

CHY4U “Haiti: Slave Revolution that Defeated Three Empires”

- Why did France fight so hard for so long to maintain St. Domingue as a colony? Why were other empires interested?

Britain sent 30 000 troops in 1796 to crush the rebellion

- On the side of the planters (enslavers – plantation owners)
- Defeated by L'Ouverture's army

Why: at war with France (revolutionary wars, Napoleonic wars). Also, fear of losing control of its own colonies to slave rebellions.

France under Napoleon sent 35 000 troops

- Defeated
- After L'Ouverture was sent back to France the French treated St. Domingue brutally.
 - 30 000 French died trying to reconquer it but the people would NEVER return to slavery
- 1804 independence proclaimed vs. France (first colony in western hemisphere to do so after US)

Why: economic context – St. Domingue exported 4% of the world's sugar and 50% of its coffee. It alone produced more trade than all of Britain's colonies

Spain

- Defeated
- L'Ouverture had originally sided with the Spanish in their fight against the French because they treated him and his army as real soldiers. He switched sides.

Why: at war with France (revolutionary wars, Napoleonic wars)

