CHEAT SHEET

Haitian Revolution

(1791-1804)

Location: Haiti (Hispaniola, Saint-Domingue)

Who Revolted

* + ·    The Haitian people were all slaves (that’s what they had in common) because it was anti-slavery.
  + ·    The Haitian revolution 1791-1804
  + ·    Class or caste?
  + ·    The remarkable leader of this slave revolt was **Toussaint** Breda (later called **Toussaint L'Ouverture**, and sometimes the “black **Napoleon**”). Slave revolts from this time normally ended in executions and failure – this story is the exception. It began in 1791 in the French colony of Saint Dominique (later Haiti).
  + ·    The Religon was VooDoo
  + ·    Two months after his defeat of Napoleon Bonaparte's colonial forces, Jean-Jacques Dessalines proclaims the independence of Saint-Domingue, renaming it Haiti after its original Arawak name. In 1791, a slave revolt erupted on the French colony, and Toussaint-Louverture, a former slave, took control of the rebels.
  + ·    Race or ethnicity? which had 500,000 slaves, 32,000 whites, and 28,000 free blacks (which included both blacks and mulattos).
  + ·    The political affiliation was to stop slavery
  + ·    Code noir or slave code was about the restrictions they had, how they were supposed to act, think. This caused the owner to have more power.
  + ·    In October 1789 someone reported that the slaves considered the new revolutionary cockade (a decoration made up of red, white, and blue ribbons worn by supporters of the Revolution) a "signal of the manumission of the whites . . . the blacks all share an idea that struck them spontaneously: that the white slaves kill their masters and now free they govern themselves and regain possession of the land." In other words, the black slaves hoped to follow in the footsteps of their white predecessors, freeing themselves, killing their masters, and taking over the land.
  + ·    They were slaves that were owned by free men or free black men, they can also be owned by the whites.
  + ·    Type of job: slavery
  + ·    Whole group

Why did they revolt

* + ·    Because they were slaves
  + ·    They were unhappy because they were slaves and they did not like how they were treated
  + ·    They wanted to have a revolution because they thought that was the only way the government would listen and they had no voice
  + ·    It was the only successful slave revolt in modern times.

How did they organize

* + - ·   The revolution was spontaneous

<http://scholar.library.miami.edu/slaves/san_domingo_revolution/revolution.html#Anchor>

* Boukman, Biassou, Toussaint, Jeannot, Francois, Dessalines, and Cristophe. These men helped with the revolution.
  + ·    People found out about the revolution when they destroyed plantation
  + The leader that organized the revolution was Tousssaint L’Ouverture

How did the people overthrow the government?

* + - they had a military to support them.

How was the government the same or different?

An independent government was created but the society remained under French colonial rule. They gave them education and for males training and entrée into the military. The mulatto descendants and wealthy freedman became the elite of the haitian society. Many of them had acquired wealth.

* The mulatto dominated politics and economics which created another two caste society. In 1825 france forced them to pay 150 million of gold. French in reparations to french ex-slaveholders. They finished paying in the dept in 1947 which left the country's government deeply impoverished, causing instability.