HAITIAN HISTORY, POLITICS, ECONOMICS:


This book is definitely a tome, but is perhaps the most complete and authoritative history of Haiti in English.

*From Dessalines to Duvalier: Race, Colour and National Independence in Haiti* David Nicholls, (1995)

Another good general history of Haiti.


A Classic account of the Haitian slave revolution of 1791-1803, written from a Marxist perspective.


Analyzes the origins and development of the Duvalierist power structure, its use of violence and rhetoric, the economic consequences, and the disjuncture between nation and state.


A journalists account of the fall of Duvalier and the time leading up to Aristide’s presidency.

*When the Hands are Many: Jenny Smith, (2001)*

A historically grounded overview of how the Haitian state and certain foreign powers have sought to develop rural Haiti and relates how Haitian peasants have responded to such efforts.

*The Uses of Haiti* Paul Farmer, (2003, updated)
A Chomsky-like analysis of the exploitation of Haiti by the US with emphasis on post-Duvalier period.


An exploration of the historical and present-day cultural divide between Haiti and the Dominican Republic.


Haitian women tell their own stories of struggle, survival, and hope.

*Haiti’s Predatory Republic: The Unending Transition to Democracy* Robert Fatton; (2002)

An analysis of Haitian politics from 1986 to 2001 that reveals the complications and conflicts which have slowed the country’s progress toward an effective democracy.

*Mountains Beyond Mountains: The Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer, a Man Who Would Cure the World* Tracy Kidder; (2003)

The Story of a Harvard medical doctor and professor who considers his most important work to be in a hospital in rural Haiti.


Cadet recounts the story of his youth as a restavec as well as his climb to middle-class American life.

**HAITIAN ART, CULTURE & RELIGION:**

*Where Art is Joy: Haitian Art: The First Forty Years* Selden Rodman, (1990)


A broad overview of Haitian culture, including, but not limited to Voodoo. The appendices include songs, games, and proverbs.


A balanced summary of traditional Haitian religion placed in Haiti’s recent
historical context.

*Voodoo in Haiti* Alfred Metraux, (1989)

A Classic and detailed record of Voodoo history, theory, and practice by a French Anthropologist.

**HAITIAN LITERATURE:**

*The Magic Orange Tree: And Other Haitian Folktales* Diane Wolkstein, (1997, updated)

An excellent collection of Haitian folktales, which also provides a context for their telling.


A novel from a young and widely-praised Haitian American woman, based on historical events of the massacre of thousands of Haitians in the Dominican Republic in 1937.


The most widely known and acclaimed Haitian novel.

*The Festival of the Greasy Pole* Rene Depestre, (1990, translation)

An imaginative novel and political satire of life under Francois Duvalier.

*The Kingdom of this World* Alejo Carpentier, (1989, translation)

A fictional account of the struggle for Haitian independence.

*The Comedians* Graham Greene, (1991)

A novel set in the historic Haitian Hotel Oloffson.

**GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC ANALYSIS:**


A Classic critique of our common assumptions of the causes of hunger in a recently updated edition.

A critique of economic practice and the narrowness of the traditional economic theory.


An excellent collection of essays offering a critique of the central claims of the dominant economic theory.

A Fate worse than Debt Susan George, (1998)

An Excellent analysis of the Third World crisis.