The Atlantic Revolutions
In Global Context

21H.009
SPRING 2014
Atlantic Revolutions Chronology, 1756-1831

1756-1763: Seven Years War

1776-1783: American War of Independence

1789-1799: French Revolution

1791-1804: Haitian Revolution

1808-1831: Latin American Wars of Independence
All European Empires ca. 1754

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Rebellion Against Britain

John Trumbull, *Declaration of Independence*, painted in 1819

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John Trumbull, *Surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown, 1781*. (Note French Officers on the left.)
The Old Regime
(France before 1789)

• Divine Right Monarchy

• The Importance of Privilege

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1784 portrait of the sculptor
Jean-Jacques Caffieri,
Boston MFA
The Old Regime: The Church

Theology

Contact with the People

Wealth

Image courtesy of David McSpadden on flickr. License CC BY.
The Old Regime: Social Hierarchy

The Clergy

The Nobility

The Commoners

“Let’s Hope the Game Ends Soon”
(revolutionary image)
Jacques-Louis David, *The Oath of the Tennis Court*
Claude Cholat, *The Taking of the Bastille, 14 July 1789*
Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen, August, 1789
The Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen, 1789

PREAMBLE:
The representatives of the French People, formed into a National Assembly, considering ignorance, forgetfulness or contempt of the rights of man to be the only causes of public misfortunes and the corruption of Governments, have resolved to set forth, in a solemn Declaration, the natural, unalienable and sacred rights of man, to the end that this Declaration, constantly present to all members of the body politic, may remind them unceasingly of their rights and their duties; to the end that the acts of the legislative power and those of the executive power, since they may be continually compared with the aim of every political institution, may thereby be the more respected; to the end that the demands of the citizens, founded henceforth on simple and incontestable principles, may always be directed toward the maintenance of the Constitution and the happiness of all. In consequence whereof, the National Assembly recognizes and declares, in the presence and under the auspices of the Supreme Being, the following Rights of Man and of the Citizen.
The Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen, 1789

Article 1: “Men are born and remain free and equal in rights. Social distinctions may be based only on common utility.”

Article 3: “The principle of all sovereignty rests essentially in the nation. No body and no individual may exercise authority which does not emanate expressly from the nation.”

Article 6: “The law is the expression of the general will. All citizens have the right to take part, in person or by their representatives, in its formation. It must be the same for everyone whether it protects or penalizes. All citizens being equal in its eyes are equally admissible to all public dignities, offices, and employments, according to their ability, and with no other distinction than that of their virtues and talents.”
The Declaration of the Rights of Woman and The Female Citizen, 1791

Article 1: Woman is born free and remains equal to man in rights. Social distinctions may be based only on common utility.

Article 3: The principle of all sovereignty rests essentially in the nation, which is but the reuniting of woman and man. No body and no individual may exercise authority which does not emanate expressly from the nation.

Article 6: The law should be the expression of the general will. All citizenesses and citizens should take part, in person or by their representatives, in its formation. It must be the same for everyone. All citizenesses and citizens, being equal in its eyes, should be equally admissible to all public dignities, offices and employments, according to their ability, and with no other distinction than that of their virtues and talents.
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Eighteenth-Century Map of the Caribbean
French Profits Derived From St. Domingue Alone, Ca. 1789

- 2/5 of France’s total commerce, domestic and international
- 1/8 of all French subjects in metropole connected to St Domingue trade
- Saint Domingue alone exports one-third more than all the British West Indies combined
- French re-exports of goods processed from Saint Domingue raw material rose from 15 Million livres in 1715 to 152 million in 1789
- From 1787-1791, French transport 40% of enslaved Africans to New World, vs. 23% transported by the British
French tableware ca. 1785, from Nantes Museum of Colonial History.

This image is in public domain.
Engraving showing machines that crush cane. From the *Encyclopédie* of Diderot d’Alembert, mid-eighteenth century.
“This is the cost of the sugar you eat in Europe.”

Voltaire, 
Candide, 1759
A Chronology of Events in Saint Domingue, 1789-1804

1789-1791: Colonial Rebellion

1791-1793: Slave Uprising

1793-1798: Struggle with European Colonial Powers

1798-1804: Independence From France
### The Demographics of Saint Domingue (1789-1798)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Free Whites</th>
<th>Free People of color</th>
<th>Slaves</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population Breakdowns</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>(Total = 560,000)</td>
<td>32,000</td>
<td>28,000</td>
<td>500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of Population</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Growth rate (%/yr)</td>
<td>1.35</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doubling time (yrs)</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Racial Makeup (%)    |            |                      |        |
| White                | [90]       | [15]                 | 0      |
| Black                | 0          | 35                   | [94]   |
| Other                | 0          | 0                    | [1]    |

| Sex Ratios (%)       |            |                      |        |
| Men                  | 80         | 45                   | 60     |
| Women                | 20         | 55                   | 40     |

| Origins (%)          |            |                      |        |
| Immigrant            | 75         | [5]                  | 67     |
| Native               | 25         | [95]                 | 33     |

Note: Numbers in brackets are estimates.
1789-1791: Questions of Citizenship and Equality in Saint Domingue

Mortals are Equal,
Anonymous Engraving, 1791

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The Slave Uprising, August 1791

The Burning of Cap-Français

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“The French Republic wants all men to be free and equal with no color distinctions. Kings can only be content when they are surrounded by slaves; they are the ones who sold you to the whites on the African coast; they are the tyrants in Europe who want this vile trade to continue. The Republic adopts you among its children; these kings wanted only to load you down with chains or eliminate you.”

Léger Félicité Sonthonax, *Decree of General Liberty*, August 29, 1793
Hyacinthe Rigaud, *Louis XIV*, 1701


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Political Boundaries in the Americas ca. 1800
Francisco Goya, *The Family of Charles IV, 1800-1801*

This image is in public domain.
French-occupied Spain, ca. 1810
Principles of the 1812 Constitution of Cádiz

The Spanish Nation is the union of all Spaniards of both hemispheres.

All free men born and residing in the Spanish dominions and their children.

Slave trade and slavery NOT abolished.

Equal number of legislative representatives from Americas and Spain.

Roman Catholic Church recognized as one true and holy religion of Spain.

Free trade for overseas territories.
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