

# Colonial Memory: Gender, Race, and the Haitian Revolution

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1743-1744?	François-Dominique Toussaint Louverture born into slavery on the Bréda plantation located on the northern region of St. Domingue. He will later be known as the “Liberator of the Slaves” and the “Architect of Haitian Independence.”
1787 (November)	Louis XVI of France promises to summon Estates General.
1788 (February) (July) (September) (December)	<i>Amis des Noirs</i> founded in France. Colonial Committee founded in France by absentee planters. Colonial Committee demands right of colonial representation in Estates General. Planters in St. Domingue draw up cahier of grievances seeking greater autonomy.

1789 (January) (July 14) (August 26) (September) (October) (November) (December)	Ideas of the French Revolution, of the Declaration of Human Rights and of Liberty and Equality begin to spread in St. Domingue. People of color petition for full rights in St. Domingue. Storming of Bastille in France. Declaration of Rights of Man and Citizens drawn up in France. French Assembly grants a Colonial Assembly to St. Domingue. People of color address French Assembly, claiming Rights of Man. Widespread persecutions of people of color begin in St. Domingue. French Assembly rejects claims of people of color.
1790  (March 8)  (March) (April 15) (May)  (August) (October 12) (October 28)	  Decree of French Assembly leaves question of rights of people of color to Colonial Assembly in St. Domingue.  First major revolt of people of color. First Colonial Assembly meets. Colonial Assembly institutes a constitution giving itself sweeping powers. This act prompts civil war between royal officials and colonialists. Colonial Assembly forcibly dissolved by government troops. French government officially dissolves Colonial Assembly. Ogé rebellion in St. Domingue.
1791  (February 25)   (March) (May 15) (August 9) (August 22)  (September?) (November 21) (December)	  Vincent Ogé and Jean-Baptiste Chavannes, two mulattoes who fought for equal political rights with the whites on behalf of the <i>affranchis</i> (mulattoes and free blacks) in the colony, are executed. After unsuccessful attempts to obtain their claim through diplomatic means, they resort to force by leading several slaves to revolt and arming four hundred <i>affranchis</i> against the colonial government. They are defeated by the colonial army and condemned to torture of wheels in the public square of Cap François.  Military reinforcements from France mutiny and join colonists. French Assembly grants full equality to people of color born of free parents. New Colonial Assembly meets to oppose May decree. Slave leaders Boukman, Jean-François Jeannot and Biassou conduct a major revolt in which Boukman is killed. Toussaint joins rebel slaves. <i>Petits blancs</i> massacre people of color in Port-au-Prince. Civil commissioners fail to come to terms with rebel slaves.
1792  (April 14) (May) (September 18) (October 12)	  French Assembly decrees full rights and privileges to all people of color. War commences between French St. Domingue and Spanish Santo Domingo. Three new Commissioners arrive in St. Domingue to enforce April decree. Commissioners dissolve Colonial Assembly and assume full control over colony.
1793  (January 21) (February) (June 19-20) (August 29)  (September 3) (September 19) (December)	  Louis XVI executed. France goes to war against England and Spain. <i>Petits blancs</i> revolt against Commissioners fails. Sonthonax, head of the French Second Civil Commission, on his own authority, proclaims slave emancipation. Royalists in St. Domingue request English intervention. British expeditionary forces land in St. Domingue. Toussaint's army occupies central St. Domingue after a series of victories.
1794 (February 4) (May 6)	 French Assembly officially abolishes slavery. Toussaint deserts the Spanish to join the French.
1795	Toussaint's army drives the Spanish from St. Domingue.

1796	
(March 20)	People of color, led by Villate, revolt against General Laveaux.
(April 1)	Toussaint rescues Laveaux and crushes rebels.
(May 11)	Toussaint proclaimed Lieutenant Governor of St. Domingue.
	New Commissioners arrive from France to pursue problack policy.
1797	
(March)	Elections in France bring large number of reactionaries into French Assembly.
(May)	Toussaint made Commander-in-Chief of the French armies in St. Domingue.
(August 20)	Toussaint forces Sonthonax to return to France.
1798	
(April 21)	General Hédouville arrives in St. Domingue.
(May)	English evacuate St. Domingue following agreement between Toussaint and General Maitland.
(October 20)	Toussaint expels Hédouville and assumes effective control.
1799	
(April)	Civil war begins between Toussaint and Rigaud ( <i>homme de couleur</i> ).
1800	
(May)	Toussaint's armies invade Spanish Santo Domingo.
(July)	Rigaud defeated by Toussaint.
(October)	Toussaint proclaims policy of forced labor throughout Hispaniola.
1801	
(January)	Santo Domingo surrenders to Toussaint.
(July)	Toussaint publishes Constitution granting him power for life.
(September)	Moïse (Toussaint's nephew) rebellion against Toussaint.
(October)	Peace of Amiens ends war between France and England.
(November 25)	Toussaint proclaims strict military dictatorship.
1802	
(February 6)	Napoleon Bonaparte sends an expeditionary fleet to St. Domingue under the command of his brother-in-law, General Leclerc, with the mission to defeat the black generals and restore slavery. Leclerc expedition invades St. Domingue as Toussaint retreats to mountains.
(April)	Christophe surrenders and joins the French.
(May 1)	Toussaint and Dessalines surrender.
(June 7)	Toussaint Louverture arrested through treachery by French general, Leclerc, sent to France on the vessel Le Héros, and incarcerated in the Fort de Joux jail, in the icy Jura Mountains of France.
(July)	News arrives in St. Domingue that the French have restored slavery in Guadeloupe.
(October)	Dessalines and Pétion join rebellion against the French.
1803	
(April 7)	Approaching his 60th birthday, Toussaint Louverture dies of ill treatment in the Fort de Joux prison.
(November 29)	French forced to evacuate St. Domingue.
(December 31)	Haiti declared an independent republic by its black leaders. To expunge the era of slavery in St. Domingue, Dessalines, Governor-General, renames it with its original name: Haiti. Haiti, the second country to win independence in the American continent is the first Black Nation of the New World and the first Black Republic of the World.

