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# A Concise History Of The Haitian Revolution

**A CONCISE HISTORY  
OF THE HAITIAN  
REVOLUTION**  
JEREMY D. POPKIN



## **Synopsis**

This book offers students a concise and clearly written overview of the events of the Haitian Revolution, from the slave uprising in the French colony of Saint-Domingue in 1791 to the declaration of Haiti's independence in 1804. Draws on the latest scholarship in the field as well as the author's original research. Offers a valuable resource for those studying independence movements in Latin America, the history of the Atlantic World, the history of the African diaspora, and the age of the American and French revolutions. Written by an expert on both the French and Haitian revolutions to offer a balanced view. Presents a chronological, yet thematic, account of the complex historical contexts that produced and shaped the Haitian Revolution. Jeremy D. Popkin is T. Marshall Hahn Jr. Professor of History at the University of Kentucky, and is the author of *You Are All Free: The Haitian Revolution and the Abolition of Slavery* (2010) and *Facing Racial Revolution: Eyewitness Accounts of the Haitian Uprising* (2008).

## **Book Information**

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 7 hours and 29 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Audible Studios

Audible.com Release Date: March 13, 2013

Language: English

ASIN: B00BTKT1F0

Best Sellers Rank: #68 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > History > Latin America #75 in Books > History > Americas > Caribbean & West Indies > Haiti

## **Customer Reviews**

A very readable introduction to the Haitian Revolution. It is a good place to start if you are new to the subject matter and is suitable to assign to undergraduate classes (as I have done). Popkin adeptly narrates the complicated ins-and-outs of the uprising, without losing sight of its historical significance or larger international context. Thankfully, it avoids the hero worship of some other works on the topic, while still giving the truly talented leadership of the revolution (L'Ouverture, Dessalines, Christophe, Moise, etc.) their due. For those interested in further reading, I recommend C.L.R. James's seminal study, *\*Black Jacobins\**, as well as more recent works by Laurent Dubois and Carolyn Fick. For a more inside-baseball view that gets into the fine print and details of the

Haitian Revolution and its context, have a look at some of David Geggus's books and edited volumes.

This is an outstanding book by a brilliant yet humble scholar. I've read several books about Haitian history and, in particular, about the Revolution, but this one is, by far, the clearest of the lot. Popkin leaves no stone unturned, he takes the reader by the hand and develops the narrative slowly but surely. The causes of the insurrection are presented in detail, every development is commented upon, and the main characters (French Commissioner Sonthonax, Toussaint Louverture, Jean-Jacques Dessalines, André Rigaud and others) are as fully delineated as surviving documentation allows. In addition, the book calls the reader's attention to apparently insignificant details or episodes which hold a key to understanding Haiti's national character. While I wouldn't do without Laurent Dubois (Avengers of the New World), C.L.R. James (Black Jacobins) and even Philippe Girard (Haiti: A Tumultuous History, a very iconoclastic book), this is where I would start my study of Haitian history. And believe me, it's a fascinating history. Thank you, Professor Popkin, for a job wonderfully done.

Excellent read from beginning to end great book on the topic. Excellent source for teaching the Haitian Revolution, very vivid.

Need more true stories like this to come out.

Very informative, bought for a class

GREAT READ

Nice clean book

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