# *Haiti: A Tradition of Solidarity*

On January 1, 1804, for the first and only time in history, a large group of slaves defeated the powerful Army of Napoleon and founded a new nation. However, the contribution of Haiti to the struggle against slavery and colonialism had just begun.

1. **Aid to the US Struggle for Independence from England.**
   In 1773, about 1500 mulattoes led by Count Charles Henry d'Estaing went to the U.S. (Savannah, Georgia) to fight for the independence of this country. Among the volunteers was the young Henri Christophe who became one of Haiti's independence heroes.

2. **Aid to Dominican Struggle against Spanish Colonialism.**
   Around 1808, Alexandre Petion and Henri Christophe sent food and financial aid to Dominican patriots Juan Suanchez and Cyriaco Ramirez leading the fight against Spanish colonialism.

3. **Aid to the South American Struggle against Spanish Colonialism.**
   In early 1816, Simon Bolivar came to Haiti looking for support. From President Alexandre Petion he received extensive military supplies, 1500 volunteers, a printing press, money, and food. This contribution was the most significant Bolivar ever received.

4. **Aid To Mexico's Struggle Against Spanish Colonialism.**
   In October of 1816, on request from Mexican General Francisco Javier Mina, volunteers were sent to fight against the Spaniards.

5. **Aid to the Greek Struggle against Turkish Occupation.**
   In 1821, when Papflessas was calling for Greeks to rebel, some patriots, among them Wogorody Polichroniades and Clonares, obtained arms and volunteers from Haiti. Led by Panayottie, they landed on the island of Idhra to fight Turkish occupiers. In 1935, Princess Marina of Greece visited Haiti to express her country's gratitude for Haiti's contribution to the struggle against Turkish domination.

6. **Aid to the Belgian Struggle for Independence.**
   In 1830, Belgian revolutionaries received the support of the Haitian government in their struggle for independence. After victory, the Belgians adopted Haiti's national motto "In Unity There Is Strength."

# Political History of



# HAITI

# *Haiti: A Brief Political History*

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| 1492 | December 5—Christopher Columbus lands at St. Nicolas. |
| 1492–1503 | The American population (Arawaks and Caribs) are enslaved and decimated by work in gold mines. |
| 1520 | African Slaves are first brought to Haiti. |
| 1629 | French pirates and buccaneers seize La Tortue and buccaneers make it their base. |
| 1685 | Publication of the Negro Code—a series of regulations which set out to organize the black trade and colonial methods of production. |
| 1697 | Treaty of Ryswick confirms France sovereignty over the western part of Hispaniola island. |
| 1749 | Foundation of Port-au-Prince the capital of Haiti. |
| 1770–1790 | St. Domingue, known as "La Petite France" (Little France) accounts for 2/3 of French foreign trade. |
| | The population is made up of 40,000 white settlers 28,000 mulattoes, and 450,000 black slaves. |
| 1791 | General slaves' uprising. |
| 1793 | Slavery abolished in St. Domingue. |
| 1795 | Treaty of Bale under which Spain cedes the eastern part of island to France. France recovers sovereignty in 1809. |
| 1801 | Toussaint Louverture establishes the island's autonomy under French suzerainty. |
| 1802 | Napoleon Bonaparte sends a punitive expedition to restore colonial power and reintroduce slavery. War of Independence. Toussaint captured and exiled in June 1802; died in French prison April 7, 1803. |
| 1804 | January 1—Dessalines proclaims independence. The country readopts its indian name of Haiti (mountainous land). |
| 1806 | October 17—Dessalines assassinated. |
| 1807–1818 | Alexandre Petion governs separate republic in south. Peasant uprising in Grande Anse. |
| 1807–1820 | Henri Christophe rules the northern part of the country and proclaimed himself king. |
| 1820 | Haiti reunified under Petion's successor, Jean Pierre Boyer. |
| 1822–1824 | Haiti occupies Santo-Domingo. |
| 1825 | Independence of Haiti recognized by France in exchange for huge indemnity. |
| 1888–1915 | Political instability and government functionalism increase. |
| 1915–1934 | Occupation of Haiti by U.S. Marines. |
| 1915–1919 | Resistance by peasant guerillas led by Charlemagne Péralte. |
| 1946,1950, 1956 | The Army seizes power after outgoing presidents try to remain in office. |
| 1957 | Francois "Papa Doc" Duvalier "elected" president. |
| 1958 | The "Tontons Macoutes" corps is formed. |
| 1964 | "Papa Doc" proclaims himself president-for-life. |
| 1971 | Duvalier dies after proclaiming his 19-years-old son, Jean-Claude, successor and president-for-life. |
| 1986 | Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier forced out of power after weeks of mass uprisings. Military junta formed to replace outgoing dictator. |
| 1987 | November 29—Massacre of dozens of voters lined up to cast their ballots leads to cancellation of elections. |
| 1988 | February 7—Lesly Manigat selected by Army after rigged elections. |
| | June 19—Manigat ousted by Army led by General Henri Namphy. |
| | September 11—St. Jean Bosco's Church attacked and burned to the ground by Namphy's henchmen—over a dozen dead and 73 wounded. |
| | September 17—Namphy ousted by rebel soldiers and replaced by General Proper Avril. All around the country soldiers arrest and remove Army commanders known to be involved in corruption, repression, and acts of brutality. |
| 1990 | March 13—Prosper Avril forced to leave power after mass protest and replaced by Judge Ertha Trouillot and 19 member state council. |
| | December 16—Presidential elections held under supervision of international institutions like OAS, UN and CARICOM. Candidate Jean-Bertrand Aristide wins 67% of the votes. |
| 1991 | February 7—Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide sworn in as president. |
| | September 30—President Jean-Bertrand Aristide overthrown by a military coup. Since then a world-wide embargo has been imposed on Haiti, and according to human rights organizations over 4,000 people have been killed. |