

# The Haitian Revolution



Portrait of Jean-Baptiste Belley,  
by Anne-Louis Girodet, 1798

“The French Republic wants all men to be free and equal with no color distinctions. Kings can only be content when they are surrounded by slaves; they are the ones who sold you to the whites on the African coast; they are the tyrants in Europe who want this vile trade to continue. The Republic adopts you among its children; these kings wanted only to load you down with chains or eliminate you.”

Léger Félicité Sonthonax,  
*Decree of General Liberty*,  
August 29, 1793

# **A Chronology of Events in Saint Domingue, 1789-1804**

1789-1791: Colonial Rebellion

1791-1793: Slave Uprising

1793-1798: Struggle with  
European Colonial Powers

1798-1804: Independence From France

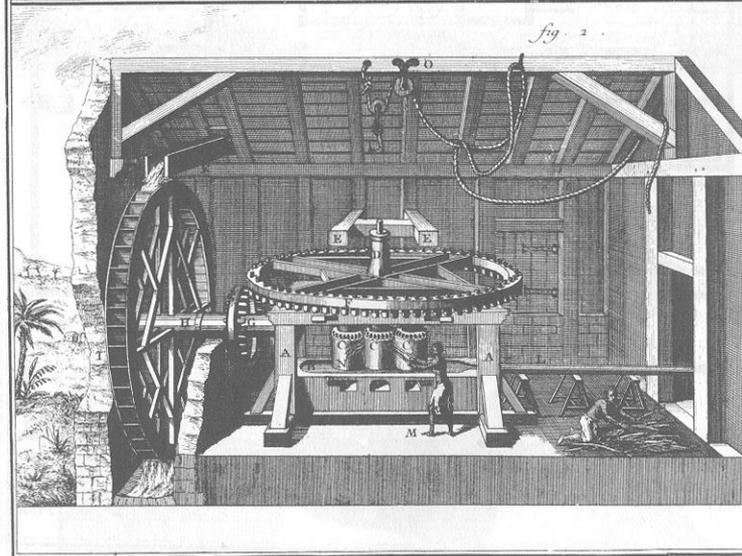
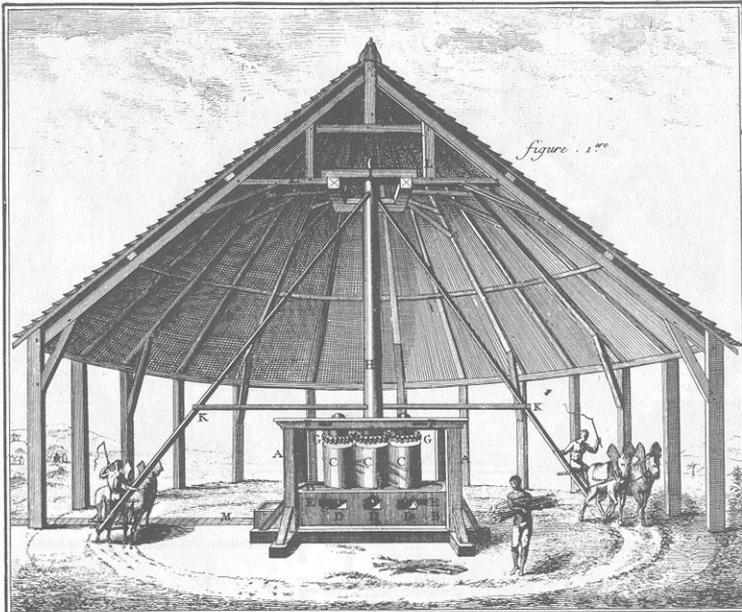


19th-century image of slaves harvesting cane

# Sugar Production



This depiction of a sugar plantation in Saint Domingue emphasizes the grinding mill and refining vats. An overseer with a gun supervises the slave labor. Source: Jean-Baptiste du Tertre, *Histoire generale des Antilles habitees par les Francais*, 4 vols. (Paris: T. Lolly, 1667).



*OEconomie Rustique,  
Sucrière.*

Engraving showing machines that crush cane. From the *Encyclopedie* of Diderot D'Alembert, mid-eighteenth century.

# A Typical Saint Domingue Sugar Plantation in 1789

- 1000 carreaux of land
- 2/3 planted with cane
- 200 slaves
- 100 mules
- 134 tons of clayed sugar produced annually

# Plantations in Saint Domingue, 1789

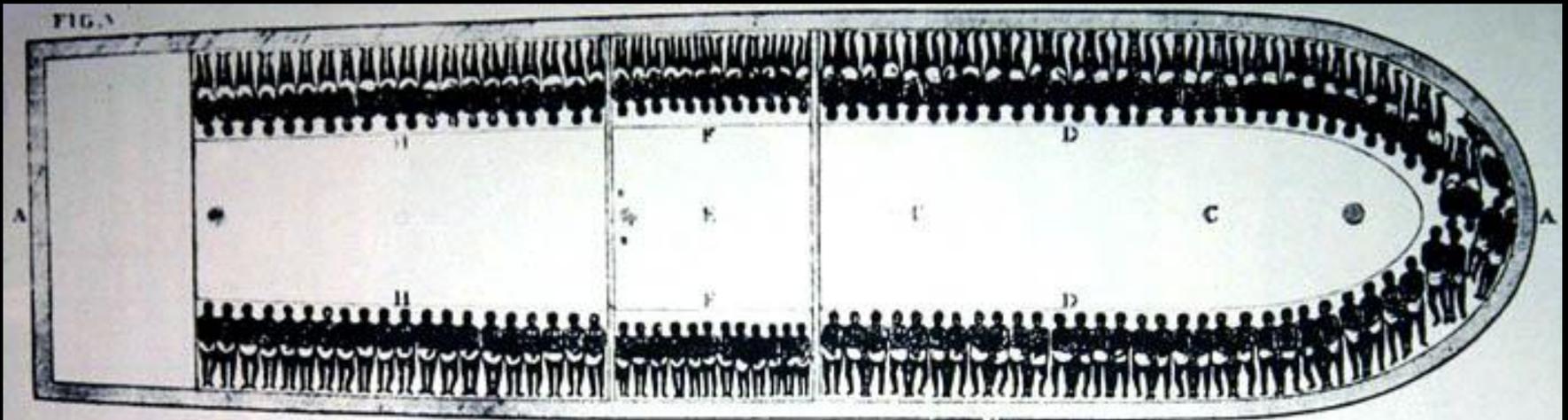
- 800 Sugar Plantations
- 3000 Coffee Plantations
- 800 Cotton Plantations
- 2950 Indigo Plantations

# French Profits ca. 1789

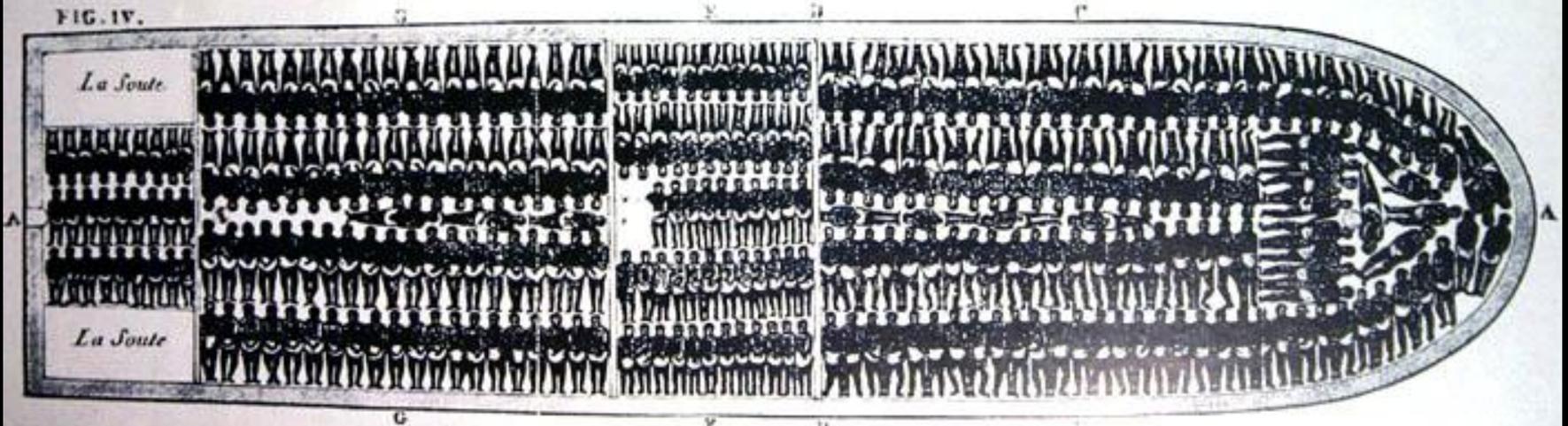
- 2/5 of France's total colonial profits
- Saint Domingue alone exports one-third more than all the British West Indies combined
- French re-exports of goods processed from Saint Domingue raw material rose from 15 Million *livres* in 1715 to 152 million in 1789.
- Of 424 million *livres* exported to Europe, Americas, and the Near East in 1788, 152 million originated in Saint Domingue

“It was by the re-export of a colonial produce, and by it alone, that France maintained a favorable balance of trade with the world.”

--Eric Williams, author of *Capitalism and Slavery*, former President of Trinidad and Tobago



*Coupe horizontale des plateformes du Bâtiment Négrier.*



*Coupe horizontale du Bâtiment Négrier.*

Diagram of slave deck on eighteenth-century slaving ship

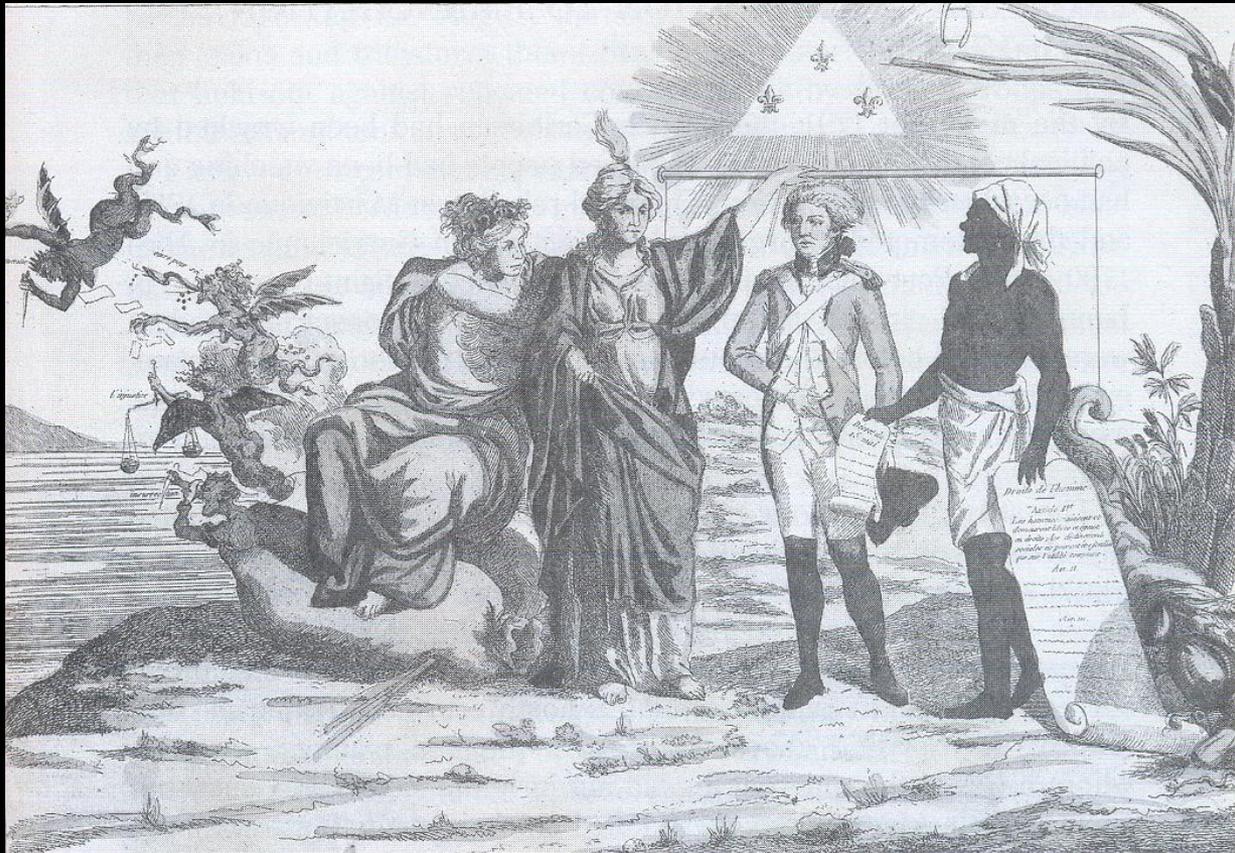


Whip used in French colony of Martinique, mid 19th century



Photo of US slave, 1863

# 1789-1791: Questions of Citizenship and Equality in Saint Domingue



*Mortals are Equal,*  
Anonymous Engraving, 1791



# The Slave Uprising, August 1791

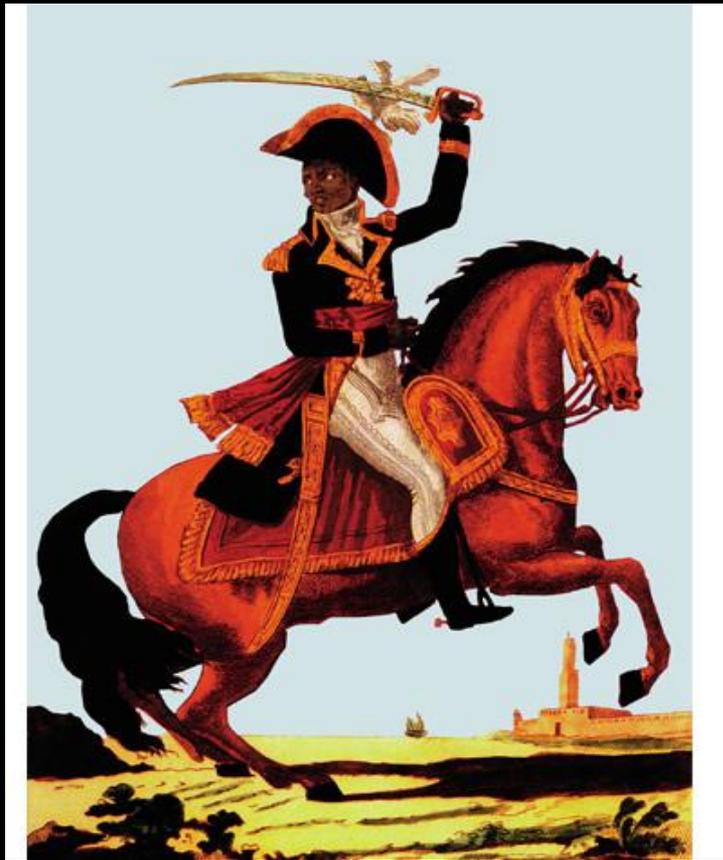


*The Burning of Cap-Français*

# Toussaint L'Ouverture



# Toussaint & Napoleon



# Toussaint Louverture, *Constitution of the French Colony of Saint Domingue*, 1801

Art. 14. Since the colony is essentially agricultural, it cannot be allowed to suffer even the slightest interruption in the work of cultivation.

Art. 15. Each plantation is a factory that requires the union of cultivators and workers; it is the peaceful refuge of an active and faithful family, where the owner of the property or his representative is necessarily the father.

Art. 16. Each cultivator and worker is a part of the family and receives a portion of its revenues. All change in residency on the part of cultivators leads to the ruin of cultivation....

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Spring 2011

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