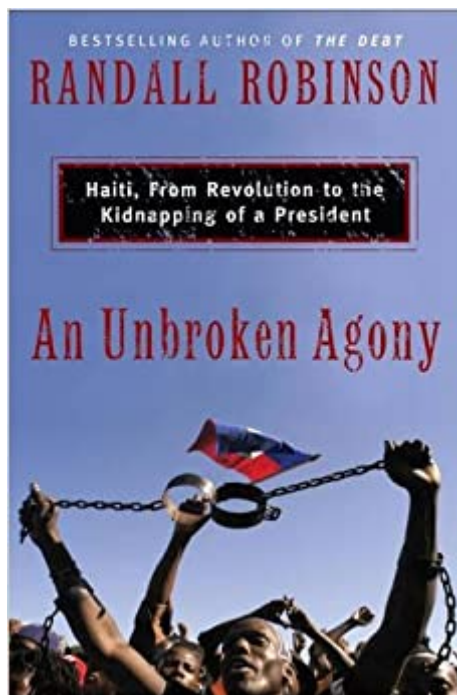




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An Unbroken Agony: Haiti, From Revolution To The Kidnapping Of A President



Synopsis

On February 29, 2004, the first democratically elected president of Haiti, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, was forced to leave his country. The president was kidnapped, along with his Haitian-American wife, by American soldiers and flown to the isolated Central African Republic. In *An Unbroken Agony*, best-selling author and social justice advocate Randall Robinson chronicles his own cross-Atlantic journey to rescue the Haitian president from captivity in Africa while also connecting the fate of Aristide's presidency to the Haitian people's century-long quest for self-determination.

Book Information

Paperback: 304 pages

Publisher: Civitas Books (May 6, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0465070531

ISBN-13: 978-0465070534

Product Dimensions: 5 x 10 x 1 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 stars 30 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,070,029 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #96 in [Books > History > Americas > Caribbean & West Indies > Haiti](#) #40649 in [Books > History > World](#)

Customer Reviews

The title promises a history of Haiti, but Robinson (*The Debt*, etc.) delivers a brief for former president Jean-Bertrand Aristide and an excoriation of American policies and actions related to his exile. The portrait of Aristide borders on hagiography: Of all the public Christians I have known personally, Aristide led a life that emulated the implacable Christ whose sympathies for the poor Aristide had since childhood taken to heart. The Americans, meanwhile, are largely portrayed as evil: American officials had armed and directed the thugs, organized an unelected and unelectable opposition, and choked the Haitian economy into dysfunctional penury. Robinson's righteous outrage often turns to rant, and his passionate, partisan account veers into repetition, without providing adequate context for his ire. He offers minute descriptions of Aristide's abduction to the Central African Republic in September 1994, his flight and the efforts to save and relocate him, but spends little time on Aristide's governance as Haiti's first democratically elected leader. For the uninitiated, Haiti must appear to be a bewildering stew of obscure and violent events, Robinson writes. How sad that he did not use these pages to clarify the broth. (Aug.) Copyright © Reed

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Outspoken to the point of controversy, activist Robinson's bold address addresses the dire consequences of centuries of racism, most famously arguing for reparations to African Americans for slavery in *The Debt* (2000). Here he focuses his penetrating attention, vigorous analysis, and drum-roll eloquence on crimes against Haiti. A searing overview of Haitian history and the reasons behind the black nation's persistent poverty and isolation is followed by a riveting account of the 2004 coup against President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, a former humanitarian priest "twice overwhelmingly elected president by the poor." Robinson marshals strong evidence to support his belief that the Bush administration engineered Aristide's removal, and he has firsthand knowledge of the debacle. As friends of the Aristides, Robinson and his wife were in contact with the couple just before they were hustled off to the Central African Republic. Two weeks later, Robinson accompanied U.S. congresswoman Maxine Waters on a daring rescue mission that resulted in the Aristides finding temporary asylum in Jamaica. Robinson's dramatic account makes it clear that many questions remain unanswered. Seaman, Donna --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

When violent rebels descended on Port-au-Prince in 2004, and President Aristide left Haiti in a hurry, one big question was left hanging over the National Palace: did he run or was he kidnapped? The theme of this book is starkly presented and aggressively argued: that Aristide, Haiti's only president democratically elected by the common people, was kidnapped by the United States on behalf of the mulatto elite, and spirited away to exile in Africa, thus ensuring continuation of an unjust social order that has prevailed in Haiti for generations. Of course, Aristide's critics argue that the former priest fell into the corrupt ways of most of his predecessors. His supporters will say that the US could not countenance the surging popularity of a president whose genuine interests lay with the poor and oppressed. What makes this book disturbing is that its arguments are convincing, and that a dispassionate reader might well be left thinking that America's continued interference in Haitian affairs is more to do with commercial self-interest than anything akin to altruism. As recent troubles demonstrate, the agony of Haiti's poor seems never to end, and the country's social, political and economic woes seem to intensify by the day. Left to its own devices, Haiti would almost certainly be just as big a disaster area as it is today, a country ravaged by natural calamities and corrupt politicians. But it's perhaps time it was left alone. Certainly, there is nothing to suggest that

American interference has made things better. Aristide was viewed by many as Haiti's last chance. But he isn't there anymore.

An excellent book that provides an historical perspective and traces the events that have contributed to Haiti's current malaise

i received it right on time and it was in great condition. i haven't read it yet because it is a required text for my Cultural Pluralism class. but as far as receiving time and condition, i give it two thumbs up!! i am a very satisfied customer. Thank you.

The media is always telling us that Haiti is the poorest country in the western hemisphere, but it never tells us why?? Mr. Robinson does, the US and France have been torturing Haiti since it gained its freedom from France, and they have done a damn good job!!

Randall Robinson an incredible and detailing voyage into the kidnapping of The President of Haiti..

Well written, unbiased, and very informative. He does a great job of giving the reader the real history and struggle of Haiti. Beneficial to all Americans, French, and Haitians alike.

Author did okay. I am more partial to a book called "The Haitian people."

I was hoping to read more hard facts about what happened to Aristide in 2004. It's a good narration of events and historical facts about Haiti. Good read for all who wish to attend Haiti 101.

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