

wind of L'Overture annexing the island and proclaiming to be king over Hispaniola, he decided he wanted to renew the fight to take back Saint-Domingue. Four months of incessant fighting ensued and L'Overture retreated to the mountains for the rest of his life. But he wasn't there for long because against others wishes he met with a French general named Brunet and it was the last time he would be on the land that he worked 13 long years to help free from a white racist power structure. Toussaint was arrested and locked away in a damp, cold prison cell three thousand feet above sea level in France's Jura Mountains where he died months later. Once Toussaint became a prisoner of war to the French, his people redoubled their efforts to achieve his goal for them in achieving black independence. Led by Dessalines, Henri Christophe, and Alexandre Pétion through guerilla

war tactics French troops succumbed to them in November 1803 and on New Year's Day 1804; Saint-Domingue officially became Haiti.

It was during this time when Napoleon began to stretch his French empire too thin. His army was being decimated by the Haitian forces and the United States seized the opportunity to make a deal with the French leader. In direct correlation to what was going in Saint-Domingue, the United States was able to secure the Louisiana Purchase, which doubled their land mass instantaneously for a then paltry 3 cents an acre (15 million dollars.) The Haitian revolution is the single event that irrevocably changed the world for both the Haitians and their American counterparts. This ultimately led to the United States and France hedging their individual political, economic, and social agendas on Haiti.



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Haiti's National Palace was destroyed in the earthquake - Photo courtesy of © AP