# Jean-Jacques Dessalines - itinéraire dun révolutionnaire

# LHarmattan - To Thomas Jefferson from Jean Jacques Dessalines, 23 June 1803

Description: -

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Revolutionaries -- Haiti -- Biography.

Dessalines, Jean-Jacques, -- 1758-1806. Jean-Jacques Dessalines -

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Notes: Includes bibliographical references (p. 369-372).

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Tags: #Jean

Jean

The return of the schooner The Federal will prove to your country our current disposition. Jean-Jacques Dessalines, slave, revolutionary, and first leader of independent Haiti a. Nineteenth-century non-Haitian works, by presenting him as a crude slave eager to shed the blood of white planters, also confined him to a black and Haitian world.

#### Jean

In particular, archival findings in France, Britain, and the United States reveal that Dessalines encouraged France to arrest fellow black revolutionaries, was long ambivalent about advocating independence from France, and maintained close relations with some white Frenchmen even after the 1804 massacres. Résumé: Vénéré en Haiti comme père fondateur de la nation, haï en son temps par les esclavagistes, Jean-Jacques Dessalines était en fait un personnage complexe inspiré par le modèle colonial de son temps.

#### **JEAN**

Further, Dessalines enforced a strict feudal system among former slaves and encouraged slave traders to import some of their human cargo to Haiti. What is too often left unmentioned is the fact that Dessalines grew up in a Creole colony at the confluence of French, American, and African influences, that he served for eight years as an officer of the French Republican army, and that he was acutely aware of the larger diplomatic and commercial networks in which he operated. Scholars dispute whether he was born in Africa and taken to Saint-Domingue as a slave or was born into slavery on the island.

#### Jean

Le Retour de la Goelette la Fédérale lui prouvera nos dispositions actuelles.

#### Le Nouvelliste

In the civil wars that began in 1791, he rose to the rank of general under Toussaint-Louverture. Forums and special issues address topics of active interest in the field.

## **JEAN**

La journaliste Elsa Pépin indique que Phelps dévoile une « Haiti multiple où se superposent fantasmes et réalité ».

#### Haiti: History, Culture, Politics: Dessalines (WMQ)

In turn, the arrival of five million African slaves in the Caribbean one million of them in Saint-Domingue, along with pre-existing Native American settlements, European immigration, and widespread miscegenation, explain the fifth element that characterized integrated Atlantic societies like Saint-Domingue: the intricate fusion of races and ideas from three continents into a manifold Creole culture.

#### Haiti: History, Culture, Politics: Dessalines (WMQ)

Instead, highly pragmatic and personal factors more convincingly explain some of his policies, starting with his economic interests as a planter, along with his political ambitions as an officer and statesman, his personal grudges and friendships, and the strategic and commercial needs of his new country. Works written by his countrymen today describe him as a Haitian statesman preoccupied with independence and as a black nationalist whose policies prefigured the black-mulatto disputes that later plagued Haitian society. As a result, books on Dessalines can be highly polemical and unscholarly.

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