

How Did the Revolution in Haiti Begin? (I): The Free People of Color



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2

Revolts/Rebellions in the 18th-Century Caribbean

- Gaoulé in Martinique (1717)
- Scattered white revolts in colonial Saint-Domingue, and by free people of color in 1760s
- Makandal in 1757-1758
- Tacky's revolt in Jamaica (1760-1761)



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Growth of the free colored population

Year	1700	1764	1789
Total Pop.	500	5,500	27,548
As % of white population	12.3%	33.5%	89.4%

Note: These figures almost certainly significantly undercount the actual numbers of free people of color, since they are based on the official census figures which did not include persons manumitted informally so as to evade payment of the freedom tax after late 1730s/early 1740s.

Masters twenty years of age may free their slaves by any act toward the living or due to death, without their having to give just cause for their actions, nor do they require parental advice as long as they are minors of 25 years of age.





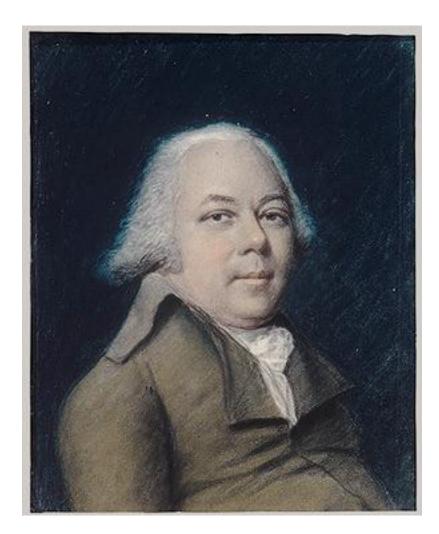
VUE DU CAP FRANÇOIS, Isle S. Domingue! A.P. D.R. Pris ches. M. Maran des Schieg, Rue Plinner M. st. Ret ches. M. Bano, Rue S. Macadhe W. 19. Souvernement⊅. }} Cazernes. ≈ Champ de Mars-9

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We grant to freed slaves the same rights, privileges and immunities that are enjoyed by freeborn persons. We desire that they are deserving of this acquired freedom, and that this freedom gives them, as much for their person as for their property, the same happiness that natural liberty has on our other subjects.

11 Degrees of Racial Separation

Mulattos (also called sang-mêlés): persons born of one white and one black parent, or a mulatto parent and a *mulâtresse*, or a quarteron and a griffe

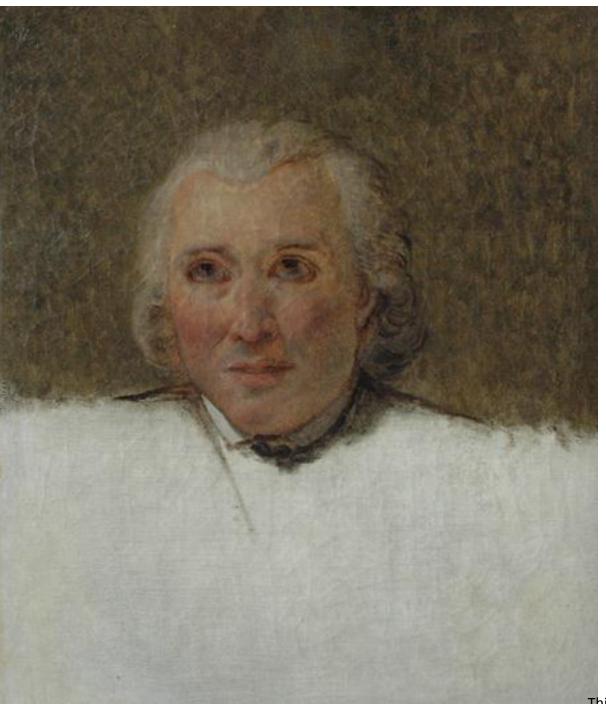


11 Degrees of Racial Separation

- Griffe: child of a mulatto and a black person (3/4th black)
- Quarteron: a person of ¼ black background
- *Mestifs*: 1/8th black

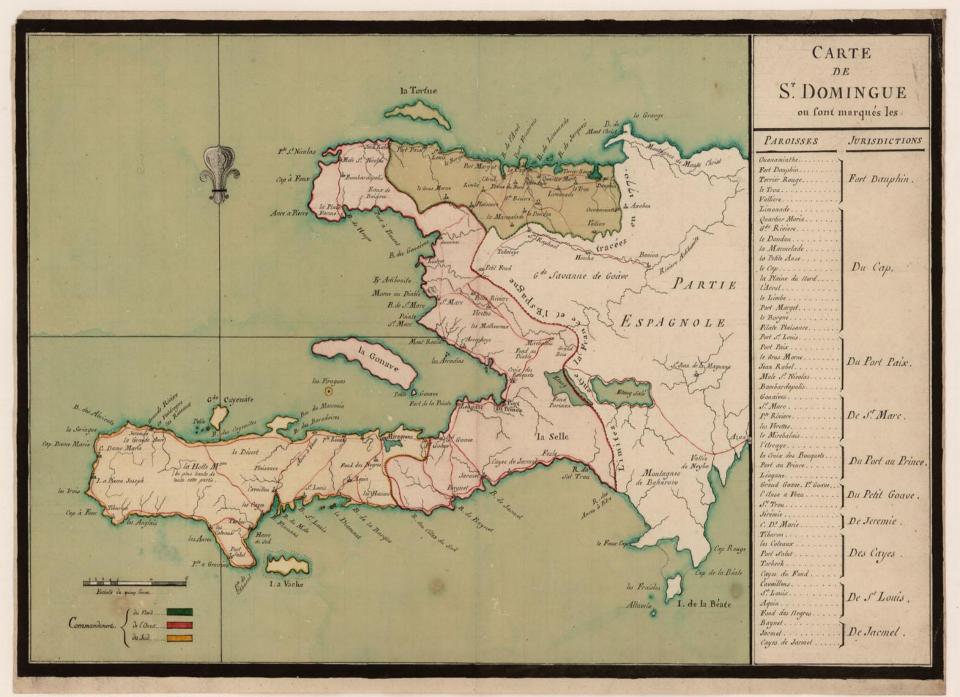
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- A language of biological criteria based on social conventions
- Racial "mixture" corrupts
- Translating sexual fantasy and anxiety





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Julien Raimond, 1791 pamphlet on the history of white prejudice against free people of color

• Louis XIV had "granted to freed persons, properly understood, the right of citizens."

• "Will the National Assembly be less just than a despot?"

Robespierre, May 1791

- The issue was not whether to "accord political rights" to the free people of color, but rather whether to "conserve" rights they already enjoyed prior to the Revolution.
- "[T]he old laws" (*"les lois anciennes"*) had never been abrogated, and had vested free people of color with *"the same rights as white colonists."*



EDIT DU ROY,

SERVANT DE REGLEMENT

POUR le Gouvernement & l'Administration de Justice & la Police des Isles Françoises de l'Amerique, & pour la Discipline & le Commerce des Negres & Esclaves dans ledit Pays.

Donné à Versailles au mois de Mars 1685.

AVEC

L'EDIT du mois d'Aouft 1685. portant établiffement d'un Confeil Souverain & de quatre Sieges Royaux dans la Cofte de l'Ifle de S. Domingue.



A PARIS, AU PALAIS,

Chez CLAUDE GIRARD, dans la Grand'Salle, vis-à-vis la Grand'Chambre : Au Nom de JESUS.

M. DCC. XXXV.

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EDIT DU ROY,

TOUCHANT la Police des Isles de l'Amerique Françoise.

Du mois de Mars 1685.



OUIS, par la grace de Dieu, Roy de France & de Navarre: A tous prefens & à venir: SALUT, comme nous devons également nos foins à tous les Peuples que la Divine Providence a mis fous notre obélifance, Nous avons bien voulu faire examiner en notre prefence les mémoires qui nous ont été envoyer par nos Officiers de nos ifies de l'Amerique, par leiquels ayant été informé

du befoin qu'ils ont de notre Autorité & de notre Juftice pour y maintenir la difeipline de l'Eglife Catholique, Apostolique & Romaine, & pour y regler ce qui concerne l'Etat & la qualité des Efclaves dans nos filles ; & défirant y pourvoir & leur faire connoître qu'encore qu'ils habitent des climats infiniment éloignes de notre léjour ordinaire, nous leur fommes toujours present, non seulement par l'étendué de notre puisfance, mais encore par la promptitude de notre application à les fecourir dans leurs nécessités. A CESCAVES, de l'avis de notre Confeil & de notre certaine feience, pleine puislance & autorité Royale, nous avons dit, flatué & ordonné, disons, flatuons & ordonnons, voulons & nous plaît ce qui enfuit.

ARTICIE I. Voulons'& entendons que l'Edit du feu Roy de glorieule mémoire notre très-honoré Seigneur & Pere du 23 Avril reir;

A ij

Slaves who are not fed, clothed and maintained by their masters according to what we have ordered by these articles will be able to notify our attorney general and provide him with their statements, on the basis of which, and even on his own initiative, if the information comes to him from elsewhere, the masters will be prosecuted upon his motion and without cost, which we wish to be observed for the crimes and barbarous and inhumane treatment of masters towards their slaves.

Only masters shall be permitted, when they believe their slaves so deserve, to chain them and beat them with canes or rope. We forbid masters from applying torture to their slaves or from inflicting any kind of mutilation, on pain of confiscation of the slaves and special prosecution of the masters.





PLACE ET FONTAINE MONTARCHER, DEVANT LE GOUVERNEMENT, au Cap-François, Isle S⁴Domingue.



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FONTAINE D'ESTAING. AU CAP-FRANÇOIS. Isle S. Domingue.



nº 26



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DANSE DE NEGRES.



NEGRES JOUANT AU BATON.

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21H.001 How to Stage a Revolution Fall 2013

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