

Violence and Genocide: Taino and European contact sites

When Columbus's Santa Maria hit a reef in what is now northern Haiti, the sailors used the timbers from the boat to build a fortified town, La Navidad. They were welcomed by the northern cacique, Guacanagari, but the sailors did not survive the year. The Spanish moved their base to what is now the northern part of the Dominican Republic and then moved into the Dominican interior, mostly looking for gold. Along the way, they enslaved and massacred the Taino and spread disease, with the last Taino cacique overthrown in the 1504 War of Higüey, a massacre in which Juan Ponce de León took part and which Bartolomé de las Casas chronicled. It would be another ten years before the latter made his infamous case for the protection of indigenous peoples in favor of the importation of enslaved Africans.

Read less

EVENTS

CHRISTMAS EVE, 1492
Christopher Columbus's Santa Maria Sinks

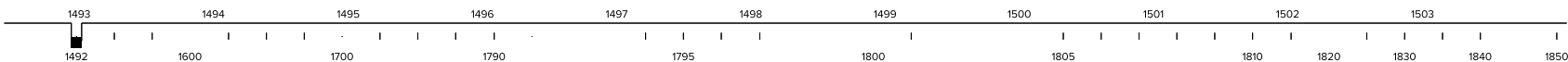
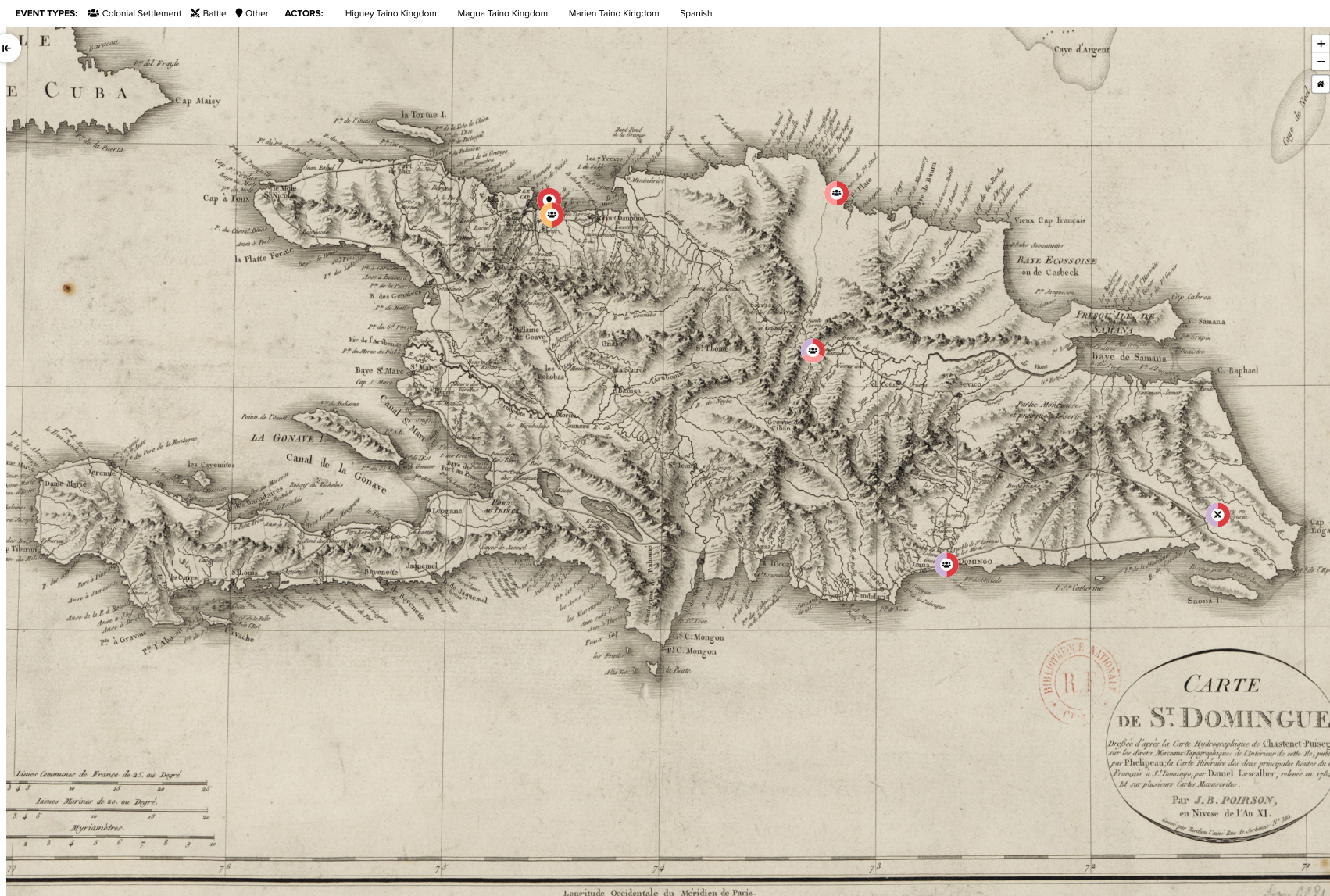
CHRISTMAS DAY, 1492-1520
La Navidad/Puerto Real/En Bas Saline, 1492-1520

1493-1497
La Isabela, 1493-1497

1494-1562
Concepcion de la Vega, 1494-1562

1496/1497
Santo Domingo

1504
War of Higüey



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