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Haiti's 1805 Constitution

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Haiti's 1805 Constitution

Haiti's 1805 constitution focused on civil liberties, administration's roles, and equality (thepostarchive, 2009). It was published by the New York Evening Post on July 15th. The constitution is considered to be unique because of the liberation explained. For example, the slaves in the Caribbean island got self-governance, power and protection, and absolute freedom. The legalization given in the country defined the true meaning of freedom. As noted in the initial articles, Haiti's constitution incorporated cautious words making it clear and precise. The first piece claims that the people living in St Domingo were free and independent from any authority in the universe and would henceforth use the term empire Haiti. Consequently, article two claimed that slavery in the nation is banned forever, while the third stated that the Haiti citizens were all equal before the law regardless of one's privileges. Notably, the unique aspect of this constitution is the specification, for example, where slavery was forbidden forever. The words are direct and informing, reducing the chances of misinterpretation.

Haiti and the American constitutions compare in several ways. Mainly, they are similar regarding political goals. When America declared independence, the focus was on popular sovereignty, implying the people control the government and equality. While constructing the law, America employed Locke's ideas to protect the people's needs. Similarly, Haiti's slaves were motivated by discussing liberty and equality, making them revolt in 1791. While making the constitution, they also addressed slavery, equality and independence (thepostarchive, 2009). For that reason, the political goals resulting in the writing of the constitutions are therefore similar.

Contrarily, they are different concerning the people addressed and the intensity of the declarations. The constitution liberated the 'state of Haiti' other than the whole republic, as noted with the American constitution. Also, Jean Dessalines announced himself as the

emperor, while in the American Constitution, the citizens were empowered to select the leaders to rule. The difference implies the American independence gave the residents more power, while in the Haiti constitution, the emperors delegated the power to the self with the belief they would apply the constitutional ideas. Since the Haiti constitution was specific, the details given were more profound than with America, whose laws applied to all citizens.

Additionally, the two constitutions apply to different populations based on the discussion above. The American Constitution involved all citizens, for example, the equality element was applied to every resident in the nation as long as they were legal citizens. However, Haiti Law only applies to the Haitians, resulting in the name black republic (thepostarchive, 2009). It means people in other parts of the nation were not protected and considered by the constitution. Notably, the American Constitution did not cover people without legal citizenship, while Haiti did not protect people of other races in the rest of the nation. The Haiti constitution mostly addressed Caribbean island slaves' needs, while American Law assumed that all citizens needed equality, power, and freedom. The two pieces were, therefore, different on the people addressed and those left where the American law protected all while Haiti was on a specific group.

Reference

thepostarchive. (2009). Egalite for All: Toussaint L'ouverture and the Haitian Revolution - 2009 [Full].

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pBdlwuEoCCU> <http://faculty.webster.edu/corbetre/haiti/history/earlyhaiti/1805-const.htm>

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