Contours of the Haitian Past; Glimpses of the Future

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Modern Haiti: A Second Independence

A DIFFERENT HAITI IS POSSIBLE
Market by the Water
R. Mervilus
Franklin D. Roosevelt with Sténio Vincent in Cap-Haïtien 1934
Sténio Vincent and Rafael Trujillo on the border in 1933
“For some months, I have traveled and traversed the border in every sense of the word. I have seen, investigated, and inquired about the needs of the population. To the Dominicans who were complaining of the depredations by Haitians living among them, thefts of cattle, provisions, fruits, etc., and were thus prevented from enjoying in peace the products of their labor, I have responded, 'I will fix this.' And we have already begun to remedy the situation. Three hundred Haitians are now dead in Bánica. This remedy will continue.”
Anti-haitianismo in Dominican Republic
El Corte or Parsley Massacre of 1937
Nixon and Trujillo
“Dominicanization” in Defense against the Haitian Hordes

Trujillo protégé, Joaquín Balaguer, wrote that the massacre was "the crystallization in the heart of our country of a sentiment of protest and defense against four centuries of Haitian depredations."
Anti-Haitian Sentiments
Paul Magloire
Duvalier Dynasty

François Duvalier

Jean-Claude Duvalier
François Duvalier and Power

Papa Doc

Baron Samedi
Papa Doc

François Duvalier (1957-1971)

1. physician
2. writings on Afro-Haitian cultural heritage - *négritude*
3. election victory of 1957
4. consolidation of power
5. elimination of rivals and suppression of criticism
6. imprisonment, torture, and disappearances
7. *tonton macoutes*, Police Secrète, and Milice Civile
8. immeasurable strength from voodoo
9. president-for-life
10. palace intrigues
11. successor
What is Negritude

- Negritude refers to a consciousness of and pride in the cultural and physical aspects of the African heritage or the state or condition of being black.

- It was an ideology propounded by Caribbean scholars, influenced by the black experience of slavery, imperialism and colonialism of the slavery era and after.

- It is a literary and political movement founded in French Martinique and Paris in the 1930s by a group of students from the French Caribbean and Africa. The founding members were, Aimé Césaire, Léopold Senghor, and Léon Damas.
Jean Claude Duvalier
Baby Doc
Jean-Claude Duvalier - Duvalier fils (1971-1986)

1. attempts at improving image abroad
2. decrease in overt violence
3. increasing association with old elites
4. spectacular corruption
5. flown to exile in France by the United States in 1986
On February 6, 1986, after a late-night party at his palace, Jean-Claude Duvalier boarded a U.S. C-141 jet which took him and his family to France. Before boarding, Duvalier stated, “We are as firm as a monkey tail,” he remained in exile in France until 2011.
Post-Duvalier Transition: 1986-1990

After Duvalier’s departure, a five-member civilian-military council led by Lieut. Gen. Henri Namphy took charge, promising free elections and democratic reforms. The first attempt at elections, in November 1987, ended when some three dozen voters were killed. In January 1988 Leslie Manigat won elections that were widely considered fraudulent, and Namphy overthrew him in June. A few months later Lieut. Gen. Prosper Avril took power, but his unstable regime ended in March 1990.
Jean Bertrand Aristide  

Power Vacuum

Post Duvalier
1. democratic openings
2. election of Jean-Bertrand Aristide in 1990
   a. “church of the poor”
   b. Lavalas (Floodtide) movement - promises of sweeping change
3. ouster of Aristide by army in 1991
5. social drift
6. 2000 victory for Aristide
8. coup 2004
President: 1996-2001; 2006-2011

"He is the only president in Haitian history to have served two full presidential terms and not be jailed, exiled, or killed."

But he is perhaps best remembered for what many Haitians see as his failure to lead following the earthquake that killed more than 250,000 people and left millions homeless.

René Préval
January 12, 2010 Earthquake
The Toll:

Magnitude 7.1
316,000: Estimates of the death toll vary
300,000: Number of injured
1.5 million: People homeless/displaced
37,867: Displaced people as of September 2017
Temporary Protected Status terminated
Deforestation and Resulting Desertification

HAITI

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
Michel Martelly Takes Power
President May 2011 until February 2016
Bay Doc Returns to Haiti in 2011
Baby Doc Funeral on October 11, 2014
“The corruption [that Papa and Baby Doc] encouraged, and their political toolbox—authoritarianism, trumped up elections, distrust of free speech, corruption of the forces of order, and no justice — are the methods by which Haiti’s ruler still controls the country today.”

Amy Wilentz
“Looking back on the history of Haiti and its recent struggles, it is sometimes difficult not to succumb to hopelessness, to the feeling that nothing can be done. But in truth, none of what has happened in Haiti during the past two hundred years has been inevitable. Haiti’s current situation is the culmination of a long set of choices that date back to its beginnings as a French plantation colony. And it is the consequence of the ways that powerful political leaders and institutions, inside and outside the country, have ignored and suppressed the aspirations of Haiti’s majority.”

Laurent Dubois