

BACKGROUND GUIDE AFTERMATH OF THE HAITIAN REVOLUTION

Composed by Nolan Jansorn & Sarah Schulte



WMIDMUN-XXII

DIRECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Delegates,

My name is Nolan Jansorn, and I'm so excited to be your in-room director for WMIDMUN XXII. I'm a freshman studying (and maybe majoring in) government here at William and Mary, and this is my fourth time chairing in almost six years of MUN. I'm thrilled to present an overlooked piece of world history to you through this committee, and one that I feel like has always gotten the short end of the stick when it comes to MUN topics. I've always been a bit of a history nerd, and so being able to research and learn about such an overlooked piece of the past for this conference was such a joy. Outside of MUN, I'm part of clubs on campus like the College Company, our Revolutionary War reenactment group (yes, we get to fire real muskets).

I can't wait to see you all in March. I hope that you all will find this committee, with all of the secret crisis plotting and scrambling for solutions, as enjoyable as I will. If you have any questions about committee, or just any general places I can improve during the conference, feel free to send me an email at ndjansorn@wm.edu on Outlook.

Thank you,

Nolan Jansorn

DIRECTOR'S LETTER

Hello Delegates!

Welcome to the wonderful city of Williamsburg, Virginia! My name is Sarah Schulte and I am beyond thrilled to be serving as your crisis director for the *Defend it or Perish: Aftermath of the Haitian Revolution* committee! I am a freshman here at William and Mary from Charlottesville, Virginia studying Government and Native Studies on the pre-law track.

Currently, I am a member of the Barksdale Treble Choir, a tour guide for the Office of Undergraduate Admissions, and an avid member of the International Relations Club (IRC) and the William and Mary Travel Model United Nations Team. I have competed at a fair share of collegiate MUN conferences, including those hosted by Columbia University, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, and most recently McGill University. I also served as director for the *World Food Programme* novice committee at William and Mary's high school conference this past November.

I will be in charge of the back-room component of this committee, which means I will be the one providing the committee with crisis updates and responding to crisis notes. In your crisis notes, I will be looking for *specific* requests that align with your characters and the scope of the committee. Please keep your notes appropriate and relevant to the topics of the committee. Inappropriate notes or notes that do not align with the WMIDMUN code of conduct will NOT be tolerated and may result in removal from the committee.

If you have any questions about crisis notes, updates, anything involving the back-room element of this committee, or anything about the committee in general, please do not hesitate to contact me at seschulte@wm.edu. I look forward to working with you and giving you the best possible crisis experience!

Sincerely,

Sarah Schulte

HISTORY



Saint Domingue before the Revolution:

In 1697, France conquered the colony of Saint Domingue, the western half of the island of Hispaniola from the Spanish empire. Over the next century, French settlers built sugar plantations and great cities across the island, transforming the region into the wealthiest European colony in the Americas. However, the rapid growth of French wealth from sugar and coffee was only achieved through one key factor: the labor of ~500,000 enslaved Africans, who outnumbered the ~60,000 free colonists by almost ten-to-one. Saint Domingue was commonly described as a slave society, where everything across the colony solely went to fuel the plantation economy and keep its enslaved workers in chains.

HISTORY



In the decades prior to the revolution of 1791, the colony was troubled by serious internal tensions. French bureaucrats wanted to enforce the control of Paris over the island, while white colonists demanded more representation within the government, so Saint Domingue could set its own laws. Meanwhile, the colony's large free-black and mixed race population (referred to in this guide as the free-coloreds, for lack of a better term) pushed for equal rights. The free-coloreds were often just as wealthy as their upper-class white counterparts, but were treated as second-class citizens and restricted from many jobs and offices. This was technically illegal, as many laws from France declared all free colonists to be equal regardless of race, but was regularly ignored by the majority-white government. Therefore, while the white colonists wanted independence from France, so they could enforce their own laws and racial supremacy, the free-colored colonists advocated for a stronger French colonial government which could protect their rights. However, as many free-coloreds were wealthy slave owners, they did not demand emancipation: they were just as dependent on the slavery as the rest of the colony.

However, barely anyone listened to the majority of the colony's population: the enslaved. Life for Saint-Domingue slaves was (obviously) awful. They faced constant threats to their health from brutal labor, malnutrition, mutilation, or the anger of a plantation overseer. Owners cultivated a constant culture of stress and fear among the slaves, using harsh punishments to break any resistance. These plantation owners were terrified of a rebellion among the slaves, especially after news broke in 1757 of the Makandal conspiracy, a plot formed by slaves across the island to poison thousands of the planters. In response, the enslaved leader, the titular Makandal himself, was burned alive to terrify the slaves into obedience. Various laws were introduced by the French government to reduce the worst cases of abuse, but even these were regularly ignored by the colonial elite, who wanted to avoid any threat to their wealth and local freedoms.

The Revolution:

All of these different tensions and disputes between the various social and political groups of Saint Domingue would explode during the French Revolution of 1789. Revolutionaries in mainland France declared the founding principles of their new nation to be liberty and equality, goals which stood opposed to Saint Domingue's system of slavery. White leaders attempted to contain the spread of these revolutionary ideas and declare independence, while the free-coloreds tried to defend their new rights. Between 1790 and 1791, revolts from both sides consumed the colony, leading to widespread violence and the breakdown of French control over the island. It was this chaotic environment which gave the enslaved the perfect opportunity to finally break their chains.

HISTORY



On August 22, 1791, slaves across the colony rose in revolt, burning plantations and killing their masters. Enslaved leaders had been planning the uprising for months, but when news of their plot leaked early, they agreed to start the revolution as soon as possible. Over the next few months, they achieved stunning success, destroying hundreds of plantations and becoming increasingly organized, crippling the French army through guerilla warfare and ambushes. They pushed the French out from most of the north province, but were unable to break through French fortifications to take any major cities or march south.

Given the size of the revolt and the number of rebels, there was no central leader. There was also no agreement on what the goal of the revolution was. Some wanted to completely end slavery, while others only wanted better working conditions. Several slave leaders tried to sign deals with France, agreeing to return their soldiers to slavery on the plantations if the leaders themselves were freed. Many rebels even swore loyalty to the French king Louis XVI, who they saw as an ally in their fight against the French Republic. However, one common factor was the support they gained from the enemies of France. Spain in particular provided the rebels with many guns, moved across the border from their eastern colony of Santo Domingo (the modern Dominican Republic).

Over the next few years, France was unable to put down the revolution. They dispatched a group of commissioners (the Second Commission) to the island, who were given unlimited power over the government, and tasked them with restoring French rule and ending the conflict. However, while they were temporarily able to make peace between the whites and free-coloreds, they could not control the colony. The French reinforcements they brought to fight the rebels were soon decimated by illness, which swept through all European armies sent to the Americas. Meanwhile, white colonists were worried that the commission would attempt to abolish slavery, especially since the free-coloreds had used slaves as soldiers during the previous revolt, promising to free them after the war was over.

Eventually, the white colonists rebelled against the Commission, destroying the city of Le Cap. When their free-colored allies were unable to find enough soldiers to put down the revolt, the Second Commission began emancipating any slaves who fought for them. In response to this act, slave owners across the colony, both white and free-colored, began inviting British soldiers into their cities, who agreed to protect slavery. The commissioners saw only one step which could keep Saint Domingue under French control: general emancipation. In 1793, they freed every slave on the island, a move which completely changed the course of the war. Slave armies and generals began to switch sides from the Spanish to the French, most importantly the black general Toussaint Louverture. By 1795, Spain was completely driven from the colony, giving the entire island to the French.

HISTORY



Rule of Toussaint Louverture:

After 1795, Louverture became the dominant force in Saint Domingue. His popularity among the soldiers and black population meant that he held more sway in the colony than the official French representatives, forcing them to gain Louverture's approval when issuing laws or orders. This level of power allowed Louverture to act like an independent dictator, making decisions and even signing treaties with other countries like Britain and the USA without French approval. He established what would be called the Louveturian State, using his generals as governors to manage the colony, and rebuilding the plantation economy by organizing workers into military-like units run by his loyal officers. Any rivals who stood in his way were either exiled back to France or put down through force. In particular, the free-colored leader Andre Rigaud strongly opposed Louverture's military rule and sought to place the rich landowners back in power, but was pushed off the island in a brutal conflict known as the War of Knives.

Meanwhile, the island still suffered from a severe economic crisis. Despite Louverture's attempts at fixing the plantation economy, it was still in ruins: equipment and infrastructure were destroyed, while workers were hard to find, preferring to join the military or start their own private farms rather than return to the hated plantations. As time went on, Louverture also became increasingly hated: his struggle for power and attempts to rebuild the plantations made many believe he was trying to re-enslave the colony, only with himself now at the top. However, despite these internal issues, Louverture was slowly bringing Saint Domingue back into the French economy, and rebuilding it from the past decade of war.

However, this would all change when Napoleon Bonaparte took power in France in late 1799. Napoleon wanted complete control over the French government for himself, which clashed with Louverture's dictatorial control of Saint Domingue. In his efforts to gain more political power and expand the French colonial empire, Napoleon made several moves which alarmed the population of Saint Domingue. His French constitution of 1799 stated that overseas colonies would be governed by "special laws", interpreted by many to mean slavery. When Saint Domingue heard that Napoleon had reinstated slavery on other French colonies in the Caribbean, where the emancipation law had never gone into effect, the colony panicked that they would be next. In response, Louverture passed his own Haitian constitution, stating that universal freedom and equality would be the "special laws" of Saint Domingue, and making himself governor of the colony for life. He also took control of Santo Domingo (the eastern half of the island) to begin preparing for resistance against any French response. Finally, in 1802, Napoleon sent a large army to Saint Domingue under the command of his brother-in-law Charles Leclerc, with orders to take control of the colony and arrest Louverture.

HISTORY



The War of Independence:

The Leclerc Expedition began the final phase of the Haitian Revolution, and one of its most destructive. Realizing that his army would be unable to defeat the French in open battle, Louverture chose to destroy the cities and infrastructure of the colony, and retreat inland, using guerilla warfare and disease to wear down the French until foreign pressure would force them to retreat. However, Louverture was fighting a losing battle. The resistance against the French was disunited, as while some fought alongside Louverture, others rebelled against his oppressive labor codes. The French had also sent many of Louverture's rivals back to Saint Domingue, such as the colored generals Andre Rigaud and Alexandre Petion, who built their own local armies.

By mid-1802, many of Louverture's generals had switched sides to the French, forcing him to begin negotiating with Leclerc. However, he was betrayed and captured, being sent to France where he would die in 1803. It seemed like the French had won, but their control over the colony was weak. Leclerc's European troops were dying from diseases like malaria and yellow fever, while he distrusted his black and colored allies, many of whom had fought against him only a few months before. Meanwhile, the reinstatement of slavery by the French destroyed any local support for their rule, creating massive resistance against the invasion.

In late 1802, the black and colored generals once again switched sides and began a new revolution against the French. These revolutionaries, led by the black general Jean-Jacques Dessalines, were now calling themselves the indigenous army, and declared their goal to be total independence from France. The British navy also began a total blockade of the island, preventing any French reinforcements from reaching Leclerc. In order to put down local unrest, both sides committed terrible atrocities to retake control, often massacring any who they suspected of helping the other side, leading to racial violence on a horrific scale. Leclerc and his officers made racial violence the official French policy, executing thousands of black prisoners and civilians, and even asking Napoleon for permission to completely wipe out the colony, and restart with new enslaved Africans, so there would be no memory of the revolution.

However, Leclerc would never have the opportunity to put this genocide into effect, as by the end of 1803, the French were hopelessly defeated. Leclerc and most of his army had died from disease and warfare, leading the last French to surrender to the British navy and depart the colony. Dessalines and his Indigenous Army were now the unchallenged rulers of Saint Domingue, which they renamed Haiti on New Years Day 1804.

CURRENT STATUS



At the start of this committee, Haiti has been free from French control for just under a month. Nearly a third of Haiti has either died in the past decade of war, or fled the country. Cities, roads, industry, and agriculture across the island have been devastated by years of war, leaving the Haitian leaders with a nonexistent economy and no way of collecting taxes. Additionally, while many of the old landowners have fled the country, a new class of elite aristocracy has emerged in Haiti. Many of Louverture's generals took control of plantations during the revolution, and now run them as private property, creating a new Haitian ruling class. These new "military landowners", along with the old free-colored urban aristocracy, are sure to play a major role in the future of the country. However, Haiti remembers how most of its current leadership defected to France during the invasion, and therefore, distrust the government. The new Haitian government must identify how to rebuild public trust in their rule.

One of the major tasks for postwar Haiti is rebuilding the island's economy. The most obvious path is to restart the plantation system which had made Saint Domingue so wealthy, by growing cash crops to sell to foreign markets. However, this system is closely associated with slavery, and would be highly unpopular among the people. Any plantation workers will require serious incentives to return to field work instead of quitting or finding better pay in the military. The equipment to process crops like sugar and coffee have also been destroyed, and will need to be imported from friendly foreign countries. Alternatively, Haiti could pivot to a system of numerous small subsistence farms, as many freed slaves did during the revolution. This would allow Haiti to become more self-sufficient, allowing it to rely less on foreign trade and imported food, and more equal, letting most Haitians own their own land for the first time. However, the military landowners will be unlikely to give up the plantation land which has allowed them to enrich themselves. Therefore, the new economic system of Haiti requires the committee to either favor the rural peasantry, the soldiers, or find a compromise.

When establishing the new Haitian state, the committee can decide how it will function. Haiti lacks any established government institutions or systems, and so the colony is essentially a blank slate. Delegates could follow through on the ideas of the French and Haitian revolutions and create a republic. This would allow for all Haitians to participate equally in government for the first time in their history, but would be unpopular among the upper-class military officers and landowners. These groups would likely favor continuing the Louveturian state and military rule, or even establishing a Haitian monarchy, so they can play a stronger role in government. Also, how will the military function within the government? Currently, these two groups are essentially the same, as the island is ruled by Dessalines through the army, making the Haitian senate effectively powerless to stop the army. However, the committee could choose to make the military subordinate to the government like it is in other countries, or to allow the current system, where the military effectively controls politics, to continue.

CURRENT STATUS



Haiti must also determine how it will interact with other countries on the global stage. As the only nation successfully formed from a slave revolution, it is up to this committee to decide if they should carry the revolution abroad. Across the European colonies in the Americas, millions of Africans are still held in chains: should Haiti continue the war for emancipation and freedom in other countries, or concentrate on itself? While Haiti's economic collapse currently makes any overseas invasion impossible, Haiti's Caribbean neighbors in Spanish Cuba and British Jamaica are major slave-owning colonies within a short distance. The Haitians could also sponsor rebellions in other countries to free the enslaved - Spain's American colonies are particularly unstable at this time. Many famous Spanish revolutionaries like Francisco de Miranda have sought refuge in Haiti, and could be convinced to free the enslaved in their own countries during their own wars of independence.

Alternatively, Haiti could choose to focus internally, and attempt to normalize relations with foreign powers. Regardless of the animosity of Haitians towards the slave-owning empires of Europe and America, they could be valuable allies and trading partners in any future conflict against France. More importantly, attempts to spread the revolution abroad would likely destroy any chance of Haitian trade entering the global economy, and for Haiti to establish positive relations with the world's major powers. Choosing to work with foreign nations rather than directly confronting them may be a profitable path for Haiti to start rebuilding itself.

Haiti must also determine its relationship with its former colonial overlord, France. The most pressing issue between the two states is the many refugees (sometimes referred to as *emigres*) who fled the colony to France during the revolution. These are mainly the old white and free-colored colonial elite, including many trained professionals like doctors and technical experts, who could prove invaluable to rebuilding Haiti, where most of the population remains illiterate after decades of enslavement. Now that the war is over, these *emigres* can begin to return to Haiti, but many, especially the landowners, will want to reclaim their property and land on the island. However, while some property is still empty from the wartime depopulation, most has been redistributed to the military landowners and Haitian peasants during the revolution. Many Haitians also mistrust the returning *emigres* as potential French loyalists, and believe that they could weaken the nation by promoting French imperial interests. If the *emigres* are allowed to return to Haiti, how will these property disputes be handled by the Haitian government?

CURRENT STATUS



Additionally, how can the Haitian government filter the *emigres* between French and Haitian loyalists? This separation cannot be based on something as simple as race, given the complexity of the revolution - some white colonists fought with the revolutionaries, while some black and free-colored colonists remained with France - so how can Haiti ensure that this group remains loyal? Regardless of the answer, this decision will likely be a major precedent in the future relationship between France and Haiti moving forward.

Many of these questions will need to be answered as Haiti approaches its first major dilemma as an independent nation. The neighboring border colony of Santo Domingo, formerly a Spanish territory, is still held by the French, just across the island from Haiti. While the population is also majority black and enslaved, the Dominicans distrust the Haitian Louverture system as only being slavery under a different name. Therefore, the colony's population seems to be ready to rebel for local independence from France, but there is no Haitian-style movement for emancipation among the slaves and unity with Haiti. The French occupation also provides Paris with a potential beachhead to land a new invasion force, creating a major security threat for Dessalines and his government. However, this crisis right on Haiti's doorstep also presents the opportunity for the new nation to nearly double in size, and set an example for how it will work with or against other nations on the world stage.



RESEARCH QUESTIONS

How will Haiti rebuild itself after the revolution? How can the committee sponsor efforts to repair the economy and help the people?

What will Haiti's new government look like? What new systems will allow Haiti to best stabilize itself and interact with other countries?

What is the role of the military in Haiti's new structure? Should the government control the military, or vice versa?

Should Haiti spread the anti-slavery revolution abroad? How could these actions be supported and financed by the Haitian state?



RESEARCH QUESTIONS

How should Haiti interact with the European colonial empires and the U.S? Should they be treated as enemies, or as potential allies?

What should Haiti do with the *emigree* population? Should they be reintegrated into Haiti, or refused entry? How can Haiti ensure their loyalty, and eliminate French spies?

How should Haiti defend itself from the French? What measures would be most effective at resisting France or any other colonial nation?

How should Haiti handle the situation in Santo Domingo? Should Haiti take control of the territory (if at all)? How can they make sure this region stays friendly or loyal?

TIMELINE

~1490's

Spanish colonization of Hispaniola begins.

1522

First slave revolt on Hispaniola.

~1620's

French settlers start colonizing western Hispaniola.

1685

Louis XIV issues the Code Noir / Black Code to restrict the abuse of slaves.

1695

Saint Domingue is given by Spain to France.

1778

The American Revolution. France joins in 1778, spending huge amounts of money in the war, and turning their financial crisis into near-bankruptcy.

June 1789

The French Revolution begins with the Estates General of 1789. Ideas of universal freedom and liberty spread through France and Saint Domingue.

August 1789

The French government, in the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen, states that "[m]en are born and remain free and equal in rights."

October 1789

Saint Domingue creates the Colonial Assembly to begin passing their own laws. Free-colored members are excluded.

March 8, 1790

France gives the Colonial Assembly "almost complete autonomy" to manage colonial business.

May 1790

The Colonial Assembly, using its new powers, attempts to declare independence from France.

October 1790

The Colonial Assembly is declared illegal and dissolved by government forces. James Oge begins a revolt for free-colored rights.

Early 1791

Oge is captured and executed, leading to public outrage by the free-colored against France. Slaves begin deserting the plantations and rebelling.

July-August 1791

The French government is unable to restore order in the colony. Many colonists are killed and their plantations destroyed.

August 14, 1791

Slave leaders meet at the Bois Caiman ceremony and agree to an organized revolution.

August 22 - September, 1791

The revolution officially begins. Plantations across the North and West provinces are destroyed by rebel slave armies.

October 1791

Toussaint Louverture joins the slave armies.

TIMELINE

April-May 1792

Spain and Britain declare war on France. Spain invades Saint Domingue. The Second Commission leaves France. Racial equality is made official law.

Summer 1792

The French monarchy collapses during the Insurrection of August 10, establishing the First French Republic. The French government begins freeing slaves who fight for them. The Second Commission takes command.

June 1793

Le Cap is destroyed in a white rebellion. The Second Commission begins using freed slaves as soldiers. Britain, helped by white and free-colored slave owners, invades Saint Domingue to restore slavery.

August 1793

The Second Commission frees all slaves in the colony.

May 1794

Louverture defects to the French, and turns the tide of the war. The Second Commission is recalled to France.

July 1795

The French retake control of Saint Domingue. Spain withdraws from the island and makes peace.

1796

Louverture is made Lt. Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the colony.

March 1798

The British sign a peace treaty, ending the war in Saint Domingue.

October 1798

Louverture begins negotiating treaties with the British and Americans.

July 1799

The War of Knives begins between Louverture and Andre Rigaud.

November 9, 1799

Napoleon Bonaparte overthrows the French government in the Coup of 18 Brumaire, and becomes the ruler of France.

May 1800

The new French constitution states that colonies will have "special laws".

August 1800

Louverture wins the War of Knives, and Rigaud is exiled.

January 1801

Louverture annexes Santo Domingo.

July 1801

Louverture publishes the new constitution of Saint Domingue. Napoleon prepares to invade the island.

February 1802

Charles Leclerc and the French armada land in Saint Domingue. Cities are destroyed, and Louverture is pushed into the mountains. His generals begin defecting to the French. Leclerc's troops begin dying of disease.

April 1802

Henry Cristophe and Jean-Jacques Dessalines defect to the French. Louverture begins negotiations with Leclerc. Napoleon publishes a decree which reestablishes slavery in other French colonies.

TIMELINE

July 1802

Louverture is captured, imprisoned, and sent to France by Leclerc.

August 1802

News of Napoleon's reestablishment of slavery reaches Saint Domingue, starting a new wave of revolution, and causing many to reconsider their defection to France.

October - November 1802

Many generals, including Dessalines, defect to the revolution. Leclerc calls for genocide of the black population before dying from yellow fever.

January 1803

Dessalines becomes the top leader of the revolution. Any rivals to his power are eliminated by force.

November 1803

The French are defeated at the Battle of Vertieres, and surrender.

January 1, 1804

Dessalines issues the Haitian Declaration of Independence.

Notes:

Characters with no asterisks next to their name have had only minor changes from the original historical figure, if any at all.

Characters with one asterisk (*) have had notable changes made from the original historical figure, in the spirit of the period or of that person.

Characters with two asterisks (**) have been changed significantly or have had backgrounds created for this committee based on whatever historical information is available.

1. Henry Christophe / Henri Cristophe - Northern General

Cristophe is an important general in the Haitian Army, and one of the first to join the revolutionary cause. As he was born in a British colony, Cristophe has many connections across Britain and its Caribbean territories, including numerous military officers and merchants. Cristophe was given command over the key port city of Cap Haitien and many mountain fortresses in the North Province. He favors the creation of a British-style monarchy with a parliament for Haiti.

2. Alexandre Petion - Southern General

Petion is another important general in the Haitian Army, and one of the most prominent free-colored revolutionaries. However, he fought alongside Andre Rigaud and the free-colored militias until 1802, when he defected to Dessalines' army. Petion controls most of the South province from the city of Les Cayes, where he has redistributed the plantation lands to many of Haiti's peasant farmers, giving him significant popularity among the common population. His populist philosophy has led him to support democracy in Haiti (although his commitment to democratic ideas like free and fair elections is questionable).

3. Jean-Pierre Boyer - Political Advisor*

Boyer is a close associate of Petion, and a former military leader. While he currently holds no rank in the army, he remains popular among many of the officers and common soldiers for his brave leadership during the war. He currently works as the chief advisor in Dessalines' cabinet, providing Dessalines with political advice, and serving as his main source for news in Haiti. His pre-revolution education in France has also given him numerous contacts among the French upper class, who support his efforts to prevent a war between the two sides.

4. Augustin Clearvaux - Lead Admiral**

Clearvaux was a wealthy merchant before the revolution, and now serves as the lead admiral for Haiti. His forces, including many European deserters, merchants, and retired pirates, operate from ports across the Haitian coast, but are mostly untrained in sailing and naval warfare. However, Clearvaux and his ships play an important role in connecting Haiti together: given Haiti's mountainous terrain and poor roads, ships are often the only way to move across the country.

5. Andre Vernat - Finance minister*

Vernat is the financial minister for the Haitian government. He controls the economic activity of the government (e.g. arrange loans, print money, manage foreign trade policy, etc). His wealth gives him a significant amount of influence over the Haitian government, which has led him to give out bribes and gifts to shift government policy. As a member of the urban elite, Vernat has also used his money to become an important patron of the arts in Haiti.

6. Nicolas Geffrard - Chief architect**

Geffrard is a prominent architect, who earned fame for constructing many buildings and fortifications during the rule of Louverture. These achievements led Dessalines to appoint him as the manager of the reconstruction efforts across the country, where he organizes work crews to rebuild roads and important infrastructure. Geffrard has also used his personal income and skills to sponsor the creation of schools and colleges across the country.

7. Laurent Bazelais - Diplomat to the United States**

Bazelais is the Haitian diplomat to the United States, and the primary point of communication between the two countries. His effort to establish diplomatic ties between the two countries has gained him support among the abolitionist community in the U.S, who have financially supported his work. Bazelais is also an efficient negotiator, able to convince almost anyone of anything with his skills.

8. P. Romain - Security Minister**

Romain is the minister of internal security, and commands most of the military-police forces in cities across the nation. He is responsible for arranging security for important government meetings, and managing the flow of traffic in and out of Haiti: his ministry largely decides who is allowed to enter and leave the country. Additionally, his forces are responsible for searching incoming ships for contraband, and investigating local crimes across the nation.

9. Etienne Elie Gerin - Intelligence Minister**

Gerin is the minister of intelligence and primary spymaster for the Haitian government. He leads a network of spies and agents spread across Haiti and the Caribbean world, who provide him and the Haitian government with valuable intelligence. Many of these spies were even participants in the original revolutionary plot of Boukman, giving them extensive experience with sabotage and even assassinations.

10. Toussaint Brave - Defense minister*

Brave served as a military leader in the Revolution best known for freeing the town of Fort Liberté from French occupation. He is recognized for his ability to analyze complex geopolitical situations and devise effective military strategies. His insights are sought after not only by military commanders but policymakers, making him a key figure in shaping Haiti's defense policies. Due to his talent, Dessalines has appointed him as the minister of defense, giving Brave command over numerous important forts across the country, and oversight over any efforts to build more.

11. JJ. Herne - Senate President**

Herne is a well-known army hero from the Haitian town of Gonaives, who is celebrated for rescuing hundreds of civilians from an attack during the War of Knives. Now, he serves as president of the newly established Senate and has a significant amount of popularity among the Haitian people. Herne's position as Senate president also gives him control over how various parts of the Haitian government operate, including the ability to call for local elections, pass minor laws, and determine how these regulations are implemented.

12. Gabart - Commander of the Arbonite*

Gabart is the commander of the Arbonite region, a large river valley in the West province. This region has become one of the most productive after the war, exporting large amounts of food and cash crops to the rest of Haiti and the outside world. Gabart has used his control of this valuable area to take control of several plantations in the local region, which he now owns as his personal property.

13. Francois Capois - Presidential Guard commander*

Capois is one of the most decorated officers in the Haitian military, having fought in dozens of battles and campaigns throughout the revolution. His bravery in combat, especially at the famous Battle of Vertieres, has earned him a significant amount of respect from the common soldiers, who celebrate him as a military hero. He currently serves as the commander of Dessalines's personal guard, a company of elite soldiers who are personally loyal to him.

14. Jean-Louis Francois - Maroon leader**

Francois is an important leader of the Haitian *Maroons*, who were groups of former slaves who fled into the mountains before the revolution. Due to the difficult terrain, the Haitian government has had difficulty in asserting its authority over the mountains, giving Francois a unique degree of independence for Haitian leaders: he is largely free to run his own government and army in the hills away from Dessalines' control. Additionally, his troops, some of whom have spent decades fighting the French, are highly experienced in guerilla warfare and ambushes.

Note: this is not the famous Jean Francois who led the initial slave insurrection. This position is inspired by that figure, but the two are intended to be different people.

15. Ferou - Commander of the Grand'Anse*

Ferou is the commander of the Grand'Anse region on the Southern peninsula, and has a thriving reputation among the local people as the "Liberator of the Grand'Anse". While the hilly terrain may make plantation farming difficult, the people of Grand'Anse are hardy, and have provided some of the best soldiers in the revolutionary cause, many of whom serve under Ferou. However, the region has also been a hotbed of resistance against the central government since the start of the revolution, with many local leaders attempting to declare independence: Ferou has kept them quiet so far by giving them higher military salaries.

16. Cange - Dominican rebel**

Cange is a Haitian officer from the former Spanish colony of Santo Domingo, who joined the *Armee Indigene* when Louverture took control of the region. He serves as the main link between Haiti and Santo Domingo, commanding all Haitian forces operating on the formerly Spanish half of the island, and controlling the flow of travel and trade over the mountains. As these troops are currently fighting in an ongoing guerilla war with the French garrison for control of the region, Cange's forces are the best soldiers that the Haitian military has to offer.

17. Magloire Ambroise - Commander of Jacmel

Magloire Ambroise is the commander of the city of Jacmel in the South province. His important port city controls most of the trade in the South province, linking Haiti to ports across the Southern Caribbean and Latin America. This has led to many Spanish-American revolutionaries, like the famous Francisco de Miranda, taking refuge in his city. Magliore's support of these rebels has earned him significant popularity among the population of South America, especially those enslaved by the Spanish, who all see him as a crucial supporter in their fight for freedom.

18. Yayou - Organizer of relief efforts**

As a former enslaved leader and prominent revolutionary, Yayou has a significant amount of trust from the Haitian common people. He organizes relief efforts for the devastated areas, personally delivering food and valuable supplies to villages across the island. Yayou is known to have worked closely with town leaders across the nation to get supplies to heavily damaged regions and forge positive relations between these local leaders and the central government.

19. Guy-Joseph Bonnet - Historian*

Bonnet is a prominent Haitian historian and former major general of the *Armee Indigene*. His writings on the history of the island and the course of the French and Haitian revolutions have been circulated across the island among the upper class, and have even been used in some school curricula. He also maintains an extensive letter correspondence with other writers and historians abroad, in America and Europe.

20. F. Paplier - Logistics Officer**

Paplier served during the revolution as Adjutant General for the Haitian Army, arranging supply lines and logistics for the army behind the front lines. This experience has led Dessalines to give him control over the provisioning of the Haitian army: Paplier is in charge of providing the Haitian army with its guns, supplies, and other important materials. This has given him important contacts with traders and smugglers across the Caribbean world, who bring most valuable goods and military supplies into the country.

21. Morelly - National Banker**

Morelly is the representative of several major banks in Port-au-Prince, which have financed most of the Haitian government's debt over the past year. While the banks are interested in seeing a return on their investment into the war of independence, Morelly is more concerned with ensuring the government survives, so the banks can be repaid at all. Morelly's control of these banks allows them to help fund major government operations with bank reserves and organize financial deals between Haiti and other foreign banks.

22. Chevalier - Archivist**

Chevalier is the archivist for the Haitian government, maintaining numerous collections of records and important documents. These logs, stashed in the capital of Port-au-Prince, contain various information on tax and other financial files, laws, censuses, land records, and etc, mostly preserved from before the revolution. As the majority of other documentation was destroyed in the last few years of fighting, these vaults contain the only copies of most of these papers: this means that any changes to the records made by Chevalier could likely go unnoticed.

23. Jean-Baptiste-Joseph Brelle - Grand Archbishop of Haiti

As the Grand Archbishop of Haiti, Brelle is the primary representative of the Roman Catholic Church in Haiti, the main religion of the Haitian population. Due to its diplomatic isolation, Haiti is also cut off from the Pope in Rome, making the Haitian church functionally independent. This gives Brelle significant control over religious activities on the island: most Haitians visit the weekly services organized by his church. However, while most of Haiti is officially Catholic, they also practice the Vodou folk religion: neither faith fully dominates the island.

24. Marion - Vodou leader**

Marion is a famous practitioner of Vodou, the syncretic folk religion of the Haitian people, who has earned fame for his supposed ability to work miracles. While his ability to perform actual magic is debatable, many people believe in his power, giving him a significant amount of influence in the Haitian population. He is also in contact with other Vodou priests and practitioners across Haiti and the enslaved population in other Caribbean territories (Cuba, Santo Domingo, etc). However, while most of Haiti practices Vodou, the majority also are officially Roman Catholic: neither faith fully dominates the island.

25. Pierre Nicolas Mallet - *Émigré liaison**

Mallet is the only white signatory on the Haitian Declaration of Independence, and an important military leader. At the start of the revolution, he freed all of the slaves on his plantation and led them as a military unit against the French, making all of his soldiers fiercely loyal to him. Mallet also has many friends among the Haitian *émigres*, and is currently working to convince many of them to accept abolition and return to Haiti.

26. Louis Boisrond Tonnerre - Secretary and Publisher*

Tonnerre is the secretary of Dessalines' cabinet, and one of the most prolific writers in Haiti. Many Haitians rely on his pamphlets for news about the state of the country, and information about international events. He runs his own publishing company from Port-au-Prince, where his papers (printed in both French and Haitian Creole) spread out across the country, with some copies even reaching nations abroad.

27. Magny - Industrialist

Magny is a wealthy businessman from the island of Jamaica, currently a British colony. He has been a major supporter of industrialization, using his financial resources and business ties to people across the British empire to bring new technology into Haiti. These projects have improved the productivity of cities and farms across the island, but have so far been limited in scale.

28. Roux - Diplomat to the Spanish Empire

Roux is the Haitian diplomat to the Spanish Empire, negotiating treaties and agreements between the two states. He is a well-trusted figure in both countries, after he organized a transfer of prisoners during the revolution, allowing many Spanish and Haitian soldiers to return home unharmed. Many of these Haitian soldiers include some of the first revolutionaries who remained with the Spanish, making him very popular among veterans across the island.

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