

The U.S occupied Haiti from 1914 to 1934 due to its strategic importance:

- . Geographical location and potential for port facilities.
- . Material wealth.
- . Manpower.

This 20 year occupation sought to provide security and control to the U.S business and financial interests in Haiti. The U.S occupying forces promptly:

- . Took over the Haitian National Bank and seized the Haitian gold reserves which were sent to the vaults of the U.S National City Bank in New-York. (What happened to that gold? Care to find out? go ahead and search).
- . Effected changes in the Haitian constitution to enable U.S and other foreign nationals to own land in the Haitian republic.

The occupation was instrumental in building the infrastructure necessary to facilitate the flow of goods from U.S agri-business and mining ventures. According to Haitian and U.S sources it was also characterized by:

- . Economic corruption.
- . Appropriation of Haitian citizens' property to benefit U.S military, agricultural and mining interests.
- . Forced (unpaid) labor imposed on the peasantry.
- . Press censorship.
- . Public racial slurs and segregation.
- . Massacre of Haitian peasants

At the onset of the occupation U.S troops systematically destroyed the Palm of Liberty palm trees planted on every public square after the Haitian war for independence as a symbol of our becoming the first Black sovereign nation in our hemisphere and bringing about the official end of slavery. This heralded the first great destruction of Haitian rain forests where chainsaws unknown so far by the Haitian peasantry enabled the U.S occupying forces to cut and export our first-growth trees. Today U.S missionaries continue to cut the great sacred trees as they had done in the past to stop the rituals that go on at their roots.

U.S agri-business exporting Haitian coffee, sugar, sisal and other crops as well as mining companies extracting bauxite (Reynolds aluminum) and copper continued well after the first U.S occupation throughout the Duvalier (Papa and Baby Doc) dictatorships from the 1950's to the 1980's. We lived through an alliance between dictatorship and U.S interest that are still in place today through our various post Duvalier governments and whose result are still felt:

- . Systematic destruction of all our local black pigs in the 1970's a devastating blow to the Haitian peasant economy of which the pig was the mainstay, and one of the main causes for the waves of peasant exodus toward the U.S (boat people).
- . Lowering or removing the Haitian duty taxes for U.S imports such as surplus American pigs to replace the eradicated Haitian ones and American rice, putting Haitian peasant rice growers out of business and causing new waves of boat people.

.Violent removal of Haitian peasants from their lands to facilitate joint U.S-Haitian government ventures, seeking to establish duty-free zone factories where Haitian peasants would then become workers for less than 4.00 U.S dollars per day.

This scenario continued through the post dictatorship government of Aristide ( the priest) who upon being reinstated to power in the 1990's returned on the wings of a second U.S occupation which later morphed into the U.N occupation we are dealing with today and to which we owe the implantation of cholera in our waterways. the advantages granted the U.S by this second occupation:

.Lowering of the customs import duties for the U.S from 30% to 0 to 3% ( Check the Clinton/Aristide rice agreement for which Bill later apologized) further destroying the local peasant rice economy.

.Successfully setting up the duty-free zone in Marivareaux (at the Haitian-Dominican border) which Baby Doc had been unable to bring to fruition and which Aristide with bulldozers and police force to remove the peasant farmers, established for the benefit of joint interest in the U.S and Dominican Republic whose quota for such ventures had been filled.

The present Haitian government (marking a return to the Duvalier power) continues these prevarications on the Haitian peasant farmers which cause their flight to the U.S. In 2009, one year before the Haiti earthquake, the Clinton Haiti Office was established but remained dormant until right after the earthquake when it received 2 billion U.S dollars in donations due to the Baby Bush and Bill Clinton appeals for funds to help the quake victims. There is no official breakdown on how those funds are being used but when Haiti had been declared open for business again by its own government, renewed U.S ventures flooded Haiti with our post-quake blues:

.Pressuring the Haitian government to keep minimum wage under 4 or 5 U.S dollars.

. Contracts for extracting and exploiting the gold brought closer to the surface by the quake were given to Hillary Rodham Clinton's brother.

.Projected exploitation of Haitian petroleum previously unheard of and also brought to light by the quake.

.Extensive land grabbing in which the Clintons and their friends participated, bringing in geologists to assess the contents of the subsoil.

Post-quake Haiti continues to experience violent removal of peasant farmers from their lands in many regions to satisfy U.S and foreign mining, agri-business and big tourism interests.

Finally these two quotes from the man who was U.S president at the end of the first U.S occupation of Haiti, which by the way, is the very same island cruise ships advertise as Hispanola, the name given to it by Christopher Columbus and his gang:

"Remember that all of us are descended from immigrants."

"Those of you who have been to Haiti know that it is one of the most beautiful countries in the world. It has everything both above the ground and under the ground. It is an amazing place...and when I die Haiti will be inscribed in my heart." Franklin D. Roosevelt.

