

The Haitian Revolution (1791 – 1804)

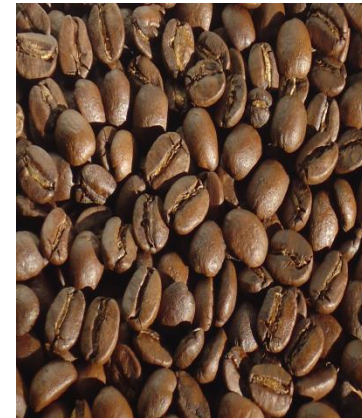
AP World History Notes

Chapter 17

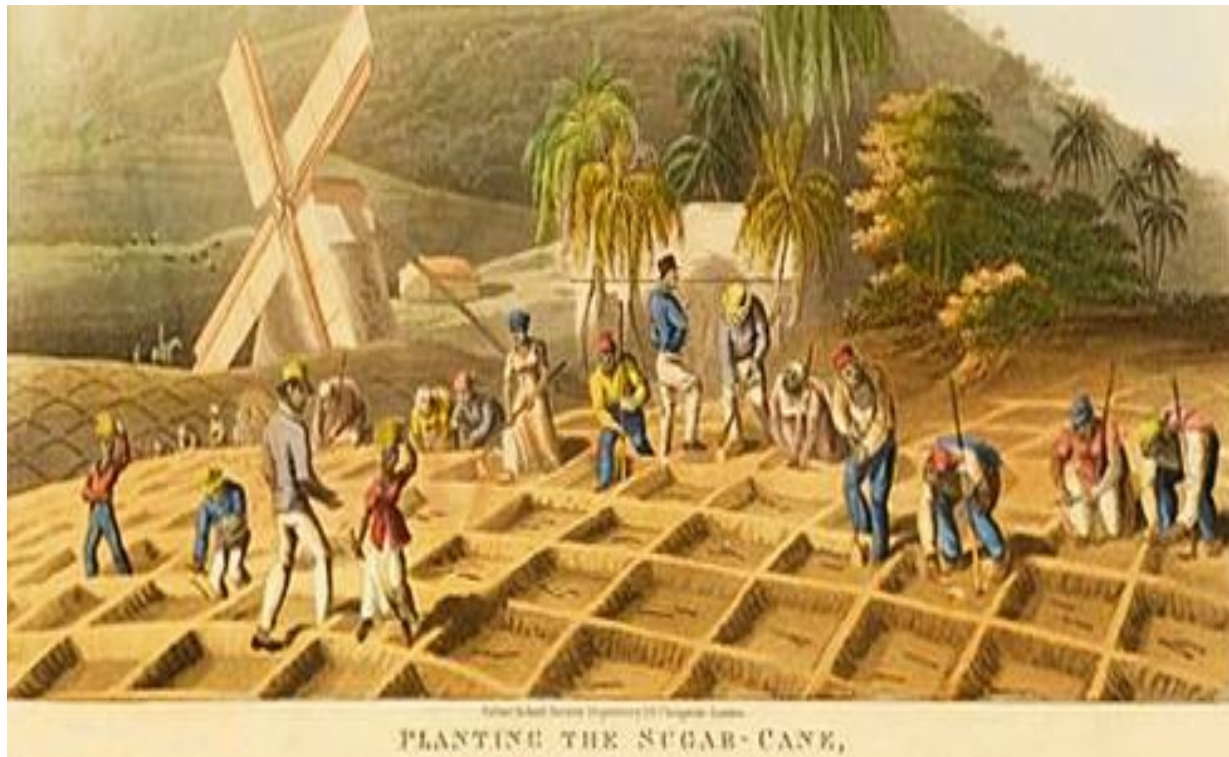
“Atlantic Revolutions and their Echoes”

Haiti

- Haiti = originally called Saint Domingue
- French colony in the Caribbean
- Colony's purpose = plantations
 - Richest colony in the world at the time
 - 8,000 plantations
 - Produced 40% of the world's sugar
 - Produced 50% of the world's coffee



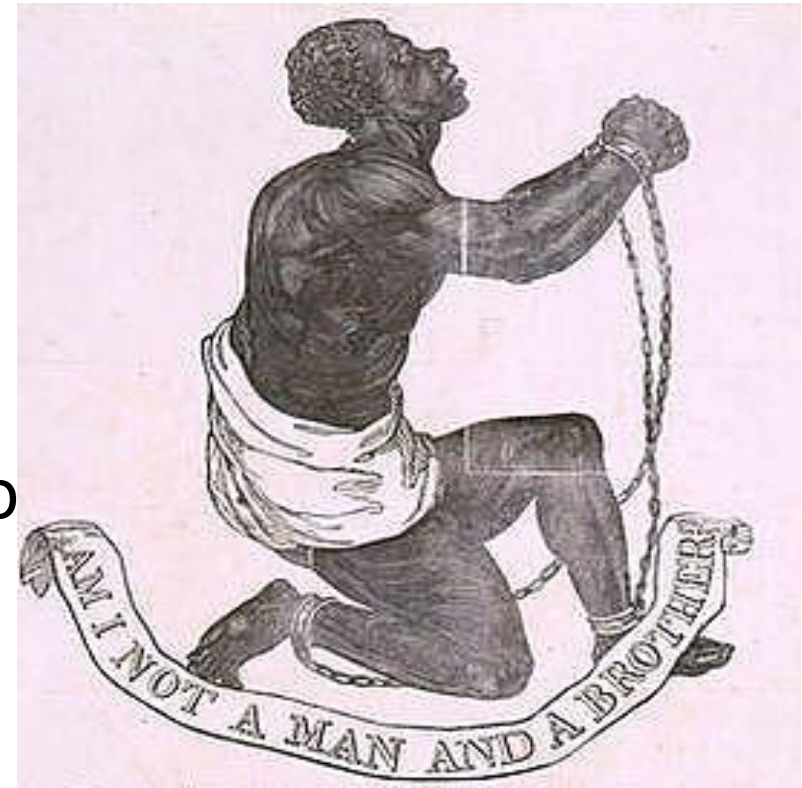
Haiti



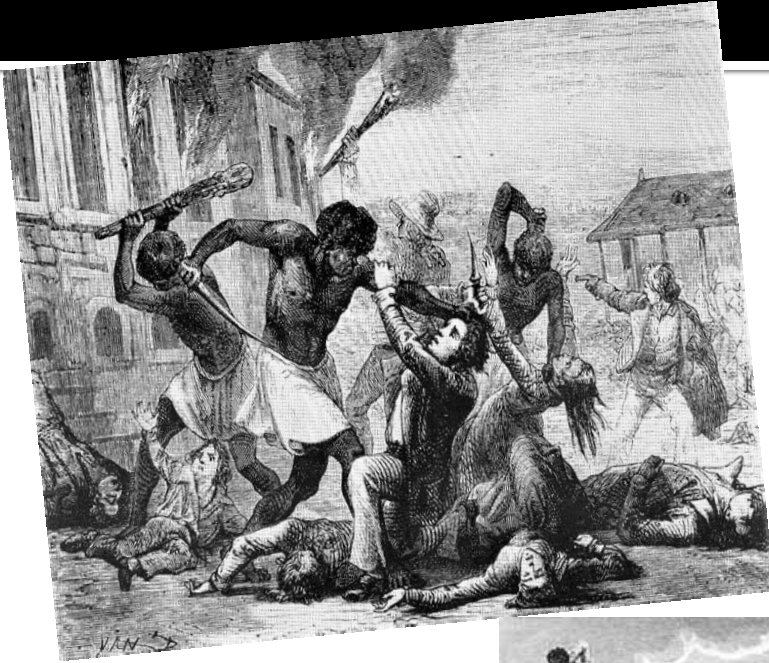
- About 500,000 of the 570,000 people living in Haiti = slaves
- 40,000 people = white people → divided between:
 - “Grands blancs” = wealthy plantation owners, merchants, and lawyers
 - “Petits blancs” = poor whites
- 30,000 people = free people of color

Haiti

- All of these social groups were inspired by the French Revolution (but in different ways)
- For “grands blancs” = meant greater independence for the colony from France and fewer trade restrictions
- For “petits blancs” = meant equality of citizenship and economic opportunities
- For free people of color = meant equal rights and treatment for all free people, regardless of race
- For slaves = meant personal freedom



The Haitian Revolution



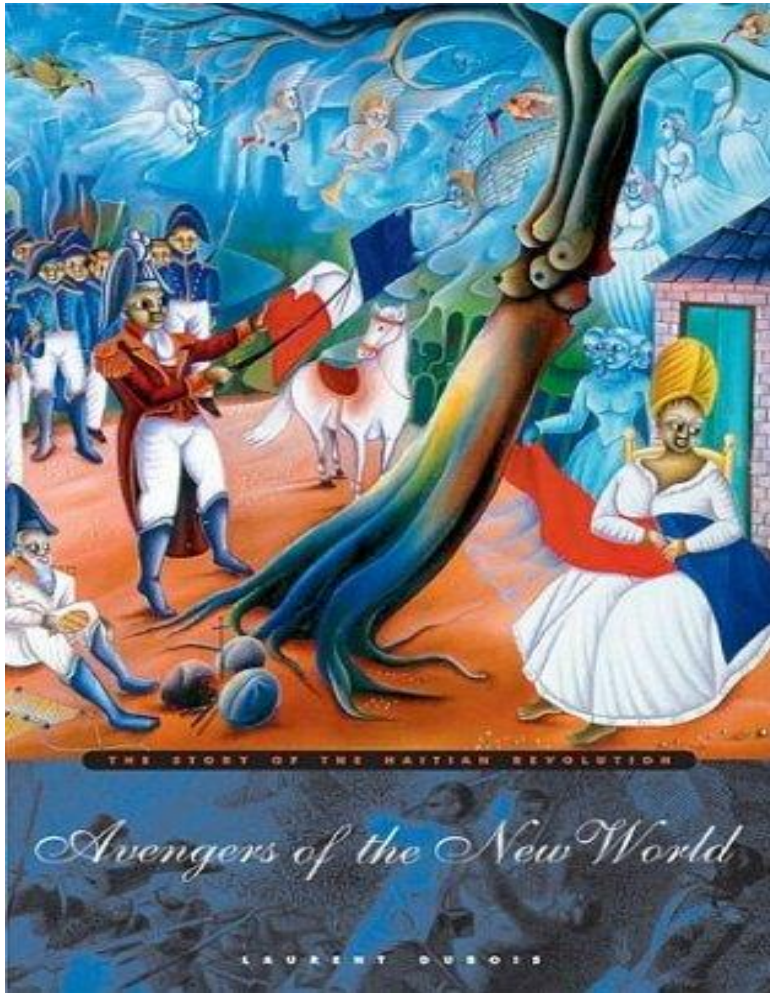
- 1791 = 1st massive revolt
- Triggered by rumors that the French king had declared an end to slavery
- Slaves burned around 1,000 plantations and killed hundred of white and mixed-race people

The Haitian Revolution

- As the revolution continued, power gravitated toward the slaves
- Led by Toussaint Louverture
 - A former slave



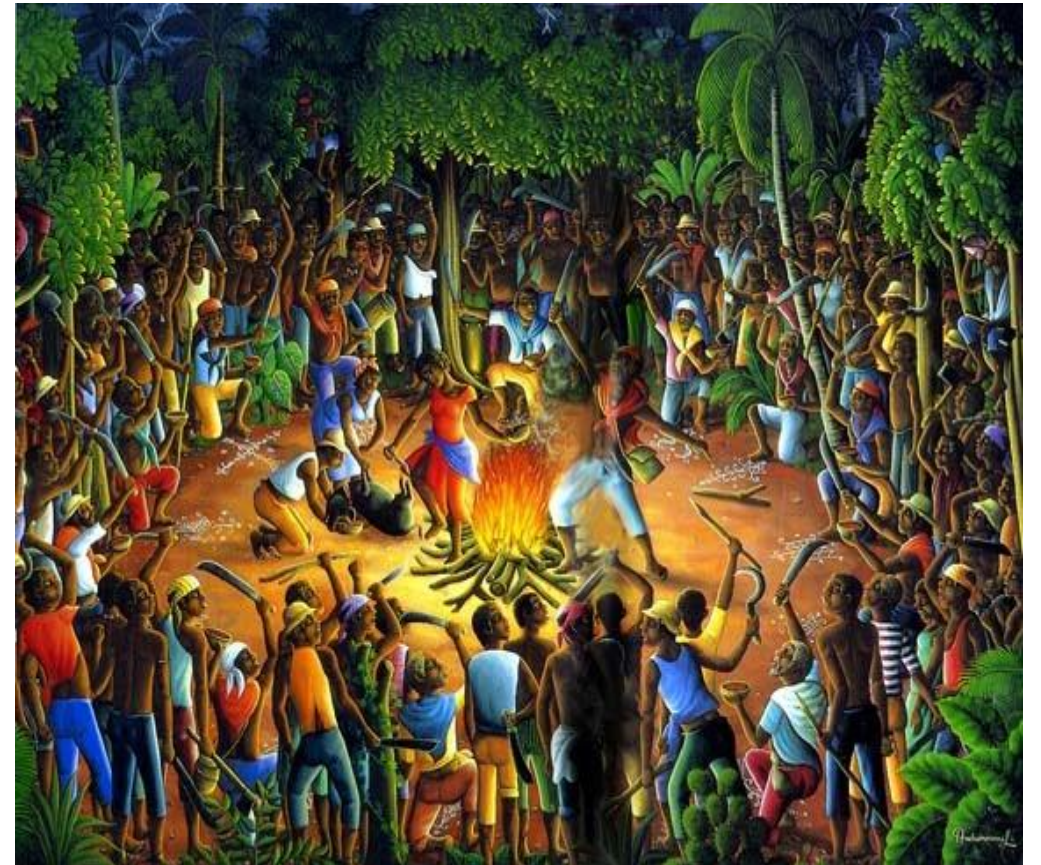
The Haitian Revolution



- Only completely successful slave revolt in world history
- Last had become first
- Slaves became equal, free, and independent citizens almost immediately
- Renamed their country "Haiti" = means "mountainous" or "rugged" in the language of the original inhabitants

The Haitian Revolution

- Formal declaration of independence = January 1, 1804
- Effects:
 - Plantations destroyed
 - Most whites fled or were killed
 - Private and state lands redistributed among former slaves and free black people
 - Haiti became a nation of small-scale farmers producing for their own needs



A Celebration!