

Race, France, and the 19th-Century Antilles



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Overview

1. Background

2. Question

3. Reason

4. Structure

5. Timeline

6. Sources

7. Discoveries

8. Looking Forward

9. Conclusion

Background

- In 2018 France removed the word "race" from its constitution to replace it with the word "gender"
- It now reads "equality regardless of gender, origin, or religion"
- Removal of "race" ignores France's historical impact on its Afro-descended citizens.
- "Blacks, Arabs, whites, Asians, Roma — we all belong to the human race."



Question

What does this change in the French constitution mean for a majority Black (or "Afro-descended") population living in France's overseas departments in the Antilles, such as Martinique and Guadeloupe? And what was its impact on Black French women in particular?

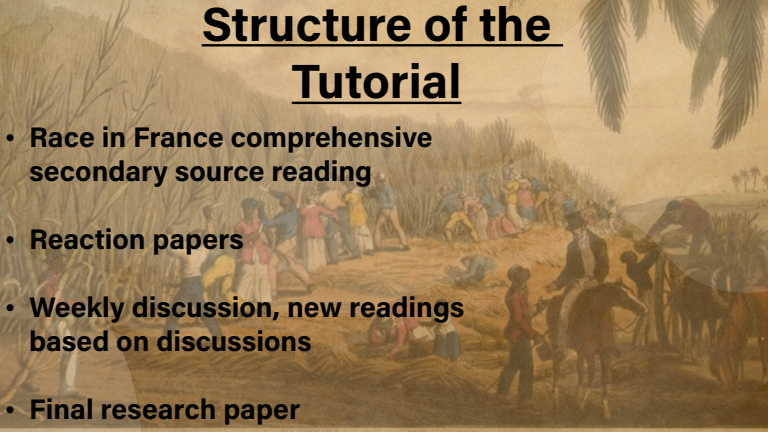


Interest in this topic

- **Ethiopian background: Interest in differences between colonized and non-colonized societies**
- **Curiosity about constitutional changes affecting a majority Black population**
- **Living in Louisiana a previous French colony: insights into race, slavery, and creolization**
- **Contrasting France's colonial legacy with other colonial powers, highlighting effects like departmentalization**

Structure of the Tutorial

- Race in France comprehensive secondary source reading
- Reaction papers
- Weekly discussion, new readings based on discussions
- Final research paper



Timeline

18th Century: French Revolution, Revolution of Saint-Domingue and (First) Abolition of Slavery by the First French Republic

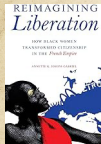
20th Century: Departmentalization of the French Antilles
1972-1993: Use of chlordecone in Martinique and Guadeloupe

17th Century:
Emergence of the concept of race

19th Century:
Reestablishment of slavery,
(Second) Abolition of Slavery,
Inequality

21st Century: Removal of the word "race" from the French constitution

**Reimagining Liberation- Annette
Joseph-Gabriel**



**Non-Sovereign Futures-
Yarmia Bonilla**



Key Readings Overview

**Venus Noire-Robin
Mitchell**



**The Liberating Colony-
Doris Garraway**



Discoveries

- Colonial legacy
- Power dynamics and resistance
- Identity & citizenship
- Black women authors
- Gap in primary sources
- U.S. based scholars
- Focus areas



Looking Forward

Step One

**Continued
Exploration**

Step Three

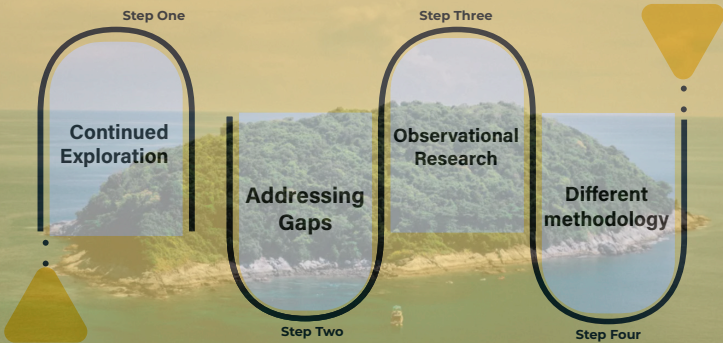
**Observational
Research**

**Addressing
Gaps**

**Different
methodology**

Step Two

Step Four



Conclusion

- **Challenges**
- **The process**
- **What I've learned**
- **Implications**

The image is a collage of three historical photographs. The left panel shows a long, white, classical-style building with a palm tree in the background. The middle panel shows a street scene with a person in the foreground and palm trees in the background. The right panel shows a building with a red roof and palm trees. The word "Questions" is written in a large, bold, black font across the center, underlined.

Questions