 1804, the entire island was declared independent under the [Arawak](https://www.britannica.com/topic/Arawakan-languages)-derived name of Haiti.

Many European powers and their Caribbean surrogates ostracized Haiti, fearing the spread of [slave revolts](https://www.britannica.com/topic/slave-rebellions), whereas reaction in the [United States](https://www.britannica.com/place/United-States) was mixed; slave-owning states did all they could to suppress news of the rebellion, but merchants in the free states hoped to trade with Haiti rather than with European powers. More important, nearly the entire population was utterly destitute—a [legacy](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/legacy) of slavery that has continued to have a profound impact on Haitian history.

After the Haitians gained independence from [French colonial rule](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint-Domingue) in the [Haitian Revolution](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Haitian_Revolution) of 1804, the [French](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/July_Monarchy) returned in 1825 and demanded that the newly independent country pay the French government and French slaveholders the modern equivalent of US$21 billion for claiming slaveowner's property and the land that they had turned into profitable sugar and coffee producing plantations. This independence debt was financed by French banks and the American [Citibank](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Citibank), and finally paid off in 1947.