

## Haitian Revolution

Causes, Practices, Effects

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## Learning Goal

Identify the causes, practices, and effects of the Haitian Revolution.

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## Background

- Latin American independence movements had their roots in the Enlightenment and previous revolutions
- Haitian Revolution, like the American Revolution, was an impetus for the other movements in Latin America
- French Revolution and Napoleon's reign was a more immediate catalyst for the Haitian Revolution

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## Causes

- French National Assembly grants Gens de Couleur political rights
- Armed demonstration after Colonial Assembly prevents the rights
- Gens de Couleur leaders are executed
- Slaves revolt
- Soon half of the slaves are fighting the Colonial forces

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## Practices

- Slaves attacked and destroyed plantations and any whites they encountered or slaves who were loyal to their masters
- Guerilla warfare
- Toussaint L'Ouverture emerges as a leader
- 1792 – 6,000 French troops were sent, but fighting only intensified
- British arrive and the war of attrition carries on until 1798

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## Effects

- 1793 – slavery is abolished (desperation)
- Peace treaty with Britain ends the revolution
- Gens de Couleur and Toussaint's blacks fight
- Newly free blacks overthrow Gens de Couleur
- Toussaint is recognized as Governor General
- Imprisoned in the Alps by Napoleon
- Jean-Jacques takes power but is assassinated
- Gens de Couleur take power – social stratification persists
- Freedom of blacks is inspirational to the rest of the Americas

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