

# Effects of the Haitian Revolution

## Haiti

The slaves were freed and they declared their independence.

The traditional social hierarchical structure based on colour was totally and permanently dismantled.

The Haitian constitution allowed Africans, Indians, and their descendants to settle in Haiti.

Haiti soon became a place of refuge for the enslaved of the Caribbean.

The destruction of the economy of Haiti through war had removed a major competitor in the sugar and coffee markets.

Because the revolution occurred at the time when Abolition had just begun in the Caribbean, the revolution may have helped to slow down the abolition process.

Many humanitarians who supported abolition became fearful.

Independent Haiti was being used by the advocates of slave labour in the Caribbean, to prove that the Caribbean plantations needed to continue to use slave labour as best source labour.

The monopoly that the whites had on land ownership was broken. Land could now be bought, owned and controlled by all groups in society. The mulattoes and whites sought refuge in the Leeward Islands. Because of the revolution Haiti traded with other independent countries, specifically the United States.

## **The Wider Caribbean**

**1.** In both Martinique and Guadeloupe, there was a rapidly expanding group of free coloured who were not only prosperous but did not experience much of the legal discrimination enforced against counterparts in Saint Domingue.

**2.** Because the revolution occurred at the time when Abolition was in the air in the Caribbean, the revolution may have helped to slow down the abolition process as a number of humanitarians who supported abolition became fearful.

**3.** The planters were fearful that the slaves would be influenced. They increased security on their plantations.

**4.** In 1795 there was an outbreak of trouble among the Maroons of Trelawny Town of Jamaica. The Governor: Earl of Balcarres was quite sure that St. Domingue had influenced them. It was felt that, the Haitian Revolution was giving Jamaica's blacks and mulattoes confidence to oppose the planters. They therefore pleaded with Britain to send more troops to defend the island.

**5.** Slaves from neighbouring colonies were escaping in canoes to Haiti where they would be free.

**6.** The destruction of Saint Domingue coffee industry also opened the door to increased coffee production in the Caribbean, for example, coffee production also increased in Jamaica.