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Avengers Of The New World



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Synopsis

The first and only successful slave revolution in the Americas began in 1791 when thousands of brutally exploited slaves rose up against their masters on Saint-Domingue, the most profitable colony in the eighteenth-century Atlantic world. Within a few years, the slave insurgents forced the French administrators of the colony to emancipate them, a decision ratified by revolutionary Paris in 1794. This victory was a stunning challenge to the order of master/slave relations throughout the Americas, including the southern United States, reinforcing the most fervent hopes of slaves and the worst fears of masters.But, peace eluded Saint-Domingue as British and Spanish forces attacked the colony. A charismatic ex-slave named Toussaint Louverture came to FranceÃ¢â ¬â„¢s aid, raising armies of others like himself and defeating the invaders. Ultimately Napoleon, fearing the enormous political power of Toussaint, sent a massive mission to crush him and subjugate the ex-slaves. After many battles, a decisive victory over the French secured the birth of Haiti and the permanent abolition of slavery from the land. The independence of Haiti reshaped the Atlantic world by leading to the French sale of Louisiana to the United States and the expansion of the Cuban sugar economy.Laurent Dubois weaves the stories of slaves, free people of African descent, wealthy whites, and French administrators into an unforgettable tale of insurrection, war, heroism, and victory. He establishes the Haitian Revolution as a foundational moment in the history of democracy and human rights.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book is the best document I have had about Espaniola, The information about the revolution is priceless, the slavery description is also most informative. The writer's approach to inform about the Dominican Republic and Haiti actions provides an unusual lot of information in one text and gives a better than most, interresting and complete view of the situation at one time. It is a very well explained situation of the French military involvment and of the action/reaction of the slave element within the then white society. The emergence of Haiti is well covered in this book.

The Haitian Revolution, although a major event in history of the 18th century, is nowhere near as famous as the earlier American or French Revolutions. Perhaps the fact that Haiti is a small, relatively powerless country in comparison to the United States and France plays a role in this historical amnesia. Nevertheless, the Haitian Revolution was an important event in the history of the Caribbean, as Haiti was the first country to gain independence from a European power in the Caribbean. It was also the only successful slave revolt in world history.I purchased this book along with Phillipe Girard's book The Slaves who defeated Napoleon, which covers the 1802-04 war that ended with Haitian independence for a close friend of mine who is Haitian. She greatly enjoyed both Girard's book and this one by Dubois. I have read both books myself, and while Dubois' account is the best about Saint Domingue, the slave revolt, and the abolition of slavery, for readers who want to know more about the phase of the war that ended when Haiti became independent, would be advised to read Girard's book instead. But for those who are interested in pre-revolutionary Haiti and the slave revolt, they need look no further than Avengers of the New World. Anybody interested in Haiti would do well to read this wonderfully written volume.

The book is a great look into Haitian history and should be read by anyone who wants to learn about Haitian history.

Extraordinary story-telling. DuBois confronts a daunting, byzantine topic and renders it clearly. The prose is beautiful and moving. While giving Toussaint Louverture his rightful share in the narrative, DuBois avoids discussing him until well into the story, a perfect decision. DuBois' most profound

claim is that "great men" and grand events in France notwithstanding, Saint Domingue's slaves freed themselves through their willingness to kill and be killed in pursuit of the basic dignity and a more reasonable material existence that slavery denied to them. A must-read.

Historically fluent literature. Wonderful read.

A thoughtful, easily read overview of the Haitian revolution and concurrent social and economic changes. Highly recommended for anyone interested in an introduction to this neglected and oft overlooked event in democratic, republican, and anti-colonial history.

I want to thank Laurent Dubois for this great educational masterpiece. This book is awesome. I'm haitian but there's a lot of informations that i have not learned from the books that i've studied and read. for those of you who want to learn about this great nation and its past, I recommend this book for you.

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