



Learn More About...

Haiti

An Annotated Bibliography

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Web Links

Beyond Borders <http://www.beyondborders.net/index.php>

To build greater understanding across the global economic divide, Beyond Borders organizes reflective journeys to Haiti for small groups from churches, colleges, and community organizations. Beyond Borders creates opportunities for authentic dialogue between these visitors and their Haitian hosts.

Fonkoze <<http://www.fonkoze.org/>>

Fonkoze - Haiti's Alternative Bank for the Organized Poor - is the largest micro-finance institution offering a full range of financial services to the rural-based poor in Haiti. Fonkoze is a Haitian Creole acronym for Fondasyon Kole Zepòl, which means, "The Shoulder-to-Shoulder Foundation." Fonkoze's mission is to build the economic foundations for democracy in Haiti. Established in 1994, Fonkoze currently has almost 70,000 depositors, over 32,000 active borrowers (96% of whom are women), and 24 branch offices spread throughout Haiti.

Haiti Emergency/InterPress Service <http://www.ipsnews.net/new_focus/haiti/index.asp>

An excellent site for updates on current events in Haiti.

Haiti Marycare <www.haitimarycare.org>

Haiti Marycare's efforts are concentrated in the isolated fishing village of Jacquesyl and in Cite Soleil, the poorest of the slums in the capitol, Port-au-Prince. Their work addresses three areas: child and family health, education and community development. Mary Lou Ryder-Larkin, a Marian High School graduate, is the Medical Director of Haiti Marycare.

Partners in Progress <www.PIPHaiti.org>

Partners in Progress helps people in Haiti help themselves by promoting and advancing a community model of sustainable rural development through educational outreach and resource networking.

University of Fondwa <<http://www.apfhaiti.org/index.php>>

In January, 2004, The Association of Peasants of Fondwa (APF) inaugurated a "university of the mountains" modeled on the successful University of Guantanamo. The objective of the university is to provide quality higher education and the possibility of permanent employment for the young people of the rural areas of Haiti who have completed their secondary schooling and are willing to become involved in sustainable development projects in their own communities. As the University experienced massive damage during the earthquake, follow the APF site.

Books

Beverly Bell, "Walking on Fire: Haitian Women's Stories of Survival and Resistance" (NY: Cornell University Press, 2001).

Most people know that Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, but what that means for the Haitian people is usually lost in a morass of statistical data. In this moving book, activist Bell, who is the founder and director of the Center for Economic Justice in Albuquerque, NM, gives faces to the numbers by providing a forum for Haitian women to speak about their lives. Some of the 38 oral histories here come from illiterate farmers and market women. Other informants are well schooled, earning far more than subsistence wages as teachers and writers. Nonetheless, all of Bell's sources are dedicated to the alleviation of poverty and believe that food, housing, and education are entitlements and that gender equity is inseparable from economic justice.

Jean-Robert Cadet, *Restavec: From Haitian Slave Child to Middle Class American* (Austin, TX: University of Texas Press, 1998).

African slaves in Haiti emancipated themselves from French rule in 1804 and created the first independent black republic in the Western Hemisphere. But they reinstated slavery for the most vulnerable members of Haitian society—the children of the poor—by using them as unpaid servants to the wealthy. These children were—and still are—*restavecs*, a French term whose literal meaning of "staying with" disguises the unremitting labor, abuse, and denial of education that characterizes the children's lives. In this memoir, Jean-Robert Cadet recounts the harrowing story of his youth as a *restavec*, as well as his inspiring climb to middle-class American life.

Eugenia Charles et al. (Eds.), *Let Haiti Live: Unjust U.S. Policies Toward Its Oldest Neighbor* (Coconut Creek, FL: Educa Vision Inc., 2004).

This book is a collection of insightful and well documented essays from 23 contributors. The essays present facts, contexts and perspectives (beyond the report media) to understand the people of Haiti and ideas on how to participate in the environmental, political and social transformations that are needed.

Edwidge Danticat, *Breath, Eyes, Memory* (New York: Random House, 1994).

At the age of twelve, Sophie Caco is sent from her impoverished village of Croix-des-Rosets, Haiti to New York, to be reunited with a mother she barely remembers. There she discovers a legacy of shame that can be healed only when she returns to Haiti – to the women who first reared her. What ensues is a passionate journey through a landscape charged with the supernatural and scarred by political violence, in a novel that bears witness to the traditions, suffering, and wisdom of the Haitian people. Discussion questions for use with this book are available at <<http://www.manitowoc.lib.wi.us/readers/guides/breatheyesmemory.htm>>

Edwidge Danticat, *Farming of Bones* (New York: Penguin, 1998).

At one time the people of Haiti and the Dominican Republic accepted and nurtured their interdependency. Trujillo's racist regime marked the end of this peaceful coexistence with the deplorable Massacre of 1937. This massacre is remembered by Amabelle, a Haitian woman who lived through this period as a young girl. Orphaned when her parents are swept away by a swollen river, she is cared for by the Haitian community across the river in the Dominican Republic. Eventually she falls in love with Sebastien, a worker in the cane fields; their lives are forever entangled during events of 1937. Amabelle flees, becoming companion and nursemaid for the wife of a member of Trujillo's inner circle. For the rest of her life, Amabelle searches for Sebastien, never completely able to accept his death. This is an emotionally charged story and a powerful historical account that helps readers understand the radical division that exists between two countries on a single island. Discussion questions for use with this book are available at <http://readinggroupguides.com/guides_F/farming_of_bones1.asp>

Edwidge Danticat, *Krik? Krak!* (New York: Random House, 1996)

Examining the lives of ordinary Haitians, particularly those struggling to survive under the brutal Duvalier regime, Danticat illuminates the distance between people's desires and the stifling reality of their lives. A profound mix of Catholicism and voodoo spirituality informs the tales, bestowing a mythic importance on people described in the opening story, "Children of the Sea," as those "in this world whose names don't matter to anyone but themselves." The stories inform and enrich one another, as the female characters reveal a common ancestry and ties to the fictional Ville Rose. In addition to the power of Danticat's themes, the book is enhanced by an element of suspense. Spare, elegant and moving, these stories cohere into a superb collection.

Paul Farmer, *The Uses of Haiti: Second Edition* (Monroe, ME: Common Courage Press, 2003).

This book offers a close examination of the exploitation of the Haitian poor. The author goes beyond a narrative history of events to analyze the ideological backdrop to U.S. policy in Haiti. The book is divided into two sections. The first section offers an interpretive history of Haiti by examining the large scale economic and political forces that have led the country into crisis time and time again. The second part of the book highlights the voices and experiences of Haiti's poor through the stories of three young Haitians

Robert Fatton, *Haiti's Predatory Republic: The Unending Transition to Democracy* (Boulder, Co.: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2002).

This is a review of recent political history in Haiti by someone who describes himself as a member of the elite class but concerned with the whole of Haitian society. It is very helpful for providing behind the headlines interpretation, especially in regard to Aristide's fluctuating presence.

Tara Hefferan, *Twinning Faith & Development: Catholic Parish Partnering in the US and Haiti* (Bloomfield, CT: Kumarian Press, 2007).

This is a study of the relationship between two Catholic parishes: St. Robert in Ada, Michigan and Our Lady of the Nativity in Verrettes, Haiti under the umbrella of the parish twinning project. The author, a cultural anthropologist, interviewed Michigan participants and spent two months at the Haitian parish. Her study brings out reasons for participation, challenges and rewards and includes a critique of "development."

Tracy Kidder, *Mountains Beyond Mountains* (New York: Random House, 2004).

Mountains Beyond Mountains takes the reader from Harvard to Haiti, Peru, Cuba and Russia as Dr. Paul Farmer changes minds and practices through his dedication to the philosophy that "the only real nation is humanity" - a philosophy that is embodied in the small public charity he founded, Partners In Health. He enlists the help of the Gates Foundation, George Soros, the U.N.'s World Health Organization, and others in his quest to cure the world. At the heart of this book is the example of a life based on hope and on an understanding of the truth of the Haitian proverb, "Beyond mountains there are mountains." As you solve one problem, another problem presents itself, and so you go on and try to solve that one too. Discussion questions for use with this book are available at <http://www.macalester.edu/macreads/mountains/discussion.html>.

Kathie Klarreich, *Madame Dread: A Tale of Love, Vodou and Civil Strife in Haiti* (New York: Nation Books, 2005).

The author arrived in Haiti as a naïve twenty-something in the late 1980s. Despite the spiraling political violence, Klarreich became enthralled by the island to the extent that she started to grow dreads, attend Voodoo masses and started to file reports for the Christian Science Monitor and its attendant radio station. Klarreich saw civil violence, mass slaughter, coups, and U.S. intervention all up-close, and on a daily basis as a reporter. Often risking life and limb, accused of being a CIA agent by her enemies, she lost a man she loved due to an assassin's bullet—but she established credentials, contacts and developed an unsparing eye that led major news organizations to regard her as nonpareil throughout the turbulent decade. This compelling memoir interweaves shattering political events with an intensely personal narrative.

Jennie Marcelle Smith, *When the Hands are Many: Community Organization and Social Change in Rural Haiti*. (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2001).

When the Hands Are Many illustrates the philosophies, styles and structures typical of social organization in rural Haiti. The author integrates these organizations' strengths into a new vision for social change and asks what must happen in Haiti and elsewhere to facilitate positive transformation in the world today.

Randall Robinson, *An Unbroken Agony: Haiti, From Revolution to the Kidnapping of a President* (New York: Basic Civitas Books, 2007).

A searing overview of Haitian history and the reasons behind Haiti's persistent poverty and isolation is followed by a riveting account of the 2004 coup against President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Robinson marshals strong evidence to support his belief that the Bush administration engineered Aristide's removal, and he has firsthand knowledge of the debacle. Robinson's dramatic account makes it clear that many questions remain unanswered.

Gerard Thomas Straub, *Hidden in the Rubble: A Haitian Pilgrimage to Compassion and Resurrection* (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2010)

Filmmaker Gerry Straub was there weeks before the earthquake, and he returned soon after, to continue his project: to capture in words and images the reality of Haiti's poor both their sufferings and their spirit and to find in this reality the face of God. After the earthquake, he follows exhausted doctors and aid workers working desperately to relieve the suffering. *Hidden in the Rubble* opens a window on a scene of desperate crisis, but it is ultimately a powerful and haunting challenge to enter into compassionate solidarity with the poor at our doorstep.

Books for Children

Youme Landowne, *Selavi, That is Life: A Haitian Story of Hope* (El Paso, TX: Cinco Puntos Press, 2004).

The book opens with Selavi's provocative words: "People with guns could take a family, burn a house and disappear, leaving a small child alone in the world." Through the story of one Haitian orphan, this stirring picture book puts a human face on news images and tells of young people caught up in the terror of war. A teacher's guide for use with this book is available at <<http://www.cincopuntos.com/pdf/selavi.pdf>>

Several social studies series for children have a volume on Haiti:

Title	Author	Publisher	Year
Haiti, the Caribbean Today	Bob Temple	Broomall, PA: Mason Crest	2009
Haiti, Cultures of the World	Rosaline NgCheong-Lum	New York: Marshall Cavendish Benchmark	2005
Haiti, Discovering Culture	Wil Mara	New York: Marshall Cavendish Benchmark	2006
Haiti in pictures, visual Geography	Margaret Goldstein	Minneapolis, MN: Lerner Publications	2006
Anacaona, Golden Flower, Royal Diaries	Edwidge Danticat	Scholastic	2005

Articles/Publications

Joseph B. Bock, "Rising from the Rubble: The Unique Role of Catholic NGOs in Haiti's Recovery," *America Magazine*, 6 December 2010, <http://www.americamagazine.org/content/article.cfm?article_id=12597>

Bock, a special professional faculty member of the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies at the University of Notre Dame, discusses the role that the Catholic non-governmental organizations can play in long-term recovery in Haiti.

Darren Ell, "The Struggle for Education in Haiti," *rabble.ca*, 10 August 2010,

<<http://rabble.ca/news/2010/08/struggle-education-haiti>>

Discusses chronic and acute issues with education in Haiti.

Paul Farmer, "5 Lessons from Haiti's Disaster," *Foreign Policy in Focus*, 1 December 2010,

<http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2010/11/29/5_lessons_from_haitis_disaster>

This short yet to-the-point editorial from Paul Farmer explains very succinctly why "disaster relief" in Haiti has failed, what needs to be done and how these lessons can be applied to support true development in other countries.

Audio Visual/Interactive Resources

Circles of Change. DVD and VHS. Prod. Beyond Borders, 2004 (20 minutes, Haitian Creole with English subtitles*)

<http://www.beyondborders.net/je-assoc/CirclesofChange.htm> >

“Circles of Change” presents the story of a grassroots movement that is transforming notions and practices in education and leadership in Haiti and beyond. You Tube capsule at < <http://www.circlesofchange.com/>>

Cite Soleil: Sun Dust and Hope. Pax Christi, 2011 <<http://paxchristiusa.org/tag/cite-soleil/>>

This 22-min video tells a story about "SAKALA," a peace education program started in 2007 by Pax Christi Port-au-Prince. It is a story of optimism and faith in the face of extreme poverty and hardship--a story of a program that challenges the way we see Haiti and Haitians see themselves. **Available in the IHM Congregational Library.**

Poto Mitan: Haitian Women, Pillars of the Global Economy. Tet Ansanm Productions. 2009 <<http://potomitan.net/>>

Told through compelling lives of five courageous Haitian women workers, Poto Mitan gives the global economy a human face. Each woman's personal story explains neoliberal globalization, how it is gendered, and how it impacts Haiti: inhumane working/living conditions, violence, poverty, lack of education, and poor health care. While Poto Mitan offers in-depth understanding of Haiti, its focus on women's subjugation, worker exploitation, poverty, and resistance demonstrates these are global struggles. Finally, through their collective activism, these women demonstrate that despite monumental obstacles in a poor country like Haiti, collective action makes change possible. **Available in the IHM Congregational Library.**

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