

The History that Binds Haiti and the U.S. Together

A compelling reason for U.S. involvement in a Haiti reconstruction program is that the history of the United States is intimately intertwined with Haiti's in several ways. U.S. founding father and first U.S. Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton was a collaborator of Toussaint L'Ouverture and co-wrote Haiti's Constitution. L'Ouverture led Haiti's successful 1804 revolution for independence, the second revolution for independence in the Western Hemisphere after the United States, the one that created the first modern nation to be governed by blacks. It also marked the consolidation of the only successful slave insurrection in known history.

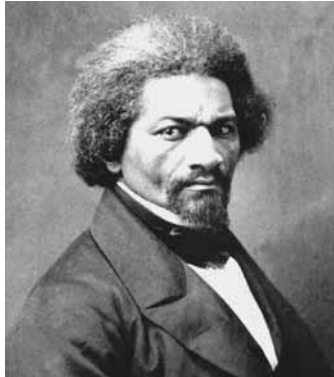
In July 1862, President Abraham Lincoln became the first President to recognize Haiti, signing the bill extending diplomatic recognition. Lincoln's friend and collaborator, Frederick Douglass, one of America's greatest sons, a former slave, and Minister-Counselor and Consul General to Haiti from 1889-91, spent years tirelessly fighting on its behalf, confident it could develop into a prosperous nation if given the chance to develop.

In a March 20, 1893 speech in Chicago, on the occasion of the Chicago World's Fair which boasted a Haiti Pavilion, Douglass [observed](#):

[T]he little community of Haiti, anchored in the Caribbean Sea, has had her mission in the world, and a mission which the world had much need to learn. She has taught the world the danger of slavery and the value of liberty. In this respect she has been the greatest of all our modern teachers....

[I]n the face of the fact that she has attached herself to the car of the world's civilization, I will not, I cannot believe that her star is to go out in darkness, but I will rather believe that whatever may happen, of peace or war, Haiti will remain in the firmament of nations, and, like the star of the north, will shine on and shine on forever.

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt shared Douglass's optimism about Haiti as he demonstrated in



New York Historical Society

Frederick Douglass



Franklin D. Roosevelt

his Good Neighbor policy. He was the first U.S. President to set foot on Haitian soil—he visited twice—and in an October 14, 1943 toast at the White House to visiting Haitian President Elie Lescot, he asserted:

I have had the most intense interest in the Republic of Haiti, and the development of its people in a way *that will never mean exploitation by any other Nation.*

Emphasizing that Haiti's development, even in manufacturing, "is not against our interests," FDR added, "I think that not only can Haiti learn a lot from us, but we can learn a lot from Haiti," noting that more should be done to help Haiti "grow more of their own food supplies."

In fact, thanks to measures taken under the Good Neighbor Policy and credit extended by the Eximbank, Haiti did become self-sufficient in food production. Roosevelt also promoted the project to build the Peligré Dam in Haiti's fertile Artibonite Valley, which became reality in the 1950s under the auspices of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), founded in 1942 by then Vice President Henry Wallace.

With the potential for modernizing this region of Haiti through flood protection, abundant electric power generation and crop irrigation, the project was known as Haiti's "valley of hope," and a "little TVA" after the magnificent Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) project implemented by the Roosevelt administration under the New Deal, which led to the stunning modernization and transformation of ten U.S. states.

where half the population earns less than \$3 per day, most parents can't afford the expense of a private school, yet many struggle to scrape together the money to pay for it.

Brain drain is another big problem for Haiti. The World Bank has documented that 84% of university graduates leave the country soon after graduating. The country has many talented engineers, but there are few of them relative to what is needed.

Haiti's school system must be overhauled, with a greater emphasis placed on the role of public schools. Two thousand new modernized public-school buildings will be built, and 1,000 existing buildings upgraded with modern water systems and bathrooms, ventilation systems, lunchrooms, etc. They will also be earthquake- and hurricane-proofed, using successful designs used in other earthquake-prone nations. A reasonable goal is to complete half this program within five years. In addition to this, the current low monthly wage of the average elementary school teacher, \$445 or 47,300 gourdes, should be regularized and doubled.

Optimally, the school curriculum should be based

on Wilhelm von Humboldt's classical school curriculum, with a heavy emphasis on science and classics.

The Schiller Institute proposes that, as the number of science degrees is increased, two universities should be built, dedicated to engineering, with an initial class of 250 students each, and with the student body increasing over the years. Programs for Haitian machine tool trainees are to be instituted, of around four or five years of combined classroom education and on-the-job training.

Immediately after the January 12, 2010 Haitian earthquake, Lyndon LaRouche proposed the creation of a 1930s-style Civilian Conservation Corps project to employ Haitian and American youth. Today, the Schiller Institute's Committee for the Coincidence of Opposites proposes to immediately establish such a project of 5,000 youth from each country to be trained and work as apprentices on reconstruction projects or in COVID-19 tracing and vaccination operations and hospital service.

Haiti's future, like the world's, lies with its youth. The Schiller Institute has here presented the broad plan of what is needed, around which to mobilize to make that future a reality.

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Already being implemented, this plan is taking over the direction of national economies from sovereign governments, using the power of central banks and the too-big-to-fail private financial institutions, cutting off credit to fossil fuel power generation and to industrial and agricultural enterprises claimed to emit too much carbon. Meanwhile it is creating a new huge bubble in the "sustainable fuel" sector, hoping to prop up the increasingly bankrupt financial system.

Stopping it by returning to a Hamiltonian American System credit policy, requires an understanding which is the purpose of this report.

EIR
Special Report

The Great Leap Backward LaRouche Exposes The Green New Deal



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