Freedom and Command

Examine how two revolutionary leaders pursued liberty and power.

SS24.WH.3b "Analyze the leadership of revolutionary leaders, including Simón Bolivar and Toussaint Louverture."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two actions each leader took to protect or expand freedom. Circle one choice each leader made to strengthen control, then consider how those choices affected other people.

Leading a Revolution

1. In 1791, enslaved people rose against French rule in Saint-Domingue, a Caribbean colony built on sugar plantations. Toussaint Louverture, once enslaved himself, became a leading general in the long conflict. He organized disciplined troops and shifted alliances as France, Spain, and Britain fought over the colony. When France abolished slavery in its colonies in 1794, Toussaint supported the French Republic and helped defeat its rivals. His choices helped protect emancipation while keeping his army strong. His leadership was not simply a call for freedom: he also had to govern a colony whose economy had depended on forced labor.

2. By 1801, Toussaint controlled Saint-Domingue. A constitution issued under his leadership banned slavery and named him governor for life, while still claiming a connection to France. To restart sugar production, he required many formerly enslaved people to work on plantations under strict rules. This policy angered some people who wanted more control over their work. In 1802, Napoleon sent troops to restore French control. The French arrested Toussaint, who died in prison in 1803. His defeat did not end the struggle: other leaders continued fighting, and Haiti declared independence in 1804.

3. Farther south, Simón Bolívar led campaigns against Spanish rule in northern South America. In 1819, he took an army across the Andes and defeated Spanish forces at Boyacá, helping secure independence for New Granada. He sought allies by promising freedom to enslaved people who joined the fight. Bolívar also argued that newly independent states needed strong central governments to survive. His military strategy helped end Spanish rule across a wide region, but freedom remained uneven: slavery continued in parts of that region after independence. Like Toussaint, Bolívar linked liberty to military strength, yet his plans for order did not grant everyone equal control over their lives.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Toussaint use military leadership to help protect freedom in Saint-Domingue?

2. How did Toussaint's decisions as governor both expand and limit freedom?

3. How did Bolívar's 1819 military decision advance his goal of independence?

4. Both leaders wanted liberty and order. What choice did each make to strengthen order, and whose freedom remained limited?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a newly independent territory faces an outside army, and plantation workers demand control over their labor. Choose Toussaint or Bolívar. In four or five sentences, predict how that leader might respond, support your prediction with two different details from the passage, and state one limit to your prediction.

ANSWER KEY

Freedom and Command

GRADE 9 · SS24.WH.3b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two actions each leader took to protect or expand freedom. Circle one choice each leader made to strengthen control, then consider how those choices affected other people. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Toussaint use military leadership to help protect freedom in Saint-Domingue?	**He organized disciplined troops and shifted alliances during the conflict. After France abolished slavery, he supported the French Republic and helped defeat its rivals.**
2	How did Toussaint's decisions as governor both expand and limit freedom?	**The constitution issued under his leadership banned slavery, but his strict plantation work rules limited formerly enslaved people's control over their labor.**
3	How did Bolívar's 1819 military decision advance his goal of independence?	**He led an army across the Andes and defeated Spanish forces at Boyacá, helping secure independence for New Granada.**
4	Both leaders wanted liberty and order. What choice did each make to strengthen order, and whose freedom remained limited?	**Toussaint imposed strict plantation work rules, limiting workers' control over their labor. Bolívar supported strong central governments, while slavery continued in parts of the region after independence.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Toussaint might strengthen his army to resist the outside force while ordering plantation work to continue. He organized disciplined troops and shifted alliances when foreign powers fought over Saint-Domingue. Although he banned slavery, he required many formerly enslaved people to work on plantations under strict rules. We cannot know whether he would impose the same rules in a different territory facing a different threat.

Accept other predictions that use two accurate, distinct passage details and acknowledge uncertainty. Do not treat a prediction about a new situation as a historical fact.