



# The Haitian Revolution

What was the Haitian Revolution?

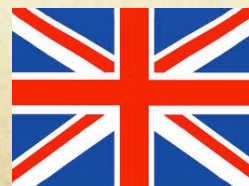
Who was Toussaint L'Ouverture?

What role did race play in the Revolution?



# What was the Haitian Revolution?

- The Haitian Revolution was a political conflict on the island of Hispaniola (Haiti / Dominican Republic)
  - 1791-1804
  - European powers
  - Haitian rebels / slaves
- One of the most successful anti-slavery rebellions in world history



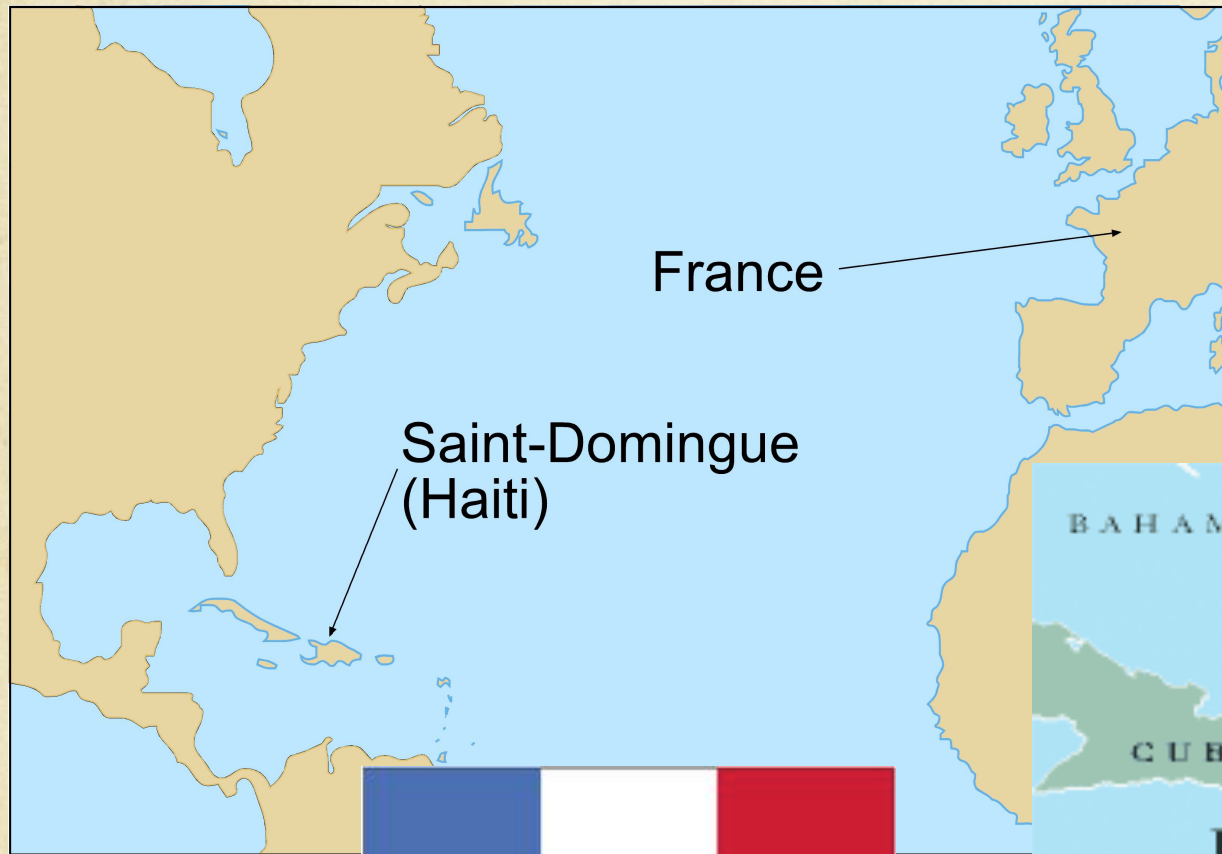


# What was Saint-Domingue?



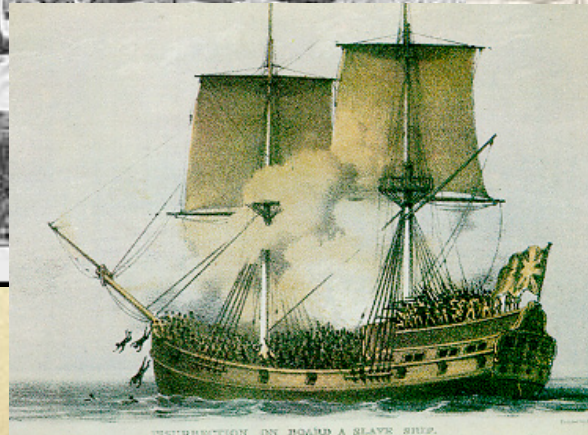
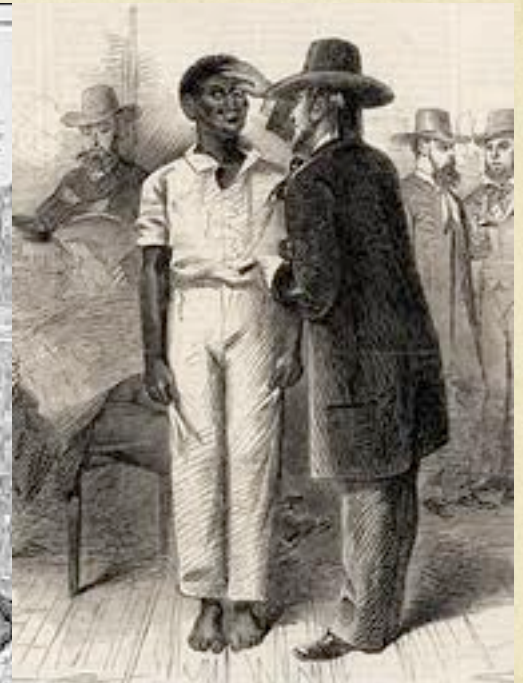
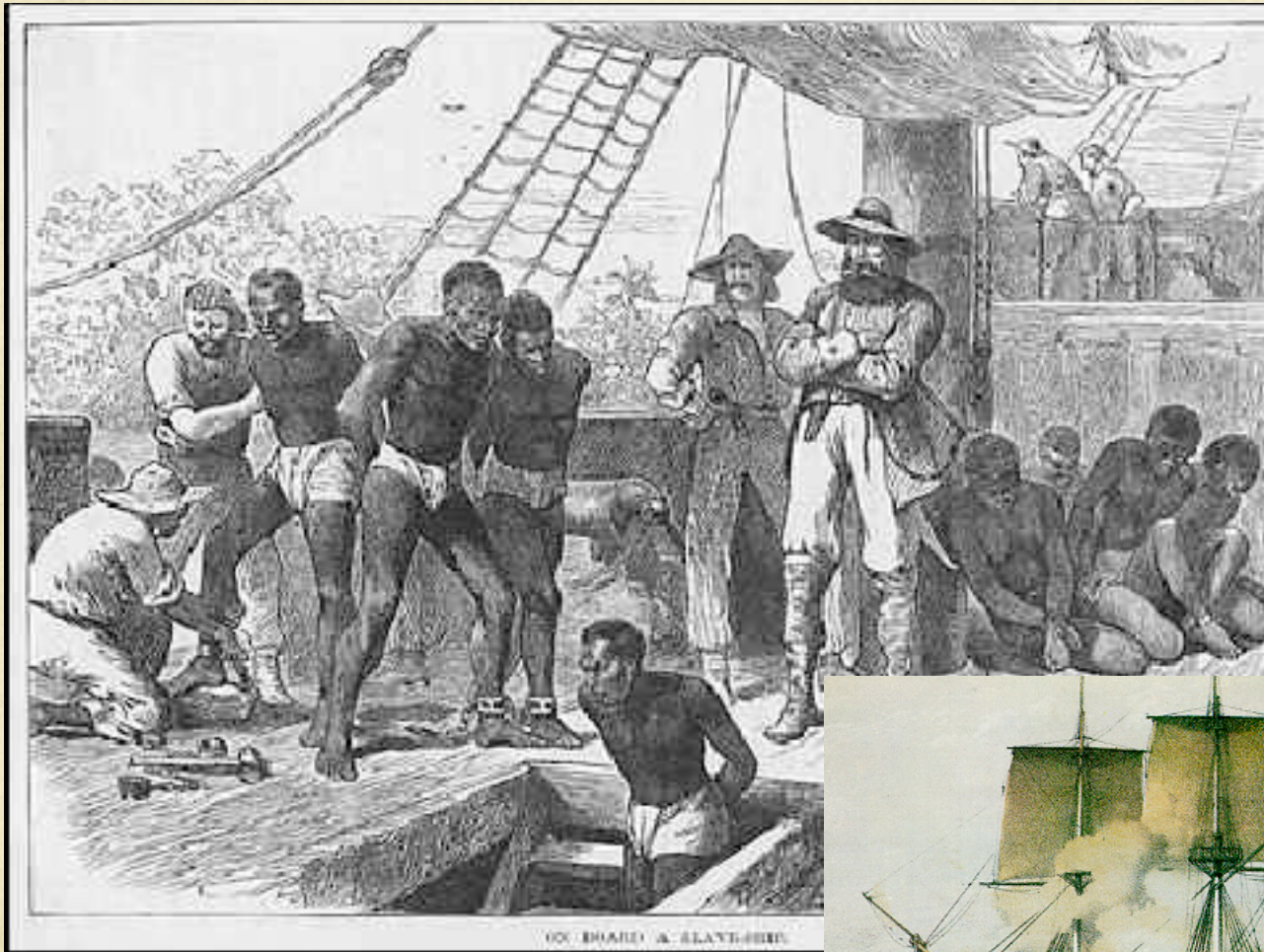
- Saint-Domingue was the richest of all the colonies in the New World
  - Haiti
  - Controlled by France
  - \$\$\$ = sugar cane
- French brought in African slaves to work the cane fields
  - 1788 = 500,000 slaves to 60,000 white colonists (8-1)

# The colony of Saint-Domingue





# French importation of slaves from Africa





# The Cane Fields of Saint-Domingue





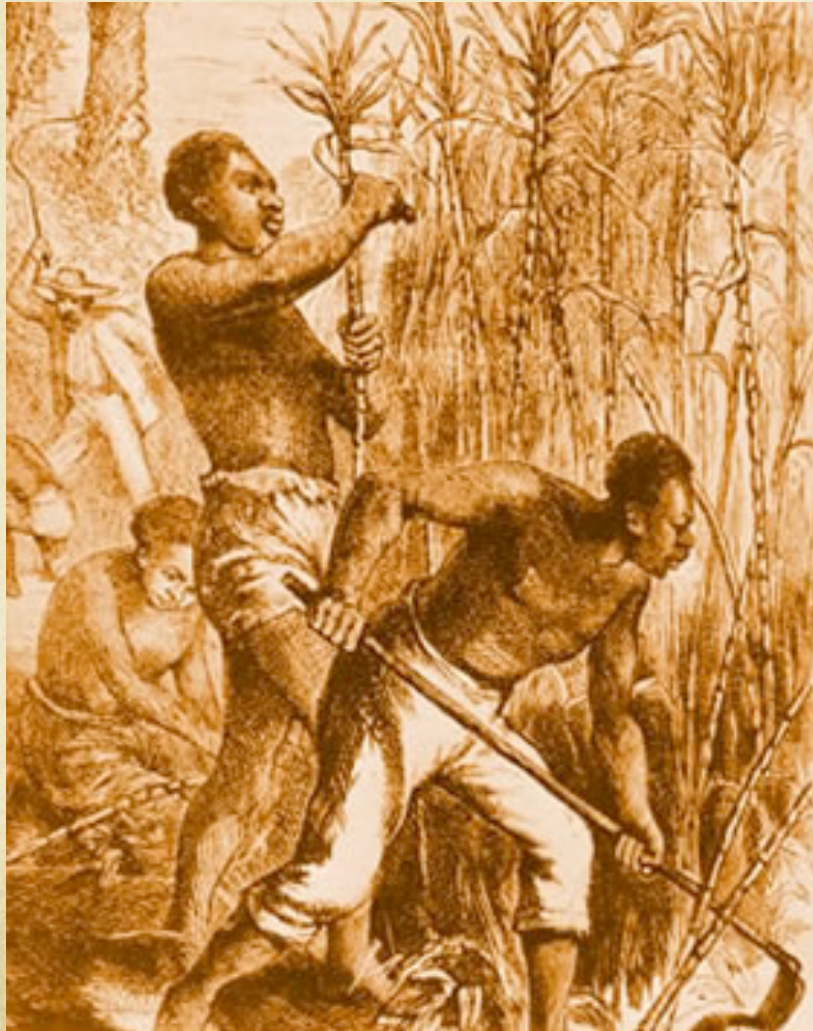
# What was the colonial class system like on Saint-Domingue?

- Lots of racial / social tension in the colony
  - Rich plantation owners
  - Gens de couleur (people of color)
  - African slaves
- The “gens de couleur” were denied equal rights even though some were successful





# How were the African slaves treated on the island?



- One word = BRUTAL
  - Long work hours
  - Bad conditions
  - Disease / malnutrition
  - High death rate (20's)
  - Savage punishment
- Many slaves attempted to flee their masters and hid in the mountains ("maroons")



# Work in the Cane Fields





# Production of French Sugar





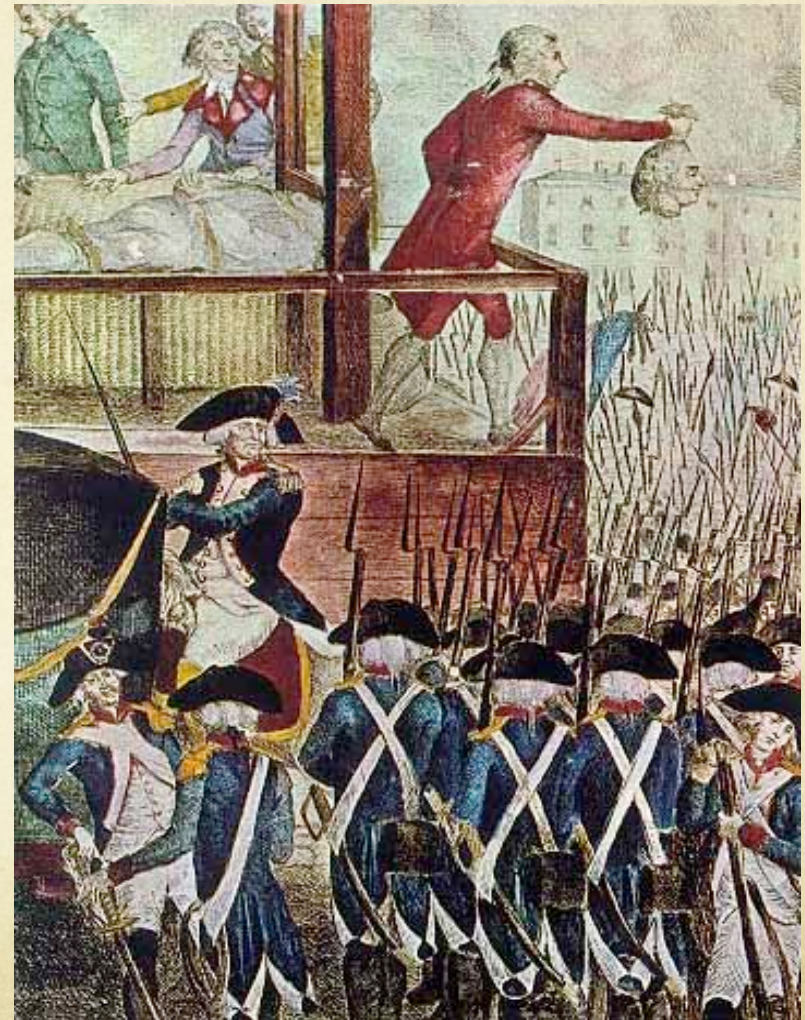
# Slave Punishments





# How does the Revolution start on Saint-Domingue?

- The trouble starts in 1789 with the French Revolution
  - Declaration of the Rights of Man
- The “Gens de couleur” citizens of the colony demand equal rights
  - The ruling white classes refuses
  - Threats of violence





# The Death of Vincent Oge



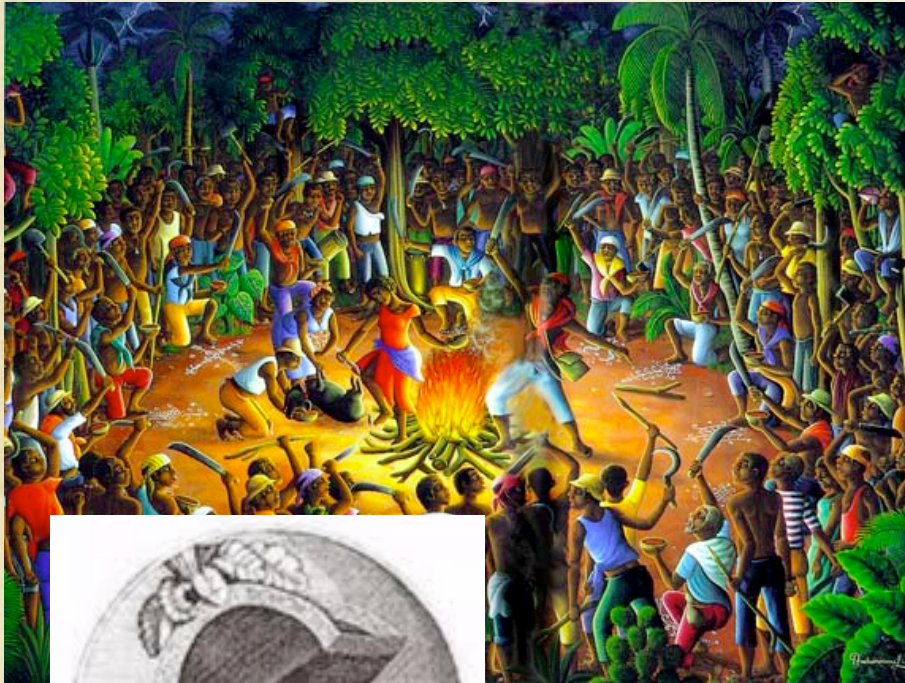


# Oge's Execution ("Broken on the Wheel")





# How does the Revolution start on Saint-Domingue?



- In 1791, a voodoo priest / “maroon” leader named Boukman Dutty sparked a slave uprising
  - Terrorized whites
  - Burned plantations
  - Freed slaves
- Saint-Domingue’s white colonists make a deal with the British for help
  - Believed the French government cared little for them
  - Desired independence



# Boukman Dutty (?-1791)





# Destruction of French Plantations



Courtesy of The Library Company of Philadelphia



# Who is Toussaint L'Ouverture?

- Toussaint L'Ouverture is one of the most successful of the African revolutionaries
  - 1743-1803
  - Brilliant businessman / general
- Well-educated in Enlightenment philosophy
  - Believed a black “messiah” would rise to lead the slaves to victory





# How does L'Ouverture turn the revolution around?

- L'Ouverture is a master manipulator
  - Gains help from the Spanish to defeat the British
  - Switches the French in return for an end to slavery / defeats the Spanish
- By 1796, L'Ouverture is declared governor of the colony
  - Wants to create an all-black republic
  - Expels all whites / foreigners





# L'Ouverture's troops in battle





# What issues did L'Ouverture face as the new leader of Saint-Domingue?



- The “gen de colour” rebel against L'Ouverture
  - Want to remain French
  - “War of the Classes” (1799)
- L'Ouverture gains help from the US to defeat this uprising
  - US fears French / British using Saint-Domingue as a military base



# What issues did L'Ouverture face as the new leader of Saint-Domingue?

- L'Ouverture also faces economic issues
  - Cane fields / plantations are destroyed
  - No economy
- L'Ouverture forces his African followers back to work (using forced labor)
  - Dictator?
  - Is this slavery again?





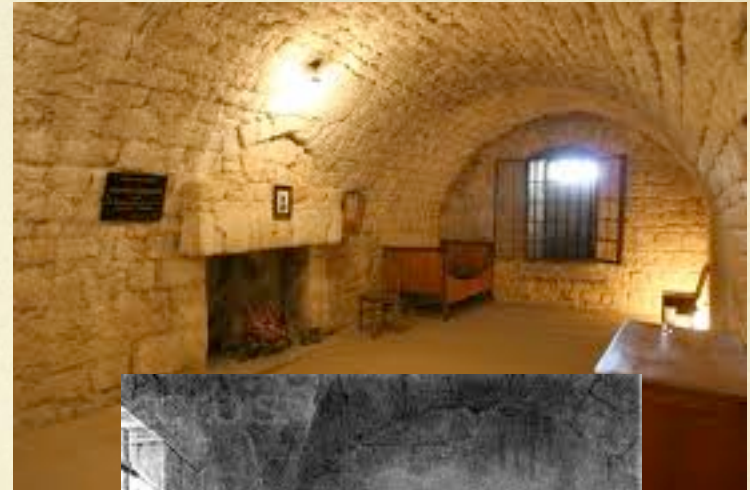
# Is everyone happy with L'Ouverture as Saint-Domingue's leader?



- Many white and “gen de colours” are unhappy with L'Ouverture rule
  - Petition Napoleon for help
- In 1801, Napoleon dispatched an army to Saint-Domingue to retake the island
  - Little resistance
  - L'Ouverture is arrested / jailed



# L'Ouverture's Surrender / Arrest





# What eventually ends French rule in Saint-Domingue for good?

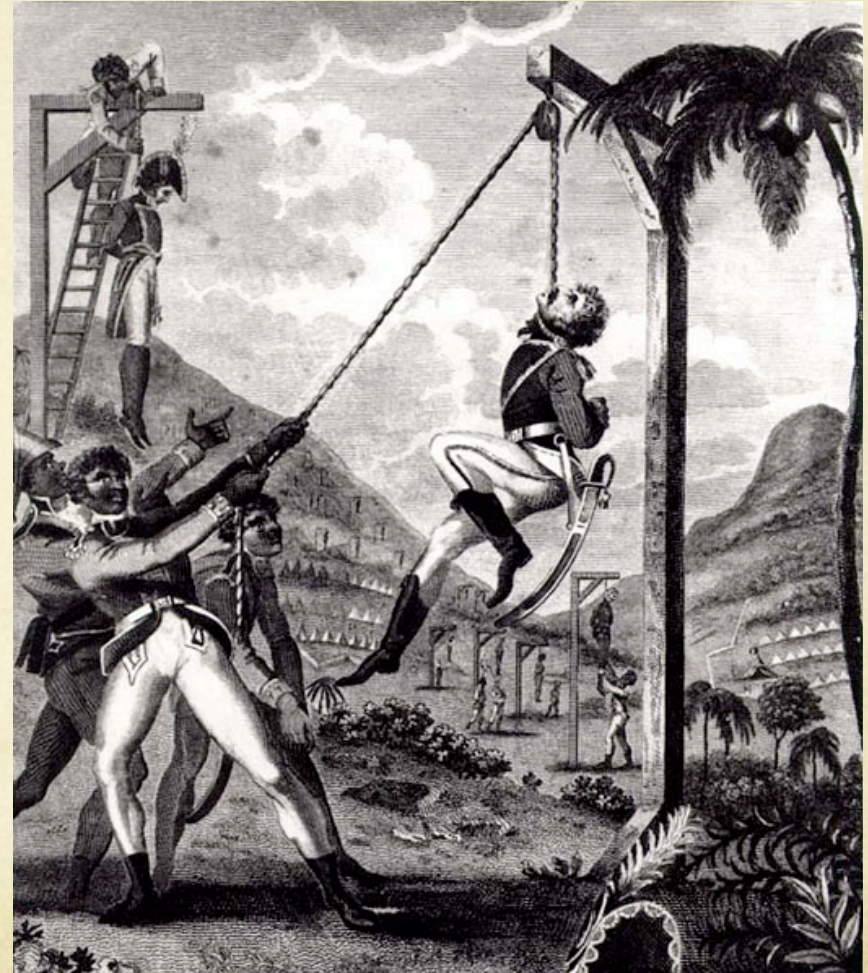
- Napoleon tries to reinstitute slavery / sugar cane production
  - The slaves again revolt
  - Tropical disease ravage French troops
- By 1804, Napoleon recalls his army
  - The country of Haiti declares it independence





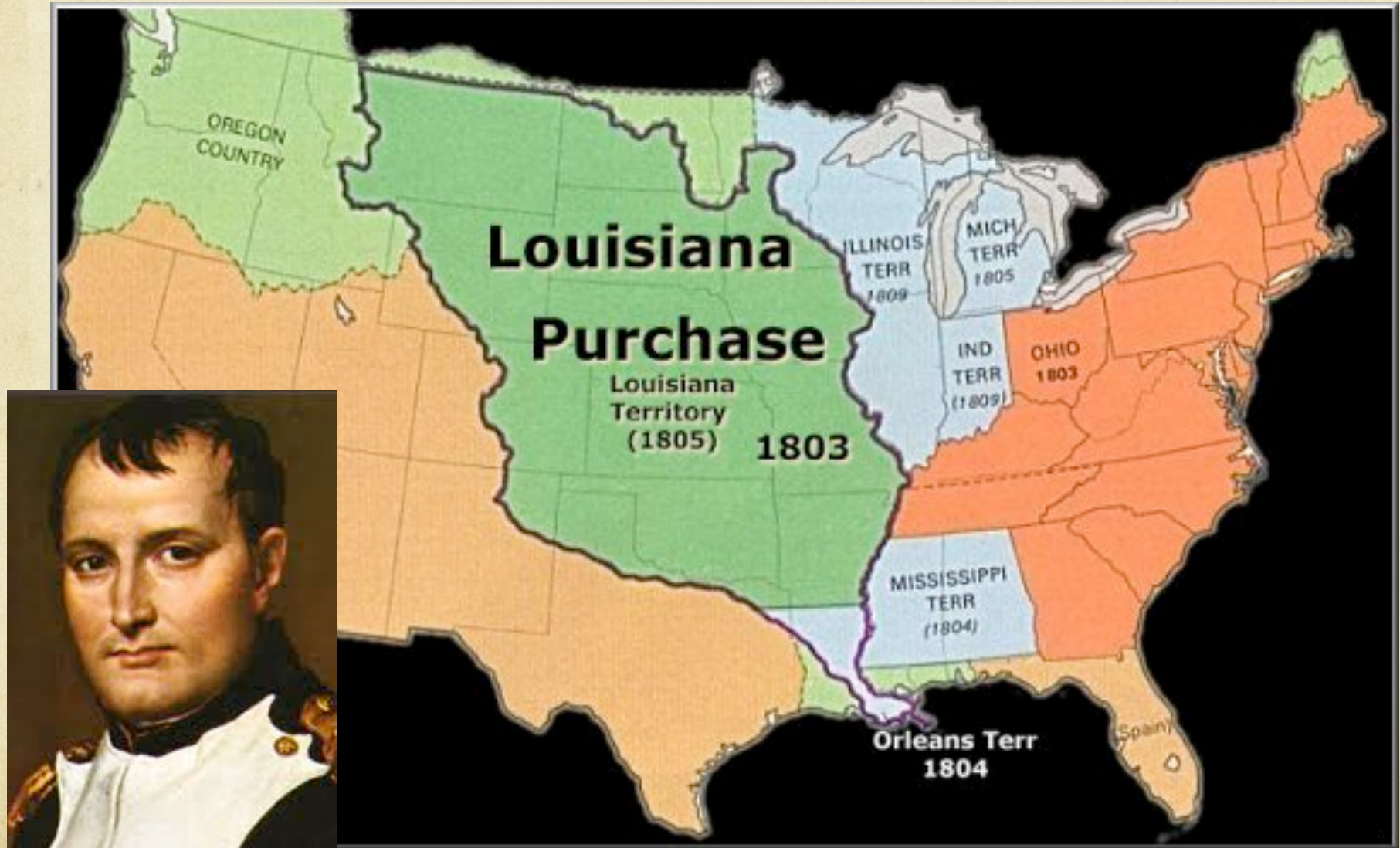
# How is the Haitian Revolution viewed by the rest of the world?

- Many other countries watch the revolution with fear
  - US = fears a slave revolt in the South
  - Refused to recognize Haitian independence till 1862
- Helped to push the Louisiana Purchase (1803)





# The Louisiana Purchase (1803)





# How is the Haitian Revolution viewed today?



- The Haitian Revolution is celebrated today as one of the most “democratic” revolutions
  - Race
  - True “Enlightenment”
- However, Haiti remains one of the world’s poorest countries



# 2010 Haitian Earthquake

