[Template:Hatnote](/wiki/Template:Hatnote" \o "Template:Hatnote) [Template:Pp-move-indef](/wiki/Template:Pp-move-indef) [Template:Use dmy dates](/wiki/Template:Use_dmy_dates) [Template:Coord](/wiki/Template:Coord) [Template:Infobox country](/wiki/Template:Infobox_country) **Haiti** ([Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en); [Template:Lang-fr](/wiki/Template:Lang-fr) [Template:IPA-fr](/wiki/Template:IPA-fr); [Template:Lang-ht](/wiki/Template:Lang-ht) [Template:IPA-ht](/wiki/Template:IPA-ht)), officially the **Republic of Haiti** ([Template:Lang-fr](/wiki/Template:Lang-fr); [Template:Lang-ht](/wiki/Template:Lang-ht)),[[1]](#cite_note-1) is a [sovereign state](/wiki/Sovereign_state) in the [Western Hemisphere](/wiki/Western_Hemisphere) ([North America](/wiki/North_America)).[[2]](#cite_note-2) The country is located on the island of [Hispaniola](/wiki/Hispaniola), in the [Greater Antilles](/wiki/Greater_Antilles) archipelago of the [Caribbean](/wiki/Caribbean). It occupies the western three-eighths of the island which it shares with the [Dominican Republic](/wiki/Dominican_Republic).[[3]](#cite_note-3)[[4]](#cite_note-4) Haiti is [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) in size and has an estimated 10.6 million people,[[5]](#cite_note-5) making it the most populous country in the [Caribbean Community](/wiki/Caribbean_Community) (CARICOM) and the second-most populous country in the Caribbean as a whole.

Originally inhabited by the indigenous [Taíno people](/wiki/Taíno_people), Spain first became aware of the island on 5 December 1492 during the [first voyage](/wiki/Voyages_of_Christopher_Columbus) of [Christopher Columbus](/wiki/Christopher_Columbus) across the Atlantic. When Columbus initially landed in Haiti, he had thought he had found [India](/wiki/India) or [Asia](/wiki/Asia).[[6]](#cite_note-6) On [Christmas](/wiki/Christmas) day, Columbus' flagship the [*Santa Maria*](/wiki/Santa_Maria_(ship)), ran aground north of what is now [Limonade](/wiki/Limonade).[[7]](#cite_note-7)[[8]](#cite_note-8)[[9]](#cite_note-9)[[10]](#cite_note-10) As a consequence, Columbus ordered his men to salvage what they could from the ship, and he created the first European settlement in the Americas, naming it [La Navidad](/wiki/La_Navidad) after the day the ship was destroyed.[[2](/wiki/La_Navidad)]

The island was named *La Española* and claimed by [Spain](/wiki/Spanish_Empire), which ruled until the early 17th century. Competing claims and settlements by the French led to the western portion of the island being [ceded to France](/wiki/Treaty_of_Ryswick), which named it *Saint-Domingue*. The development of [sugarcane](/wiki/Sugarcane) [plantations](/wiki/Sugar_plantations_in_the_Caribbean), worked by slaves brought from Africa, led to the colony being among the most lucrative in the world.[[11]](#cite_note-11) In the midst of the [French Revolution](/wiki/French_Revolution) (1789-1799), slaves and [free people of colour](/wiki/Gens_de_couleur) revolted in the [Haitian Revolution](/wiki/Haitian_Revolution) (1791-1804), culminating in the abolition of slavery and the defeat of [Napoleon Bonaparte's](/wiki/Napoleon_Bonaparte) army at the [Battle of Vertières](/wiki/Battle_of_Vertières). Afterward the sovereign nation of Haiti was established on 1 January 1804[Template:Spaced ndash](/wiki/Template:Spaced_ndash) the first independent [nation](/wiki/Nation-state) of [Latin America](/wiki/Latin_America) and the [Caribbean](/wiki/Caribbean), the second [republic](/wiki/Republic) in the Americas, the only nation in the western hemisphere to have defeated three European [superpowers](/wiki/Superpower) ([Britain](/wiki/United_Kingdom_of_Great_Britain_and_Ireland), [France](/wiki/Kingdom_of_France) and [Spain](/wiki/Imperial_Spain)), and the only nation in the world established as a result of a successful [slave revolt](/wiki/Slave_revolt).[[12]](#cite_note-12)[[13]](#cite_note-13) The rebellion that began in 1791 was led by a former slave and the first black general of the [French Army](/wiki/French_Army), [Toussaint Louverture](/wiki/Toussaint_Louverture), whose military genius and political acumen transformed an entire society of [slaves](/wiki/Slavery) into an independent country. Upon his death in a prison in France, he was succeeded by his lieutenant, [Jean-Jacques Dessalines](/wiki/Jean-Jacques_Dessalines), who declared Haiti's [sovereignty](/wiki/Sovereignty) and later became the first Emperor of Haiti, *Jacques I*.[[14]](#cite_note-14)[[15]](#cite_note-15)[[16]](#cite_note-16)[[17]](#cite_note-17) The [Haitian Revolution](/wiki/Haitian_Revolution) lasted nearly a decade; and apart from [Alexandre Pétion](/wiki/Alexandre_Pétion), the first President of the Republic, all the first leaders of government were former slaves.[[18]](#cite_note-18) The [Citadelle Laferrière](/wiki/Citadelle_Laferrière) is the largest fortress in the Americas. [Henri Christophe](/wiki/Henri_Christophe)[Template:Spaced ndash](/wiki/Template:Spaced_ndash) former slave and first king of Haiti, *Henri I*[Template:Spaced ndash](/wiki/Template:Spaced_ndash) built it to withstand a possible foreign attack.[[19]](#cite_note-19)[[20]](#cite_note-20) In addition to CARICOM, Haiti is a member of the [Latin Union](/wiki/Latin_Union), the [Organization of American States](/wiki/Organization_of_American_States), and the [Community of Latin American and Caribbean States](/wiki/Community_of_Latin_American_and_Caribbean_States); it is also seeking associate membership status in the [African Union](/wiki/African_Union).[[21]](#cite_note-21) It has the lowest [Human Development Index](/wiki/List_of_countries_by_Human_Development_Index) in the Americas. Most recently, in February 2004, a [*coup d'état*](/wiki/2004_Haitian_coup_d'état) originating in the north of the country forced the resignation and exile of President [Jean-Bertrand Aristide](/wiki/Jean-Bertrand_Aristide). A provisional government took control with security provided by the [United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti](/wiki/United_Nations_Stabilization_Mission_in_Haiti) (MINUSTAH). [Michel Martelly](/wiki/Michel_Martelly), the previous president, was elected in the [2011 general election](/wiki/Haitian_general_election,_2011).

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## Etymology[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

The name Haïti (or *Hayti*) comes from the indigenous [Taíno](/wiki/Taíno) language which was the native name[Template:Refn](/wiki/Template:Refn) given to the entire island of [Hispaniola](/wiki/Hispaniola) to mean, "land of high mountains."[[22]](#cite_note-22) The *h* is silent in French and the [*ï*](/wiki/Ï) in *Ha****ï****ti*, is a [diacritical mark](/wiki/Diaeresis_(diacritic)#French) used to show that the second vowel is pronounced separately, as in the word *na****ï****ve*.[[23]](#cite_note-23) In English, the rules for the pronunciation is often disregarded, thus the spelling *Haiti* is used and pronounced as *"Hay*-ti".[[24]](#cite_note-24) The name Haïti was restored by Haitian revolutionary Jean-Jacques Dessalines as the official name of independent Saint-Domingue, as a tribute to the Amerindian predecessors.[[25]](#cite_note-25) In French, Haiti's nickname is the *Pearl of the Antilles* (*La Perle des Antilles*) because of both its natural beauty,[[26]](#cite_note-26) and the amount of wealth it accumulated for the [Kingdom of France](/wiki/Kingdom_of_France), as it was considered the richest colony owned by any of the European powers at the time.[[27]](#cite_note-27)

## History[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

### Pre-European history[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|350px|The five](/wiki/File:Copia_de_Cacicazgos_de_la_Hispaniola.png) [caciquedoms](/wiki/Cacique) of Hispaniola at the time of the arrival of Christopher Columbus

At the time of European encounter, the island of [Hispaniola](/wiki/Hispaniola), of which Haiti occupies the western three-eighths,[[3]](#cite_note-3)[[28]](#cite_note-28) was one of many Caribbean islands inhabited by the [Taíno](/wiki/Taíno_people) Indians, speakers of an [Arawakan](/wiki/Arawakan) language called Taino, which has been preserved in the Haitian Creole language. The Taíno name for the entire island was *Haiti*. The people had migrated over centuries into the Caribbean islands from South America. Genetic studies show they were related to the [Yanomami](/wiki/Yanomami) of the [Amazon Basin](/wiki/Amazon_Basin). They also originated in Central and South America. After migrating to Caribbean islands, in the 15th century, the Taíno were pushed into the northeast Caribbean islands by the [Caribs](/wiki/Island_Caribs).[[29]](#cite_note-29) In the Taíno societies of the Caribbean islands, the largest unit of political organization was led by a [*cacique*](/wiki/Cacique)*,* or chief, as the Europeans understood them. The island of Haiti was divided among five Caciquats: the Magua in the north east, the Marien in the north west, the Xaragua in the south west, the Maguana in the center region of Cibao and the Higuey in the south east.[[30]](#cite_note-30)[[31]](#cite_note-31) The caciquedoms were tributary kingdoms, with payment consisting of harvests.

Taíno cultural artifacts include [cave paintings](/wiki/Cave_paintings) in several locations in the country. These have become national symbols of Haiti and tourist attractions. Modern-day [Léogane](/wiki/Léogane) started as a French colonial town in the southwest, is beside the former capital of the caciquedom of *Xaragua.*[[29]](#cite_note-29)

### Spanish rule (1492–1625)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

[thumb|right|1510 Taíno](/wiki/File:Piktograf1.png) [pictograph](/wiki/Pictograph) telling a story of missionaries arriving in [Hispaniola](/wiki/Hispaniola) Navigator [Christopher Columbus](/wiki/Christopher_Columbus) landed in Haiti on 5 December 1492, in an area that he named [*Môle Saint-Nicolas*](/wiki/Môle_Saint-Nicolas)*,*[[32]](#cite_note-32) and claimed the island for the [Crown of Castile](/wiki/Crown_of_Castile). Nineteen days later, his ship the [*Santa María*](/wiki/Santa_María_(ship)) ran aground near the present site of [Cap-Haïtien](/wiki/Cap-Haïtien). Columbus left 39 men on the island, who founded the settlement of [La Navidad](/wiki/La_Navidad).

The sailors carried [endemic](/wiki/Endemic) [Eurasian](/wiki/Eurasia) [infectious diseases](/wiki/Infectious_disease). The natives lacked [immunity](/wiki/Immunity_(medical)) to these new diseases and died in great numbers in [epidemics](/wiki/Epidemic).[[33]](#cite_note-33)[[34]](#cite_note-34) The first recorded [smallpox](/wiki/Smallpox) epidemic in the Americas erupted on Hispaniola in 1507.[[35]](#cite_note-35) The [*Template:Lang*](/wiki/Template:Lang) system forced natives to work in gold mines and plantations.[[36]](#cite_note-36) The Spanish passed the [Laws of Burgos, 1512–13](/wiki/Laws_of_Burgos), which forbade the maltreatment of natives, endorsed their [conversion](/wiki/Proselytism) to Catholicism,[[37]](#cite_note-37) and gave legal framework to [*Template:Lang*](/wiki/Template:Lang)*.* The natives were brought to these sites to work in specific plantations or industries.[[38]](#cite_note-38) As a gateway to the [Caribbean](/wiki/Caribbean), [Hispaniola](/wiki/Hispaniola) became a haven for [pirates](/wiki/Piracy_in_the_Caribbean) during the early colonial period. The western part of the island was settled by French [buccaneers](/wiki/Buccaneer). Among them was Bertrand d'Ogeron, who succeeded in growing [tobacco](/wiki/Tobacco). He recruited many French colonial families from [Martinique](/wiki/Martinique) and [Guadeloupe](/wiki/Guadeloupe). European nations were competing for control in the [New World](/wiki/New_World), in the [Caribbean](/wiki/Caribbean) as well as in [North America](/wiki/North_America). [France](/wiki/Kingdom_of_France) and [Spain](/wiki/Imperial_Spain) settled their hostilities on the island, by way of the [Treaty of Ryswick](/wiki/Treaty_of_Ryswick) of 1697, and divided Hispaniola between them.

### French rule (1625–1804)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

[Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further)

France received the western third and subsequently named it [Saint-Domingue](/wiki/Saint-Domingue), the French equivalent of [*Santo Domingo*](/wiki/Captaincy_General_of_Santo_Domingo), the Spanish colony of [Hispaniola](/wiki/Hispaniola) and the name of its patron saint, [Saint Dominic](/wiki/Saint_Dominic).<ref name=firstcolony>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

To develop it into sugarcane plantations, the French imported thousands of slaves from [Africa](/wiki/Africa). Sugar was a lucrative [commodity crop](/wiki/Commodity_crop) throughout the 18th century. By 1789, approximately 40,000 white colonists lived in Saint-Domingue. In contrast, by 1763 the white population of [French Canada](/wiki/New_France), a vast territory, had numbered 65,000.[[39]](#cite_note-39) The whites were vastly outnumbered by the tens of thousands of African slaves they had imported to work on their plantations, which were primarily devoted to the production of sugarcane. In the north of the island, slaves were able to retain many ties to African cultures, religion and language; these ties were continually being renewed by newly imported Africans. Blacks outnumbered whites by about ten-to-one.

The French-enacted [*Code Noir*](/wiki/Code_Noir) ("Black Code"), prepared by [Jean-Baptiste Colbert](/wiki/Jean-Baptiste_Colbert) and ratified by [Louis XIV](/wiki/Louis_XIV), had established rules on slave treatment and permissible freedoms. Saint-Domingue has been described as one of the most brutally efficient slave colonies; one-third of newly imported Africans died within a few years.[[40]](#cite_note-40) Many slaves died from diseases such as [smallpox](/wiki/Smallpox) and [typhoid fever](/wiki/Typhoid_fever).[[41]](#cite_note-41) They had low [birth rates](/wiki/Birth_rate), and there is evidence that some women [aborted](/wiki/Abortion) foetuses rather than give birth to children within the bonds of slavery. [Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

As in its [Louisiana colony](/wiki/Louisiana_(New_France)), the [French colonial](/wiki/New_France) government allowed some rights to [free people of color](/wiki/Free_people_of_color): the [mixed-race](/wiki/Mixed-race) descendants of white male colonists and black female slaves (and later, mixed-race women). Over time, many were released from slavery. They established a separate [social class](/wiki/Social_class). White French [Creole](/wiki/Creole_peoples) fathers frequently sent their mixed-race sons to [France](/wiki/France) for their education. Some men of color were admitted into the military. More of the free people of color lived in the south of the island, near [Port-au-Prince](/wiki/Port-au-Prince), and many intermarried within their community. They frequently worked as artisans and tradesmen, and began to own some property. Some became slave holders. The [free people of color](/wiki/Free_people_of_color) petitioned the [colonial](/wiki/New_France) government to expand their rights.

### Haitian Revolution (1791–1804)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|Burning of the town of](/wiki/File:Frontispiece_from_the_book_Saint-Domingue,_ou_Histoire_de_Ses_Révolutions._ca._1815_(colorcopy).jpg) [Cap-Français](/wiki/Cap-Haïtien), [Template:Circa](/wiki/Template:Circa)

Inspired by the [French Revolution](/wiki/French_Revolution) of 1789 and principles of the [rights of man](/wiki/Rights_of_man), [free people of color](/wiki/Free_people_of_color) and slaves in [Saint-Domingue](/wiki/Saint-Domingue) and the [French West Indies](/wiki/French_West_Indies) pressed for freedom and more [civil rights](/wiki/Civil_rights). Most important was the revolution of the slaves in Saint-Domingue, starting in the northern plains in 1791, where Africans greatly outnumbered the whites.

In 1792, the [French](/wiki/French_First_Republic) government sent three commissioners with troops to re-establish control. To build an alliance with the [*gens de couleur*](/wiki/Gens_de_couleur) and slaves, the French commissioners [Sonthonax](/wiki/Sonthonax) and [Polverel](/wiki/Polverel) abolished slavery in the colony. Six months later, the [National Convention](/wiki/National_Convention), led by [Robespierre](/wiki/Robespierre) and the [Jacobins](/wiki/Jacobin_Club), endorsed [abolition](/wiki/Abolition_of_slavery_timeline) and extended it to all the French colonies.[[42]](#cite_note-42) Political leaders in the [United States](/wiki/United_States), which was a new republic itself, reacted with ambivalence, at times providing aid to enable [planters](/wiki/Planter_(plantation_owner)) to put down the revolt. Later in the revolution, the US provided support to black Haitian military forces, with the goal of reducing French influence in [North America](/wiki/North_America) and the [Caribbean](/wiki/Caribbean).[[43]](#cite_note-43) [Toussaint Louverture](/wiki/Toussaint_Louverture), a former slave and leader in the slave revolt, drove out the [Spanish](/wiki/Spanish_Empire) (from Santo Domingo) and the [British](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Great_Britain) invaders who threatened the colony. In the uncertain years of revolution, the United States played both sides off against each other, with its traders supplying both the French and the rebels.[[44]](#cite_note-44) The struggle within Haiti between the [free people of color](/wiki/Free_people_of_color) led by [André Rigaud](/wiki/André_Rigaud) and the black Haitians led by Louverture devolved into the [War of the Knives](/wiki/War_of_the_Knives) in 1799 and 1800.[[45]](#cite_note-45)[[46]](#cite_note-46) Many surviving free people of color left the island as refugees.

[thumb|right|Battle between](/wiki/File:San_Domingo.jpg) [Polish troops](/wiki/Polish_Legions_(Napoleonic_period)) in French service and the [Haitian rebels](/wiki/Haitian_Revolution) After Louverture created a separatist constitution, [Napoléon Bonaparte](/wiki/First_French_Republic) in 1802 sent an expedition of 20,000 soldiers and as many sailors[[47]](#cite_note-47) under the command of his brother-in-law, General [Charles Leclerc](/wiki/Charles_Leclerc), to retake the island. The French achieved some victories, but within a few months, most of the [French](/wiki/French_Army) had died from [yellow fever](/wiki/Yellow_fever).[[48]](#cite_note-48) More than 50,000 French troops died in an attempt to retake the colony, including 18 generals.[[49]](#cite_note-49) The French captured Louverture, transporting him to France for trial. He was imprisoned at [Fort de Joux](/wiki/Fort_de_Joux), where he died in 1803 of exposure and possibly [tuberculosis](/wiki/Tuberculosis).<ref name = Farmer-LROB/>

The slaves, along with free *gens de couleur* and allies, continued their fight for independence. [Jean-Jacques Dessalines](/wiki/Jean-Jacques_Dessalines) defeated French troops at the [Battle of Vertières](/wiki/Battle_of_Vertières) on 18 November 1803, leading the first ever successful slave army revolution. In late 1803, France withdrew its remaining 7,000 troops from the island and Napoleon gave up his idea of re-establishing a [North American](/wiki/North_America) empire. With the war going badly, he sold [Louisiana (New France)](/wiki/Louisiana_(New_France)) to the [United States](/wiki/United_States), in the [Louisiana Purchase](/wiki/Louisiana_Purchase).

### Early post-independence[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|Pétion and Dessalines swearing allegiance to one another before God; painting by](/wiki/File:Le_serment_des_Ancêtres.jpg) [Guillon-Lethière](/wiki/Guillaume_Guillon-Lethière)

The independence of Saint-Domingue was proclaimed by Dessalines on 1 January 1804.<ref name=autogenerated2>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> The exact number of deaths due to the Haitian revolution is unknown. Slaves that made it to Haiti from the trans-Atlantic journey and slaves born in Haiti were first documented in Haiti's archives and transferred to France's Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of), these records are in The National Archives of France. According to the 1788 Census, Haiti's population consisted of nearly 25,000 whites, 22,000 free coloureds and 700,000 slaves.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

Dessalines was proclaimed "Emperor for Life" by his troops.[[50]](#cite_note-50) Dessalines at first offered protection to the white planters and others.[[51]](#cite_note-51) Once in power, he ordered the [massacre](/wiki/1804_Haiti_Massacre) of most whites. Without regard to age or gender, those who did not swear allegiance to him were slain.[[52]](#cite_note-52) In the continuing competition for power, he was assassinated by rivals on 17 October 1806.<ref name=Haiti>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref>

Only [three categories of white people](/wiki/1804_Haiti_massacre#Aftermath) were selected out as exceptions and spared: the [Polish](/wiki/Polish_Haitian) soldiers, the majority of whom deserted from the French army and fought alongside the Haitian rebels; the little group of [German](/wiki/German_Haitian) colonists invited to [Nord-Ouest](/wiki/Nord-Ouest_Department) (North-West) Haiti before the revolution; and a group of [medical doctors](/wiki/Doctor_of_Medicine) and professionals. Reportedly, people with connections to officers in the Haitian army were also spared, as well as the women who agreed to marry non-white men.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

Fearful of the influence of the slaves' revolution, US President [Thomas Jefferson](/wiki/Thomas_Jefferson) refused to recognize the new republic, as did most European nations. The US did not officially recognize Haiti for decades until after the [American Civil War](/wiki/American_Civil_War). Haiti's new government was not supported by other republics.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

The revolution led to a wave of emigration.[[53]](#cite_note-53) In 1809, nearly 10,000 refugees from Saint-Domingue settled *en masse* in [New Orleans](/wiki/New_Orleans).[[54]](#cite_note-54) They doubled the city's population. In addition, the newly arrived slaves added to the city's African population.[[55]](#cite_note-55) Saint-Domingue was divided between the [Kingdom of Haiti](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Haiti) in the north, directed by Henri Christophe, who declared himself [Henri I](/wiki/Henri_Christophe), and a republic in the south, directed by [Alexandre Pétion](/wiki/Alexandre_Pétion), an *homme de couleur*. Henri Christophe established a semi-feudal [corvée](/wiki/Corvée) system, with a rigid education and economic code.[[56]](#cite_note-56)[Template:Unreliable source?](/wiki/Template:Unreliable_source?)

President Pétion gave military and financial assistance to the revolutionary leader [Simón Bolívar](/wiki/Simón_Bolívar), which were critical in enabling him to liberate the [Viceroyalty of New Granada](/wiki/Viceroyalty_of_New_Granada).[[57]](#cite_note-57) He was instrumental in aiding countries in [South America](/wiki/South_America) achieve independence from [Spain](/wiki/New_Spain).

Beginning in 1821, President [Jean-Pierre Boyer](/wiki/Jean-Pierre_Boyer), also an *homme de couleur* and successor to Pétion, reunified the two parts of Haiti and extended control over the entire western portion of the island.[[58]](#cite_note-58) In addition, after [Santo Domingo](/wiki/Santo_Domingo) declared its independence from Spain on 30 November 1821, Boyer sent [forces in to take control](/wiki/Unification_of_Hispaniola). Boyer ruled the entire island with iron rule, ending slavery in Santo Domingo.[[59]](#cite_note-59) After Santo Domingo achieved independence from Haiti, it established a separate national identity.

Struggling to revive the agricultural economy to produce [commodity crops](/wiki/Commodity_crops), Boyer passed the Code Rural, which denied peasant laborers the right to leave the land, enter the towns, or start farms or shops of their own. Following the Revolution, many peasants wanted to have their own farms rather than work on plantations.[[60]](#cite_note-60)[[61]](#cite_note-61)[thumb|](/wiki/File:Citadelle_Laferrière_Aerial_View.jpg)[Citadelle Laferrière](/wiki/Citadelle_Laferrière), is the largest [fortress](/wiki/Fortress) in the Americas, and one of the [eighth wonders of the world.](/wiki/Eighth_wonder_of_the_world)[[20]](#cite_note-20)

The [American Colonization Society](/wiki/American_Colonization_Society) (ACS) encouraged [free blacks](/wiki/Free_negro) in the [United States](/wiki/United_States) to emigrate to Haiti. Starting in September 1824, more than 6,000 [African Americans](/wiki/African_Americans) migrated to Haiti, with transportation paid by the ACS.[[62]](#cite_note-62) Many found the conditions too harsh and returned to the United States.

In July 1825, [King Charles X](/wiki/Charles_X) of [France](/wiki/France), during a period of "restoration" for the [monarchy](/wiki/French_monarchy), sent a [fleet](/wiki/French_Navy) to reconquer the island. Under pressure, [President Boyer agreed to a treaty](/wiki/Haiti_indemnity_controversy) by which France formally recognized the independence of the nation in exchange for a payment of 150 million [francs](/wiki/Francs) (reduced to 90 million in 1838). After losing the support of Haiti's elite, Boyer was ousted in 1843. A long succession of [coups](/wiki/Coup) followed his departure to exile.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

The enforced payment to France reduced Haiti's economy for years. Western nations did not give Haiti formal [diplomatic](/wiki/Diplomacy) recognition. Both of these problems kept the Haitian economy and society isolated. [Expatriates](/wiki/Expatriates) bankrolled and armed opposing groups.[[63]](#cite_note-63) In 1892, the [German government](/wiki/German_Empire) supported suppression of the reform movement of [Anténor Firmin](/wiki/Anténor_Firmin) and in 1897 the Germans used [gun boat diplomacy](/wiki/Gun_boat_diplomacy) to intimidate and then humiliate the Haitian government during the [Luders Affair](/wiki/Luders_Affair).

### 20th century[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]

[thumb|235px|](/wiki/File:U.S._Marines_and_guide_in_search_of_bandits._Haiti,_circa_1919.,_1927_-_1981_-_NARA_-_532584.tif)[US Marines](/wiki/United_States_Marine_Corps) and guide in search of bandits, [Template:Circa](/wiki/Template:Circa) In January 1914, [British](/wiki/United_Kingdom_of_Great_Britain_and_Ireland), [German](/wiki/German_Empire) and US military forces entered Haiti, ostensibly to protect their citizens from civil unrest at the time.[[63]](#cite_note-63) In an expression of the [Theodore](/wiki/Theodore_Roosevelt) [Roosevelt Corollary](/wiki/Roosevelt_Corollary) to the [Monroe Doctrine](/wiki/Monroe_Doctrine), the [United States occupied](/wiki/United_States_occupation_of_Haiti) the island in 1915. [U.S. Marines](/wiki/U.S._Marines) were stationed in the country until 1934, a period of nineteen years.

[Sisal](/wiki/Sisal) was introduced to Haiti, and sugarcane and [cotton](/wiki/Cotton) became significant exports.[[64]](#cite_note-64) Haitian traditionalists, based in rural areas, were highly resistant to [American](/wiki/United_States)-backed changes, while the urban elites wanted more control. Together they helped secure an end to the occupation in 1934.[[65]](#cite_note-65) The debts were still outstanding and the American financial advisor-general receiver handled the budget until 1941.[[66]](#cite_note-66) Recognition of the distinctive traditionalism of the Haitian people had an influence on United States writers, including [Eugene O'Neill](/wiki/Eugene_O'Neill), [James Weldon Johnson](/wiki/James_Weldon_Johnson), [Langston Hughes](/wiki/Langston_Hughes), [Zora Neale Hurston](/wiki/Zora_Neale_Hurston) and [Orson Welles](/wiki/Orson_Welles).[[67]](#cite_note-67) After US forces left in 1934, [Dominican](/wiki/Dominican_Republic) dictator [Rafael Trujillo](/wiki/Rafael_Trujillo) used anti-Haitian sentiment as a nationalist tool. In an event that became known as the [Parsley Massacre](/wiki/Parsley_Massacre), he ordered his Army to kill Haitians living on the Dominican side of the border.[[68]](#cite_note-68)[[69]](#cite_note-69) Between 10,000 and 20,000 Haitians were killed.[[68]](#cite_note-68) One-quarter Haitian, Trujillo continued policies against the neighboring population for some time.

[American](/wiki/United_States) and [European](/wiki/Europe) [tourists](/wiki/Tourism) started to visit Haiti in the 1950s.<ref name=guardiantourism>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref>

The waterfront area of [Port-au-Prince](/wiki/Port-au-Prince) was redeveloped to allow cruise ship passengers to walk from the docks to cultural attractions. Among these attractions were the Moorish-styled *Iron Market*, where fine [Haitian art](/wiki/Haitian_art) and [mahogany](/wiki/Mahogany) were sold. In the evenings entrepreneurs provided dancing, casino gambling and [Voodoo](/wiki/Haitian_Vodou) shows. [Truman Capote](/wiki/Truman_Capote) and [Noël Coward](/wiki/Noël_Coward) visited the [Hotel Oloffson](/wiki/Hotel_Oloffson), a 19th-century Gothic [gingerbread](/wiki/Gingerbread_house_(architecture)) mansion set in a tropical garden, which was even portrayed in the [Graham Greene](/wiki/Graham_Greene) novel, [*The Comedians*](/wiki/The_Comedians_(novel)).[[70]](#cite_note-70) [thumb|upright|"Papa Doc"](/wiki/File:Duvalier_crop2.jpg) [Duvalier](/wiki/François_Duvalier) in 1968 After a period of disorder, in [September 1957](/wiki/Haitian_presidential_election,_1957) Dr. [François Duvalier](/wiki/François_Duvalier) was elected President of Haiti. Known as "Papa Doc" and initially popular, Duvalier was President until his death in 1971. He advanced black interests in the public sector, where over time people of color had predominated as the educated urban elite.[[71]](#cite_note-71) He stayed in power by enlisting an organization known as [*Tontons Macoutes*](/wiki/Tonton_Macoute) ("Bogeymen"), which maintained order by terrorizing the populace and political opponents.[[72]](#cite_note-72) Haiti's brief tourism boom was wiped out by the rule of [Francois "Papa Doc" Duvalier](/wiki/Francois_Duvalier) and his unstable government. When his son [Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier](/wiki/Jean-Claude_Duvalier) succeeded him as *President for Life*, tourism returned in the 1970s.[[70]](#cite_note-70) *Vive la différence* has long been Haiti's national tourism slogan[[73]](#cite_note-73) and its proximity to the United States, made Haiti a hot attraction until the Duvalier regime was ousted in 1986.[[70]](#cite_note-70) Papa Doc's son [Jean-Claude Duvalier](/wiki/Jean-Claude_Duvalier) – also known as "Baby Doc" – led the country from 1971 until his ouster in 1986, when protests led him to seek exile in France. Army leader General [Henri Namphy](/wiki/Henri_Namphy) headed a new [National Governing Council](/wiki/National_Council_of_Government_(Haiti)).[[74]](#cite_note-74)[Template:Failed verification](/wiki/Template:Failed_verification) [General elections in November](/wiki/Haitian_presidential_election,_1987) were aborted after dozens of inhabitants were shot in the capital by soldiers and Tontons Macoutes. Fraudulent [elections followed](/wiki/Haitian_presidential_election,_1988). The elected President, [Leslie Manigat](/wiki/Leslie_Manigat), was overthrown some months later in the [June 1988 Haitian coup d'état](/wiki/June_1988_Haitian_coup_d'état). The [September 1988 Haitian coup d'état](/wiki/September_1988_Haitian_coup_d'état), which followed the [St Jean Bosco massacre](/wiki/St_Jean_Bosco_massacre), revealed the increasing prominence of former Tontons Macoutes. General [Prosper Avril](/wiki/Prosper_Avril) led a military regime until March 1990.

In December 1990, a former Catholic priest, [Jean-Bertrand Aristide](/wiki/Jean-Bertrand_Aristide) was elected President in the [Haitian general election](/wiki/Haitian_general_election,_1990–91). In September of the following year, Aristide was overthrown by the military in the [1991 Haitian coup d'état](/wiki/1991_Haitian_coup_d'état). In 1994, an American team negotiated the departure of Haiti's military leaders and the peaceful entry of US forces under [Operation Uphold Democracy](/wiki/Operation_Uphold_Democracy). This enabled the restoration of the democratically elected Jean-Bertrand Aristide as president.[[75]](#cite_note-75) In October 1994, Aristide returned to Haiti to complete his term in office.[[76]](#cite_note-76) Aristide vacated the presidency in February 1996. In the [1995 election](/wiki/Haitian_general_election,_1995), [René Préval](/wiki/René_Préval) was elected as president for a five-year term, winning 88% of the popular vote.

### 21st century[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also)

The [November 2000 election](/wiki/Haitian_presidential_election,_2000) returned Aristide to the presidency with 92% of the vote.[[77]](#cite_note-77) The election had been boycotted by the opposition, then organized into the [Convergence Démocratique](/wiki/Convergence_Démocratique), over a dispute in the [May legislative elections](/wiki/Haitian_legislative_election,_2000). In subsequent years, there was increasing violence and [human rights abuses](/wiki/Human_rights_abuse). Aristide supporters attacked the opposition.<ref name=bussandgardner>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref> Aristide spent years negotiating with the Convergence Démocratique on new elections, but the Convergence's inability to develop a sufficient electoral base made elections unattractive.

[thumb|300px|The](/wiki/File:Haitian_national_palace_earthquake.jpg) [National Palace](/wiki/National_Palace_(Haiti)) following the [2010 Haiti earthquake](/wiki/2010_Haiti_earthquake) In 2004, [a revolt began in northern Haiti](/wiki/2004_Haitian_coup_d'état). The rebellion eventually reached the capital; and Aristide was forced into exile, whereupon the United Nations stationed peacekeepers in Haiti. Some including Aristide and his bodyguard, Franz Gabriel, stated that he was the victim of a "new [coup d'état](/wiki/Coup_d'état) or modern kidnapping" by U.S. forces. Mrs. Aristide stated that the kidnappers wore US Special Forces uniforms, but changed into civilian clothes upon boarding the aircraft that was used to remove Aristide from Haiti.[[78]](#cite_note-78)[[79]](#cite_note-79) [Boniface Alexandre](/wiki/Boniface_Alexandre) assumed interim authority. [René Préval](/wiki/René_Préval) was elected President in February 2006, following [elections](/wiki/Haitian_general_election,_2006) marked by uncertainties and popular demonstrations. The MINUSTAH remains in the country, having been there since the 2004 coup d'état. The United States led an international campaign to prevent Aristide from returning to his country while he was exiled in South Africa. Released Wikileaks cables show that high-level US and UN officials coordinated activity against Aristide to prevent him from "gaining more traction with the Haitian population and returning to Haiti." The United States and its allies allegedly poured tens of millions of dollars into unsuccessful efforts to slander Aristide as a drug trafficker, human rights violator, and heretical practitioner of Vodou.[[80]](#cite_note-80) In 2004, [Tropical Storm Jeanne](/wiki/Hurricane_Jeanne#Haiti) skimmed the north coast of Haiti, leaving 3,006 people dead in flooding and [mudslides](/wiki/Mudslide), mostly in the city of [Gonaïves](/wiki/Gonaïves).[[81]](#cite_note-81) In 2008 Haiti was again struck by tropical storms; [Tropical Storm Fay](/wiki/Tropical_Storm_Fay_(2008)), [Hurricane Gustav](/wiki/Hurricane_Gustav), [Hurricane Hanna](/wiki/Hurricane_Hanna) and [Hurricane Ike](/wiki/Hurricane_Ike) all produced heavy winds and rain. There were 331 dead and about 800,000 in need of humanitarian aid.[[82]](#cite_note-82) The state of affairs produced by these storms was intensified by already high food and fuel prices that had caused a food crisis and political unrest in April 2008.[[83]](#cite_note-83) On 12 January 2010, at 4:53pm local time, Haiti was struck by a [magnitude](/wiki/Moment_magnitude_scale)-7.0 earthquake. This was the country's most severe earthquake in over 200 years.[[84]](#cite_note-84) The [2010 Haiti earthquake](/wiki/2010_Haiti_earthquake) was reported to have left up to 316,000 people dead and 1.6 million homeless,[[85]](#cite_note-85) though later reports found these numbers to have been grossly inflated, and put the death toll between 46,000 and 85,000.[[86]](#cite_note-86) The country has yet to recover from the 2010 earthquake and a subsequent and massive [Haiti cholera outbreak](/wiki/Haiti_cholera_outbreak) that was triggered when cholera-infected waste from a [MINUSTAH](/wiki/MINUSTAH) peacekeeping station contaminated the country's main river, the [Artibonite](/wiki/Artibonite_River).[[87]](#cite_note-87) The country has yet to fully recover, due to both the severity of the damage Haiti endured in 2010, as well as a government that was ineffective well before the earthquake.[[88]](#cite_note-88) General elections had been planned for January 2010, but were postponed due to the earthquake. The [elections were held on 28 November 2010](/wiki/Haitian_general_election,_2010–11) for the senate, the parliament and the first round of the presidential elections. The run-off between [Michel Martelly](/wiki/Michel_Martelly) and [Mirlande Manigat](/wiki/Mirlande_Manigat) took place on 20 March 2011, and preliminary results, released on 4 April, named Michel Martelly the winner.[[89]](#cite_note-89) On 7 February 2016, Michel Martelly stepped down as president without a successor, but only after a deal was reached for a provisional government and leaving Prime Minister Evans Paul in power "until an interim president is chosen by both chambers of Parliament."[[90]](#cite_note-90) In 2013, Haiti called for European nations to pay [reparations for slavery](/wiki/Reparations_for_slavery) and establish an official commission for the settlement of past wrong-doings. Attempting to sidestep the difficulty of evaluating the impact of the past in the present, the *Economist* wrote, "Any assistance to the region should be carefully targeted; and should surely stem from today's needs, not the wrongs of the past." [[91]](#cite_note-91) The topic, however, has more than a passing reference for a country that, as Lord Anthony Gifford wrote, "was forced to pay compensation to the government of France."[[92]](#cite_note-92)

## Geography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|600x600px|A map of Haiti](/wiki/File:Haiti_topographic_map-fr.svg) [thumb|200px|](/wiki/File:Haiti_Saut-d'Eau.JPG)[Saut-d'Eau](/wiki/Saut-d'Eau) [thumb|438x438px|](/wiki/File:Labadee,_Haiti_from_Freedom_of_the_Seas_(13107276383)_(2).jpg)[Labadee](/wiki/Labadee) beach and village

Haiti is on the western part of [Hispaniola](/wiki/Hispaniola), the second largest island in the [Greater Antilles](/wiki/Greater_Antilles). Haiti is the third largest country in the Caribbean behind [Cuba](/wiki/Cuba) and the [Dominican Republic](/wiki/Dominican_Republic) (the latter shares a [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) border with Haiti). Haiti at its closest point is about [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) away from Cuba and comprises the *horseshoe*-shape peninsula and because of this, it has a disproportionately long coastline and is *second* in length ([Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert)) in the Greater Antilles. Cuba has the longest.[[93]](#cite_note-93)[[94]](#cite_note-94) Haiti's terrain consists mainly of rugged mountains interspersed with small coastal plains and river valleys. The climate is tropical, with some variation depending on altitude. Haiti is the most mountainous nation in the Caribbean and its highest point is [Pic la Selle](/wiki/Pic_la_Selle), at [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert).[[6]](#cite_note-6) The northern region consists of the [*Massif du Nord*](/wiki/Massif_du_Nord) (Northern Massif) and the [*Plaine du Nord*](/wiki/Plaine_du_Nord) (Northern Plain). The *Massif du Nord* is an extension of the *Cordillera Central* in the Dominican Republic. It begins at Haiti's eastern border, north of the [Guayamouc River](/wiki/Guayamouc_River), and extends to the northwest through the northern peninsula. The lowlands of the *Plaine du Nord* lie along the northern border with the Dominican Republic, between the *Massif du Nord* and the North Atlantic Ocean.

The central region consists of two plains and two sets of mountain ranges. The *Plateau Central* (Central Plateau) extends along both sides of the Guayamouc River, south of the *Massif du Nord*. It runs from the southeast to the northwest. To the southwest of the *Plateau Central* are the *Montagnes Noires*, whose most northwestern part merges with the *Massif du Nord*. Its westernmost point is known as Cap Carcasse.

The southern region consists of the [Plaine du Cul-de-Sac](/wiki/Plaine_du_Cul-de-Sac) (the southeast) and the mountainous southern peninsula (also known as the [Tiburon Peninsula](/wiki/Tiburon_Peninsula,_Haiti)). The Plaine du Cul-de-Sac is a natural depression that harbors the country's saline lakes, such as [Trou Caïman](/wiki/Trou_Caïman) and Haiti's largest lake, [Étang Saumatre](/wiki/Étang_Saumatre). The [Chaîne de la Selle](/wiki/Chaîne_de_la_Selle) mountain range – an extension of the southern mountain chain of the Dominican Republic (the Sierra de Baoruco) – extends from the Massif de la Selle in the east to the [Massif de la Hotte](/wiki/Massif_de_la_Hotte) in the west. This mountain range harbors [Pic la Selle](/wiki/Pic_la_Selle), the highest point in Haiti at [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert).[[95]](#cite_note-95)[Template:Failed verification](/wiki/Template:Failed_verification)

Haiti's most important valley in terms of crops is the Plaine de l'Artibonite, which is oriented south of the Montagnes Noires. This region supports the country's (also Hispaniola's) longest river, the [Riviere l'Artibonite](/wiki/Artibonite_River), which begins in the western region of the Dominican Republic and continues most of its length through central Haiti and onward where it empties into the [Golfe de la Gonâve](/wiki/Gulf_of_Gonâve). The eastern and central region of the island is a large elevated plateau.

Haiti also includes various offshore islands. The island of [Tortuga](/wiki/Tortuga_(Haiti)) (Île de la Tortue) is located off the coast of northern Haiti. The [arrondissement](/wiki/Arrondissements_of_Haiti) of [La Gonâve](/wiki/Gonâve_Island) is located on the island of the same name, in the [Golfe de la Gonâve](/wiki/Gulf_of_Gonâve). Gonâve Island is moderately populated by rural villagers. [Île à Vache](/wiki/Île_à_Vache) (Cow Island), a lush island with many beautiful sights, is located off the tip of southwestern Haiti. Also part of Haiti are the [Cayemites](/wiki/Cayemites) and Île d' Anacaona. [La Navasse](/wiki/Navassa_Island) located [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) west of [Jérémie](/wiki/Jérémie) on the south west [peninsula](/wiki/Peninsula) of Haiti,[[96]](#cite_note-96) is subject to an ongoing territorial dispute with the United States.

### Climate[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]

Haiti's climate is tropical with some variation depending on altitude. Port-au-Prince ranges in January from an average minimum of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) to an average maximum of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert); in July, from [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert). The rainfall pattern is varied, with rain heavier in some of the lowlands and on the northern and eastern slopes of the mountains.

Port-au-Prince receives an average annual rainfall of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert). There are two rainy seasons, April–June and October–November. Haiti is subject to periodic droughts and floods, made more severe by deforestation. Hurricanes are also a menace.

### Geology[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]

[thumb|350px|Haiti's topography](/wiki/File:Haiti_relief_location_map.jpg)

There are [blind thrust faults](/wiki/Thrust_fault#Blind_thrust_faults) associated with the [Enriquillo-Plantain Garden fault system](/wiki/Enriquillo-Plantain_Garden_fault_zone) over which Haiti lies.[[97]](#cite_note-97) After the earthquake of 2010, there was no evidence of surface rupture and based on seismological, geological and ground deformation data.[[98]](#cite_note-98) The northern boundary of the fault is where the [Caribbean](/wiki/Caribbean_plate) [tectonic plate](/wiki/Tectonic_plate) shifts eastwards by about [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) per year in relation to the [North American plate](/wiki/North_American_plate). The [strike-slip fault](/wiki/Strike-slip_fault) system in the region has two branches in Haiti, the [Septentrional-Oriente fault](/wiki/Septentrional-Oriente_fault_zone) in the north and the Enriquillo-Plantain Garden fault in the south.

A 2007 earthquake hazard study, noted that the Enriquillo-Plantain Garden fault zone could be at the end of its seismic cycle and concluded that a worst-case forecast would involve a 7.2 Mw earthquake, similar in size to the [1692 Jamaica earthquake](/wiki/1692_Jamaica_earthquake).[[99]](#cite_note-99) A study team presented a hazard assessment of the Enriquillo-Plantain Garden fault system to the 18th Caribbean Geologic Conference in March 2008, noting the large strain. The team recommended "high priority" historical geologic rupture studies, as the fault was fully locked and had recorded few earthquakes in the preceding 40 years.[[100]](#cite_note-100) An article published in Haiti's [*Le Matin*](/wiki/Le_Matin_(Haiti)) newspaper in September 2008 cited comments by geologist Patrick Charles to the effect that there was a high risk of major seismic activity in Port-au-Prince.[[101]](#cite_note-101) Haiti also has rare elements such as [Gold](/wiki/Gold), which can be found at The [Mont Organisé](/wiki/Mont_Organisé) [gold mine](/wiki/Gold_mining).[[102]](#cite_note-102)

### Environment[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|300px|Haiti's border with the](/wiki/File:Haiti_deforestation.jpg) [Dominican Republic](/wiki/Dominican_Republic) in 2002 (right) shows the amount of deforestation on the Haitian side

The [soil erosion](/wiki/Erosion) and [deforestation](/wiki/Deforestation) have caused periodic and severe flooding in Haiti, as experienced, for example, on 17 September 2004. Earlier in May that year, floods had killed over 3,000 people on Haiti's southern border with the Dominican Republic.[[103]](#cite_note-103) There has been little marine, coastal, and river basin management. Forest cover in the steep hills surrounds Haiti's river basin retains soil, which in turn retains water from rainfall, reducing river flood peaks and conserving flows in the dry season. Haiti's forests covered 60 percent of the country as recently as fifty years ago, but today less than one percent of Haiti remains forested.[[104]](#cite_note-104) Deforestation has resulted in much of the soil being released from the upper catchments. Many of Haiti's rivers are now highly unstable, changing rapidly from destructive flooding to inadequate flows.[[105]](#cite_note-105) Scientists at the [Columbia University's Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN)](/wiki/The_Earth_Institute#Center_for_International_Earth_Science_Information_Network_(CIESIN)Earth_Institute) and the [United Nations Environment Programme](/wiki/United_Nations_Environment_Programme) are working on the Haiti Regenerative Initiative an initiative aiming to reduce poverty and natural disaster vulnerability in Haiti through ecosystem restoration and sustainable resource management.

### Flora[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=14)]

In 1925[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed), Haiti was lush, with 60% of its original forest covering the lands and mountainous regions. In 1988 only 2% percent of land had tree cover. Haiti's residents have cut down forest cover for use as firewood, destroying soils and contributing to [desertification](/wiki/Desertification) and droughts.[[106]](#cite_note-106)

## Government and politics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=15)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|Voting in the 2006 elections in](/wiki/File:Haitians_voting_in_the_2006_elections.jpeg) [Port-au-Prince](/wiki/Port-au-Prince)

The government of Haiti is a [semi-presidential](/wiki/Semi-presidential_system) republic, a multiparty system wherein the [President of Haiti](/wiki/President_of_Haiti) is head of state elected directly by popular [elections](/wiki/Elections_in_Haiti).[[107]](#cite_note-107) The Prime Minister acts as head of government and is appointed by the President, chosen from the majority party in the National Assembly. Executive power is exercised by the President and Prime Minister who together constitute the government. In 2013, the annual budget was US$1 billion.[[108]](#cite_note-108) Legislative power is vested in both the government and the two chambers of the [National Assembly of Haiti](/wiki/National_Assembly_of_Haiti). The government is organized [unitarily](/wiki/Unitary_state), thus the central government *delegates* powers to the departments without a constitutional need for consent. The current structure of Haiti's political system was set forth in the [Constitution of Haiti](/wiki/Constitution_of_Haiti) on 29 March 1987.

Haitian politics have been contentious: since independence, Haiti has suffered 32 coups.[[109]](#cite_note-109) Haiti is the only country in the Western Hemisphere to undergo a successful [slave revolution](/wiki/Haitian_Revolution), but a long history of oppression by dictators[Template:Spaced ndashincluding](/wiki/Template:Spaced_ndash) [François Duvalier](/wiki/François_Duvalier) and his son [Jean-Claude Duvalier](/wiki/Jean-Claude_Duvalier)[Template:Spaced ndashhas](/wiki/Template:Spaced_ndash) markedly affected the nation. France, the United States and other Western countries have repeatedly intervened in Haitian politics since the country's founding, sometimes at the request of one party or another. Along with international financial institutions, they have imposed large quantities of debt – so much that foreign debt payments have rivaled the available government budget for social sector spending. They also enforced trade policies that have broken down the Haitian government's ability to protect the local economy, forcing greater dependence on imports and eroding economic self-sufficiency.[[110]](#cite_note-110) According to a [Corruption Perceptions Index](/wiki/Corruption_Perceptions_Index) report in 2006, there is a strong correlation between corruption and poverty and Haiti ranked first of all countries surveyed for of levels of perceived domestic corruption.[[111]](#cite_note-111) The [International Red Cross](/wiki/International_Red_Cross) reports that seven out of ten Haitians live on less than US$2 a day, however, stated below "such statistical estimations should be looked upon very skeptically because of the fact that the average Haitian and Haitian family has to and does spend a lot more than that daily. The disconnect likely lies in the fact that these are estimates based on surveys conducted by asking individuals what their incomes are; in the Haitian culture it is very unlikely that one will receive a truthful and accurate answer to such a personal question. For various reasons individuals will not tell the truth on such a private matter. For some it is because "it's none of your business," for others, they will simply exaggerate their poor situation in hopes that some type of financial aide will be gained or rendered to them".[[112]](#cite_note-112) [Cité Soleil](/wiki/Cité_Soleil) in Port-au-Prince, one of the biggest [slums](/wiki/Slum) in the Northern Hemisphere, has been called "the most dangerous place on Earth" by the United Nations.[[113]](#cite_note-113) Many residents are supporters of former Haitian President [Jean-Bertrand Aristide](/wiki/Jean-Bertrand_Aristide),[[114]](#cite_note-114) who, according to the BBC, "accused the US of forcing him out – an accusation the US rejected as 'absurd'".[[115]](#cite_note-115) Jean-Bertrand Aristide was initially denied access to Haiti by Haitian immigration authorities, despite issuing appeals for entrance to his supporters and international observers. The world's most prominent governments did not overtly oppose such appeals, nor did they support them; an unnamed analyst "close to the Haitian government" quoted in several media sources[Template:Spaced ndash](/wiki/Template:Spaced_ndash) including [*The New York Times*](/wiki/The_New_York_Times)[Template:Spaced ndash](/wiki/Template:Spaced_ndash) is reported to have said: "Aristide could have 15 passports and he's still not going to come back to Haiti ... France and the United States are standing in the way." However, Aristide finally returned to Haiti on 18 March 2011, days before the 2011 presidential election.[[116]](#cite_note-116) [thumb|US Marines patrol the streets of Port-au-Prince on 14 April 2004](/wiki/File:Bel_Air,_Haiti_2008.jpg) The first round of the [2010 general election](/wiki/Haitian_general_election,_2010) was held in December. [Mirlande Manigat](/wiki/Mirlande_Manigat) and [Jude Celestin](/wiki/Jude_Célestin) qualified for the second round of the presidential election, but its results were contested. Some people said that the first round was a fraud and that [Michel Martelly](/wiki/Michel_Martelly) should replace Jude Celestin, René Préval's chosen successor. There was some violence between the contending parties.[[117]](#cite_note-117) On 4 April 2011, the Provisional Electoral Council announced preliminary results indicating that Martelly had won the presidential election.[[118]](#cite_note-118) After the U.S. funded $33 million[[119]](#cite_note-119) to legislative and presidential elections in August and October 2015, a special verification panel - implemented by interim President [Joceleme Privert](/wiki/Jocelerme_Privert) - declared the results "tainted by significant fraud".[[120]](#cite_note-120) [Jovenel Moïse](/wiki/Jovenel_Moïse), the supposed winner of the October 25, 2015 election, had been had-picked by former President [Michel Martelly](/wiki/Michel_Martelly). The month-long examination in May 2016 was created after the elections were condemned as fraudulent to restore credibility to the process.[[121]](#cite_note-121) The commission recommended completely redoing the vote after auditing a random sample of about 13,000 ballots.[[122]](#cite_note-122) In February 2012, Haiti signaled it would seek to upgrade its observer status to full associate member status of the [African Union](/wiki/African_Union) (AU).[[123]](#cite_note-123) At its next summit in June 2013, the AU plans to upgrade Haiti's status from observer to associate.[[124]](#cite_note-124) In 2010, the [Haitian National Police](/wiki/Haitian_National_Police) force numbered 7,000.[[125]](#cite_note-125) The legal system for torts is based on a version of the [Napoleonic Code](/wiki/Napoleonic_Code).[[126]](#cite_note-126) The [Institute for the Protection of National Heritage](/wiki/Institut_de_Sauvegarde_du_Patrimoine_National) has preserved 33 historical monuments and the historic center of Cap-Haïtien.[[127]](#cite_note-127)

### Cabinet[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=16)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [Template:Clarify](/wiki/Template:Clarify)

The executive function is divided into ministries, each led by a Minister appointed by the Prime Minister and confirmed by Parliament:[[128]](#cite_note-128)[[129]](#cite_note-129)[[130]](#cite_note-130)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Ministry** | **Minister** | **Address** |
| [Ministry of Planning and External Cooperation](/wiki/Ministry_of_Planning_and_External_Cooperation_(Haiti)) | Yves Germain Joseph | 347, Ave John Brown (Bourdon), Port-au-Prince, Haiti |
| [Ministry of the Environment](/wiki/Ministry_of_the_Environment_(Haiti)) | Jean-Marie Claude Germain | Delmas 31, Rue Jacques 1 # 11, Port-au-Prince, Haiti |
| [Ministry of Defense](/wiki/Ministry_of_Defense_(Haiti)), [Foreign Affairs](/wiki/Ministry_of_Foreign_Affairs_(Haiti)) and [Worship](/wiki/Ministry_of_Worship_(Haiti)) | Lener Renauld | Port-au-Prince, Haiti |
| [Ministry of Commerce and Industry](/wiki/Ministry_of_Commerce_and_Industry_(Haiti)) | Hervey Day | 6 Rue Legitimate, Port-au-Prince, Haiti HT-00116 |
| [Ministry of Education and Professionals](/wiki/Ministry_of_Education_(Haiti)) | Nesmy Manigat | 5, Ave Jean-Paul II, Port-au-Prince, Haiti |
| [Ministry of Economy and Finance](/wiki/Ministry_of_Economy_and_Finance_(Haiti)) | [Marie Carmelle Jean-Marie](/wiki/Marie_Carmelle_Jean-Marie) | 22 Avenue Charles Summer, Port-au-Prince, Haiti |
| [Ministry of Justice and Public Security](/wiki/Ministry_of_Justice_and_Public_Security_(Haiti)) | Pierre Richard Casmir | 19 Charles Sumner Avenue, Port-au-Prince, Hait |
| [Ministry of Communication](/wiki/Ministry_of_Communication_(Haiti)) | Rotchild François Jr. | Port-au-Prince, Haiti |
| [Ministry of Tourism](/wiki/Ministry_of_Tourism_(Haiti)) | [Stéphanie Villedrouin](/wiki/Stéphanie_Villedrouin) | 8, Rue Legitimate (Champs-de-Mars), Port-au-Prince, Haiti |
| [Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Rural Development](/wiki/Ministry_of_Agriculture,_Natural_Resources_and_Rural_Development_(Haiti)) | Fresner Dorcin | Route Nationale No. 1, Damien, Port-au-Prince, Haiti |
| [Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor](/wiki/Ministry_of_Social_Affairs_and_Labor_(Haiti)) | Victor Benoit |  |
| [Ministry of Interior and Territorial Communities](/wiki/Ministry_of_Interior_and_Territorial_Communities_(Haiti)) | Ariel Henry | Palais des Ministeres, Champs de Mars, Port-au-Prince, Haiti |
| [Ministry of Health](/wiki/Ministry_of_Health_(Haiti)) | Florence Duperval Guillaume | 111, Rue Saint-Honore, Port-au-Prince, Haiti |
| [Ministry of Foreign Affairs](/wiki/Ministry_of_Foreign_Affairs_(Haiti)) | Duly Brutus | Boulevard Harry Truman, Cité de l'Exposition, Port-au-Prince, Haiti |
| [Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Communications (Haiti)](/wiki/Ministry_of_Public_Works,_Transport_and_Communications_(Haiti)) | Jacques Rousseau | Palais des Ministeres, Rue Monseigneur Guilloux, B.P. 2002, Port-au-Prince, Haiti |
| Ministry of The Youth & of Sports | Jimmy Albert | Port-au-Prince, Haiti |
| Ministry of Culture | Dithny Joan Raton | Port-au-Prince, Haiti |
| Ministry of the Feminine Condition & the rights of Women | Yves Rose Morquette | Port-au-Prince, Haiti |
| Ministry of Haitians Living as Foreigners | Robert Labrousse | Rue Prosper No. 8, Bourdon, Musseau, Port-au-Prince, Haiti, HT6140 |
| Minister Delegated to the Prime Minister in charge of social programs and projects of the Government | Edouard Jules | Port-au-Prince, Haiti |

### Military[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=17)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

Haiti's Ministry of Defense is the main body of their armed forces.[[131]](#cite_note-131) The former [Haitian Armed Forces](/wiki/Armed_Forces_of_Haiti) were demobilized in 1995, however, [efforts to reconstitute it are currently underway](/wiki/Defence_Force_of_Haiti).[[132]](#cite_note-132) The current defense force for Haiti is the [Haitian National Police](/wiki/Haitian_National_Police), which has a highly trained SWAT team, and works alongside the [Haitian Coast Guard](/wiki/Haitian_Coast_Guard).

### Law enforcement and crime[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=18)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|Law enforcement in Haiti is maintained primarily by police forces for each department. The](/wiki/File:Fiat_Siena_DDO_--_08-11-06.jpg) [Direction Département de L’Ouest](/wiki/Haitian_National_Police) (DDO) in Port-au-Prince, is one of the six offices in the metropolitan area.[[133]](#cite_note-133)

Haiti has consistently ranked among the most corrupt countries in the world on the [Corruption Perceptions Index](/wiki/Corruption_Perceptions_Index).[[134]](#cite_note-134) It is estimated that President ["Baby Doc" Duvalier](/wiki/Jean-Claude_Duvalier), his wife [Michelle](/wiki/Michèle_Bennett), and their agents stole US $504 million from the country's treasury between 1971 and 1986.[[135]](#cite_note-135) Similarly, some media outlets alleged that millions were stolen by former president [Jean-Bertrand Aristide](/wiki/Jean-Bertrand_Aristide).[[136]](#cite_note-136)[[137]](#cite_note-137)[[138]](#cite_note-138)[[139]](#cite_note-139) In March 2004, at the time of Aristide's being [kidnapped](/wiki/Kidnapping), a [BBC](/wiki/BBC) article wrote that the Bush administration State Department stated that Aristide had been involved in drug trafficking.[[140]](#cite_note-140) The BBC also described [pyramid schemes](/wiki/Pyramid_scheme), in which Haitians lost hundreds of millions in 2002, as the "only real economic initiative" of the Aristide years.[[141]](#cite_note-141) Conversely, according to the 2013 [United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime](/wiki/United_Nations_Office_on_Drugs_and_Crime) ([UNODC](/wiki/UNODC)) report, murder rates in Haiti (10.2 per 100,000) are far *below* the regional average (26 per 100,000); less than ¼ that of Jamaica (39.3 per 100,000) and nearly ½ that of the Dominican Republic (22.1 per 100,000), making it among the safer countries in the region.[[142]](#cite_note-142)[[143]](#cite_note-143) In large part, this is due to the country's ability to fulfill a pledge by increasing its national police yearly by 50%, a four-year initiative that was started in 2012. In addition to the yearly recruits, the Haitian National Police (HNP) has been using innovative technologies to crackdown on crime. A notable bust in recent years, led to the dismantlement of the largest kidnapping ring in the country with the use of an advanced software program developed by a [Westpoint](/wiki/United_States_Military_Academy)-trained Haitian official that proved to be so effective that it has led to its foreign advisers to make inquiries.[[144]](#cite_note-144)[[145]](#cite_note-145) In 2010, the [New York City Police Department](/wiki/New_York_City_Police_Department) (NYPD) has sent a team of veteran officers to Haiti to assist in the rebuilding of its police force with special training in investigative techniques, strategies to improve the anti-kidnapping personnel and community outreach to build stronger relationships with the public especially among the youth. It has also helped the HNP set up a police unit in the center of [Delmas](/wiki/Delmas,_Ouest), a neighborhood of Port-au-Prince.[[146]](#cite_note-146)[[147]](#cite_note-147)[[148]](#cite_note-148) In 2012 and 2013, 150 HNP officers received specialized training funded by the US government, which also contributed to the infrastructure and communications support by upgrading radio capacity and constructing new police stations from the most violent-prone neighborhoods of [Cité Soleil](/wiki/Cité_Soleil) and [Grande Ravine](/wiki/Grande_Ravine) in Port-au-Prince to the new northern industrial park at [Caracol](/wiki/Caracol,_Nord-Est).[[148]](#cite_note-148)

### Administrative divisions[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=19)]

[Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further)

Administratively, Haiti is divided into ten [departments](/wiki/Departments_of_Haiti). The departments are listed below, with the departmental capital cities in parentheses.

[thumb|300px|Departments of Haiti](/wiki/File:Haiti,_administrative_divisions_-_Nmbrs_-_colored.svg)

1. [Nord-Ouest](/wiki/Nord-Ouest_Department) ([Port-de-Paix](/wiki/Port-de-Paix))
2. [Nord](/wiki/Nord_Department_(Haiti)) ([Cap-Haïtien](/wiki/Cap-Haïtien))
3. [Nord-Est](/wiki/Nord-Est_Department) ([Fort-Liberté](/wiki/Fort-Liberté))
4. [Artibonite](/wiki/Artibonite_(department)) ([Gonaïves](/wiki/Gonaïves))
5. [Centre](/wiki/Centre_Department) ([Hinche](/wiki/Hinche))
6. [Ouest](/wiki/Ouest_(department)) ([Port-au-Prince](/wiki/Port-au-Prince))
7. [Grand'Anse](/wiki/Grand'Anse_Department) ([Jérémie](/wiki/Jérémie))
8. [Nippes](/wiki/Nippes_Department) ([Miragoâne](/wiki/Miragoâne))
9. [Sud](/wiki/Sud_Department) ([Les Cayes](/wiki/Les_Cayes))
10. [Sud-Est](/wiki/Sud-Est_Department) ([Jacmel](/wiki/Jacmel))

The departments are further divided into 42 [arrondissements](/wiki/Arrondissements_of_Haiti), 145 [communes](/wiki/Communes_of_Haiti) and 571 [communal sections](/wiki/Communal_section). These serve as, respectively, second- and third-level administrative divisions.[[149]](#cite_note-149)[[150]](#cite_note-150)[[151]](#cite_note-151)

## Economy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=20)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|350px|A proportional representation of Haiti's exports](/wiki/File:Haiti_Export_Treemap.jpg)

Haiti's [purchasing power parity GDP](/wiki/Gross_domestic_product#Cross-border_comparison) fell 8% in 2010 (from US$12.15 billion to US$11.18 billion) and the GDP per capita remained unchanged at PPP US$1,200.[[152]](#cite_note-152) Despite having a viable tourist industry, Haiti is one of the world's poorest countries and the poorest in the Americas region, with poverty, corruption, poor infrastructure, lack of health care and lack of education cited as the main sources. The economy receded due to the [2010 earthquake](/wiki/2010_Haiti_earthquake) and subsequent [outbreak of Cholera](/wiki/2010_Haiti_cholera_outbreak). Haiti ranked 145 of 182 countries in the 2010 United Nations [Human Development Index](/wiki/Human_Development_Index), with 57.3% of the population being deprived in at least three of the HDI's poverty measures.[[153]](#cite_note-153) Following the disputed 2000 election and accusations about President Aristide's rule,[[154]](#cite_note-154) US aid to the Haitian government was cut off between 2001 and 2004.[[155]](#cite_note-155) After Aristide's departure in 2004, aid was restored and the [Brazilian army](/wiki/Brazilian_army) led a [United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti](/wiki/United_Nations_Stabilization_Mission_in_Haiti) peacekeeping operation. After almost four years of recession, the economy grew by 1.5% in 2005.[[156]](#cite_note-156) In September 2009, Haiti met the conditions set out by the [IMF](/wiki/IMF) and [World Bank's](/wiki/World_Bank) [Heavily Indebted Poor Countries](/wiki/Heavily_Indebted_Poor_Countries) program to qualify for cancellation of its external debt.[[157]](#cite_note-157) More than 90 percent of the government’s budget comes from an agreement with [Petrocaribe](/wiki/Petrocaribe), a Venezuela-led oil alliance.[[158]](#cite_note-158)

### Foreign aid[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=21)]

[Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further)

[Foreign aid](/wiki/Foreign_aid) is indispensable to Haiti. Haiti received more than US$4 billion in aid from 1990 to 2003, including US$1.5 billion from the United States.[[159]](#cite_note-159) The largest donor is the US, followed by Canada and the European Union.[[160]](#cite_note-160) In January 2010, following the earthquake, US President [Barack Obama](/wiki/Barack_Obama) promised US$1.15 billion in assistance.[[161]](#cite_note-161) [European Union](/wiki/European_Union) nations pledged more than €400 million (US$616 million).[[162]](#cite_note-162) According to the UN Office of the Special Envoy for Haiti, as of March 2012, of Humanitarian funding committed or disbursed by bilateral and multilateral donors in 2010 and 2011, only 1% has been pledged to the Haitian Government[[163]](#cite_note-163) According to the 2013 CIA World Factbook, the [2010 Haiti earthquake](/wiki/2010_Haiti_earthquake) inflicted an estimated US$7.8 billion in damage and caused the country's GDP to contract.[[164]](#cite_note-164) The United Nations states that in total US$13.34 billion has been earmarked for the crisis through 2020, though two years after the 2010 quake, less than half of that amount had actually been released, according to UN documents. [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of), the US government has allocated US$4 billion; US$3 billion has already been spent, and the rest is dedicated to longer-term projects.[[165]](#cite_note-165) Former US President Bill Clinton's foundation contributed US$250,000 to a [recycling](/wiki/Recycling) initiative for a sister-program of "Ranmase Lajan" or "Picking Up Money" by use of [reverse vending machines](/wiki/Reverse_vending_machine).[[166]](#cite_note-166)

### Trade[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=22)]

According to the 2015 CIA [World Factbook](/wiki/World_Factbook), Haiti's main import partners are: Dominican Republic 35%, US 26.8%, Netherlands Antilles 8.7%, China 7% (est. 2013). Haiti's main export partner is the US 83.5% (est. 2013).[[167]](#cite_note-167) Haiti had a trade deficit of US$3 billion in 2011, or 41% of GDP.<ref name=ammart>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

### Energy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=23)]

Haiti relies heavily on an oil alliance with [Petrocaribe](/wiki/Petrocaribe) for much of its energy requirements. In recent years, hydroelectric, solar and wind energy have been explored as possible sustainable energy sources.[[168]](#cite_note-168)

### Personal income[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=24)]

[thumb|300px|A market in](/wiki/File:CapHaitienMarche.jpg) [Cap Haitien](/wiki/Cap_Haitien)

[*The World Factbook*](/wiki/The_World_Factbook) reports a shortage of skilled labor, widespread unemployment and underemployment, saying "more than two-thirds of the labor force do not have formal jobs." It is also often stated that three-quarters of the population lives on US$2 or less per day.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) Such statistical estimations could be viewed with skepticism because the average Haitian and Haitian family spends more than that daily.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

[*The World Factbook*](/wiki/The_World_Factbook) also states that "remittances are the primary source of foreign exchange, equaling one-fifth (20%) of GDP and representing more than five times the earnings from exports in 2012".[[169]](#cite_note-169) This implies that [remittances](/wiki/Remittance) are the life-blood of the Haitian economy.

The World Bank estimates that over 80% of college graduates from Haiti were living abroad in 2004.[[170]](#cite_note-170) Haiti continues to exhibit the greatest income inequality in the continent, and is one of the most unequal countries in the world. The richest 20% of households earn 64% of the country’s total income, while the poorest 20% makes do with just 1%.[[171]](#cite_note-171) Between 2000 and 2012, the percentage of people living in extreme poverty[Template:Spaced ndash](/wiki/Template:Spaced_ndash) with one dollar or less a day[Template:Spaced ndash](/wiki/Template:Spaced_ndash) dropped from 31% to 24% at the national level, and from 20% to 5% in Port-au-Prince. More than 200,000 people have climbed out of poverty. There is a growing gap between Port-au-Prince and the rest of the country. More than 80% of those living in extreme poverty do so in rural areas. Families in the north and southwest of the country work hard to grow food, but they fail to earn enough. Extreme climatic events, lack of fertilizers, pesticides and seeds, and limited market access are just some of the impediments they face.[[171]](#cite_note-171) Haiti's economy was severely impacted by the [2010 Haiti earthquake](/wiki/2010_Haiti_earthquake) which occurred on 12 January 2010, killing over 300,000 and displacing 1.5 million residents.[[172]](#cite_note-172)

### Real estate[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=25)]

In rural areas, people often live in wooden huts with corrugated iron roofs. Outhouses are located in back of the huts. In Port-au-Prince, colorful [shantytowns](/wiki/Shantytowns) surround the central city and go up the mountainsides.<ref name=c151222>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref>

The middle and upper classes live in Suburbs, or in the central part of the bigger cities in apartments, where there is urban planning. Many of the houses they live in are like miniature fortresses, located behind walls embedded with metal spikes, barbed wire, broken glass, and sometimes all three. The gates to these houses are barred at night, the house is locked; guard dogs patrol the yard. These houses are often self-sufficient as well. The houses have backup generators, because the electrical grid in Haiti is unreliable. Some even have rooftop reservoirs for water, as the water supply is also unreliable.<ref name=c151222/>

### Agriculture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=26)]

[Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further)

Haiti is the world's leading producer of [vetiver](/wiki/Chrysopogon_zizanioides), a root plant used to make luxury perfumes, essential oils and fragrances, providing for half the world's supply.[[173]](#cite_note-173)[[174]](#cite_note-174)[[175]](#cite_note-175) Half of all Haitians work in the agricultural sector.<ref name=feedh/> Haiti relies upon imports for half its food needs and 80% of its rice.<ref name=feedh>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref>

Haiti exports crops such as [mangoes](/wiki/Mango), [cacao](/wiki/Cocoa_bean), [coffee](/wiki/Coffee), [papayas](/wiki/Papaya), [mahogany](/wiki/Mahogany) nuts, [spinach](/wiki/Spinach), and [watercress](/wiki/Watercress).[[176]](#cite_note-176) Agricultural products comprise 6% of all exports.[[177]](#cite_note-177) In addition, local agricultural products include [corn](/wiki/Corn), [beans](/wiki/Beans), [cassava](/wiki/Cassava), [sweet potato](/wiki/Sweet_potato), [peanuts](/wiki/Peanut), [pistachios](/wiki/Pistachio), [bananas](/wiki/Banana), [millet](/wiki/Millet), [pigeon peas](/wiki/Pigeon_pea), sugarcane, [rice](/wiki/Rice), [sorghum](/wiki/Sorghum), and [wood](/wiki/Wood).[[176]](#cite_note-176)[[178]](#cite_note-178)

### Currency[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=27)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

The [Haitian gourde](/wiki/Haitian_gourde) (HTG) is the national currency. The "[Haitian dollar](/wiki/Haitian_gourde)" equates to 5 gourdes (*goud*), which is a fixed exchange rate that exists in concept *only,* but are commonly used as informal prices.

The vast majority of the business sector and individuals in Haiti will also accept US dollars, though at the outdoor markets gourdes may be preferred. Locals may refer to the USD as "dollar américain" (*dola ameriken*) or "dollar US" (pronounced *oos*).[[179]](#cite_note-179)

### Tourism[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=28)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|300px|Seaside in](/wiki/File:Jacmel_Seaside.jpg) [Jacmel](/wiki/Jacmel) [thumb|300px|](/wiki/File:Labadee.jpg)[Labadee](/wiki/Labadee), a cruise ship destination

In 2014, the country received 1,250,000 tourists (mostly from cruise ships), and the industry generated US$200 million in 2014.[[108]](#cite_note-108) In December 2014, the [US State Department](/wiki/US_State_Department) issued a travel warning about the country, noting that while thousands of American citizens safely visit Haiti each year, a few foreign tourists had been victims of burglary, predominantly in the [Port-au-Prince](/wiki/Port-au-Prince) area.<ref name=bcawarn>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

Several hotels were opened in 2014, including an upscale [Best Western Premier](/wiki/Best_Western#Differentiation),[[180]](#cite_note-180)[[181]](#cite_note-181) a five-star Royal Oasis hotel by Occidental Hotel and Resorts in [Pétionville](/wiki/Pétionville),[[182]](#cite_note-182) a four-star [Marriott](/wiki/Marriott_International) hotel in the Turgeau area of Port-au-Prince[[183]](#cite_note-183) and other new hotel developments in Port-au-Prince, [Les Cayes](/wiki/Les_Cayes), [Cap-Haïtien](/wiki/Cap-Haïtien) and [Jacmel](/wiki/Jacmel).[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) Other tourist destinations include [Île-à-Vache](/wiki/Île-à-Vache), [Camp-Perrin](/wiki/Camp-Perrin), [Pic Macaya](/wiki/Pic_Macaya).[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

The [Haitian Carnival](/wiki/Haitian_Carnival) has been one of the most popular carnivals in the Caribbean. In 2010, the government decided to stage the event in a different city outside Port-au-Prince every year in an attempt to decentralize the country.[[184]](#cite_note-184)[[185]](#cite_note-185) The National Carnival[Template:Spaced ndash](/wiki/Template:Spaced_ndash) usually held in one of the country's largest cities (i.e., Port-au-Prince, Cap-Haïtien or Les Cayes)[Template:Spaced ndash](/wiki/Template:Spaced_ndash) follows the also very popular Jacmel Carnival, which takes place a week earlier in February or March.[[184]](#cite_note-184)

### Caracol Industrial Park[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=29)]

On 21 October 2012, Haitian President [Michel Martelly](/wiki/Michel_Martelly), US Secretary of State [Hillary Rodham Clinton](/wiki/Hillary_Rodham_Clinton), Bill Clinton, [Richard Branson](/wiki/Richard_Branson), [Ben Stiller](/wiki/Ben_Stiller) and [Sean Penn](/wiki/Sean_Penn) inaugurated the [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) Caracol industrial park, the largest in the [Caribbean](/wiki/Caribbean).[[186]](#cite_note-186) Costing US$300 million, the project, which includes a 10-megawatt [power plant](/wiki/Power_plant), a water-treatment plant and worker housing, is intended to transform the northern part of the country by creating 65,000 jobs.[[186]](#cite_note-186) The park is part of a "master plan" for Haiti's North and North-East departments, including the expansion of the [Cap-Haitien International Airport](/wiki/Cap-Haitien_International_Airport) to accommodate large international flights, the construction of an international Seaport in [Fort-Liberté](/wiki/Fort-Liberté) and the opening of the $50 million Roi Henri Christophe Campus of a new university in Limonade (near Cap-Haitien) on 12 January 2012.[[187]](#cite_note-187) [South Korean](/wiki/South_Korean) clothing manufacturer [Sae-A Trading Co. Ltd](/wiki/Sae-A_Trading_Co._Ltd), one of the park's main tenants, has created 5,000 permanent jobs out of the 20,000 projected and has built 8,600 houses in the surrounding area for its workers. The industrial park ultimately has the potential to create as many as 65,000 jobs once fully developed.[[188]](#cite_note-188)[[189]](#cite_note-189)

## Infrastructure[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=30)]

### Transportation[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=31)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|right|300px|Rail map as of 1925](/wiki/File:Haiti_rail_map_1925.jpg)

Haiti has two main highways that run from one end of the country to the other. The northern highway, Route Nationale No. 1 (National Highway One), originates in Port-au-Prince, winding through the coastal towns of [Montrouis](/wiki/Montrouis) and [Gonaïves](/wiki/Gonaïves), before reaching its terminus at the northern port [Cap-Haïtien](/wiki/Cap-Haïtien). The southern highway, Route Nationale No. 2, links Port-au-Prince with [Les Cayes](/wiki/Les_Cayes) via [Léogâne](/wiki/Léogâne) and [Petit-Goâve](/wiki/Petit-Goâve).

According to the Washington Post, "Officials from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said Saturday [23 January 2010] that they assessed the damage from the [12 January] quake in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, and found that many of the roads aren't any worse than they were before because they've always been in poor condition."[[190]](#cite_note-190) The port at Port-au-Prince, [Port international de Port-au-Prince](/wiki/Port_international_de_Port-au-Prince), has more registered shipping than any of the other dozen ports in the country. The port's facilities include [cranes](/wiki/Crane_(machine)), large [berths](/wiki/Berth_(moorings)), and [warehouses](/wiki/Warehouse), but these facilities are not in good condition. The port is underused, possibly due to the substantially high port fees. The port of [Saint-Marc](/wiki/Saint-Marc) is currently the preferred port of entry for consumer goods coming into Haiti. Reasons for this may include its location away from volatile and [congested](/wiki/Traffic_congestion) Port-au-Prince, as well as its central location relative to numerous Haitian cities.

During the 2010 earthquake, the Port-au-Prince port suffered widespread damage, impeding aid to the victims. The main pier caved in and fell into the water. One of the main cranes also collapsed in the water. Port access roads were severely damaged as well.

In the past, Haiti used rail transport, however the rail infrastructure was poorly maintained when in use and cost of rehabilitation is beyond the means of the Haitian economy.

### Airports[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=32)]

[thumb|Toussaint L'Ouverture International Airport](/wiki/File:Toussaint_Louverture_International_Airport.jpg) [Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

[Toussaint Louverture International Airport](/wiki/Toussaint_Louverture_International_Airport) is located [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) North/North East of Port-au-Prince. It has Haiti's main [jetway](/wiki/Jetway), and along with [Hugo Chavez International Airport](/wiki/Hugo_Chavez_International_Airport) located near Cap-Haïtien, handles the vast majority of the country's international flights. To travel on from the international airport at Port-au-Prince to other Haitian cities requires boarding a smaller plane. Cities such as Jacmel, Jérémie, Les Cayes, and Port-de-Paix have airports that are accessible by smaller aircraft. Companies that fly to these airports include: [Caribintair](/wiki/Caribintair), [Sunrise Airways](/wiki/Sunrise_Airways) and [Tortug' Air](/wiki/Tortug'_Air).

In 2013, plans for the development of an international airport on Île-à-Vache were introduced by the Prime Minister.[[191]](#cite_note-191)

### Bus service[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=33)]

[thumb|A "Tap tap" bus in](/wiki/File:Tap_tap_public_transportation_Haiti.jpg) [Port-Salut](/wiki/Port-Salut)

[Tap tap](/wiki/Tap_tap) buses are colorfully painted buses or pick-up trucks that serve as share taxis. The "tap tap" name comes from the sound of passengers tapping on the metal bus body to indicate they want off.[[192]](#cite_note-192) These vehicles for hire are often privately owned and extensively decorated. They follow fixed routes, do not leave until filled with passengers, and riders can usually disembark at any point. The decorations are a typically Haitian form of art.[[193]](#cite_note-193) In August 2013, the first coach bus prototype was made in Haiti.[[194]](#cite_note-194)

### Electricity[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=34)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

Much of the electrical energy provided by the EDH s generated by the [Péligre](/wiki/Peligre_Hydroelectric_Dam) Hydroelectric dam of Haiti.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

### Communications[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=35)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

In Haiti, communications include the radio, television, fixed and mobile telephones, and the Internet. Haiti ranked last among North American countries in the World Economic Forum's Network Readiness Index (NRI)[Template:Snd](/wiki/Template:Snd) an indicator for determining the development level of a country's information and communication technologies. Haiti ranked number 143 out of 148 overall in the 2014 NRI ranking, down from 141 in 2013.[[195]](#cite_note-195)

### Water supply and sanitation[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=36)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

Haiti faces key challenges in the [water supply](/wiki/Water_supply) and [sanitation](/wiki/Sanitation) sector: Notably, access to public services is very low, their quality is inadequate and public institutions remain very weak despite foreign aid and the government's declared intent to strengthen the sector's institutions. Foreign and Haitian [NGOs](/wiki/NGO) play an important role in the sector, especially in rural and urban slum areas.

## Demographics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=37)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|450px|Haiti's population (1961–2003)](/wiki/File:Haiti-demographie.png)

Haiti's population was about 10.1 million according to UN 2011 estimates,[[196]](#cite_note-196) with half of the population younger than age 20.[[197]](#cite_note-197) In 1950 the first formal census gave a total population of 3.1 million.[[198]](#cite_note-198) Haiti averages approximately 350 people per square kilometer (~900 per sq mi.), with its population is concentrated most heavily in urban areas, coastal plains, and valleys.

Most modern Haitians are descendants of former black [African](/wiki/Ethnic_groups_of_Africa) slaves, including [Mulattoes](/wiki/Free_people_of_color) who are of [multiracial](/wiki/Multiracial) admixture. The remainder are of [European](/wiki/Europe) descent and [Arab Haitians](/wiki/Arab_Haitians),[[199]](#cite_note-199)[[200]](#cite_note-200) the descendants of settlers (colonial remnants and contemporary immigration during [WWI](/wiki/World_War_I) and [WWII](/wiki/World_War_II)). Haitians of [East Asian](/wiki/East_Asia) descent or [East Indian](/wiki/Marabou_(ethnicity)) origin number approximately 400+.

Millions of Haitians live abroad in the [United States](/wiki/United_States), [Dominican Republic](/wiki/Dominican_Republic), [Cuba](/wiki/Cuba), [Canada](/wiki/Canada) (primarily [Montreal](/wiki/Montreal)), [Bahamas](/wiki/Bahamas), [France](/wiki/France), [French Antilles](/wiki/French_Antilles), the [Turks and Caicos](/wiki/Turks_and_Caicos), [Jamaica](/wiki/Jamaica), [Puerto Rico](/wiki/Puerto_Rico), [Venezuela](/wiki/Venezuela), [Brazil](/wiki/Brazil) and [French Guiana](/wiki/French_Guiana). There are an estimated 881,500 in the United States,[[201]](#cite_note-201) 800,000 in the Dominican Republic,<ref name=pinadep>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> 300,000 in Cuba,[[202]](#cite_note-202) 100,000 in Canada,[[203]](#cite_note-203) 80,000 in France,[[204]](#cite_note-204) and up to 80,000 in the Bahamas.[[205]](#cite_note-205) But there are also smaller Haitian communities in many other countries, including [Chile](/wiki/Chile), [Switzerland](/wiki/Switzerland), [Japan](/wiki/Japan) and [Australia](/wiki/Australia).

In 2015, the life expectancy at birth was 63 years.[[206]](#cite_note-206)

### Population genetics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=38)]

#### Autosomal DNA[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=39)]

The [gene pool](/wiki/Gene_pool) of Haiti is about 95.5% [Sub-Saharan African](/wiki/Sub-Saharan_Africa), 4.3% [European](/wiki/Ethnic_groups_in_Europe), with the rest showing some traces of [East Asian](/wiki/East_Asia) genes;<ref name=autogenerated1>[Template:Cite journal](/wiki/Template:Cite_journal)</ref> according to a 2010 [autosomal](/wiki/Autosomal) [genealogical DNA testing](/wiki/Genealogical_DNA_test). The same study found that Jamaica’s gene pool is 78.3% Sub-Saharan African, 16.0% European, and 5.7% East Asian.<ref name=Genetic-structure/>

#### Y-chromosome and Mitochondrial DNA[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=40)]

[Template:Expand section](/wiki/Template:Expand_section)

A 2012 genetic study on Haitian and Jamaican [Y-chromosomal ancestry](/wiki/Human_Y-chromosome_DNA_haplogroup), has revealed that both populations "*exhibit a predominantly* [*Sub-Saharan paternal component*](/wiki/Y-DNA_haplogroups_by_populations_of_Sub-Saharan_Africa)*, with haplogroups* [*A1b-V152*](/wiki/Haplogroup_A_(Y-DNA))*,* [*A3-M32*](/wiki/Haplogroup_A_(Y-DNA))*,* [*B2-M182*](/wiki/Haplogroup_B_(Y-DNA))*,* [*E1a-M33*](/wiki/Haplogroup_E_(Y-DNA))*,* [*E1b1a-M2*](/wiki/Haplogroup_E_(Y-DNA))*,* [*E2b-M98*](/wiki/Haplogroup_E_(Y-DNA))*, and* [*R1b2-V88*](/wiki/Haplogroup_R1b_(Y-DNA)#R1b1c_(R-V88))*"* comprising (77.2%) of the Haitian and (66.7%) of Jamaican paternal gene pools.[[207]](#cite_note-207) Y Chromosomes indicative of [European ancestry](/wiki/Y-DNA_haplogroups_in_European_populations) "*(i.e., haplogroups* [*G2a\*-P15*](/wiki/Haplogroup_G-M201)*,* [*I-M258*](/wiki/Haplogroup_I-M170)*,* [*R1b1b-M269*](/wiki/Haplogroup_R1b_(Y-DNA)#R1b1a2_(R-M269))*, and* [*T-M184*](/wiki/Haplogroup_T-M184)*) were detected at commensurate levels in Haiti (20.3%) and Jamaica (18.9%)*".[[207]](#cite_note-207)This corresponds to approximately 1 in every 5 Paternal ancestors, hailing from Europe. While, Y-haplogroups indicative of Chinese [O-M175](/wiki/O-M175) (3.8%) and Indian [H-M69](/wiki/H-M69) (0.6%) and [L-M20](/wiki/L-M20) (0.6%) ancestry were found at significant levels in Jamaica,[[207]](#cite_note-207) [Levantine](/wiki/Arab_Haitian) Y-haplogroups were found in Haiti.

#### Duffy antigens[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=41)]

According to a 2008 study examining the frequency of the [Duffy antigen](/wiki/Duffy_antigen_system) receptor for [Chemokines](/wiki/Chemokine) ([DARC](/wiki/DARC_(gene))) [Single Nucleotide polymorphisms](/wiki/Single-nucleotide_polymorphism) (SNPs), (75%) of Haitian women sampled exhibited the CC genotype (absent among women of [European](/wiki/Europe) ancestry) at levels comparable to US [African-Americans](/wiki/African-Americans) (73%), but more than [Jamaican](/wiki/Jamaica) females (63%).<ref name=Genetic-structure>[Template:Cite journal](/wiki/Template:Cite_journal)</ref>[[208]](#cite_note-208)

### Casta discrimination[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=42)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

Due to the [racial caste system](/wiki/Casta) instituted in colonial Haiti, [Haitian mulattoes](/wiki/Mulatto) became the nation's social elite and racially privileged. Numerous leaders throughout Haiti's history have been mulattoes. Comprising 5% of the nation's population, mulattoes have retained their preeminence, evident in the political, economic, social and cultural hierarchy in Haiti.[[209]](#cite_note-209) [Alexandre Pétion](/wiki/Alexandre_Pétion), born to a Haitian mother and a wealthy French father, was the first President of the Republic of Haiti.

### Religion[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=43)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

[Template:Pie chart](/wiki/Template:Pie_chart)

The 2015 CIA Factbook, reported that around 80% of Haitians profess to being [Catholics](/wiki/Roman_Catholicism_in_Haiti) while [Protestants](/wiki/Protestantism_in_Haiti) made up about 16% of the population (Baptist 10%, Pentecostal 4%, Adventist 1%, other 1%). Other sources put the Protestant population higher than this, suggesting that it might have formed one-third of the population in 2001.[[210]](#cite_note-210) Haitian [Cardinal](/wiki/Cardinal_(Catholicism)) [Chibly Langlois](/wiki/Chibly_Langlois) is president of the National Bishops Conference of the Catholic Church.

[Vodou](/wiki/Haitian_vodou), a religion with African roots similar to those of [Cuba](/wiki/Cuba) and [Brazil](/wiki/Brazil), originated during colonial times in which slaves were obliged to disguise their [loa](/wiki/Loa) or spirits as [Roman Catholic](/wiki/Catholic_Church) saints, an element of a process called [syncretism](/wiki/Syncretism) and is still practiced by some Haitians today. Since the religious syncretism between Catholicism and Vodou, it is difficult to estimate the number of Vodouists in Haiti.[[211]](#cite_note-211)[[212]](#cite_note-212) Minority religions in Haiti include [Islam](/wiki/Islam_in_Haiti), [Bahá'í Faith](/wiki/Bahá'í_Faith_in_Haiti), [Judaism](/wiki/History_of_the_Jews_in_Haiti), and Buddhism.[[152]](#cite_note-152)

### Languages[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=44)]

The two official languages of Haiti are [French](/wiki/French_language) and [Haitian Creole](/wiki/Haitian_Creole). French is the principal written and administratively authorized language (as well as the main language of the press) and is spoken by 42% of Haitians.[[213]](#cite_note-213)[[214]](#cite_note-214) It is spoken by all educated Haitians, is the medium of instruction in most schools, and is used in the business sector. It is also used in ceremonial events such as weddings, graduations and church masses.

Haiti is one of two independent nations in the Americas (along with Canada) to designate French as an [official language](/wiki/Official_language); the other French-speaking areas are all [overseas](/wiki/French_overseas_departments_and_territories) [*départements*](/wiki/Departments_of_France), or [*collectivités*](/wiki/Overseas_collectivity)*,* of France. Haitian Creole,[[215]](#cite_note-215) which has recently undergone a standardization, is spoken by virtually the entire population of Haiti.[[216]](#cite_note-216) Haitian Creole is one of the [French-based creole languages](/wiki/French-based_creole_languages). Its vocabulary is 90% derived from French, but its grammar and influences are from some West African, Taino, Spanish, and Portuguese languages.[[217]](#cite_note-217) Haitian Creole is related to the other [French creoles](/wiki/French-based_creole_languages), but most closely to [Antillean Creole](/wiki/Antillean_Creole) and [Louisiana Creole](/wiki/Louisiana_Creole_French) variants.

### Emigration[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=45)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

Emigrants from Haiti have constituted a segment of American and Canadian society, before [the independence of Haiti from France](/wiki/Haitian_Revolution) in 1804.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

Haiti's proximity to the United States, and its status as a free black republic in the years before the [American Civil War](/wiki/American_Civil_War), have contributed to this relationship.[Template:Clarify](/wiki/Template:Clarify) Many influential early American settlers and black freemen, including [Jean Baptiste Point du Sable](/wiki/Jean_Baptiste_Point_du_Sable) and [W. E. B. Du Bois](/wiki/W._E._B._Du_Bois), were of Haitian origin.[[218]](#cite_note-218)[[219]](#cite_note-219)[[220]](#cite_note-220)[[221]](#cite_note-221) [Jean Baptiste Point du Sable](/wiki/Jean_Baptiste_Point_du_Sable), an immigrant from [Saint-Domingue](/wiki/Saint-Domingue) (now the Republic of Haiti), founded the first nonindigenous settlement in what is now [Chicago, Illinois](/wiki/Chicago,_Illinois), the third largest city in the United States. The state of Illinois and city of Chicago declared du Sable the founder of Chicago on 26 October 1968.[[218]](#cite_note-218)[[219]](#cite_note-219)[[220]](#cite_note-220)

### Largest cities[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=46)]

[Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further) [Template:Largest cities of Haiti](/wiki/Template:Largest_cities_of_Haiti)

## Culture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=47)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [Template:Culture of Haiti](/wiki/Template:Culture_of_Haiti)

Haiti has a unique cultural identity consisting of a large blend of traditional customs of French and African, mixed with sizeable contributions from the Spanish and indigenous Taíno culture.[[222]](#cite_note-222) The country's customs essentially are a blend of cultural beliefs that derived from the various ethnic groups that inhabited the island of Hispaniola. Haiti's culture is greatly reflected in its paintings, music, and literature. Galleries and museums in the United States and [France](/wiki/France) have exhibited the works of the better-known artists to have come out of Haiti.[[223]](#cite_note-223)

### Art[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=48)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

Haitian art is [distinctive](/wiki/Haitian_art), particularly through its paintings and sculptures, known for its various artistic expressions.[[222]](#cite_note-222)[[224]](#cite_note-224)[[225]](#cite_note-225) Brilliant colors, [naïve](/wiki/Naïve_art) perspectives, and sly humor characterize [Haitian art](/wiki/Haitian_art). Frequent subjects in Haitian art include big, delectable foods, lush landscapes, market activities, jungle animals, rituals, dances, and gods. Artists frequently paint in fables. People are disguised as animals and animals are transformed into people.

As a result of a deep history and strong African ties, symbols take on great meaning within Haitian society. For example, a rooster often represents Aristide and the red and blue colors of the Haitian flag often represent his Lavalas party. Many artists cluster in 'schools' of painting, such as the Cap-Haïtien school, which features depictions of daily life in the city, the Jacmel School, which reflects the steep mountains and bays of that coastal town, or the Saint-Soleil School, which is characterized by abstracted human forms and is heavily influenced by Vodou symbolism.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

### Music and dance[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=49)]

[Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further)

Haitian music combines a wide range of influences drawn from the many people who have settled on this Caribbean island. It reflects French, African rhythms, Spanish elements and others who have inhabited the island of [Hispaniola](/wiki/Hispaniola) and minor native [Taino](/wiki/Taino) influences. Styles of music unique to the nation of Haiti include music derived from [Vodou](/wiki/Haitian_Vodou) ceremonial traditions, [Rara](/wiki/Rara) parading music, [Twoubadou](/wiki/Twoubadou) *ballads*, [Mini-jazz](/wiki/Mini-jazz) rock bands, [Rasin](/wiki/Rasin) movement, [Hip hop](/wiki/Haitian_hip_hop) Kreyòl, [Méringue](/wiki/Méringue),[[226]](#cite_note-226) and [Compas](/wiki/Compas). Youth attend parties at nightclubs called [*discos*](/wiki/Nightlife), (pronounced "deece-ko"), and attend *Bal*. This term is the French word for ball, as in a formal dance.

[*Compas*](/wiki/Compas) *(konpa)* (also known as *compas direct* in [French](/wiki/French_language), or *konpa dirèk* in [creole](/wiki/Haitian_Creole_language))[[227]](#cite_note-227) is a complex, ever-changing music that arose from African rhythms and European ballroom dancing, mixed with Haiti's bourgeois culture. It is a refined music, with [méringue](/wiki/Méringue) as its basic rhythm. Haiti had no recorded music until 1937 when [Jazz Guignard](/wiki/Jazz_Guignard) was recorded non-commercially.[[228]](#cite_note-228)

### Literature[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=50)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

Dating back to the days of its independence, Haiti has always been a literary nation that has produced a number of poetry and plays of international reputation. Despite attempts to write in [Haitian Creole](/wiki/Haitian_Creole) dating back to the eighteenth century due to its unofficial status, French has always been the exclusive literary language of Haiti. With the recognition of Creole as an official language, more and more novels, poems, and plays are being written in Creole. In 1975, the first novel written entirely in Haitian Creole was published entitled *Dezafi* written by [Franketienne](/wiki/Franketienne) describing a poetic picture of Haitian life.[[223]](#cite_note-223)[[229]](#cite_note-229)

### Cuisine[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=51)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|300px|A table set with Haitian cuisine](/wiki/File:Ayiti&DR_2007_085.jpg)

[Haitian cuisine](/wiki/Haitian_cuisine) originates from several culinary styles from the various historical ethnic groups that populated the western portion of the island of Hispaniola. Haitian cuisine is similar to the rest of the [Latin-Caribbean](/wiki/Latin-America) (the French and the Spanish-speaking countries of the Antilles), however it differs in several ways from its regional counterparts. While the cuisine is unpretentious and simple, the flavors are bold and spicy that demonstrate a primary influence of African culinary aesthetic, paired with a very French sophistication with notable derivatives coming from native [Taíno](/wiki/Taíno_people) and [Spanish](/wiki/Spanish_cuisine) techniques. Though similar to other cooking styles in the region, it carries a uniqueness native to the country, many visitors to the island have mixed reviews of Haitian cuisine. Haitians often use [peppers](/wiki/Capsicum) and other strong flavorings.<ref name=b1/>

Dishes tend to be seasoned liberally. Consequently Haitian cuisine is often moderately [spicy](/wiki/Spicy). In the country, however, several foreign cuisines have been introduced. These include [Levantine](/wiki/Levantine_cuisine) from [Arab](/wiki/Arab) migration to Haiti. Rice and beans in several differing ways are eaten throughout the country regardless of location, becoming a sort of national dish. They form the [staple diet](/wiki/Staple_diet), which consists of a lot of [starch](/wiki/Starch) and is high in [carbohydrates](/wiki/Carbohydrate). Rural areas, with better access to agricultural products, have a larger variety of choices.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

One such dish is mais moulu (*mayi moulen*), which is comparable to [grits](/wiki/Grits) that can be eaten with sauce pois (*sòs pwa*), a [bean sauce](/wiki/Bean_sauce) made from one of many types of beans such as [kidney](/wiki/Kidney_bean), [pinto](/wiki/Pinto_bean), [chickpeas](/wiki/Chickpea), or [pigeon peas](/wiki/Pigeon_pea) (known in some countries as gandules). Mais moulin can be eaten with fish (often [red snapper](/wiki/Lutjanus_campechanus)), or alone depending on personal preference. Some of the many plants used in Haitian dishes include tomato, [oregano](/wiki/Oregano), [cabbage](/wiki/Cabbage), [avocado](/wiki/Avocado), [bell peppers](/wiki/Bell_pepper). A popular food is banane pesée (*ban-nan'n peze*), flattened [plantain](/wiki/Plantain_(cooking)) slices fried in [cooking oil](/wiki/Cooking_oil) (known as [tostones](/wiki/Tostones) in the Spanish speaking [Latin American](/wiki/Latin_America) countries). It is eaten both as a [snack](/wiki/Snack) and as part of a meal is, often eaten with *tassot* and *griot* ([deep-fried](/wiki/Deep_frying) goat and pork).[[230]](#cite_note-230) Traditionally, the food that Haitians eat on the independence day (1 January) is [soup joumou](/wiki/Soup_joumou).[[231]](#cite_note-231)Haiti is also known internationally for its rum; [Rhum Barbancourt](/wiki/Rhum_Barbancourt) is the most popular alcoholic beverage in Haiti, and it is regarded highly by international standards.<ref name=b1>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref>[Template:Better source](/wiki/Template:Better_source)

### Architecture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=52)]

[thumb|438x438px|Sans-Souci Palace, National History Park, Haiti](/wiki/File:Sans-Souci_Palace,_National_History_Park,_Haiti.jpg) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also)

Monuments include the [Sans-Souci Palace](/wiki/Sans-Souci_Palace) and the [Citadelle Laferrière](/wiki/Citadelle_Laferrière), inscribed as a [World Heritage site](/wiki/World_Heritage_site) in 1982.[[232]](#cite_note-232) Situated in the Northern Massif du Nord, in one of Haiti's National Parks, the structures date from the early 19th century.[[233]](#cite_note-233) The buildings were among the first built after Haiti's independence from France. The [Citadelle Laferrière](/wiki/Citadelle_Laferrière), is the largest fortress in the Americas, is located in northern Haiti. It was built between 1805 and 1820 and is today referred to by some Haitians as the [eighth wonder of the world](/wiki/Eighth_wonder_of_the_world).[[20]](#cite_note-20) [Jacmel](/wiki/Jacmel), a colonial city that was tentatively accepted as a World Heritage site, was extensively damaged by the [2010 Haiti earthquake](/wiki/2010_Haiti_earthquake).[[233]](#cite_note-233)

### Museums[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=53)]

[thumb|right|120px|Santa María's anchor on display](/wiki/File:Santa_Maria_Anchor.JPG)

The anchor of Christopher Columbus' largest ship, the [*Santa María*](/wiki/Santa_María_(ship)) now rests in the [Musée du Panthéon National Haïtien](/wiki/Musée_du_Panthéon_National_Haïtien) (MUPANAH), in [Port-au-Prince](/wiki/Port-au-Prince), Haiti.[[234]](#cite_note-234)

### Folklore and mythology[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=54)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

Haiti is known for its [folklore](/wiki/Folklore) traditions.[[235]](#cite_note-235) The country has tales that are part of the [Haitian Vodou](/wiki/Haitian_Vodou) tradition.

### National holidays and festivals[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=55)]

[Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **English name** | **Local name (in** [**French**](/wiki/French_language)**)** | **Remarks** |
| 1 January | [New Year's Day](/wiki/New_Year's_Day) *and* [Independence Day](/wiki/Independence_Day) | *Nouvel an / Jour de l'an / Premier de l'a* et *Jour de l'Indépendance* | [Act of Independence](/wiki/Haitian_Revolution) against France |
| 2 January | Ancestry Day | *Jour des Aieux* | Commemorates [ancestors](/wiki/Ancestor) who have died fighting for freedom. |
| 6 January | [Epiphany](/wiki/Epiphany_(holiday)) | *Le Jour des Rois* | Celebrates the Three Wise Men's visit to see the newborn Christ. |
| [*moveable*](/wiki/Moveable_feast) | [Carnival](/wiki/Haitian_Carnival)/[Mardi Gras](/wiki/Mardi_Gras) | *Carnaval/Mardi Gras* |  |
| 1 May | [Labour and Agriculture Day](/wiki/Labour_Day) | *Fête du Travail / Fête des Travailleurs* | International holiday |
| 18 May | [Flag](/wiki/Flag_Day) and Universities' Day | *Jour du Drapeau et de l'Université* | Celebrates the educational system and creation of the [flag](/wiki/Flag_of_Haiti). |
| 15 August | [Assumption of Mary](/wiki/Assumption_of_Mary) | *L'Assomption de Marie* |  |
| 17 October | Anniversary of the death of [Dessalines](/wiki/Jean-Jacques_Dessalines) | *Anniversaire de la mort de Dessalines* | commemorates the death of [Jean-Jacques Dessalines](/wiki/Jean-Jacques_Dessalines). |
| 1 November | [All Saints Day](/wiki/All_Saints_Day) | *La Toussaint* | Christian holiday; commemorates the [sainthood](/wiki/Saint). |
| 2 November | [All Souls' Day](/wiki/All_Souls'_Day) | *Jour des Morts* | Another Christian holiday; commemorates the faithful departed. |
| 18 November | [Battle of Vertières Day](/wiki/Battle_of_Vertières) | *Vertières* | Commemorates the victory over the French in the Battle of Vertières in the year 1803.[[236]](#cite_note-236) |
| 5 December | [Discovery Day](/wiki/Discovery_Day) | *Découverte d'Haïti* | Commemorates [Christopher Columbus'](/wiki/Christopher_Columbus) landing on [Hispaniola](/wiki/Hispaniola) in 1492. |
| 25 December | [Christmas](/wiki/Christmas) | *Noël* | Traditional Christmas celebration. |

The most festive time of the year in Haiti is during [***Carnival***](/wiki/Carnival) (referred to as *Kanaval* in [Haitian Creole](/wiki/Haitian_Creole) or [Mardi Gras](/wiki/Mardi_Gras)) in February.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) There is music, parade floats, and dancing and singing in the streets. Carnival week is traditionally a time of all-night parties.

[Rara](/wiki/Rara) is a festival celebrated before [Easter](/wiki/Easter). The festival has generated a style of [Carnival music](/wiki/Carnival_music).[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

### Sports[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=56)]

[thumb|right|](/wiki/File:Haiti_national_football_team_training_in_Port-au-Prince_2004-08-16_2.jpg)[Haiti national football team](/wiki/Haiti_national_football_team) training in Port-au-Prince, 2004 [Football](/wiki/Association_football) is the most popular sport in Haiti with hundreds of small football clubs competing at the local level. Basketball is growing in popularity.<ref name=sport>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref><ref name=sport/> [Stade Sylvio Cator](/wiki/Stade_Sylvio_Cator) is the [multi-purpose stadium](/wiki/Multi-purpose_stadium) in [Port-au-Prince](/wiki/Port-au-Prince), where it is currently used mostly for [association football](/wiki/Association_football) matches that fits a capacity of 10,000 people. In 1974, the [Haiti national football team](/wiki/Haiti_national_football_team) were only the second [Caribbean](/wiki/Caribbean) team to make the [World Cup](/wiki/FIFA_World_Cup) (after [Cuba's](/wiki/Cuba) entry in 1938). They lost in the opening qualifying stages against three of the pre-tournament favorites; [Italy](/wiki/Italy_national_football_team), [Poland](/wiki/Poland_national_football_team), and [Argentina](/wiki/Argentina_national_football_team). The national team won the [2007 Caribbean Nations Cup](/wiki/2007_Caribbean_Nations_Cup).[[237]](#cite_note-237) Haiti has participated in the [Olympic Games](/wiki/Haiti_at_the_Olympics) since the year 1900 and won a number of medals. Haitian footballer [Joe Gaetjens](/wiki/Joe_Gaetjens) played for the [United States national team](/wiki/United_States_men's_national_soccer_team) in the [1950 FIFA World Cup](/wiki/1950_FIFA_World_Cup), scoring the winning goal in the 1–0 upset of [England](/wiki/England_national_football_team).[[238]](#cite_note-238)

## Notable natives and residents[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=57)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|upright|](/wiki/File:WyclefJean.jpg)[Wyclef Jean](/wiki/Wyclef_Jean)

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* [Comte d'Estaing](/wiki/Comte_d'Estaing)[Template:Spaced ndash](/wiki/Template:Spaced_ndash) in command of more than 500 volunteers from Saint-Domingue, fought alongside American colonial troops against the British in the [Siege of Savannah](/wiki/Siege_of_Savannah), one of the most significant foreign contributions to the American Revolutionary War in 1779.[[239]](#cite_note-239)\* [Frankétienne](/wiki/Frankétienne)[Template:Spaced ndash](/wiki/Template:Spaced_ndash) arguably Haiti's greatest author; he was a candidate for the [Nobel Prize in Literature](/wiki/Nobel_Prize_in_Literature) in 2009.
* [Garcelle Beauvais](/wiki/Garcelle_Beauvais)[Template:Spaced ndash](/wiki/Template:Spaced_ndash) television actress ([*NYPD Blue*](/wiki/NYPD_Blue), [*The Jamie Foxx Show*](/wiki/The_Jamie_Foxx_Show)).
* [Jean Baptiste Point du Sable](/wiki/Jean_Baptiste_Point_du_Sable)[Template:Spaced ndash](/wiki/Template:Spaced_ndash) who might have been born in St Marc, Saint-Domingue in 1745 established a [fur trading](/wiki/Fur_trading) post at present-day Chicago, Illinois. He is considered one of the city's founders.
* [Jean Lafitte](/wiki/Jean_Lafitte)[Template:Spaced ndash](/wiki/Template:Spaced_ndash) a pirate who operated around [New Orleans](/wiki/New_Orleans) and [Galveston](/wiki/Galveston,_Texas) on the [Gulf Coast](/wiki/Gulf_Coast) of the United States; was born in Port-au-Prince around 1782.[[240]](#cite_note-240)\* [John James Audubon](/wiki/John_James_Audubon)[Template:Spaced ndash](/wiki/Template:Spaced_ndash) [ornithologist](/wiki/Ornithologist) and painter; born in 1785 in Les Cayes, Saint-Domingue; his parents returned to France, where the boy was educated; he emigrated to the United States as a young man and made a career as he painted, catalogued and described the birds of North America.
* [Jørgen Leth](/wiki/Jørgen_Leth)[Template:Spaced ndash](/wiki/Template:Spaced_ndash) Danish poet and filmmaker.[[241]](#cite_note-241)\* [Sean Penn](/wiki/Sean_Penn) – American [Oscar Award](/wiki/Oscar_Award)-winning actor, who currently serves as *Ambassador-at-large* for Haiti; the first non-Haitian citizen to hold such a position.[[242]](#cite_note-242)\* [Michaëlle Jean](/wiki/Michaëlle_Jean)[Template:Spaced ndash](/wiki/Template:Spaced_ndash) current [Secretary-General of La Francophonie](/wiki/Organisation_internationale_de_la_Francophonie) and 27th [Governor General of Canada](/wiki/Governor_General_of_Canada); was born in Port-au-Prince in 1957 and lived in Haiti until 1968.
* [Wyclef Jean](/wiki/Wyclef_Jean)[Template:Spaced ndash](/wiki/Template:Spaced_ndash) [Grammy Award](/wiki/Grammy_Award)-winning hip-hop recording artist.
* [Sonni Nattestad](/wiki/Sonni_Nattestad)[Template:Spaced ndash](/wiki/Template:Spaced_ndash) [Faroese](/wiki/Faroe_Islands) professional footballer, born in [Port-au-Prince](/wiki/Port-au-Prince).

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## Education[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=58)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|300px|The Universite Roi Henri Christophe in](/wiki/File:Universite_henrichristophe.jpg) [Limonade](/wiki/Limonade)

The educational system of Haiti is based on the [French system](/wiki/Education_in_France). Higher education, under the responsibility of the Ministry of Education,[[243]](#cite_note-243) is provided by universities and other public and private institutions.[[244]](#cite_note-244) More than 80% of primary schools are privately managed by nongovernmental organizations, churches, communities, and for-profit operators, with minimal government oversight.[[245]](#cite_note-245) According to the 2013 Millennium Development Goals (MDG) Report, Haiti has steadily boosted net enrollment rate in primary education from 47% in 1993 to 88% in 2011, achieving equal participation of boys and girls in education.[[246]](#cite_note-246) Charity organizations, including [Food for the Poor](/wiki/Food_for_the_Poor) and [Haitian Health Foundation](/wiki/Haitian_Health_Foundation), are building schools for children and providing necessary school supplies. According to CIA 2015 [World Factbook](/wiki/World_Factbook), Haiti's literacy rate is now 60.7% (est. 2015).

The January 2010 earthquake, was a major setback for education reform in Haiti as it diverted limited resources to survival.[[247]](#cite_note-247) Many reformers have advocated the creation of a free, public and universal education system for all primary school-age students in Haiti. The [Inter-American Development Bank](/wiki/Inter-American_Development_Bank) estimates that the government will need at least US$3 billion to create an adequately funded system.[[248]](#cite_note-248) Upon successful graduation of secondary school, students may continue into [higher education](/wiki/Higher_education). The higher education schools in Haiti include the [University of Haiti](/wiki/University_of_Haiti). There are also [medical schools](/wiki/List_of_medical_schools_in_the_Caribbean) and [law schools](/wiki/Legal_education) offered at both the University of Haiti and abroad. Presently, [Brown University](/wiki/Brown_University) is cooperating with L'Hôpital Saint-Damien in Haiti to coordinate a [pediatric health care](/wiki/Pediatrics) curriculum.[[249]](#cite_note-249)

## Health[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=59)]

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In the past, children's vaccination rates have been low[Template:Spaced ndash](/wiki/Template:Spaced_ndash) [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of), 60% of the children in Haiti under the age of 10 were [vaccinated](/wiki/Vaccine),[[250]](#cite_note-250)[[251]](#cite_note-251) compared to rates of childhood vaccination in other countries in the 93–95% range.[[252]](#cite_note-252) Recently there have been mass vaccination campaigns claiming to vaccinate as many as 91% of a target population against specific diseases (measles and rubella in this case).[[253]](#cite_note-253) Most people have no transportation or access to [Haitian hospitals](/wiki/List_of_hospitals_in_Haiti).[[254]](#cite_note-254) The [World Health Organization](/wiki/World_Health_Organization) cites [diarrheal](/wiki/Diarrhea) diseases, [HIV/AIDS](/wiki/HIV/AIDS), [meningitis](/wiki/Meningitis), and respiratory infections as common causes of death in Haiti.[[255]](#cite_note-255) Ninety percent of Haiti's children suffer from [waterborne diseases](/wiki/Waterborne_disease) and [intestinal parasites](/wiki/Intestinal_parasite).[[256]](#cite_note-256) HIV infection is found in 1.8% of Haiti's population.[[257]](#cite_note-257) The incidence of [tuberculosis](/wiki/Tuberculosis) (TB) in Haiti is more than ten times as high as in the rest of Latin America.[[258]](#cite_note-258) Approximately 30,000 Haitians fall ill with [malaria](/wiki/Malaria) each year.[[259]](#cite_note-259) Most people living in Haiti are at high risk for major infectious diseases. Food or [water-borne](/wiki/Waterborne_diseases) diseases include bacterial and protozoal [diarrhea](/wiki/Diarrhea), [typhoid fever](/wiki/Typhoid_fever) and [hepatitis](/wiki/Hepatitis) A and E; common [vector](/wiki/Vector_(epidemiology))-borne diseases are [dengue fever](/wiki/Dengue_fever) and [malaria](/wiki/Malaria); water-contact diseases include [leptospirosis](/wiki/Leptospirosis). Roughly 75% of Haitian households lack running water. Unsafe water, along with inadequate housing and unsanitary living conditions, contributes to the high incidence of infectious diseases. There is a chronic shortage of health care personnel and hospitals lack resources, a situation that became readily apparent after the January 2010 earthquake.[[260]](#cite_note-260) The [infant mortality rate](/wiki/Infant_mortality_rate) in Haiti in 2013 was 55 deaths per 1,000 live births, compared to a rate of 6 per 1,000 in other countries.[[261]](#cite_note-261)

## See also[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=60)]

[Template:Wikipedia books](/wiki/Template:Wikipedia_books)

* [Index of Haiti-related articles](/wiki/Index_of_Haiti-related_articles)
* [Outline of Haiti](/wiki/Outline_of_Haiti)

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## Notes[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=61)]

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## References[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=62)]

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## External links[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=64)]

[Template:Sister project links](/wiki/Template:Sister_project_links)

Government

* [Template:Fr icon](/wiki/Template:Fr_icon) [Template:Ht icon](/wiki/Template:Ht_icon) [Template:Official website](/wiki/Template:Official_website)
* [Template:Fr icon](/wiki/Template:Fr_icon) [Prime Minister of Haiti](http://primature.gouv.ht/)
* [Template:Fr icon](/wiki/Template:Fr_icon) [Parliament of Haiti](http://www.parlementhaitien.ht/)

General information

* [Template:Dmoz](/wiki/Template:Dmoz)
* [Haiti](http://web.archive.org/web/20060621022610/http://www.britannica.com:80/nations/Haiti) at [Encyclopædia Britannica](/wiki/Encyclopædia_Britannica).
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Relief organizations

* [The ICRC in Haiti](http://www.icrc.org/eng/where-we-work/americas/haiti/) (International Committee of the Red Cross).
* [Hope for Haiti](http://www.hope-for-haiti.org/), education and grassroots development in rural Haiti.
* [Haiti volunteer youth corps](http://www.nouvelleviehaiti.org/), training leaders in trauma relief, community empowerment and sustainable agriculture.
* [Instituto Dominicano de Desarrollo Integral](http://www.iddi.org/), the Dominican parent of the Haitian Institute of Integral Development.

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