



Above: Esteban Rodríguez Miro was governor of Louisiana from 1785 to 1791. Louisiana prospered under his leadership, and many Americans began to move into the area. The city of Monroe began as Fort Miro, named for this Spanish official.

Spanish Louisiana after the American Revolution

As you read, look for:

- issues with American settlers,
- the results of Pinckney's Treaty, and
- vocabulary terms **French Revolution** and **right of deposit**.

Gálvez was promoted to another assignment in colonial Spain, and a new governor was sent to Louisiana. Esteban Rodríguez Miro had to deal with the problems caused by the war.

Challenges

Miro faced major problems with the Native Americans. Since the days of the French, the Indians had come to rely on trade with the whites. After losing the British traders, the Indians wanted to trade with the Americans in Georgia and the Carolinas. Fearing that the Indians might become allies of the Americans and pose a threat to Spanish Louisiana, Miro worked hard to continue trade with the Indians.

After the war's end, American settlers pushed toward Spanish territory. The Americans swarmed over the Allegheny Mountains, heading west. If this region filled with the land-hungry Americans, the United States would become a stronger threat to Spain's North American holdings. Spain tried to block this expansion by encouraging the Indians to stop Americans from taking their lands.

The Spanish government wanted more loyal colonists in Spanish Louisiana and sent funds for that purpose. But Miro had to use that money to feed his soldiers. Like the French, the Spanish often did not send enough money to provide for all of the colony's needs. Like many other Louisiana colonial governors, Miro had to make tough choices.

But even without government help, many people moved to Louisiana. The Spanish allowed the Americans to come to Louisiana but expected them to be loyal to Spain. If the Americans took an oath of allegiance, they were given a Spanish land grant. Protestants had to agree not to worship openly, but they

were not required to change their religion. This was a change in policy; previously, Spain had required all colonists to become Catholics.

When Miro realized that many Americans were settling in the colony, he tried to place them in organized communities like Natchez. By mixing the newcomers with established colonists, he hoped to keep them loyal.

He also recognized the danger of their presence. They needed to become good Spanish subjects. He sent for Irish priests, hoping these English-speaking clergy would encourage the Americans to become proper Catholics. Then perhaps they would feel loyal to the Catholic king of Spain.

Miro faced another crisis in New Orleans. In 1788, a fire destroyed 856 homes and left 1,000 people homeless. The fire damaged more than homes and property. The loss of stored food threatened a famine. The colonial government was also disrupted by the fire.

The simple building where the Cabildo met was burned, as were the prison and the police station. Obviously, the prison and the police station had to be replaced first; a new building for the Cabildo was not finished until 1799. New Orleans suffered another fire in 1794. Again many buildings burned, including the recently completed firehouse.

Below: More than eight hundred buildings were destroyed in the Great New Orleans Fire of 1788. This map shows the extent of the fire. Another devastating fire struck in 1794.





Above: Francisco Luis Hector, Baron de Carondelet, became governor of Louisiana in 1791. Governor Carondelet loosened Spanish trade laws to improve the colony's economy, established the first newspaper in Louisiana, installed the first street lights in New Orleans, and signed treaties with the Indian tribes.

Miro's handling of these problems and the willingness of Spain to loosen trade laws improved life in the colony. The population increased, and new settlements were established. The city of Monroe began as Fort Miro, named to honor this Spanish governor. The fort was established in 1790 in North Louisiana to protect the Spanish territory from the British.

Growth

The next Spanish governor was a highly energetic leader—Francisco Luis Hector, Baron de Carondelet. Constant action marked his years as governor. Spanish trade laws had been loosened during Governor Miro's term, but Carondelet (ka RON do LET) went further by allowing free trade with the United States. He also permitted foreign trade ships to enter the port of New Orleans and listed them as Spanish ships on the records. Carondelet had to walk a tightrope because he could not openly violate the Spanish trade policies. But only with this outside trade could the colony's economy survive.

The French Revolution

The outside world brought more than trade to Louisiana. Reports of the 1789 **French Revolution** spread across the Atlantic. The new ideas of "The Age of Enlightenment" brought changes. Any government that insisted on absolute control over its citizens was threatened. When those ideas and terrible living conditions kindled the French Revolution, the Spanish government watched nervously. After French King Louis XVI was beheaded, Spain's King Carlos IV could no longer ignore the threat. In 1793, Spain declared war on France.

Even before Spain entered the war, Louisiana's sympathy for the French Revolution concerned Governor Carondelet. Talk of the revolution captured the interest of the people. The French heritage of many colonists connected them to the people of France. They were also attracted to the ideas of freedom because they had lived far from a king for several generations. In the streets of New Orleans, people sang the anthem of the French Revolution, "La Marseillaise." In Natchitoches, revolutionary clubs supported the French cause.

This increasing interest in the French Revolution brought action from the Spanish governor. Carondelet sought support among the Indian tribes just in case he faced any actual rebellion. He improved his control of New Orleans by establishing a police force and adding street lights. He carefully watched the activities of the people as they moved about the colony so that any mobs supporting the French Revolution could be stopped.

In France, the situation became more violent, and “the Reign of Terror” began. Those French who were loyal to the king were in constant danger of being beheaded. Fearing execution, they escaped from France when they could. Some of these members of France’s noble class came to Louisiana.

The Spanish colony was governed by a king, and the French who had been loyal to the king during the revolution were welcomed. Records show that some of these French nobles came to New Orleans, St. Martinville, and New Iberia in 1793 and 1794.

The new ideas about the rights of man were also heard by the slaves in colonial Louisiana. By 1795, a group of slaves in Pointe Coupee planned an uprising, expecting sympathy from supporters of freedom. Their plan, however, was reported and the uprising stopped.

Boundary Disputes

Carondelet heard rumors that Americans along the Mississippi planned to take New Orleans. These angry western farmers threatened to seize the port so they could ship their products to market. Some of the plots went beyond that goal and included overthrowing the Spanish government and taking the West.

After the American Revolution, travel on the Mississippi became a major issue between the Spanish and the western American farmers. Without access to the river, the farmers could not get their crops to a port. Their complaints to the new Congress and their threats to take action brought about a treaty in 1795. According to the terms of Pinckney’s Treaty, the Americans gained free navigation of the river. Once they reached New Orleans, they could “deposit” or store their goods in warehouses before loading them onto ships. This agreement was called the **right of deposit**. The arrangement was not completely satisfactory, because the right of deposit was granted for only three years.

The treaty also set the boundary between the United States and the Spanish territory. The agreement set the southern boundary of the United States at the thirty-first parallel.

The Final Spanish Years

As Louisiana grew, progress and change increased the demand for information. *Le Moniteur de la Louisiane*, the first newspaper in the colony, began in 1794. It was printed in French even though the colony was now Spanish.

Lagniappe

A park in St. Louis, Missouri, is named for Carondelet, reminding us that colonial Louisiana extended far north of the present border of Louisiana.



Map 27 Pinckney's Treaty

Map Skill: Why do you think the 31st parallel was chosen?



Above: Sugar cane became the leading cash crop in Louisiana after Etienne de Boré succeeded in producing a crop that yielded about 100,000 pounds of sugar in 1795. **Right:** Free blacks from Saint-Domingue. Skilled workers from the sugar plantations of Saint-Domingue emigrated to Louisiana and helped establish the sugar industry.

Lagniappe

Etienne de Boré was later appointed the first mayor of New Orleans.

The culture as well as the language of the colony continued to be more French than Spanish. The people in New Orleans continued to have formal parties with French wine and French dancing. Their clothing was even more elegant, and they were described as considering their appearance and their entertainment as very important. Men gathered in coffee houses in New Orleans to play cards after mass on Sunday, and many of them had not even attended the church service.

This lifestyle offended the strict Spanish priests, who complained about the colonists' disrespect toward church regulations. The Catholic Church continued to be the official religion and was supported by the government. The French Capuchin priests and Ursuline nuns were allowed to stay in the colony doing their religious work. Earlier, the French government had removed the French Jesuit priests from all of North America.

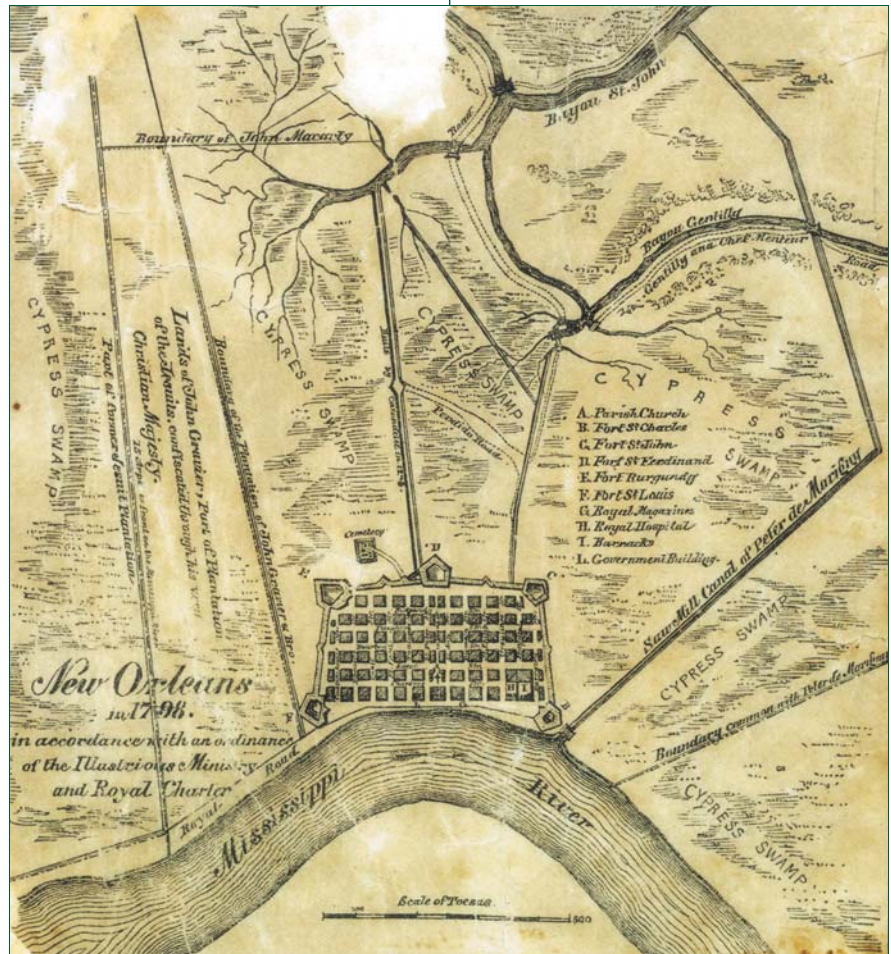


But it was the Jesuits who are credited with bringing sugar cane to Louisiana. The colony's economy improved when sugar cane became a profitable crop. Many people contributed to this effort, but Etienne de Boré was the first successful sugar producer. In 1795, he improved an experimental process and manufactured a good quality sugar. Other experienced sugar planters moved into Louisiana from Saint-Domingue (Haiti) after the slave rebellion there.

That slave rebellion in Haiti frightened the planters in Louisiana, and they no longer wanted slaves from the West Indies. Because of this fear of rebellion, Carondelet stopped the importation of slaves for a time.

Despite progress, Louisiana continued to cost Spain more than it returned. In fact, the expenses were ten times the income Spain gained. At the end of the 1700s, more secret discussions about the colony brought changes. The colony would be traded again by the European powers in control of its destiny.

After being returned to France for a brief period, these French-speaking Spanish citizens would become Americans. Once again, the people in the colony of Louisiana knew nothing of the looming changes.



Above: This map shows New Orleans in 1798. The city was a strategic port for both Spain and the young United States. Events set in motion when Spain refused to renew the right of deposit would soon lead to a monumental change for the city.

Check for Understanding ✓

1. Name three challenges faced by Governor Miro.
2. How did Governor Carondelet handle trade?
3. What are two ways the French Revolution affected Louisiana?
4. Why were western farmers angry about Spain's control of the Mississippi?
5. Why was the first newspaper in French instead of Spanish?
6. What are two reasons that led to sugar cane becoming an important crop?

Meeting Expectations

The Possessions of John Fitzpatrick

John Fitzpatrick was a British subject who lived in West Florida near Bayou Manchac. The Spanish colonial government allowed him to operate an import and export business. A list of his possessions, which

was made at the time of his death, helps us understand what life was like in Spanish colonial Louisiana. Selected items from the inventory are shown on the chart.

<i>Item</i>	<i>Value in Pesos</i>
<i>A used long-sighted field glass and a bottle case with 12 empty glass bottles</i>	4
<i>Two pairs of long trousers, one pair of drawers, and one pair of stockings, all of linen</i>	2
<i>A package of Indian trinkets and two pairs of silk stockings, used</i>	1
<i>A pair of silver shoe buckles</i>	6
<i>A mousetrap, a funnel, and a strainer</i>	1
<i>In the warehouse, a stone for filtering water, with a cypress frame, used</i>	8
<i>A large tin pitcher for storing gunpowder, a large funnel of the same material, and a used cypress chest without keys</i>	2
<i>An English shotgun, with two powder horns and a bag for ammunition</i>	4
<i>Riding saddle and bridle, somewhat used</i>	7
<i>A box containing old scrap iron and nails, used</i>	5

Use the inventory to answer the following questions.

1. List the three items with the highest value. Why do you think they are the most valuable?
2. List two items that would still be used in a household today.
3. List two items that are no longer used. Why are they no longer used?
4. What was the purpose of the stone found in the warehouse?
5. Why did this frontier merchant have Indian trinkets? Why do you think they were grouped with the silk stockings?
6. Why was the value of the scrap iron and old nails almost as high as the value of the silver shoe buckles?