

Ayiti Mond!

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Haitian Revolution • Figures of the Revolt • Sociopolitical Structure • Ayiti Original Women



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This timeline is featured throughout Ayiti Mond! will detail the happenings of indigenous Haiti (Ayiti) starting from the Pre-Columbian period featuring Taino Arawaks to the Haitian Revolution.

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The slave population of the then French colony originate from the West Central African and West African coast.

FROM THE EDITOR

This study is for individuals who are unfamiliar with the Haitian Revolution and the story of the first free Black republic post the eras of colonial rule. My primary audiences are high school and college freshmen. My secondary audiences are students of all dominations and majors who are interested in gaining insight into the Haitian Revolution. My tertiary audiences are members of society who engage in independent studies about the African diaspora and wish to tackle the happenings of the Haitian revolution.

Borough of Manhattan Community College/
Black Studies Across the Americas/
Haiti Cohort/
Professor RaShelle R. Peck, Professor Alexander J. Ho, Janelle Poe, MFA, and Student Researcher Ime Ekpo

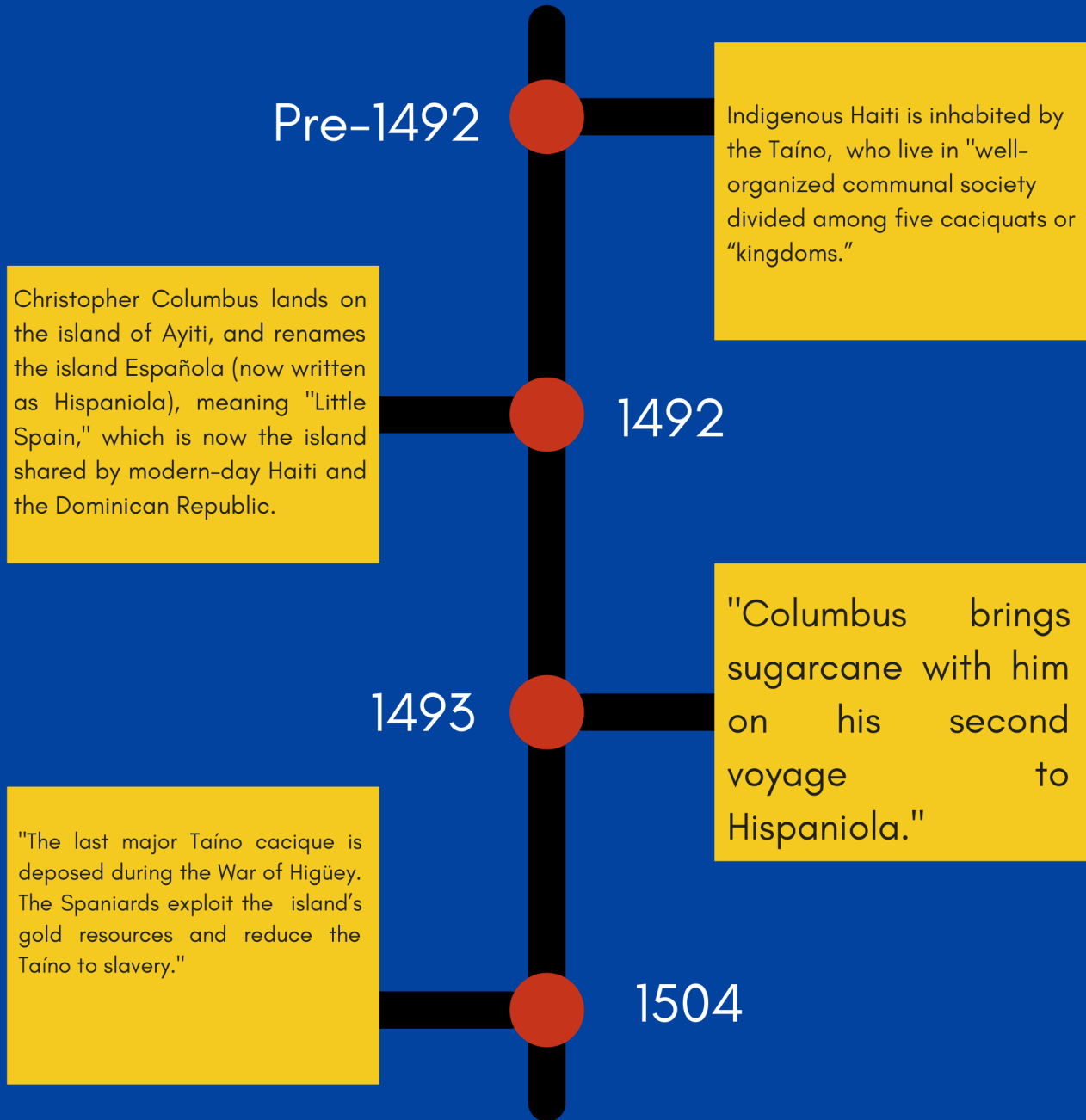
TALK TO US

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inside

TIMELINE

From Ayiti Back to Haiti



INSIDE THE REVOLT

What Exactly Triggered The Haitian Revolution?



The slaves of then Saint Domingue were bound to defiance. Their goal was individual and collective liberty for the enslaved Africans. The island of Saint Domingue was the richest European colony and largest French colony due to its domineering ability to cultivate sugar and coffee crops as a result of the skill set of West and Central African slaves. The French forces used slavery as a tool to build a source of wealth as African slaves were the primary figures necessary.

During the French Revolution, the free coloreds or free people of color who were the emancipated mixed-race children of the white colonials, fought for inclusion and equal rights as a French colony overseas as France has just proclaimed that "men are born and remain free and equal in rights." This did not apply to the free people of color in French colonies overseas. The free people of color were known for being well-educated and prosperous. They made up the majority of the militia, owning up to one-third of slaves in the French colony of Saint Domingue.

There were some white slave owners who also yelled for the equal rights of free people of color. These white colonists formed their own group called the Société des Amis des Noirs or Society of the Friends of Blacks and when faced grand opposition from fellow slave owners who accused them of inspiring slaves and free people of color to revolt. There were colonial whites who were in fear of the abolition of slavery shall any descendant of a slave gain any form of political authority.

When Toussaint Louverture became governor-general of Saint Domingue in 1776, he overran the Spanish-controlled Santo Domingo (now the Dominican Republic) and freed their slaves ultimately gaining command of that portion of Hispaniola. Toussaint challenged the first consul of France, Napoleon Bonaparte, who sought to regain France's control of Saint-Domingue and reverse the previous assembly's abolition of slavery. French General Charles Leclerc led an invasion of the island, hence causing Louverture to end resistance in exchange for Leclerc's promise to refrain the reinstatement of slavery.

INSIDE THE REVOLT

What Exactly Triggered The Haitian Revolution?

CONTINUED



However, Leclerc's promise was indeed a false one. In June 1802, Louverture was invited to a meeting by a French general to discuss the possibility of joining forces. The meeting was initiated under false pretenses as Louverture was captured during the meeting and sent to Fort-de-Joux in the French Jura Mountains where he was imprisoned and tortured. He died in his cell a year later.

Napoleon went on to declare the reinstatement of slavery and Jean-Jacques Dessalines, Louverture's former lieutenant, rose to lead the revolt against the French. Along with his allies, Dessalines forced the French out of Saint-Domingue. On January 1, 1804, Dessalines declared the entire island of Hispaniola independent and renamed the island Haiti, after its indigenous name given by the Arawa-Taino early settlers of then, Ayiti.



Toussaint Louverture

FUN FACT

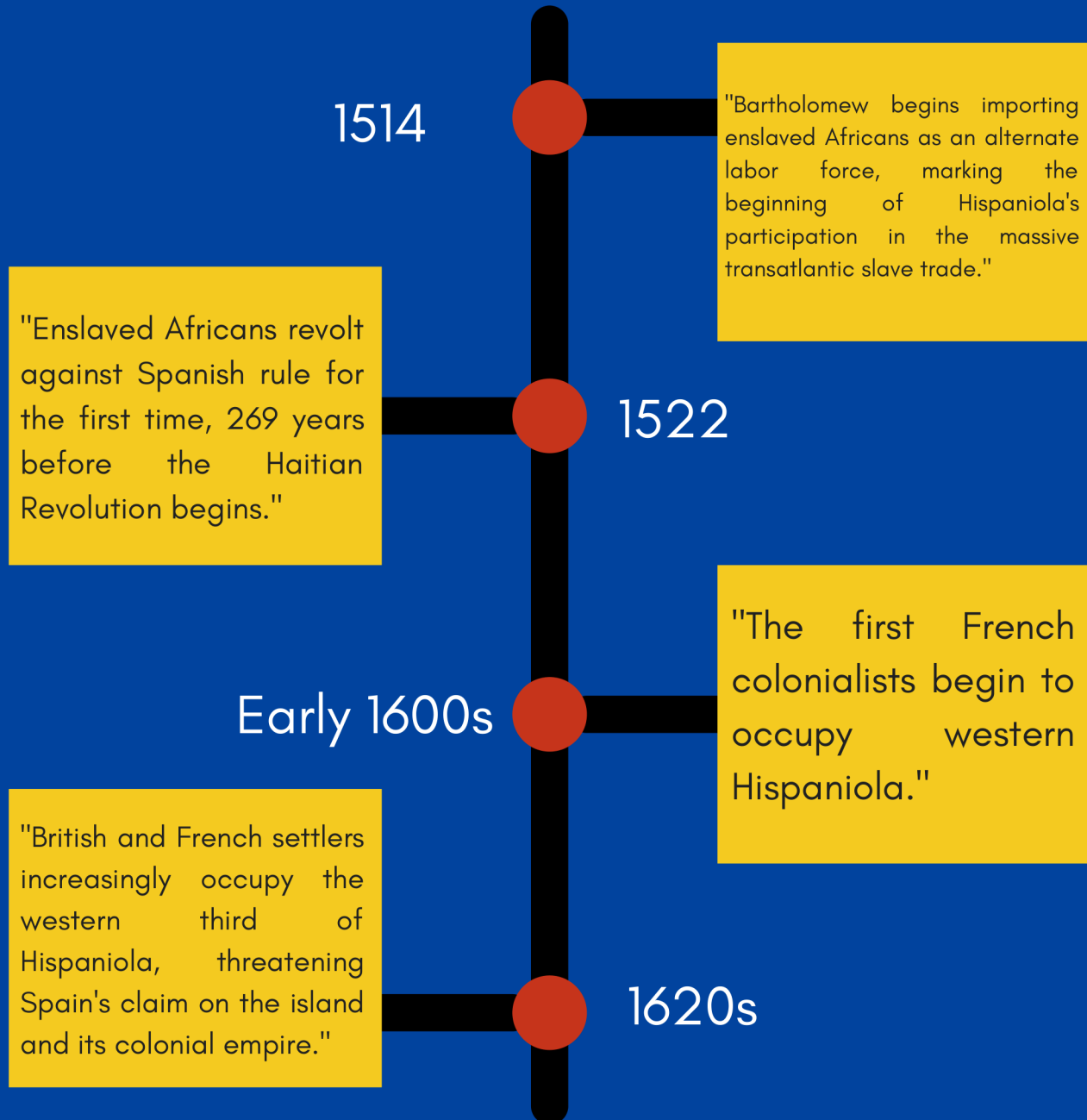
Reyalite!

Mary-Louise Coidavid (1778-1851) was the first woman to be initiated as Queen of the inaugural Kingdom of Haiti on March 26, 1811. Mary-Louise was married to Henri Christophe, a prominent leader of the Haitian Revolution and the only monarch of the Kingdom of Haiti. She was born to a free Black family as her father owned a plantation and hotel establishment. Henri Christophe was a former slave who worked at her father's hotel.



TIMELINE

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INTERVIEW

Was Toussaint Louverture Strategic?



Was Toussaint Louverture Strategic During the Haitian Revolution? | Ayiti Mond! Ma...



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INTERVIEW

Interview: Was Toussaint L'ouverture Strategic?



Watch on YouTube

Haitian historian Frantzo Marasa Lafalaise explains the diplomatic approach of the Haitian revolution leader, Toussaint Louverture.

INSIDE THE REVOLT

How the Kingdom of Kongo Shaped the Political Philosophy of Haiti



The modern sociopolitical structure of Haiti is strongly influenced by the effects of the Haitian Revolution. The Haitian Revolution was spearheaded by rebel slaves of West and Central African origins who were versed on militaristic skills. According to the Trans Atlantic Slave Trade database, by the 1780s, majority of the slaves being imported to Saint Domingue (eighteenth century Haiti) came from the Kingdom of Kongo.

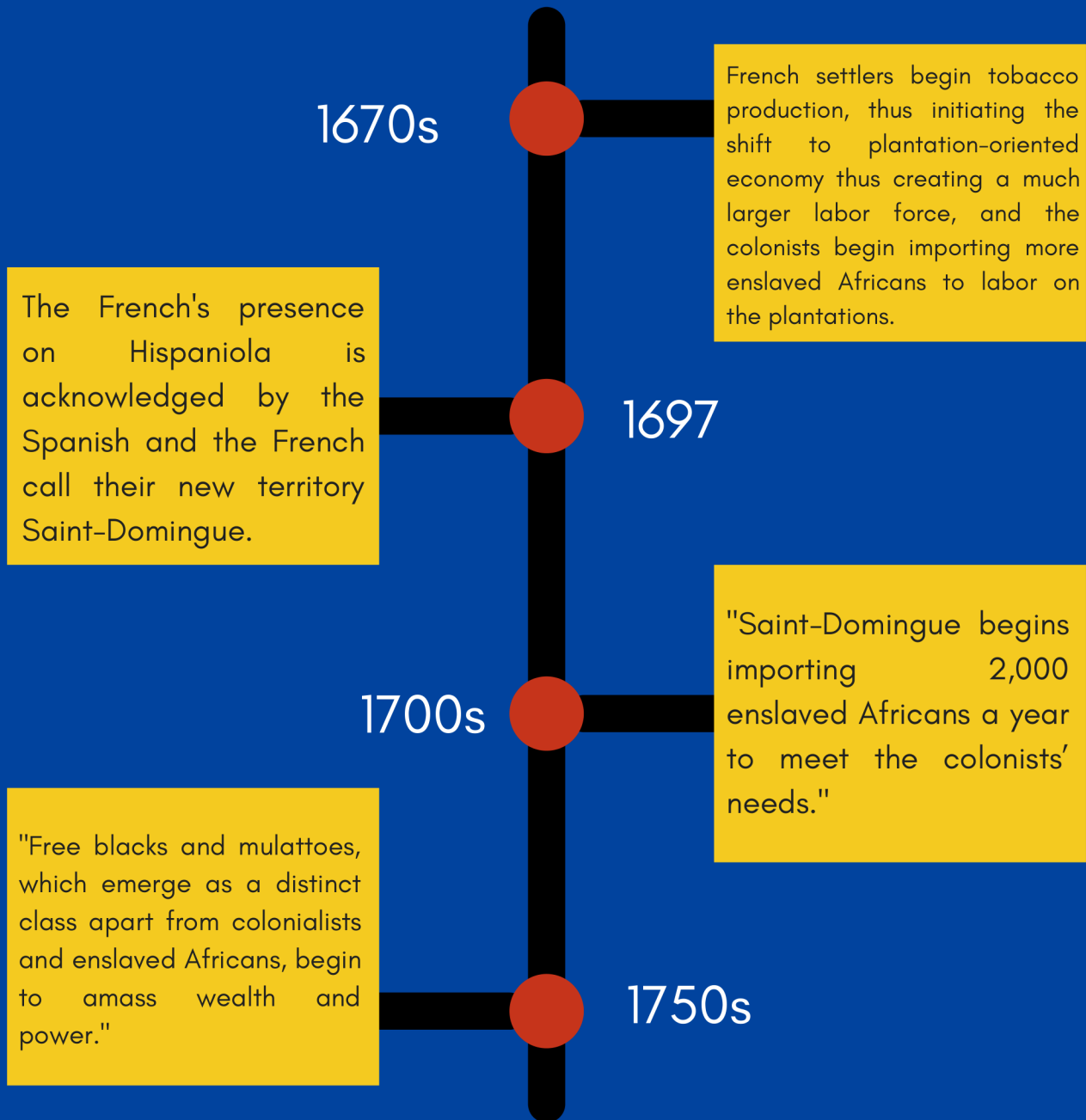
On the eve of the Haitian Revolution, the Kingdom of Kongo provided thousands of slaves to Saint Domingue. Two-thirds out of the slaves involved in the Haitian Revolution were born, raised, and socialized in Africa. This suggests that the success endured by the Black slaves of the 18th century Haiti Revolution is largely attributed to the social, political, and cultural ethos of their West and Central African origins. The most influential of their Central African origin, the Kingdom of Kongo contributed greatly to the political philosophy of the slaves involved in the Haitian Revolution.

Politically developed through the civil wars of Kongo, as the Africans that were sent to Saint Domingue to be enslaved either served in the civil war or were bystanders, the ideology of the Kongolese was lenient toward reinstating archaic mode of absolutism and a limited monarchy with an overlapping theme of royalism. A Kongolese king was expected to be fair in rule and generous with his wealth and power.

The Kongolese believed that kings were necessary but must have limited power. This mentality was the central dispute between the slaves and the French during the Revolution; the fight for freedom, fairness, and equality. This fight in the matter of leadership can be likened to the European curated republican and democratic societies, serving as a fissure between an absolute and limited monarchy. Abuse of power was often attributed to the world of witchcraft theory as they believed the act to be intentional and not due to a subject's consultation with an evil spirit.

TIMELINE

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FUN FACT

Reyalite!

Dutty Boukman (1767-1791) is a one of the earliest leaders of the Haitian Revolution. Boukman is heralded for leading the voodoo ceremony that unearthed the spiritual motivation of the slaves of then Saint Domingue. Born in Senegambia, Boukman was captured and sold to Jamaica. The ceremony known as the "Voudon," Boukman was stationed as the Houngan.



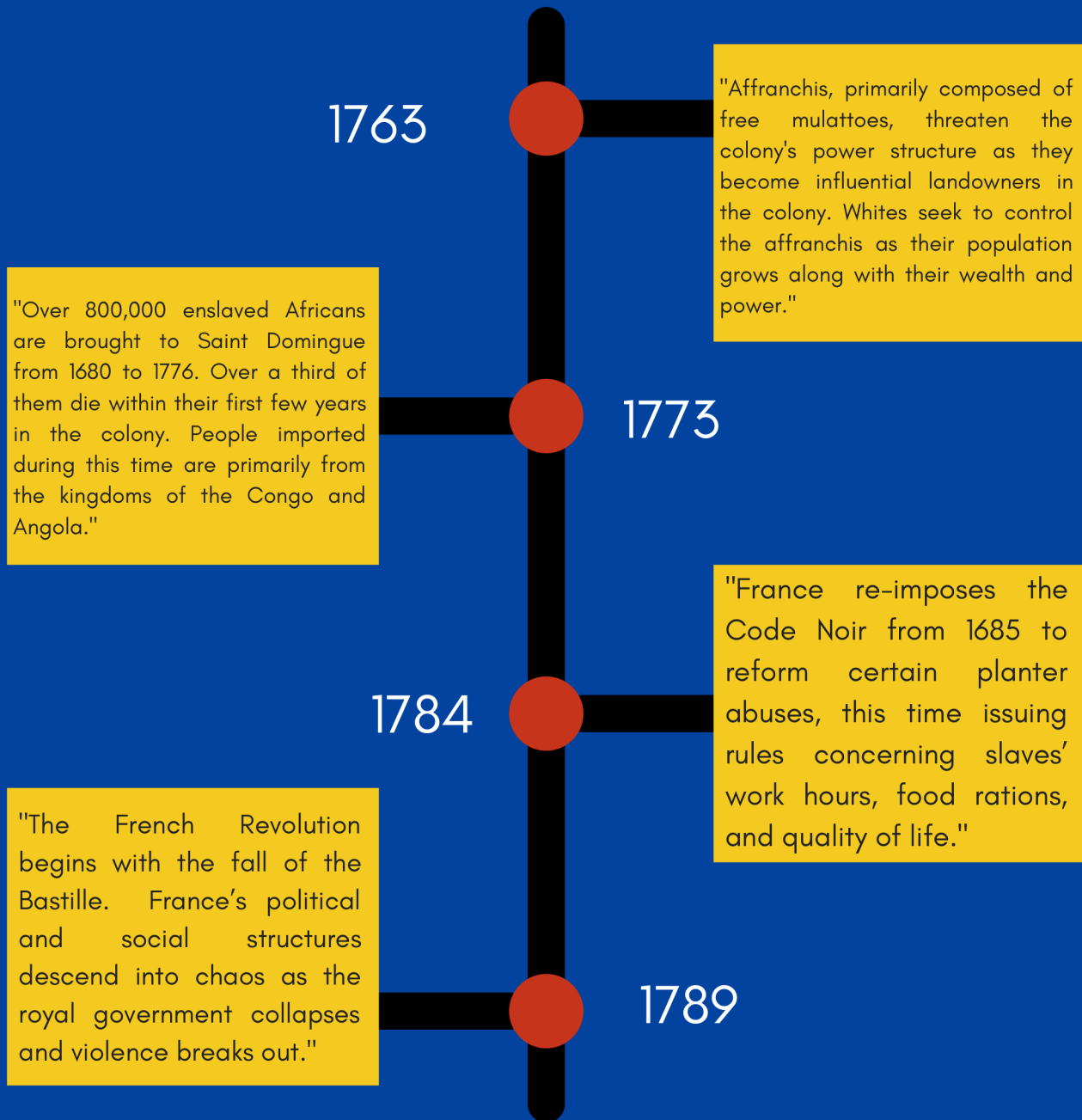
Image Credit: SamePassage.org



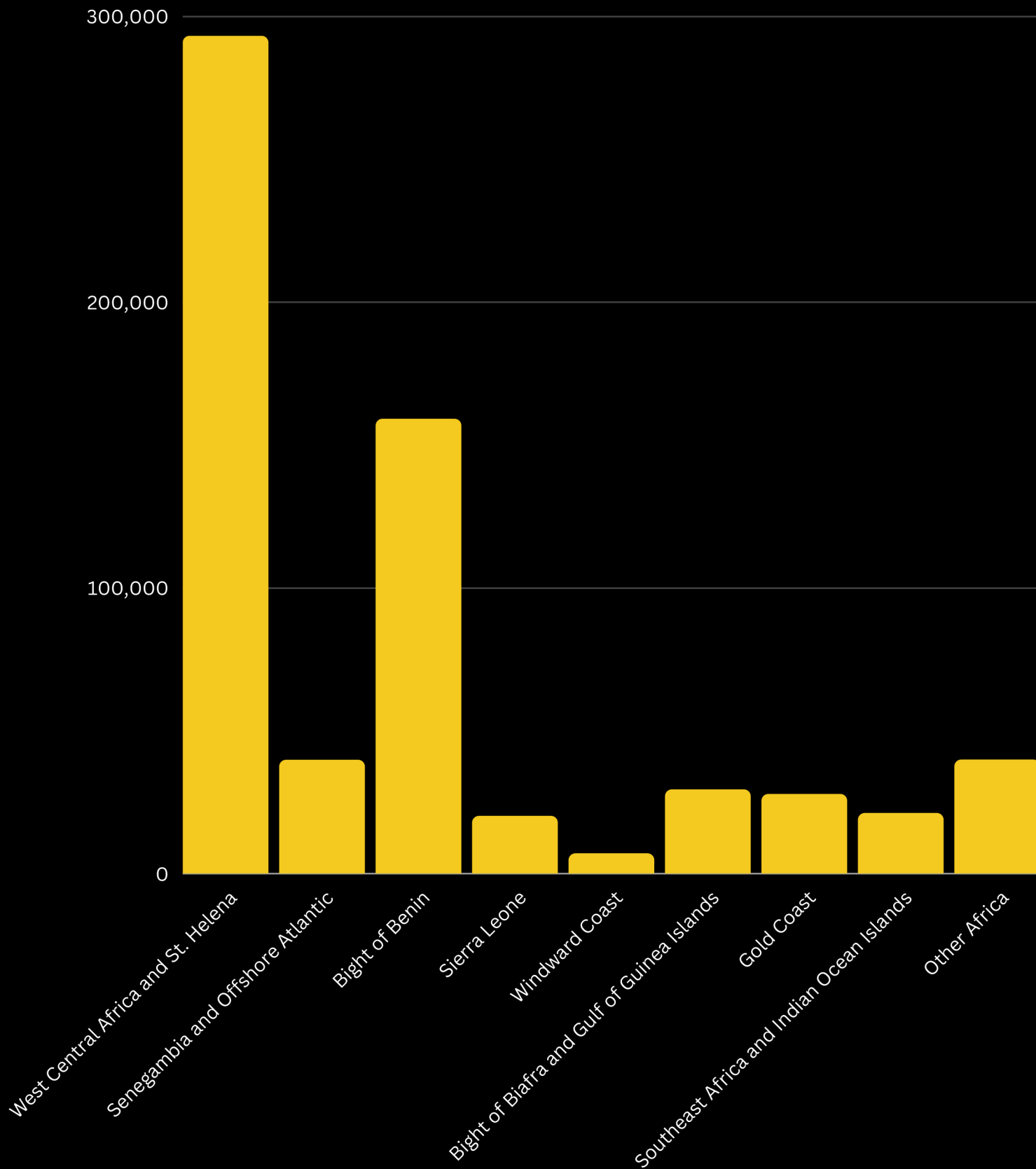
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TIMELINE

From Ayiti Back to Haiti



Total slaves who disembarked in Saint Domingue 1700-1791 via Trans Atlantic Slave Trade Database



INSIDE THE REVOLT

The Freedman, The Elite, The Noirs: The Social Stature of Colonial Haiti



Image By: Agostino Brunias

There are several social statuses that determined where an individual was positioned during the eras of the Haitian Revolution and prior. These relationships are power dynamics that later shaped the sociopolitical structure of the profound newly established Haiti. Haiti's current social stratification is a reflection of its nineteenth-century ruling class, which consisted of two groups, the Elite, and the Noirs. During the colonization of Haiti (then Saint Domingue), there were three distinct social classifications: the whites, the free people of color, and the Black slaves. Under the dual caste social stratification, free people of color and Black slaves are considered the "Noirs."

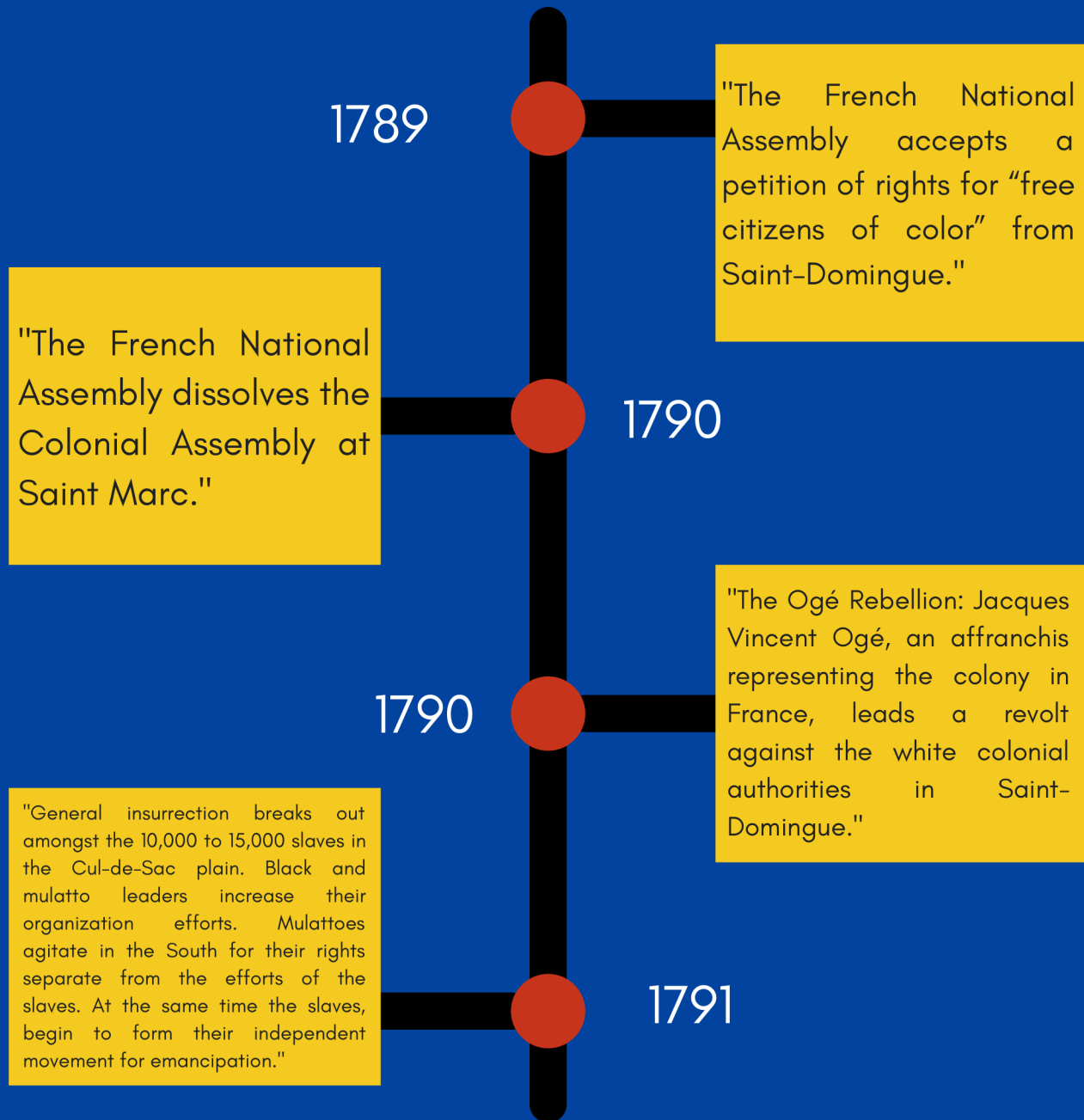
This social strata was defined when Haiti, then known as Saint Domingue was stationed as a French colony. The social class of a Haitian citizen was determined at birth and took after the structure of the French. A personal achievement was not considered when it came to the categorization of prospective members. Noticeably, it is only the elite sector that is mixed with the white race.

It was the nuance between the two designated social classes that influenced those in opposition who were deemed inferior during both the French and Haitian Revolution, the mixed-race also known as the freed Blacks or free people of color. Also known as the mulattos or affranchis, this group consisted of the children of white Frenchmen and Black slave women who were often autonomously emancipated. The freed Blacks also included the Black slaves who purchased their freedom or were granted their freedom by slave masters.

There were two main groups under the white ruling class. There were the planters or colonialists, wealthy white men who owned plantations and slaves. They relied on the slave economy for their income and advocated for the continuation of slavery. There were also the petit blancs, who were a part of middle and underclass whites as artisans, teachers, and shopkeepers. Petit Blancs were dependent on France and viewed slaves as a social and political threat. The free Blacks were more wealthy than the Petit Blancs which contributed to their anti-Black gestures.

TIMELINE

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Work Cited

"The Haitian Revolution Timeline." Brown University, <https://thehaitianrevolution.com>

FUN FACT

Reyalite!

Toussaint Louverture (1743–1803) was a Haitian general and leader of the Haitian Revolution. Louverture is often cited as an ambassador for the British Abolitionist Movement due to his civil strategic approach to leadership. Louverture was a Haitian general and leader of the Haitian Revolution. Born on the plantation of Breda as Haut de Cap, Louverture honed a West African disposition, as his father, Gao Guinou was the son of a Benin King. His mother, Pauline was a Benin woman and Guinou's second wife.



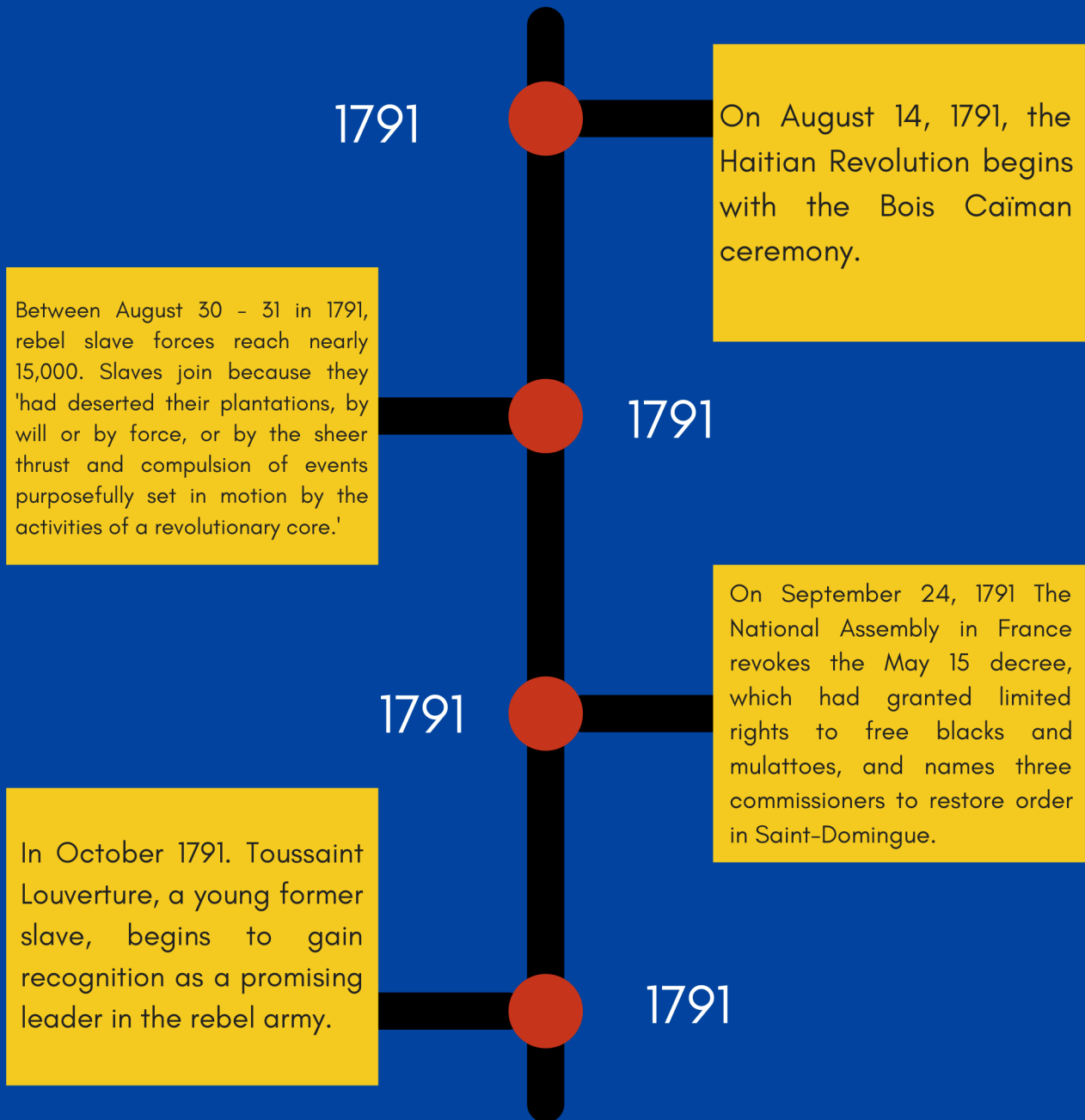
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INTERVIEW

What Was the Dynamic Between Louverture and Dessalines?



Dynamic Between Toussaint Louverture and Jean-Jacques Dessalines, Leaders of ...
HAITIAN REVOLUTION



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LEADERS

LOUVERTURE

DYNAMIC

DESSALINES



Watch on  YouTube

Haitian historian Frantzo Marasa Lafalaise explains the dynamic relationship between Haitian Revolution leaders Toussaint Louverture and Jean-Jacques Dessalines.

FUN FACT

Reyalite!

Victoria Montou (1739–1805), affectionately known as "Toya," was a freedom fighter and warrior from the Empire of Dahomey. Toya was captured and sold as a slave to Haiti where she worked on a plantation. Upon escaping the plantation, reports say Toya stumbled upon a newborn baby and agreed to raise the child. She trained the child for the Dahomey warrior skills, who grew up and became leader of the Haitian Revolution, Jean-Jacques Dessalines.



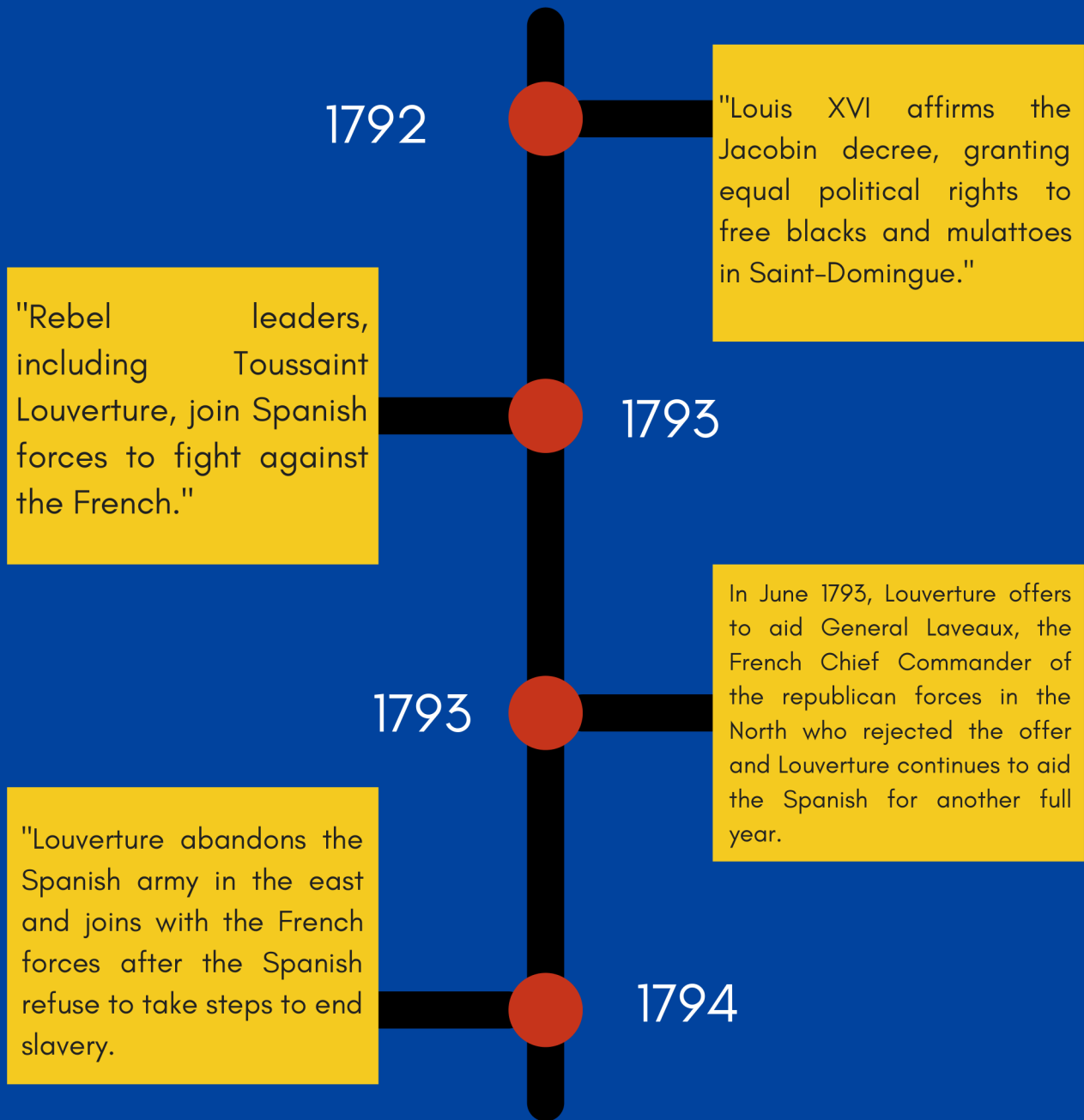
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FUN FACT

Reyalite!

Jean-Jacques Dessalines (1758–1806) was a Haitian Emperor and the first leader of independent Haiti. He declared himself Emperor Jacques I the year he signed the Declaration of Independence for Haiti in 1804. Formerly a slave, served under Toussaint Louverture a principal lieutenant during the early wars of the Haitian Revolution. After the death of Louverture in 1802, Dessalines rose up to the position of leader of the Revolution. He was deemed as a radical with a low tolerance for slavery, colonialism, France, and white planters. Dessalines advocated for the return of Blacks and mulattos who fled to the United States during the infancy of his leadership. He defeated the French Army in the Battle of Vertières which led to the declaration of independence for Saint-Domingue.



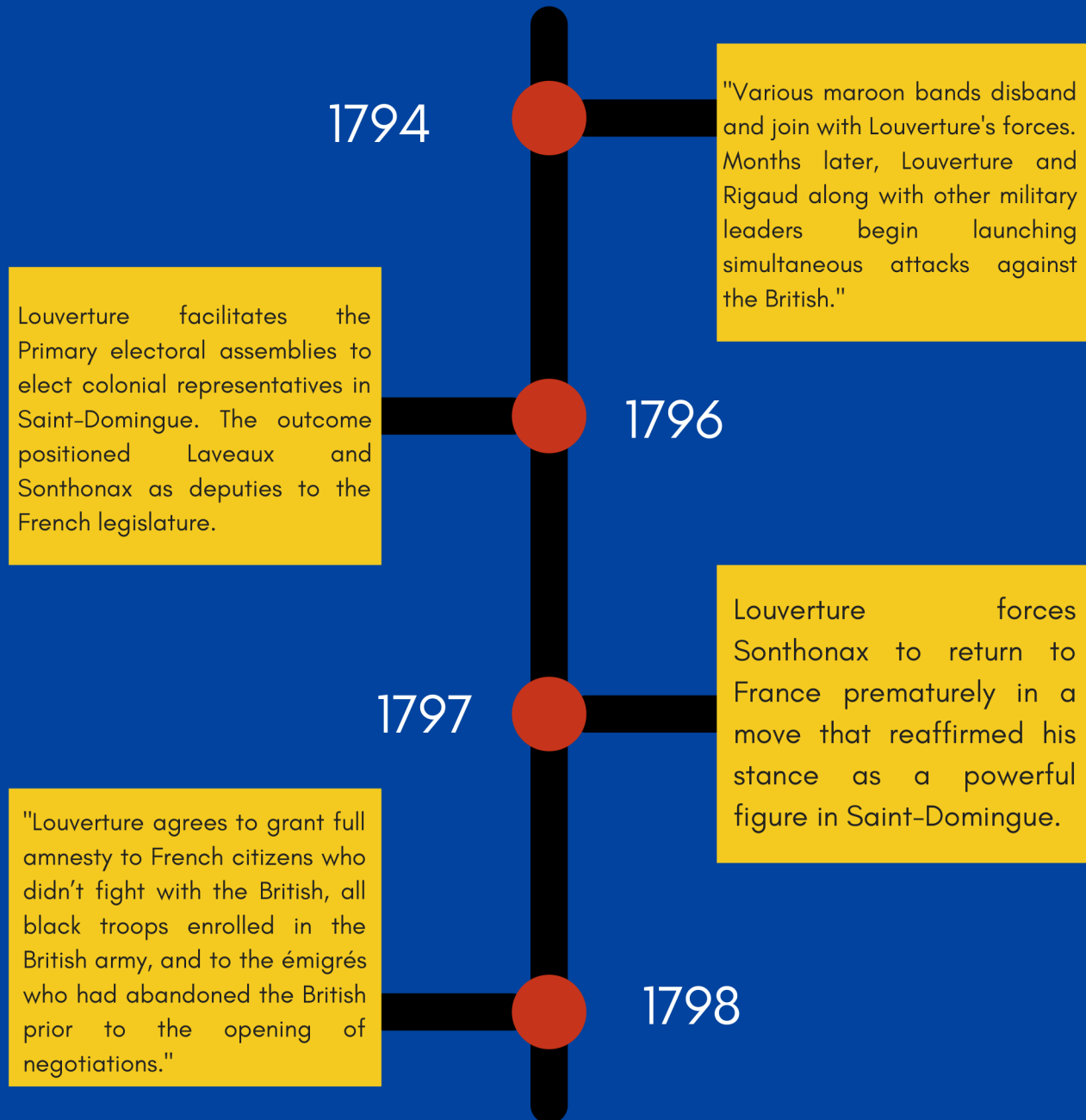
Image Credit: The New York Public Library Digital Collections.



Image Credit: Dubroca, 1757-ca. 1835; López Cancelada, Juan, b. 1765; Yedra, Francisco Moscardo., Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

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FUN FACT

Reyalite!

Henri Christophe (1767–1820) was a leading general of the Haitian Army during the Revolution and served as the King of Haiti from 1807 to his suicide in 1820. Christophe ruled the northern portion of Haiti. Christophe's kingdom was challenged when descendants of the French refused to acknowledge his leadership as king or president causing the leader to initiate a three-year civil war against Pétion's republic of the south. Christophe was connected with the Atlantic world for the sake of peace negotiations between Haiti and France through British abolitionists Thomas Clarkson and William Wilberforce.



GENERAL HENRI CHRISTOPHE,
"KING" OF HAITI.

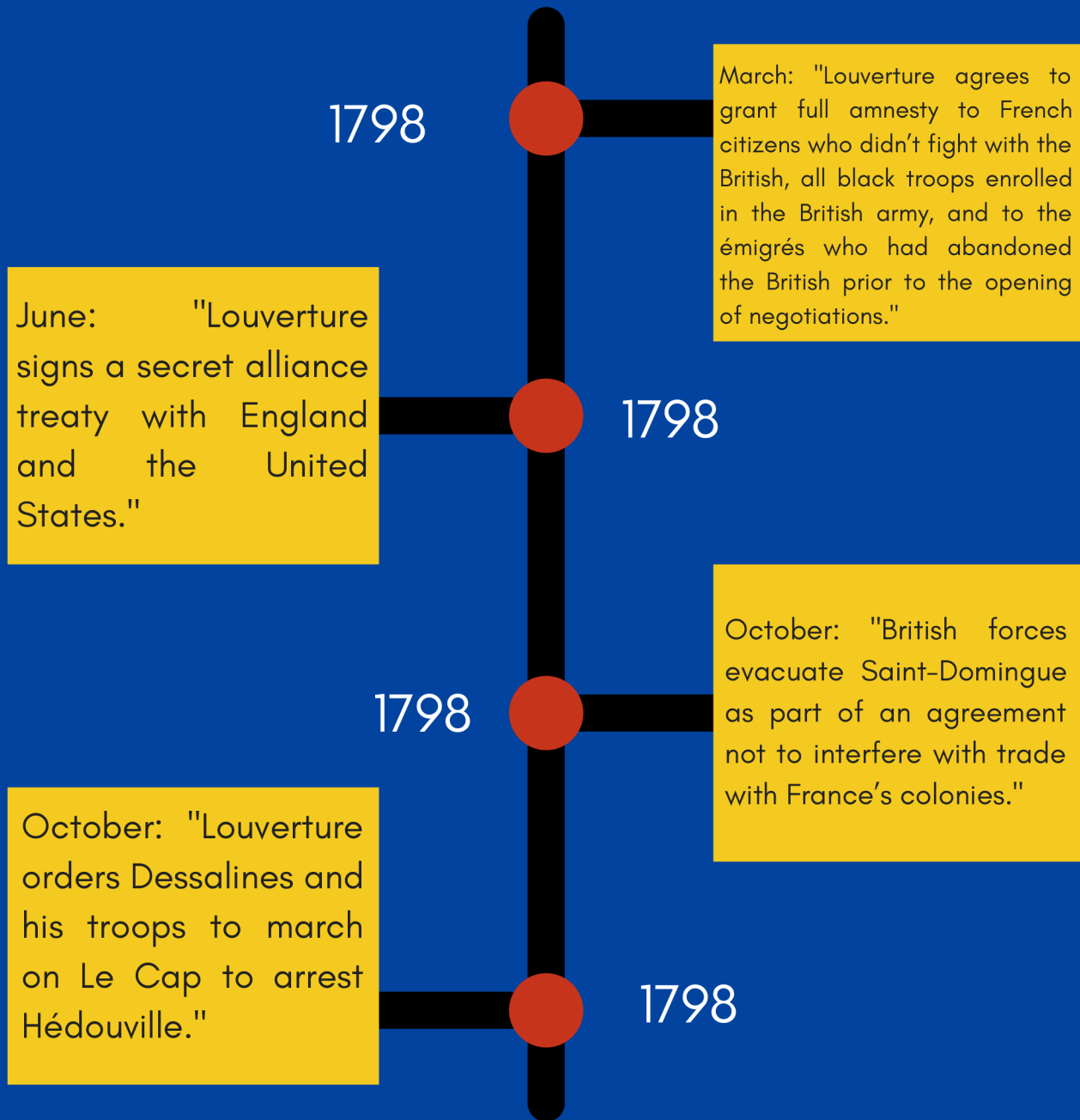
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