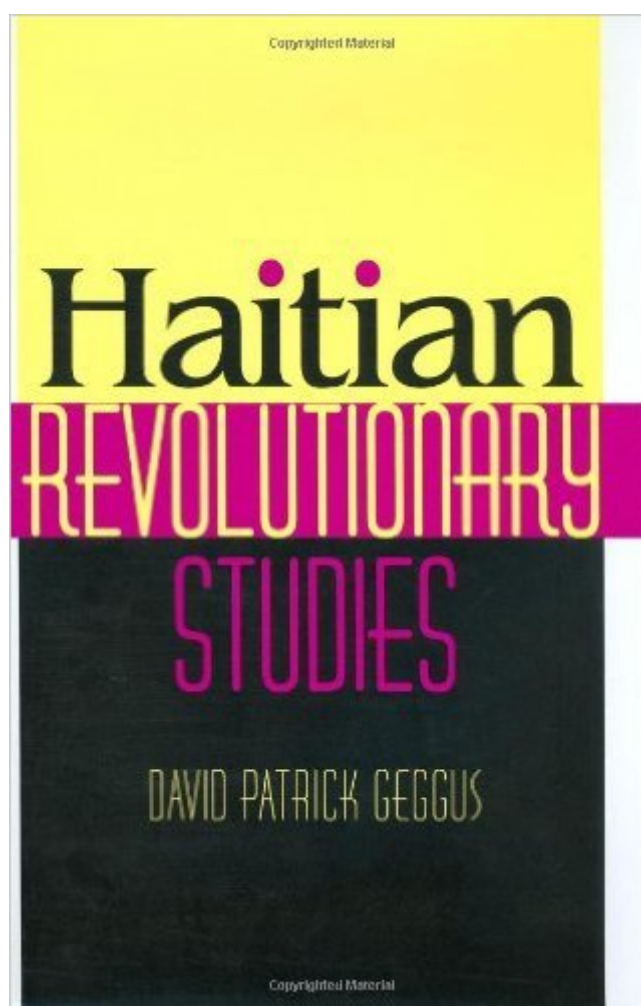


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Haitian Revolutionary Studies (Blacks In The Diaspora)



Synopsis

The Haitian Revolution of 1789–1803 transformed the Caribbean's wealthiest colony into the first independent state in Latin America, encompassed the largest slave uprising in the Americas, and inflicted a humiliating defeat on three colonial powers. In *Haitian Revolutionary Studies*, David Patrick Geggus sheds new light on this tremendous upheaval by marshaling an unprecedented range of evidence drawn from archival research in six countries. Geggus's fine-grained essays explore central issues and little-studied aspects of the conflict, including new historiography and sources, the origins of the black rebellion, and relations between slaves and free people of color. The contributions of vodou and marronage to the slave uprising, Toussaint Louverture and the abolition question, the policies of the major powers toward the revolution, and its interaction with the early French Revolution are also addressed. Questions about ethnicity, identity, and historical knowledge inform this essential study of a complex revolution.

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Customer Reviews

This is a great collection of essays by the person who might be the most prominent historian of the Haitian Revolution right now. Some essays are outright classics, such as the one on Toussaint

Louverture's 'volte face' in 1794. Very well researched. Perfect for university classes on related topics.

An interesting book with one major flaw, the authors speculate too much. That defect is in evidence in the chapter on why the nation was called Haiti. The writer argues that the name indicates a wish on the part of mulattoes to distance themselves from Africa. The documentary evidence for such claim, as far as the information found in the book, is nil. I found that claim absurd. All the main leaders of the revolution were born on the island whether they were black or mulatto, why would they want to call the country New Africa? It made sense for English explorers to call New York by that name because they knew what York was like. Haitians were not immigrants.

This book is evidence of yet another sickening episode of the result of slavery and the slave trade. It is a revelation of the shocking depths to which the human mind, fueled by greed, is capable of degenerating. In a sense it can teach and encourage those of us with higher ideals to continue to aspire to make our world a better place for all humanity.

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