

# 5.5 - REACTIONS to the FRENCH REVOLUTION

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## 1. 释义

So with an event **as monumental** 丰碑式的，极重要的；意义深远的 **as** the French Revolution, which we talked about in the last video, **you bet (v.)** 打赌 **your sweet bippy** <美，俚> 屁股，臀部（非正式，用于强调肯定，你可以百分百确定，绝对没错，我敢用性命担保）there was going to be **some strong reactions** 反应 to it across Europe and the world. And that is what we're going to talk about in this video. So if you're ready to get them brain cows milked, let's get to it.

Example 1. 案例  
monumental

→ 词根词缀：-mon-提醒 + -u-中缀 + -ment名词后缀 + -al形容词词尾

So there were two main reactions that you need to know, and the first was **the conservative** 保守的；守旧的 **reaction** against the French Revolution in Europe and elsewhere.

I mean, for a lot of **the Enlightenment-style** 启蒙运动风格的 **intellectuals** 知识分子, **the calls (n.) for liberty** 自由 in France and **the overturning (n.)** 推翻 of aristocratic 贵族的 **privilege** 特权 was a good and right thing.

But as the revolution **grew (v.) more radical** 激进的 /and people started (v.) **getting** their heads **cut off** by the metric butt-loads（非正式，大量地），主 some of these thinkers (n.) 后定说明 like Thomas Jefferson over in America 谓 **decided that** things had gone too far.

And **there was**, of course, **dissent (n.)** 异议；反对 **from within France** as well. 当然，法国国内也有不同意见。

**oseph de Maistre** was a big critic 批评者 of the Enlightenment, especially its emphasis 强调 on the right of the people to govern (v.) 统治；管理 themselves.

Maistre was a monarchy 君主制 man **through and through** 完全地；彻头彻尾地, and **he justified (v.)** 证明...有理；为...辩护 **that belief on the grounds of** 以...为理由；基于，由于 **the divine right of kings** 君权神授. By his reckoning 估计；推断，主 the chaos 混乱 and the violence 暴力 of the French Revolution 系 was proof 证据 of the damage 后定 **Enlightenment thought** 想法，看法，思想 could do.

Example 2. 案例

dissent (n.) from within France

这里的 from 强调的是异议的“来源”或“出处”。它表明这些异议是“源自于法国内部”

例子：“The criticism came from within the organization.” (批评声源自组织内部。)

And so Maistre **advocated** 提倡；主张 **endlessly (ad.)** 不断地；无穷尽地 for a return to **the divinely (ad.)** 凭神的力量；像神一样地 **ordained (v.)** 主宰；掌握；规定 神命所定，神命定的 **monarchy** in France. This is one of the few conservative critics 这是为数不多的保守派批评家之一 under the new regime 政权 in France 后定说明 that did not **get himself a play date** 玩耍约会 **with a guillotine** (断头台) 他是少数几个没和断头台约上会的保守派, because he **ended up** fleeing (v.) 逃离 France /and hurling (v.) 猛扔；猛投；猛摔, 猛烈抨击 his commentary 评论 from afar 从远处.

### Example 3. 案例

#### play date

an arrangement for children to spend time together and play ( 讓各方的孩子們可以在一起遊玩的 ) 遊戲約會

A "play date" is a pre-arranged meeting between children, typically organized by their parents, for the purpose of playing together and fostering (v.) 养育; 促进; 助长; 培养; 鼓励 social interaction. “玩耍约会”是孩子们之间预先安排的会面，通常由他们的父母组织，目的是一起玩耍和促进社交互动。

#### ordain

(v.)

1. ~ **sb (as)** : (sth) to make sb a priest, minister or rabbi 授予圣秩 ( 品 ) ；授予圣职

[ VN-N ]

• He **was ordained (v.) (as)** a priest last year. 他去年接受任命为神父。

[ also VN ] ——see also ordination

2. ( formal ) ( of God, the law or fate 神、法律或命运 ) to order (v.) or command (v.) sth; to decide sth in advance 主宰；掌握；规定

[ V that ]

• Fate **had ordained (v.) that** they would never meet again. 他们命里注定永远不会再相见。

[ also VN ]

→ 来自拉丁语 ordinare, 安排，布置，指定，**词源同 order** 引申词义安排职位，授予圣职或圣秩。

#### hurl

[ VN+ adv./prep. ] to throw sth/sb violently in a particular direction 猛扔；猛投；猛摔 • He **hurled (v.) a brick** through the window. 他往窗户里扔了块砖。 ——note at throw

→ 词源不确定，可能来自**拟声词**，快速掷物体的声音。



And from outside of France, the best-known conservative 保守的；保守派的 reaction against the French Revolution was from the English writer Edmund Burke. Now, while many European nations first praised 赞扬 the revolution because at least it was weakening their political rivals 对手, some **saw** the democratizing 民主化 of France **as** a threat 威胁.

There was **a strong fear** from other nations **that** their people would be inspired by these new ideas established in the French Revolution /and seek (v.) 寻求 them in their own state. In

England, conservative Edmund Burke wrote *Reflections* 沉思；深思；审慎的思考 on the *Revolution in France*, in which he cautioned (v.)告诫；警告 the British people against the excesses 过度；无节制 of the French Revolution. And he even wrote this /before the Reign 统治时期,任期 of Terror 恐怖统治 began.

He defended (v.)捍卫 hereditary (a.)世袭的 privileges /and waxed (v.) (数量、规模等) 增加, 变大;说话变得 (热情、雄辩、伤感等) 起来 eloquent (a.)雄辩的, 口才流利的 about 滔滔不绝地谈论 Britain's unrepresentative 无代表性的 Parliament 议会 — like he thought (v.) all of this was great. If the British people demanded *what the French had secured* 获得, Burke argued, the results would be chaos (n.). Then *the Reign of Terror* broke out 爆发, and Burke was like 活脱脱就像在说, "I told y'all."

他捍卫世袭特权，对英国缺乏代表性的议会制度大加颂扬——仿佛这一切都好得很。伯克辩称，如果英国人民要求获得法国人争取到的权利，结果必将天下大乱。后来恐怖统治爆发，伯克那副嘴脸活脱脱就是在说“早跟你们说过会这样”。

Example 4. title  
wax

[ V-ADJ ] ~ **lyrical, eloquent, sentimental, etc.** : ( formal ) to become lyrical , etc. when speaking or writing 说话变得 ( 热情、雄辩、伤感等 ) 起来

•He **waxed (v.) lyrical** (a.) on the food at the new restaurant.他对这家新餐馆的菜肴越说越来劲。

Therefore, 主 a radical overturning (使) 倾覆；推翻 of established (a.)确立已久的, 早已投入使用的 norms 惯例；规范 in England 谓 did not occur (v.) as it did in France.

Now, that was the reaction to the French Revolution /from the think-you-thinking conservatives. But across the globe, there was a more violent reaction in the Caribbean.

这就是那些自以为会思考的保守派, 对法国大革命的反应。

Example 5. title  
think-you-thinking

gemini: 说话者将其与“更暴力的反应”进行对比。这表明这些“think-you-thinking 保守派”是通过知识分子式的讨论、写作, 或许还有政治策略来做出反应, 而不是通过直接的、身体上的暴力。

By the beginning of the French Revolution, conditions in the French Caribbean — specifically 具体地；确切地 Saint-Domingue — were getting intense 紧张的；激烈的. The island was made up of 由...组成 several social groups, including French officials 官员, plantation owners 种植园主, merchants 商人, free *people of color* 有色人种, and enslaved 被奴役的 African laborers 劳工. And this latter 后者的 group made up about 90 percent of the population 人口.

To make things worse, the French government had granted 授予 various levels of rights 不同层次的权利 to the different groups, and not surprisingly, the enslaved Africans were at the bottom of the pile (堆；成堆的东西)处于最底层 with almost no rights to speak of 值得一提的. But don't worry, France, I'm sure /that's not going to cause any trouble.

Anyway, the conditions for the enslaved laborers on the island were brutally 残忍地 vicious 恶劣的. In fact, the plantation owners on the island — for whom coffee and sugar crops 作物 had made them exceedingly 极其地 wealthy 富有的 — **had figured out 弄清楚 that** simply by working a slave to death /and then buying new slaves, that was a more profitable 盈利的 system **than** treating them kindly.

But it's okay, because once the French Revolution began, the National Assembly 国民议会 took over 接管. I'm sure that they're going **to extend** 扩大；延伸 the liberal 自由的 reforms 改革 后定 made in France **to** all their colonies 殖民地 as well. Wouldn't that be hilarious (滑稽的；可笑的)那不是很好笑吗 if they did that?

No. The National Assembly **ended up** passing **a series of 一系列的 decrees 法令 and laws** that alienated 使疏远；使不友好；离间 almost every group on the island. Especially angered 尤其愤怒 were the enslaved workers, who heard (v.) the cries for "Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity (n. ( 团体内的 ) 情谊，兄弟般友谊，博爱)" 自由、平等、博爱 in the streets of France /and thought that those principles 原则 would extend to all places in the French Empire 帝国.

Example 6. title  
alienate

(v.)

1. to make sb less friendly or sympathetic towards you 使疏远；使不友好；离间

• His comments have alienated a lot of young voters. 他的言论使许多年轻选民离他而去。

2. ~ **sb (from sth/sb)** : to make sb feel that they do not belong in a particular group 使 ( 与某群体 ) 格格不入；使疏远

• Very talented children may feel alienated from the others in their class. 天才出众的孩子可能觉得与班上的同学格格不入。

→ **alien**, 其它的, **-ate**, 使。引申词义使疏远，离间。

fraternity → 来自拉丁语frater, 兄弟，词源同brother.

But when the National Assembly refused to recognize 承认 the enslaved population's rights, the island was ripe for 时机成熟，准备好 revolution.

So by 1791, the slaves on the island — who had witnessed 目睹 the clashes 冲突 between whites and free people of color — began meeting (v.) under the cover of night 趁夜色掩护 to plan (v.) a mass rebellion 大规模起义. In August, the rebellion broke out 爆发 and grew rapidly, and **not long after** 不久之后, hundreds of coffee and sugar plantations 种植园 were destroyed.

And remember, this was France's most profitable colony 殖民地, so these rebels 造反者 weren't just 不只是, 不仅仅是 destroying land — they were actively 积极地 diminishing 减少 profits in France. And **messing with 卷入有害的事；与某人有牵连；干扰；损害 money** is the one thing 后定说明 **you do not do** in a large colonial empire like France.

别忘了，这可是法国最赚钱的殖民地，所以这些叛乱分子破坏的不仅是土地——他们是在直接削减法国的利润。而在法兰西这样庞大的殖民帝国里，最不能触碰的就是经济利益。

So as the rebellion went on, some complicating 使复杂化的 factors 因素 were introduced 引进 ; 传入 ( 疾病 ) , and those complications 复杂情况 were named Spain and Britain. See, this half of the island was actually part of the Spanish Empire, and seeing the opportunity to weaken the French, they **jumped at the opportunity** 迅速抓住机会, 迫不及待地抓住机会 to support the slave rebellion.

The British, also sensing 察觉 ; 意识到 an opportunity in the chaos 混乱, blockaded 封锁 the island with their navy /and then invaded 入侵 the land /and took some territory 领土 for themselves.

So because their most valuable colony was in danger *from all sides* 从各个方面 ; 从各个角度, the National Assembly in France issued 发布 a decree that 主 any slave who fought for the French cause 谓 would win (v.) their freedom. But the rebels looked at each other /and were like, "Well, that's cute 可爱的 ; <美>性感迷人的, but *in case* 以防万一 you haven't noticed 但你可能还没注意到, we already freed (v.) ourselves. So what else you got?" 你还能拿出点什么别的来 ?

At which point 就在这时间点上, the National Assembly abolished 废除 slavery in all of its territory 领土.

But the real tide 潮汐 ; 潮水 of the war turned (v.) in favor of 转向有利于... the French /with the rise of a brilliant 杰出的 soldier named Toussaint Louverture. He was born a slave on the island /and then later 后来 , 随后 freed, and at the beginning of the insurrection 起义 ; 暴动 ; 叛乱, the Spanish recruited (v.)招募 Louverture **to fight for them** against the French, which he did and easily proved his brilliance 才华 , 聪慧.

但真正的战局, 却在一位名叫杜桑·卢维杜尔的杰出士兵的崛起中, 向有利于法国人的方向发展。他出生在岛上的奴隶, 后来被释放, 在起义开始时, 西班牙人招募卢维杜尔为他们与法国人作战, 他这样做了, 并轻松证明了他的才华。

Example 7. title  
insurrection

→ *in-*, 进入, 使, 向上, *sur-*, 向上, *-rect*, 树立 ( *-rect-* 正, 直 ) , 词源同 surge, insurgent. 引申词义起义, 叛乱。

But after several years of fighting, Louverture abandoned (v.)抛弃 the Spanish /and **switched sides** 改变立场 and led an army of four thousand against the Spanish and the British. By 1796, Louverture's efforts **had resulted in** 导致 France regaining 重新获得 control of their colony.

So the National Assembly installed (v.)任命 Louverture as the commander 指挥官 of the colony, and he defeated his rivals 对手 to the south /to maintain 维持 control over all of Saint-Domingue. But he began **making more and more decisions** 后定说明 independently of 独立于 France, and by this time, Napoleon was in power 掌权, and that was not going to work for 行得通, 可以接受 him.

于是国民议会任命卢维杜尔为殖民地总督, 他击败南方对手, 牢牢掌控了整个圣多明各。但他开始越来越频繁地绕过法国自行决策——而此时掌权的已是拿破仑, 这种情况岂能容忍。

#### Example 8. title

在这种语境下, "work for him" 的意思是“对他行得通/可以接受”, 或者更具体地说, “符合他的利益/胃口”。杜桑·卢维图尔的独立行为不符合拿破仑的利益。拿破仑作为当时的掌权者, 绝不会允许一个殖民地指挥官脱离他的控制和权威。

So Napoleon, wanting to regain (v.)重新控制 control over Saint-Domingue, decided it was time to get Louverture out of power 下台,失去权力 and re-establish (v.)重新建立 slavery on the island. So a delegation 代表团 was sent to arrest (v.)逮捕 Louverture, and he was deported 驱逐 back to France, where he died shortly thereafter 此后不久.

But *at the prospect of* 面临...的前景,一想到.....的可能性 the return of slavery and French oppression 压迫, Louverture's lieutenant 副官, Jean-Jacques Dessalines, rallied (v.)召集 the resistance 抵抗力量 and handily 轻易地 defeated (v.) the French /and proclaimed 宣布 independence 独立 in 1804. They officially renamed 重新命名 their country Haiti, which had been its name before the arrival 到达, 到来 of the French.

#### Example 9. title lieutenant

→ 来自古法语lieu tenant,替代, 副职, lieu,地方, tenant,占用, 引申词义代替, 副职官员, 陆军中尉等。

Okay, click [here](#) to keep reviewing (v.) for Unit 5 of AP Euro. If you need more help getting an A in your class and a five on your exam in May, then click right here /and grab my AP Euro review pack, which is going to make all your dreams come true. Hey, I'll catch you on the flip-flop. Heimler out.

## 2. 中文释义

既然"法国大革命"是如此具有里程碑意义的事件(我们在上一个视频中谈到过),可以肯定的是,欧洲乃至全世界,都会对它产生强烈的反应。这就是我们在这个视频中要讨论的内容。所以,如果你准备好充实自己的知识,那我们开始吧。

有两种主要的反应,是你需要了解的,第一个是,欧洲及其他地区对"法国大革命"的保守派反应。我的意思是,对于许多具有"启蒙思想"的知识分子来说,法国对自由的呼吁,以及对贵族特权的推翻,是一件正确且有益的事情。但随着革命变得更加激进,人们开始大量被断头,像美国的托马斯·杰斐逊(Thomas Jefferson)这样的思想家,认为事情做得太过火了。

当然,法国国内也有不同意见。约瑟夫·德·迈斯特(Joseph de Maistre)是对"启蒙运动"的强烈批评者,尤其是启蒙运动对"人民自治权利"的强调。迈斯特是一个彻头彻尾的"君主制"拥护者,他以"君权神授"为理由,来为自己的信仰辩护。在他看来,法国大革命的混乱和暴力,证明了"启蒙思想"可能造成的危害。

所以迈斯特不断主张法国恢复神授的君主制。他是法国新政权下,少数几个没有把自己送上断头台的保守派批评者之一,因为他最终逃离了法国,并从远处发表他的评论。



在法国之外，对法国大革命最著名的保守派反应，来自英国作家埃德蒙·伯克（Edmund Burke）。许多欧洲国家最初赞扬这场革命，因为至少它削弱了他们的政治对手，但也有一些国家认为，法国的民主化是一种威胁。

**其他国家非常担心他们的人民会受到“法国大革命”所确立的新思想的启发，并在自己的国家寻求同样的变革。**在英国，保守派埃德蒙·伯克写了《对法国革命的反思》（Reflections on the Revolution in France），在书中他告诫英国人民要警惕“法国大革命”的过激行为。而且他甚至在恐怖统治开始之前，就写下了这本书。

他为“世袭特权”辩护，并滔滔不绝地称赞英国“不具代表性的议会”——他认为这一切都很棒。伯克认为，如果英国人民要求得到法国人民所争取到的东西，结果将是混乱。然后“恐怖统治”爆发了，伯克说：“我早就告诉过你们。”

因此，**英国没有像法国那样，发生对“既定规范”的激进颠覆。**

这就是保守派思想家对法国大革命的反应。但**在全球范围内，加勒比地区的反应更为激烈。**

在“法国大革命”开始时，法属加勒比地区——特别是圣多明戈（Saint-Domingue）——的局势变得紧张起来。这个岛屿上有几个社会群体，包括法国官员、种植园主、商人、有色自由人，以及被奴役的非洲劳工。而最后这个群体约占人口的90%。

更糟糕的是，法国政府给予不同群体不同程度的权利，毫不奇怪，被奴役的非洲人处于最底层，几乎没有什么权利可言。但别担心，法国，我相信这不会引发任何麻烦。

不管怎样，岛上被奴役劳工的处境极其恶劣。事实上，岛上的种植园主——咖啡和甘蔗种植让他们变得非常富有——发现，让奴隶累死然后再购买新奴隶，比善待奴隶更有利可图。

但没关系，因为**法国大革命开始后，“国民议会”接管了政权。我相信他们会把法国的自由改革推广到所有殖民地。**如果他们真的这么做，那不是很有趣吗？

**不。“国民议会”最终通过了一系列法令和法律，几乎疏远了岛上的所有群体。被奴役的劳工尤其愤怒，他们听到了法国街头“自由、平等、博爱”的呼声，并认为这些原则会推广到法兰西帝国的所有地方。**

**但当“国民议”会拒绝承认被奴役人口的权利时，这个岛屿已经具备了革命的条件。**

所以到了1791年，岛上的奴隶——他们目睹了白人和有色自由人之间的冲突——开始在夜色掩护下集会，策划一场大规模起义。8月，起义爆发并迅速发展，不久之后，数百个咖啡和甘蔗种植园被摧毁。

记住，这是法国最赚钱的殖民地，所以这些起义者不仅摧毁了土地——他们还极大地减少了法国的利润。而在像法国这样的大型殖民帝国中，动钱是绝对不行的。

随着起义的进行，一些复杂因素出现了，这些因素来自西班牙和英国。要知道，**这个岛屿的一半，实际上是西班牙帝国的一部分，看到削弱法国的机会，他们抓住机会支持奴隶起义。**

英国也在混乱中看到了机会，他们用海军封锁了这个岛屿，然后入侵并占领了一些领土。

由于他们最有价值的殖民地四面受敌，法国“国民议会”颁布法令，任何为法国而战的奴隶，都将赢得自由。但起义者面面相觑，心想：“好吧，这很有意思，但你们可能没注意到，我们已经解放了自己。那你们还有什么别的办法？”

在这种情况下，“国民议会”废除了其所有领土上的奴隶制。

但战争的真正转折点，是一位才华横溢的士兵杜桑·卢维杜尔（Toussaint Louverture）的崛起，这对法国有利。他出生时是岛上的奴隶，后来获得了自由，在起义开始时，西班牙招募卢维杜尔为他们对抗法国，他照做了，并且轻松证明了自己的才华。

但经过几年的战斗，卢维杜尔放弃了为西班牙作战，转而支持法国，并率领一支四千人的军队对抗西班牙和英国。到1796年，卢维杜尔的努力，使法国重新控制了殖民地。

所以“国民议会”任命卢维杜尔为殖民地的指挥官，他击败了南方的对手，维持了对整个圣多明戈的控制。但他开始越来越独立于法国做决策，而此时拿破仑（Napoleon）掌权了，这对他来说可不行。

所以拿破仑想要重新控制“圣多明戈”，他决定是时候让卢维杜尔下台，并在岛上重新恢复奴隶制。于是派了一个代表团去逮捕卢维杜尔，他被遣返回法国，不久后死在了那里。

但鉴于奴隶制的恢复，和法国的压迫，卢维杜尔的副手让 - 雅克·德萨林（Jean-Jacques Dessalines）集结了抵抗力量，轻松击败了法国，并在1804年宣布独立。他们正式将自己的国家重新命名为海地（Haiti），这是法国到来之前这个名字。

好的，[点击这里](#)继续复习美国大学预修课程欧洲历史第五单元。如果你需要更多帮助，想在课堂上得A，并在五月份的考试中得5分，那就[点击这里](#)获取我的美国大学预修课程欧洲历史复习资料包，它会让你实现所有梦想。嘿，我们下次再见。海姆勒下线了。

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### 3. pure

So with an event as monumental as the French Revolution, which we talked about in the last video, you bet your sweet bippy there was going to be some strong reactions to it across Europe and the world. And that is what we're going to talk about in this video. So if you're ready to get them brain cows milked, let's get to it.

So there were two main reactions that you need to know, and the first was the conservative reaction against the French Revolution in Europe and elsewhere. I mean, for a lot of the Enlightenment-style intellectuals, the calls for liberty in France and the overturning of aristocratic privilege was a good and right thing. But as the revolution grew more radical and people started getting their heads cut off by the metric butt-loads, some of these thinkers like Thomas Jefferson over in America decided that things had gone too far.

And there was, of course, dissent from within France as well. Joseph de Maistre was a big critic of the Enlightenment, especially its emphasis on the right of the people to govern themselves. Maistre was a monarchy man through and through, and he justified that belief on the grounds of the divine right of kings. By his reckoning, the chaos and the violence of the French Revolution was proof of the damage Enlightenment thought could do.



And so Maistre advocated endlessly for a return to the divinely ordained monarchy in France. This is one of the few conservative critics under the new regime in France that did not get himself a play date with a guillotine, because he ended up fleeing France and hurling his commentary from afar.

And from outside of France, the best-known conservative reaction against the French Revolution was from the English writer Edmund Burke. Now, while many European nations first praised the revolution because at least it was weakening their political rivals, some saw the democratizing of France as a threat.

There was a strong fear from other nations that their people would be inspired by these new ideas established in the French Revolution and seek them in their own state. In England, conservative Edmund Burke wrote *Reflections on the Revolution in France*, in which he cautioned the British people against the excesses of the French Revolution. And he even wrote this before the Reign of Terror began.

He defended hereditary privileges and waxed eloquent about Britain's unrepresentative Parliament—like he thought all of this was great. If the British people demanded what the French had secured, Burke argued, the results would be chaos. Then the Reign of Terror broke out, and Burke was like, "I told y'all."

Therefore, a radical overturning of established norms in England did not occur as it did in France.

Now, that was the reaction to the French Revolution from the think-you-are-conservative conservatives. But across the globe, there was a more violent reaction in the Caribbean.

By the beginning of the French Revolution, conditions in the French Caribbean—specifically Saint-Domingue—were getting intense. The island was made up of several social groups, including French officials, plantation owners, merchants, free people of color, and enslaved African laborers. And this latter group made up about 90 percent of the population.

To make things worse, the French government had granted various levels of rights to the different groups, and not surprisingly, the enslaved Africans were at the bottom of the pile with almost no rights to speak of. But don't worry, France, I'm sure that's not going to cause any trouble.

Anyway, the conditions for the enslaved laborers on the island were brutally vicious. In fact, the plantation owners on the island—for whom coffee and sugar crops had made them exceedingly wealthy—had figured out that simply by working a slave to death and then buying new slaves, that was a more profitable system than treating them kindly.

But it's okay, because once the French Revolution began, the National Assembly took over. I'm sure that they're going to extend the liberal reforms made in France to all their colonies as well. Wouldn't that be hilarious if they did that?

No. The National Assembly ended up passing a series of decrees and laws that alienated almost every group on the island. Especially angered were the enslaved workers, who heard the cries for "Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity" in the streets of France and thought that those principles would extend to all places in the French Empire.

But when the National Assembly refused to recognize the enslaved population's rights, the island was ripe for revolution.

So by 1791, the slaves on the island—who had witnessed the clashes between whites and free people of color—began meeting under the cover of night to plan a mass rebellion. In August, the rebellion broke out and grew rapidly, and not long after, hundreds of coffee and sugar plantations were destroyed.

And remember, this was France's most profitable colony, so these rebels weren't just destroying land—they were actively diminishing profits in France. And messing with money is the one thing you do not do in a large colonial empire like France.

So as the rebellion went on, some complicating factors were introduced, and those complications were named Spain and Britain. See, this half of the island was actually part of the Spanish Empire, and seeing the opportunity to weaken the French, they jumped at the opportunity to support the slave rebellion.

The British, also sensing an opportunity in the chaos, blockaded the island with their navy and then invaded the land and took some territory for themselves.

So because their most valuable colony was in danger from all sides, the National Assembly in France issued a decree that any slave who fought for the French cause would win their freedom. But the rebels looked at each other and were like, "Well, that's cute, but in case you haven't noticed, we already freed ourselves. So what else you got?"

At which point, the National Assembly abolished slavery in all of its territory.

But the real tide of the war turned in favor of the French with the rise of a brilliant soldier named Toussaint Louverture. He was born a slave on the island and then later freed, and at the beginning of the insurrection, the Spanish recruited Louverture to fight for them against the French, which he did and easily proved his brilliance.

But after several years of fighting, Louverture abandoned the Spanish and switched sides and led an army of four thousand against the Spanish and the British. By 1796, Louverture's efforts had resulted in France regaining control of their colony.

So the National Assembly installed Louverture as the commander of the colony, and he defeated his rivals to the south to maintain control over all of Saint-Domingue. But he began making more and more decisions independently of France, and by this time, Napoleon was in power, and that was not going to work for him.

So Napoleon, wanting to regain control over Saint-Domingue, decided it was time to get Louverture out of power and re-establish slavery on the island. So a delegation was sent to arrest Louverture, and he was deported back to France, where he died shortly thereafter.

But at the prospect of the return of slavery and French oppression, Louverture's lieutenant, Jean-Jacques Dessalines, rallied the resistance and handily defeated the French and proclaimed independence in 1804. They officially renamed their country Haiti, which had been its name before the arrival of the French.

Okay, click [here](#) to keep reviewing for Unit 5 of AP Euro. If you need more help getting an A in your class and a five on your exam in May, then click right here and grab my AP Euro review pack, which is going to make all your dreams come true. Hey, I'll catch you on the flip-flop. Heimler out.

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