Revolts and Rebellions (Chapter 4) [F19]

1. Prosser (p. 47)

- Context- in 1800 in Richmond, Virginia, same time as Haitian Revolution.
- Participants- Sam Byrd, Jack Bowler, Ben Woolfolk, and other 1,000
- Influences-Gabriel, Jack Bowler,
- Principles-"Death or Liberty"; " give me liberty or give me death" was the group's motto.
- Plan-To first attack the Capitol, Magazine, Penitentiary, the Governor's house, and the governor.. to take prisoner Virginia governor James Monroe.."The inhabitants were to be massacred, save those who begged for quarter and agreed to serve as soldiers with them" (p. 49).
- Outcomes (49-50)
    - Violent storm broke out on the day of the revolt (August 30th)
        - The rebels couldn't gather
            - 400 - 500 men showed up, around 30 had muskets
    - Two members reported it to their enslavers, who told the authorities
    - Citizens locked up the rebels
        - 13 pardoned, 8 transported out of state, 25 more acquitted
    - Gabriel fled on a merchant ship down the James river
        - Captured a month later and hanged 4 days after trial
    - Jack Bowler
        - Turned himself in, transported out of state
- How was it different from the others?
    - Drew influence from important figures and ideals directly from the American Revolution (patrick henry)

2. German Coast (p. 51)

- Context

Site of the largest slave revolt in US history, began in 1811 occurred on the east bank of the mississippi river - German coast located on the Mississippi river was named for 18th century Europeans who settled there.

- Participants

500 African-descended rebels. Started by Charles Deslondes, a light-skinned Louisiana Creole organized enslaved people on the plantation of the Andry family. The African descended rebels were from all over Africa and were multiracial, multiethnic, and spoke different languages.

- Influences

Being enslaved and wanting to create change in a consistently unchanging world - the world of enslavement. Inspired by the Haitian revolution, which had many different African backgrounds but united to fight against the colonizing group.
Principles

- Plan

Create a republic based on Haiti and overcome “white rule” on the German Coast in New Orleans.

- Outcomes

Killed son of enslaver; The insurgents killed two white men without meeting much resistance, but they were not well armed. The local militia was called out and killed nearly half of the total ninety-five slaves who died as a result of the rebellion. The remainder were executed after tribunals were held in the parishes, including Orleans Parish and then were beheaded and had their heads spiked on poles along the Mississippi river. Deslondes had his arms cut off, his thighs broken, and then was set on fire while alive.

- How was it different from the others?

Wore dignifying uniforms and were in constant combat with US soldiers, hundreds of people were massacred at the height of the battle and the bloodshed was meant to represent from the US soldiers that fighting enslavement was simply a waste of time. The US soldiers even dismembered and burned Charles Deslondes alive. However, like most historical uprisings this battle shed light that the fight is long from over and the gates of freedom will come crashing open.

3. Corotoman pg 53 -

- Context - Chesapeake, Virginia
- Participants - 130 British troops, 6000 enslaved people, Canada Baton, Ezekiel Loney, and Tom Saunders, Dick Carter
- Influences - The chance of freedom through the british navy
- Principles - attaining freedom by fighting with your enslaver’s enemy
- Plan - Flee and join the British troops in the war. When British ships anchored thousands of enslaved people fled.
- Outcomes - The flight of 6000 enslaved people. Enslavers were shocked, but Schermerhorn says this event did not cause a significant shift in slavery in Virginia, and things mostly were business as usual afterwards.
- How was it different from the others? Women were leading the charge for the most part. Wasn’t necessarily a revolt but a “shortcut out of grinding labor”

4. Spanish Florida pg 56 -

- Context: Red Sticks, Seminoles, and African Americans fled to a spanish owned fort in Florida that was supposedly off limits to Americans. However, Andrew Jackson had the Negro fort destroyed and any bondsperson found there returned to their owners.

Enslaved people fought back and killed 17 American sailors. American forces fired artillery at the the negro fort and killed many. Survivors of the fort were then returned to their owners or sold back into slavery.

- Participants: Garson, enslaved people, the British forces, American forces, Red Sticks, Seminoles
- Influences: American forces attacked the negro fort which triggered a relatiation from enslaved people
- Principles: Because the Spanish fort acted as a kind of safe haven for the Red sticks, Seminoles, and African Americans it then turned into an attack in which they people of the fort had to defend themselves.
- Plan: Maintain their freedom and the negro fort, unite together as a community of different groups of people inorder to uprise on July 14th. This invoPan-American alliance
- Outcomes: Even though the fort was destroyed the black insurgency still went on in the Florida borderlands
- How was it different from the others? This was not a planned revolt it was more of a reaction to American forces destroying the fort

5. Vesey -- (p. 60)

- Context Charleston, South Carolina 1822. Vessey won his freedo cvm with a lottery ticket and become a Methodist minister. Very religious in background (Made argument on the basis of being equal before God). He cultivates rebelion through preaching in the AME.
- Participants - Vesey, Jack Ibros, Henry Clay, Monday Gell
- Influences The 1820 Missouri Crisis convinced him that the tide was turning against slavery in the US, inspird by the Haitian revolution and wrote a letter to the then president, Pierre Boyer
- Principles All equal before the eyes of God. “That if we did not put our hand to the work, & deliver ourselves, we would never come out of slavery”
- Plan To spread the word through the church to have a large scale uprising on July 14th and to hopefully have Haiti help them with the revolt, due to the letter he had written to the president. Plot was betrayed in May
- Outcomes Two enslaved men became informants in exchange for their freedom, and blew up the plan before anything happened. Vesey fled along with 130 other African-descended people, but were all caught. Vesey and several others were hung.
- How was it different from the others? vfIt was over before it began. They were all hung without actually doing an uprising. There was wide spread punishment.

6. Walker (p. 63)

- Context - 1829, North Carolina, David Walker wrote *Appeal*. In 1830, crackdown on those who had book. New Bern thought to be center of planned insurrection.
- Participants: Free African Americans, David Walker, North Carolina Governor John Owen
- Influences: Vesey. Theology of liberation
- Principles: rejected gradual emancipation. Wanted mass liberation
- Plan: calling for massive uprisings
- Outcomes: crack down by state government, which included arresting conspirators, mass violence against african american communities, tightened security, and harsher laws towards slaves. Passed a law that forbid owners from teaching their slaves to read or write.
- How was it different from the others? Was based on a piece of literature. No formal revolt, just circulation of document followed by crackdown.

7. Turner (p. 65)

- Context- 1831, Southampton County, Virginia. Started on joseph travis plantation. Spread all throughout Virginia attacking nearby plantations.
- Participants- Nat Turner and his fellow insurgents
- Influences- Gabriel's death and christianity
- Principles- Kill all slave owners and anyone who had white skin.
- Plan- Killing slave owner and moving to other plantations and attacking neighboring plantations killing all enslavers.
- Outcomes- Hundreds of deaths for white people. 55 white people were killed and in response law enforcement killed 55 insurgents. It came in a chain of uprisings sweeping Europe and the Americas. Virginia took steps to limit black preaching and everything associated with spreading their views.
- How was it different from the others?- Was the most gruesome or vicious of all the rebellions. Influx of people joining the rebellion from different county's.