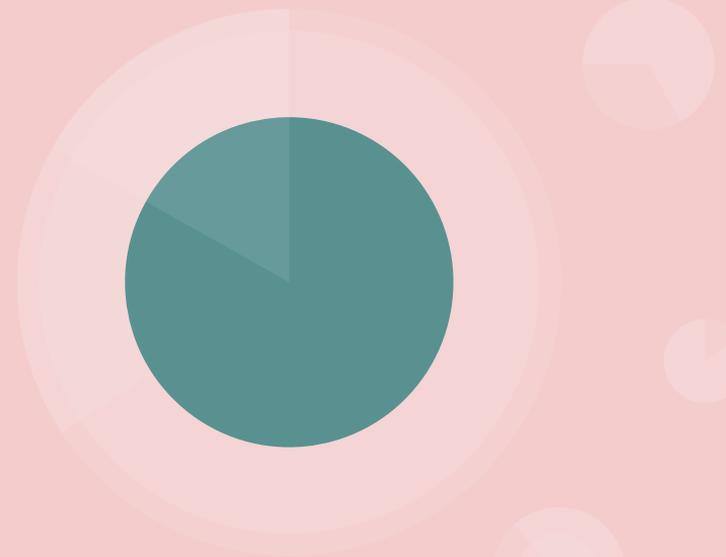


# “The Vessel of Independence.... Must Save Itself”

The Haitian Revolution and King Henry I



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# Re-Periodization of the Haitian Revolution, 1791 - 1808

Phase	Date Range	Objective
1	Jan. 1791 - Aug. 1793	Voting Rights and Emancipation
2	Feb. 1794 - Apr. 1802	Black Jacobins of French Revolution
3	Nov. 1802 - Jan. 1804	War of Independence
4	Jan. 1804 - Nov. 1808	Antislavery War across Ayiti

Jan. 1791	Port Salut revolt	Phase 1
May 1791	French Assembly extends citizenship rights to mixed-raced elites	
Aug. 1791	Bwa Kayiman Congress(ceremony)	
1793-1798	Britain declares war against France and occupies Saint Domingue	
Aug. 1793	Toussaint Louverture & Léger Félicité Sonthonax issue universal emancipation decrees	

Feb. 1794	France abolishes slavery across empire
1795	Treaty of Basel grants Spain Basque Country in exchange to France for Santo Domingo,
1799-1800	1st Haitian Civil War: L'Ouverture v. Rigaud
Feb. 1801	First Haitian Constitution under L'Ouverture's administration
April 1802	Louverture kidnapped and exiled to France

May 1802	France reestablishes slavery across empire	Phase 3
June. 1802 – Apr. 1803	“war within a war”: Creole-born generals defeat African-born generals. Congolese Colonel Jean-Baptiste Sans Souci murdered by Christophe	
Sept. 1802	Ferdinand Christophe murdered in France	
Oct. 1802	Rochambeau introduces canine warfare in Saint Domingue	
May 1803	Treaty of Amiens fails relaunching war between Britain & France; Creation of 1st Haitian flag	
Nov. 1803	Battle at Vertieres; France formally surrenders	

Jan. 1804	Declaration of Independence	Phase 4
Jan. 1804	General Louis Ferrand rejects Haitian Independence and occupies western Ayiti until 1808	
Jan. 1805	Ferrand issues enslavement proclamation with particular emphasis on Haitian children	
Feb. 1805 - Mar. 1805	Dessalines launches war against enslavement proclamation; retreats east in fear of French invasion	
May 1805	Imperial Haiti created	
Oct. 1806	Dessalines' assassination	

Listant de Pradine, *Recueil Général de Lois et Actes du Gouvernement d'Haïti depuis la proclamation de son indépendance jusqu'à nos jours*,  
1860

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N° 44. — PROCLAMATION du général Henry CHRISTOPHE annonçant  
sa marche contre l'assemblée constituante siégeant au Port-au-  
Prince.

18 décembre 1806.

*(Cette pièce manque.)*

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Father of mankind : “There is more joy in heaven over that one sheep which is found again, than for the whole flock that hath never strayed.”

—May this trait of magnanimity soften the hearts of those who still foment or encourage calumny ! Let them at length understand that it is good to sacrifice private passions to the general benefit ; let them consider that the vile agents of the French government, like greedy vultures, are only watching an opportunity to fall upon their prey ; let them reflect, that the vessel of independence in which we are all embarked, must save itself, or perish with the passengers ;

I

King Henry to his Son<sup>1</sup>

{ENGLISH TRANSLATION}

*At the Palace of Sans Souci, this 19<sup>th</sup> of August, 1813,  
in the 10<sup>th</sup> year of our Independence*

THE KING,  
*to the Prince Royal, his son*

I am sending you, my dear son, a sample of the grapes from my garden at Môle Saint-Nicolas, as a mark of affectionate remembrance.

I embrace you with all my heart, and am

Your loving father,  
HENRY

## King Henry to his Son

*(ENGLISH TRANSLATION)*

*At the Palace of San Souci, this 17<sup>th</sup> of October, 1813,  
in the 10<sup>th</sup> year of our Independence*

T H E K I N G ,

*to his dear Son, the Prince Royal*

I received successively, my son, the four specimens of writing you addressed to me; and, though I find nothing to criticize in your hand, which seems to me rather good, I have reason to complain of your behavior and of your character. Those in charge of your deportment and instruction are dissatisfied with you; do you imagine I can feel otherwise myself? I am informed that you have mistreated your servants. That is not commendable. If you are anxious to merit my esteem and affection, that is not the way to go about it, but rather by means of a more proper conduct, submissiveness to the counsel and advice of those qualified to give them to you, and an affability and kindness which will make all cherish you. Though I have delayed writing you until now, because of the press of affairs, and though I have been unable to return to the capital, I shall not forget to speak to you in person about this, the first time I see you, and I shall make you more **docile** to the counsel and advice of those who have a right to offer them to you, and more affable toward the persons who serve you.



## 17 October 1813 Letter

1. I have reason to complain of your behavior and of your character.
2. you have mistreated your servants. That is not commendable.
3. because of the press of affairs, and though I have been unable to return to the capital, I shall not forget to speak to you in person about this, the first time I see you, and I shall make you more docile to the counsel and advice of those who have a right to offer them to you, and more affable toward the persons who serve you.



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1792	Ferdinand Christophe born 1st Phase of Haitian Revolution, 1791-1793	King Henry & Phases of the Revolution
April 1802	Louverture kidnapped and exiled to France, 2nd Phase of Haitian Revolution 1793-1802	
Sept 1802	Ferdinand “substitute deportee” to France	
1804	Victor Christophe born, 4th Phase of Haitian Revolution	
Jan. 1805	Enslavement Proclamation	
~ July 1805	Ferdinand Christophe murdered in France	