World History Notes

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* In 1804, he put forward a law code that safeguarded many of the revolutionary ideals. It became known as the Napoleonic Code.
* That same year, Napoleon crowned himself emperor of France. But he did so with the support of the French people, who voted in favor of restoring the monarchy.
* This, ironically, upheld the ideal of popular sovereignty—that the people are the source of all political power.
* After a decade of successfully conquering much of Europe, Napoleon’s reign ended in 1815 after the military defeat at the Battle of Waterloo.
* **Revolutions in Latin America**
* **Haitian Revolution**
* In 1791, inspired by the French Revolution, slaves in the French colony of Saint-Domingue revolted.
* slaves in the French colony of Saint-Domingue revolted. In this colony on the Caribbean island of Hispaniola, slaves far outnumbered the politically dominant whites.
* A third class included freed people of color and those referred to as mulattos, or people of mixed black and European ancestry. They did not have the same rights as those from Europe.
* A free black man, Toussaint L’Ouverture, joined the rebels and helped lead what became known as the Haitian Revolution.
* By 1800, L’Ouverture and his army had eliminated their opponents and taken control of the colony.
* Napoleon sent troops in 1804 to stop the revolt but the rebels defeated the French troops.
* They declared their independence from France and massacred thousands of French colonial administrators and their families.
* They founded the first black republic in modern history, which they named Haiti.
* **Revolution in the Spanish Colonies**
* After the Haitian Revolution, whites feared that rebellions might arise among the lower classes of Indians, enslaved Africans, and people of mixed heritage.
* The minority white population dominated politically. It consisted of Creoles and peninsulares. Creoles were American-born descendants of Spanish colonists. Peninsulares were Spanish-born settlers.
* Creoles had once played a leading political role as colonial officials. But in the late 1700s, Spain’s leaders decided to exert greater control over their colonies.
* Spain introduced reforms that took the right to rule away from the Creoles. Spain switched to entrusting important political and military positions to the peninsulares and generally snubbed the Creoles.
* In 1808, French forces under Napoleon invaded and occupied Spain, severing the link between Spain and its colonies.
* Many Creoles saw this as an opportunity to restore their position in colonial society. The more radical among them sought to free themselves from Spanish rule.
* Wherever these liberal-minded patriots could gain control, they set up local councils to govern themselves.
* A series of Creole-led revolutions resulted in the founding of new nations throughout Spanish America.