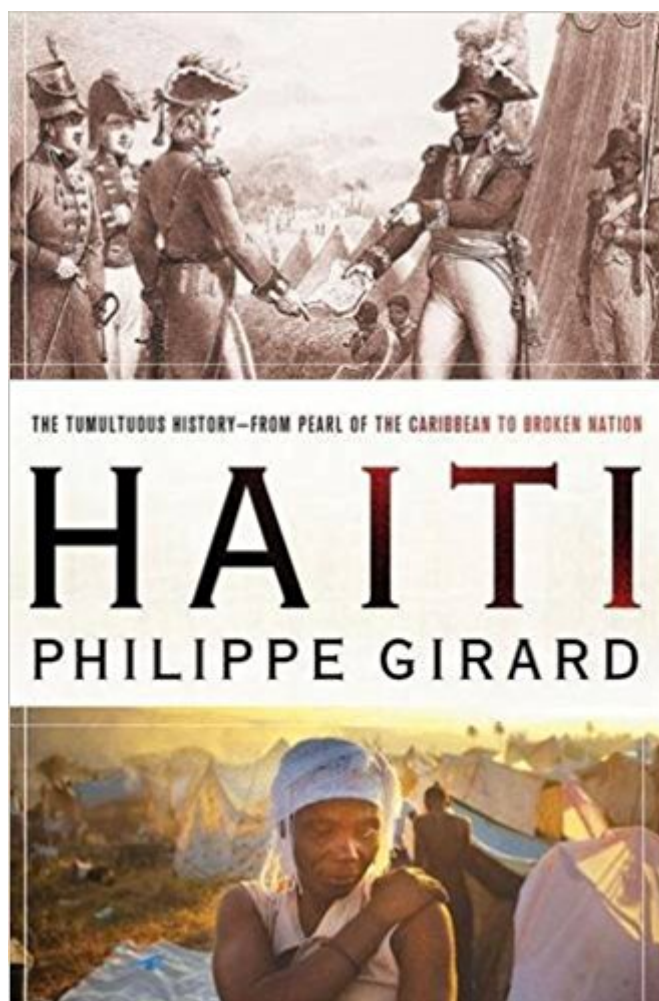


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Haiti: The Tumultuous History - From Pearl Of The Caribbean To Broken Nation



Synopsis

Why has Haiti been plagued by so many woes? Why have multiple U.S. efforts to create a stable democracy in Haiti failed so spectacularly? Philippe Girard answers these and other questions, examining how colonialism and slavery have left a legacy of racial tension, both within Haiti and internationally; Haitians remain deeply suspicious of white foreigners' motives, many of whom doubt Haitians' ability to govern themselves. He also examines how Haiti's current political instability is merely a continuation of political strife that began during the War of Independence (1791-1804). Finally, in *Haiti: The Tumultuous History*, Girard explores poverty's devastating impact on contemporary Haiti and argues that Haitians--particularly home-grown dictators--bear a big share of the responsibility for their nation's troubles.

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Customer Reviews

• An engaging and wonderfully readable account of the circumstances leading up to the U.S. invasion of Haiti in 1994, and its restoration of Jean-Bertrand Aristide as Haitian president. • Elizabeth Abbott, Trinity College, University of Toronto on *Clinton in Haiti* • This is an extraordinarily well written account that places Clinton's Haitian foreign policy in historical perspective. Linguistic wit and analytical sophistication prevail as Girard skillfully weaves readers through the complexities and tragedy of Haiti's history and the highly touted, but unsuccessful aftermath of the 1994 "invasion" by U.S. troops to restore Aristide and democracy to this Caribbean republic. Until Clinton administration classified documents become available this will remain the

standard account and an object lesson for all future American cut-and-run attempts at peace-keeping and nation-building. • • Joan Hoff, Montana State University, Bozeman on Clinton in Haiti • Written by an outstanding young French scholar of recent American history, this examination of U.S. intervention in Haiti under Bill Clinton probes the motivations behind an unnecessary military action and explains the ways in which objective failure is translated into political success. The author's finely-calibrated sense of irony makes his work as entertaining as it is instructive. • • Alonzo L. Hamby, Ohio University, and author of *For the Survival of Democracy: Franklin Roosevelt and the World Crisis of the 1930s*, on Clinton in Haiti

Philippe Girard is an Assistant Professor of Caribbean History, McNeese State University of Louisiana. He is the author of *Haiti*.

I have been to Haiti about 15 times doing volunteer electrical work in various parts of the country starting in 1997. I Flew out of Port Au Prince by chance the day before the earthquake and returned a year later and was again in Port au Prince on the one year anniversary of this great tragedy. I will be there again in about one month. I have had a somewhat shallow and maybe naive understanding of Haitian history and the dynamics that make Haiti what it is today. Girard's book has provided a helpful basic history of Haiti and with that has shed some light for me on some of the racial dynamics that have influenced Haiti from the very beginning of the revolution until now. His book immediately awakens the reader to the fact that the situation in Haiti is complex. I like the fact that he is honest and frank in pointing out where he feels there have been and still are problems and as painful as it may be for some to accept I think he is for the most part on the right track. He addresses the question that everyone asks about Haiti, "Why is Haiti the way it is after 200 plus years!" He shares the frustration that all of us who have been involved with Haiti have experienced as we observe the miserable conditions which seem to change little over time and he offers some thoughtful suggestions on what can be done (or not done) in order for Haiti to one day improve. I had a hard time putting the book down once I got a hold of it and I do recommend it to anyone with an interest in Haiti.

Never before has it been so important to me to know WHO is writing the history book. Girard, as many have pointed out, is not Haitian. However, it is foolish to think that a native Haitian would have fewer biases in writing her history. A certain distance can create objectivity that is impossible otherwise. I was impressed with Girard's fair critique of the causes of Haiti's state. He gives

credit--and blame-- where it is due. I started this book highly irritated with the cupability of the U.S. and France. At the end of the book I became irritated with the corruption of a government that is nothing short of vampiric. This book is written with heart, and you can hear the longing in the author as he cites, many times, the missed opportunities Haiti has had. This book has confirmed my passion for studying a beautiful country with beautiful people. Hope is there! MÃ"si anpil!

I have been traveling to Haiti for 7 years doing mission work. It was VERY beneficial for me to learn about the history of Haiti and the Haitians. It explained a lot about the people and country I love so much!

Essential to understand the downfall of the once richest colony in the so-called New World.

Don't travel to Haiti before reading this book...it makes so much of what you will see there make sense and give you greater empathy for a country with a history of turmoil and upheaval. I think you miss the deep joy and beauty of the country today if you don't understand it's past.

I have spent time in Haiti. I did not know the fear and safety conditions of being on the streets late at nite, but this book helps me to understand what I did not know at the time. Great job. Informative.

This book contains lots of fascinating tidbits about the history of Haiti which many people have probably never heard before (did you know the US once feared invasion by Haiti?). It gives a very complete and fairly balanced view of the good, bad, and ugly of Haiti's history in the first half of the book then gives a lot of political background towards the second half. The only disappointing thing about the book is its very short and somewhat oversimplified conclusions on where to go from here, but the book is still very worthwhile for all the historical insight.

Great account of a tremendously tumultuous period in the life of a country with so much potential. It is a true but very sad story.

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