



NHSMUN

CRISIS - CABINET OF HAITI

BACKGROUND GUIDE

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Global Partnerships
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Anshul Magal
Analucia Tello

Sofia Velasco
Renata Venzor

Dear Delegates,

My name is Adam Allibhoy, and I am thrilled to welcome you to NHSMUN 51 and our very own Haitian Cabinet Crisis! Joseph and I could not be more excited to serve as your directors. Over the past few months, we have put a lot of work into choosing and writing about the Haitian Cabinet. However, we could not have done it without the help of countless other NHSMUN staffers. Haiti's tumultuous history has made it prone to struggles across many facets of modern Haitian society. Now, in this simulation, it will be up to you to help address them, and I cannot wait to see what you all come up with.

I was born and raised in Los Angeles, and I am a huge believer in West Coast supremacy. I'm a current sophomore at the University of California, San Diego studying Neurobiology. Some of my hobbies include playing video games, playing D&D and other games with my friends, and going on long-winded rants about The Lord of the Rings. I love sports, especially basketball and soccer.

This will be my ninth year involved in MUN, and it has been an incredible journey for me. At this point, I have attended and staffed more conferences that I can keep track of. However, staffing NHSMUN has been one of the greatest privileges of my MUN career. In the previous NHSMUN, I served as one of the assistant directors for the South Korean National Security Council Crisis. I had a lot of fun preparing and running the committee, and I met some truly wonderful people as a part of this staff. To any graduating high school students, I highly encourage you to apply to join the NHSMUN staff once the conference is over.

Currently, Haiti is in an incredibly difficult position. Even after it achieved independence, colonial subjugation severely hindered the country's development, and Haiti is still feeling these effects. However, its people are very strong-willed. They have survived onslaughts of natural disasters, and their revolutionary spirit still persists to this day. While many simply wish to live their lives in peace, others want to take matters into their own hands, as gangs have seized major Haitian cities and infrastructure. The government is wracked with instability in the absence of a permanent head of state. Parliament has largely stalled, the country has not held elections in eight years, and international intervention could plunge Haiti further into international debt. Now, a Transitional Presidential Council seeks to restore democracy while the Cabinet works to keep the country afloat.

My advice: try to get creative with your solutions. Above all, do not be afraid to try something new—innovation is vital in order to progress. Regardless of your level of experience, all delegates are welcome and can make an impact in this committee. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out and send us an email. Good luck with your research, and I cannot wait to meet all of you in March!

Best,

Adam Allibhoy

Crisis: Cabinet of the Republic of Haiti, Session I

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Sofia Velasco
Renata Venzor

Dear Delegates,

My name is Joseph Loverdi, and I am extremely excited to welcome you to the Haitian Cabinet Crisis committee at the 2025 National High School Model United Nations Conference! Adam and I are honored and excited to be your directors. Over the course of many months of research, we have picked the Haitian Cabinet as our topic. Haiti has had a long and turbulent history, and recent events have worsened the situation there. We look forward to seeing you all, and having constructive discussions to create meaningful solutions in committee.

I am from Voorhees Township, New Jersey (one of many NJ-based Philadelphia suburbs), and have been doing Model UN for seven years. My school never attended NHSMUN, and I have not directed at the conference before, but I am very excited to get started here! Here is some more about me. I am a junior at Rutgers University majoring in Political Science and History (RU rah rah!). At school, I was previously a member of the Institute for Domestic and International Affairs (IDIA), where I have directed at RUMUN and PhilMUN, two conferences the organization runs. I also served on the organization's Executive Board my sophomore year. Outside of school altogether, I am a massive sports fan; hockey (go Blues!) and soccer (Bournemouth fan here) are my favorites.

As delegates in this committee, you will be tasked with control over Haiti in the present day, one of its most pivotal moments as a country to date. Haiti has no elected officials, no president, and an acting Prime Minister. Elections have not been held in almost ten years, and must be planned. Gangs are running rampant throughout the streets of Haitian cities and played a major role in the resignation of the prior Prime Minister. The economy is in its worst state ever, and has failed to recover from major natural disasters. Haiti owes millions to international creditors and is partially relying on an international police force to maintain the peace. Through substantive debate and directive writing you delegates will shape the course of Haiti's present and future, hopefully bringing stability to a country that has not seen it in hundreds of years.

I love crisis committees due to the wide range of power each delegate has, and the ways that they can use these powers to shape events both domestically and internationally. With the distinct positions each cabinet member holds and the fast-paced nature of a current cabinet, I cannot wait to see how you all choose to tackle a real-world issue with seemingly no solution in sight. But I also love Model UN due to the cooperation it urges and the connections you make. I highly encourage you to form those bonds and work together, as it will make your experience that much more enjoyable and give you an edge in committee. Some of my most cherished friendships have been made through MUN, and I hope you are able to make some of those bonds at NHSMUN 2025. I cannot wait to meet you all in March, but until then please reach out with any questions you may have.

Best,

Joseph Loverdi

Crisis: Cabinet of the Republic of Haiti, Session II

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A Note on the NHSMUN Difference

Esteemed Faculty and Delegates,

Welcome to NHSMUN 2025! We are Terry Wang and Jordan Baker, and we are this year's Secretary-General and Director-General. Thank you for choosing to attend NHSMUN, the world's largest and most diverse Model United Nations conference for secondary school students. We are thrilled to welcome you to New York City in March.

As a space for collaboration, consensus, and compromise, NHSMUN strives to transform today's brightest thinkers, speakers, and collaborators into tomorrow's leaders. Our organization provides a uniquely tailored experience for all through innovative and accessible programming. We believe that an emphasis on education through simulation is paramount to the Model UN experience, and this idea permeates throughout numerous aspects of the conference:

Realism and accuracy: Although a perfect simulation of the UN is never possible, we believe that one of the core educational responsibilities of MUN conferences is to educate students about how the UN System works. Each NHSMUN committee is a simulation of a real deliberative body so that delegates can research what their country has said in the committee. Our topics are chosen from the issues currently on the agenda of that committee (except historical committees, which take topics from the appropriate time period). We also strive to invite real UN, NGO, and field experts into each committee through our committee speakers program. Moreover, we arrange meetings between students and the actual UN Permanent Mission of the country they are representing. Our delegates have the incredible opportunity to conduct first-hand research, asking thought-provoking questions to current UN representatives and experts in their respective fields of study. These exclusive resources are only available due to IMUNA's formal association with the United Nations Department of Global Communications and consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. No other conference goes so far to deeply immerse students into the UN System.

Educational emphasis, even for awards: At the heart of NHSMUN lies education and compromise. Part of what makes NHSMUN so special is its diverse delegate base. As such, when NHSMUN distributes awards, we strongly de-emphasize their importance in comparison to the educational value of Model UN as an activity. NHSMUN seeks to reward students who excel in the arts of compromise and diplomacy. More importantly, we seek to develop an environment in which delegates can employ their critical thought processes and share ideas with their counterparts from around the world. Given our delegates' plurality of perspectives and experiences, we center our programming around the values of diplomacy and teamwork. In particular, our daises look for and promote constructive leadership that strives towards consensus, as real ambassadors do in the United Nations.

Debate founded on strong knowledge and accessibility: With knowledgeable staff members and delegates from over 70 countries, NHSMUN can facilitate an enriching experience reliant on substantively rigorous debate. To ensure this high quality of debate, our staff members produce detailed, accessible, and comprehensive topic guides (like the one below) to prepare delegates for the nuances inherent in each global issue. This process takes over six months, during which the Directors who lead our committees develop their topics with the valuable input of expert contributors. Because these topics are always changing and evolving, NHSMUN also produces update papers intended to bridge the gap of time between when the background guides are published and when committee starts in March. As such, this guide is designed to be a launching point from which delegates should delve further into their topics. The detailed knowledge that our Directors provide in this background guide through diligent research aims to increase critical thinking within delegates at NHSMUN.

Extremely engaged staff: At NHSMUN, our staffers care deeply about delegates' experiences and what they take away from their time at NHSMUN. Before the conference, our Directors and Assistant Directors are trained rigorously through hours of workshops and exercises both virtual and in-person to provide the best conference experience possible. At the conference,

delegates will have the opportunity to meet their dais members prior to the first committee session, where they may engage one-on-one to discuss their committees and topics. Our Directors and Assistant Directors are trained and empowered to be experts on their topics and they are always available to rapidly answer any questions delegates may have prior to the conference. Our Directors and Assistant Directors read every position paper submitted to NHSMUN and provide thoughtful comments on those submitted by the feedback deadline. Our staff aims not only to tailor the committee experience to delegates' reflections and research but also to facilitate an environment where all delegates' thoughts can be heard.

Empowering participation: The UN relies on the voices of all of its member states to create resolutions most likely to make a meaningful impact on the world. That is our philosophy at NHSMUN too. We believe that to properly delve into an issue and produce fruitful debate, it is crucial to focus the entire energy and attention of the room on the topic at hand. Our Rules of Procedure and our staff focus on making every voice in the committee heard, regardless of each delegate's country assignment or skill level. Additionally, unlike many other conferences, we also emphasize delegate participation after the conference. MUN delegates are well researched and aware of the UN's priorities, and they can serve as the vanguard for action on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Therefore, we are proud to connect students with other action-oriented organizations to encourage further work on the topics.

Focused committee time: We feel strongly that face-to-face interpersonal connections during debate are critical to producing superior committee experiences and allow for the free flow of ideas. Ensuring policies based on equality and inclusion is one way in which NHSMUN guarantees that every delegate has an equal opportunity to succeed in committee. In order to allow communication and collaboration to be maximized during committee, we have a very dedicated administrative team who work throughout the conference to type up, format, and print draft resolutions and working papers.

As always, we welcome any questions or concerns about the substantive program at NHSMUN 2025 and would be happy to discuss NHSMUN pedagogy with faculty or delegates.

Delegates, it is our sincerest hope that your time at NHSMUN will be thought-provoking and stimulating. NHSMUN is an incredible time to learn, grow, and embrace new opportunities. We look forward to seeing you work both as students and global citizens at the conference.

Best,

Terry Wang
Secretary-General

Jordan Baker
Director-General

A Note on Research and Preparation

Delegate research and preparation is a critical element of attending NHSMUN and enjoying the debate experience. We have provided this Background Guide to introduce the topics that will be discussed in your committee. We encourage and expect each of you to critically explore the selected topics and be able to identify and analyze their intricacies upon arrival to NHSMUN in March.

The task of preparing for the conference can be challenging, but to assist delegates, we have updated our [Beginner Delegate Guide](#) and [Advanced Delegate Guide](#). In particular, these guides contain more detailed instructions on how to prepare a position paper and excellent sources that delegates can use for research. Use these resources to your advantage. They can help transform a sometimes overwhelming task into what it should be: an engaging, interesting, and rewarding experience.

To accurately represent a country, delegates must be able to articulate its policies. Accordingly, NHSMUN requires each delegation (the one or two delegates representing a country in a committee) to write a position paper for each topic on the committee's agenda. In delegations with two students, we strongly encourage each student to research each topic to ensure that they are prepared to debate no matter which topic is selected first. More information about how to write and format position papers can be found in the NHSMUN Research Guide. To summarize, position papers should be structured into three sections:

I: Topic Background – This section should describe the history of the topic as it would be described by the delegate's country. Delegates do not need to give an exhaustive account of the topic, but rather focus on the details that are most important to the delegation's policy and proposed solutions.

II: Country Policy – This section should discuss the delegation's policy regarding the topic. Each paper should state the policy in plain terms and include the relevant statements, statistics, and research that support the effectiveness of the policy. Comparisons with other global issues are also appropriate here.

III. Proposed Solutions – This section should detail the delegation's proposed solutions to address the topic. Descriptions of each solution should be thorough. Each idea should clearly connect to the specific problem it aims to solve and identify potential obstacles to implementation and how they can be avoided. The solution should be a natural extension of the country's policy.

Each topic's position paper should be **no more than 10 pages** long double-spaced with standard margins and font size. **We recommend 3–5 pages per topic as a suitable length.** The paper must be written from the perspective of your assigned country and should articulate the policies you will espouse at the conference.

Each delegation is responsible for sending a copy of its papers to their committee Directors via [myDais](#) on or before **February 21, 2025**. If a delegate wishes to receive detailed feedback from the committee's dais, a position must be submitted on or before **January 31, 2025**. The papers received by this earlier deadline will be reviewed by the dais of each committee and returned prior to your arrival at the conference.

Complete instructions for how to submit position papers will be sent to faculty advisers via email. If delegations are unable to submit their position papers on time, please contact us at info@imuna.org.

Delegations that do not submit position papers will be ineligible for awards.

Committee History

Modern day Haiti was founded in 1804 after Haiti's independence from Spain after a long and brutal war for independence. The country's name was derived from the native Taino word, *Ayiti*, and was first led by Jean-Jacques Dessalines. He declared himself emperor, but was assassinated in 1806, leading to political instability. Slavery and a new agreement to pay reparations to France kept the population destitute. Very little industrial progress was made throughout the early to mid-19th century.¹

In December 1914, the United States invaded Haiti. They were worried about Haiti's growing instability and rising German influence in the country. This move led to a US occupation of Haiti up until 1934. During the US occupation of Haiti, the US forced the country to adopt a new constitution that permitted foreign land ownership and centralization of administration. Haitians protested against the US occupation, until 1929, when American forces began to withdraw. Before the US officially left in 1934, they trained Haitian officials who would take over the government.

Following the U.S withdrawal from Haiti a chain of unstable governments led to Francois Duvalier's dictatorship which was responsible for the deaths of around thirty thousand people and empowered Duvalier's ruling clique, the Tonton Macoutes. Duvalier's dictatorship began to crumble as he became more autocratic. With the international community increasingly hesitant to supply aid, Haiti's industries fell apart. Protests soon swept the country, peaking in late 1985 when police fired on student protestors. This left a bitter taste in the minds of the people for the Duvalier government, which fell in early 1986.² After the Duvalier Era, Haiti attempted to form democratic institutions. However, its first president, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, was unseated by coups in 1991 and 2004. This led the United Nations to embark on a Brazil-led UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) in 2004, lasting thirteen years and was mostly poor at ensuring political stability. During MINUSTAH, several tumultuous elections, political vacuums, and assassinations occurred. The current interim prime minister of Haiti is Garry Conille until elections are held in August 2025.³

The current day Cabinet of Haiti is a body within the executive branch of the Haitian government which is led by the Prime Minister of Haiti. The Prime Minister selects their Cabinet which is often made up of members of Haiti's legislative body and other close advisors to the Prime Minister. Historically, the Cabinet typically provides support and advice to the Prime Minister and cabinet ministers oversee the specific ministries that they are responsible for. However, the recent political turmoil in the country has made the Cabinet the de facto governing body of the country as leaders decide on how to restart democratic elections. The Cabinet must address both political crises affecting the country while deciding on the best path forward through the many crises impacting Haiti.

1 "Milestones in the History of US Foreign Relations." n.d. Milestones in the History of US Foreign Relations - Office of the Historian. Accessed September 26, 2024. <https://history.state.gov/milestones/1784-1800/haitian-rev>.

2 Nicholls, David. "Haiti: The Rise and Fall of Duvalierism." *Third World Quarterly* 8, no. 4 (1986): 1239–52. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3991713>.

3 Maizland, Lindsay, Irina A. Faskianos, Diana Roy, and Rocio C. Labrador. 2024. "Haiti's Troubled Path to Development." Council on Foreign Relations. <https://www.cfr.org/background/haitis-troubled-path-development#chapter-title-0-2>.

Simulation

This committee will be operating with some modified procedural aspects because of the unique way that delegates will be able to change the flow of the committee. There will be less of an emphasis on formal debate and, because of the nature of a crisis simulation, the committee will encourage fast and detailed debate. Because delegates represent individuals tied to areas of government as opposed to the countries in general, roles are more specific, while also giving delegates the task of ensuring that their actions are appropriate for both who they represent and the governing body as a whole.

Because this crisis simulation has specific responsibilities and mandates, delegates must be aware that each action taken must follow their representative's unique policy while also falling in line with actions prescribed in the governing body's mandate. If an action is taken outside of its mandate, it will be ruled improper and removed from consideration. The aforementioned responsibilities require different procedural mechanisms; thus, this committee will use heavily modified procedural rules during both the mandate review and crisis management portions of debate. Due to the complex nature of this committee, we encourage delegates to read the following pages thoroughly.

Individual and Committee Mandates

The committee will be called upon to resolve any crises that may take place under the purview of the committee. Delegates should be acutely aware of the actors and interests surrounding the issues, the possible causes, and barriers to solutions.

Delegates must become absolute experts on the background, politics, and past actions of their assigned positions. This exceptional knowledge is needed to prepare for updates that will be presented to delegates at an extremely rapid rate. New crises will emerge throughout committee sessions, and delegates must call upon past actions attempted by the committee as well as the current situation to formulate a response that is in line with their assigned character's policy. If delegates are not aware of their standing on an issue of their own policy platforms, contradictory and unfeasible policies may arise, slowing down committee and halting debate. With informed delegates, the committee will make informed decisions. For a more detailed account of the various roles, their duties, and functions, please refer to the Committee Representatives section of the paper.

Similarly, delegates must be well informed of the powers of the committee and the types of decisions it is empowered to make. Anything outside the mandate of the body will not be accepted. The committee will be tasked with a variety of issues that will encompass many parts of its mandate, and so prioritizing will be key to ensuring that crises are responded to efficiently. Various actors will have access to information or resources which the whole committee does not have access to. As a result, individuals will have to make decisions on whether they want to respond to issues unilaterally, work with other actors, or through the committee as a whole. Delegates will also have their own agendas, and delegates must consider what they can gain for their countries by approaching a situation in a certain way.

Special Parliamentary Procedures

To better control the unique powers of this committee, special rules and procedures will be adopted. Three forms of debate will be used in this crisis simulation: round robin, roundtable, and moderated caucus. When a standard committee ends a caucus with no further motions, debate automatically returns to the speakers list. This is called the "default debate format." In our simulation, once another form of debate is exhausted, such as a moderated or unmoderated caucus, the committee will revert to a non-exhaustible moderated caucus with a speaking time to be decided at the chair's discretion. This will be this committee's new default debate format. The speaking time can be adjusted by the delegates via a motion.

To modify the default debate style, delegates will have a new procedural motion available to them during debate being a “motion to change the default debate style.” The motion will require a simple majority to pass and will not require any speakers for or against. At the start of committee, the chair will accept motions to set the debate style, generally a moderated caucus with speaking time selected by simple majority; however, the dais understands that it may become necessary from time to time for the committee to create a speakers list or enter a round robin of speeches to have each delegate elaborate on their respective policies.

If the committee reaches a portion of debate where delegates feel that a more fluid form of procedure is needed, such as a time elapsing crisis in which delegates will be forced to solve a specific issue in a controlled period, a new form of debate is necessary. Debate during these segments will need to move much faster than the crisis debate before this period to meet the time requirements set by the dais at which the crisis shall be solved. During these situations, the committee can vote for a roundtable discussion. Thus, delegates will openly discuss the crisis at hand without a structured speaking time. This form of debate resembles an unmoderated caucus that is held at the table to help delegates hear all points of view on the present without a time limit. Of course, if delegates find that the crisis requires a lot of writing, an unmoderated caucus can be motioned for as well.

The last form of debate style is called “round robin.” During this form of debate, each delegate will be allotted a time to speak on the topic. Each time this form of debate is used, a different person will start a speech and then move clockwise or counterclockwise from that delegate. If a delegate wishes to not speak on the issue, they can merely say “pass” to the chair, and their speaking time will be absorbed by the dais. In addition, a delegate may also say, “I yield my time to the chair” to skip his/her speech. Note that personal pronouns here are appropriate because delegates are representing individuals, not countries. To move into this style of debate, a delegate may simply request the following: “motion to change the debate style to a round robin.”

Final Products

The document output for the crisis portions will be heavily modified as well. Because of the nature of the updates provided throughout committee, there will be no resolutions used in this committee. Instead, the committee may pass three types of documents: **press releases**, **communiqués**, and **directives**. Press releases and communiqués are similar documents but have quite different uses. Press releases are when the committee or individuals wish to make information of any kind available to the public. On the other hand, communiqués are addressed to particular individuals and will not be released into the public eye. Anyone who can access a newspaper can subsequently access press releases, but only selected recipients can access communiqués. Thus, if a committee member only wants one other member to know of their stance on an issue, a communiqué may be issued to only that one member.

Directives are of an entirely different nature. Standard resolutions take far too long to write and are very ineffective when dealing with constant crisis. Thus, the committee will utilize directives as an alternative to resolutions. Directives exercise the executive power of the committee in any way that it sees fit. For example, delegates of the committee may redirect aid, distribute pamphlets about the issues, or anything that delegates can think of as long as it falls under the mandate of this special session. Directives are only comprised of sponsors and operatives, and all perambulatory clauses that a resolution must have are stripped. Thus, a directive is a less formal resolution, having only the operative needed and sponsors enlisted.

Each of these documents will require a different voting procedure to be passed. Communiqués sent from individuals concerning a representative’s own organization do not need to come before a public vote. Rather, the communiqué is simply handed to chair and immediately passed. Similarly, for directives, if it is within the individual powers of your organization then the committee does not have to pass it for it to go into effect. However, the committee must approve communiqués and directives sent from the governing body. These documents must have three members as sponsors to be considered, and no signatories are needed. After the directive or communiqué is presented to the dais, the dais will formally present it to the committee. At this time, the committee

may either vote immediately on the piece, or the committee may continue to debate the proposal. To enter voting procedure, the committee must approve a motion to vote on the proposals on the floor, and it requires two-thirds to pass. Proposals that pass will immediately go into effect, and proposals that fail will no longer be recognized by the dais and will be returned to one of the sponsors. The document may be altered and reintroduced, but it must go through the voting process once again.

Final Notes and Summary

This committee will be moving extremely quickly, especially during crisis situations. There is no formula to provide the real-time at which a crisis is moving (e.g., 1 crisis minute = 1 simulation hour) since this would make some portions of debate outlandishly quick and others extremely slow. Instead, crisis times and allotted periods for discussion will be under the chair's discretion. All crises will be accompanied by a day, month, and year to keep delegates aware of how the committee is moving. Clearly, this committee is extremely unique and moves at a much different pace than all other committees at NHSMUN. However, if delegates come into committee having read this document and already possessing a rudimentary understanding how this secretariat will function, then the committee shall run smoothly. Delegates will also quickly pick up these concepts as debate moves.

If there are any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the Crisis directors.



CRISIS - CABINET OF HAITI

NHSMUN 2025



TOPIC A: POLITICAL STABILIZATION AND NATIONAL RECOVERY

Photo Credit: ICRC

Introduction

Haiti has dealt with an unstable government and weak economy for the vast majority of its history. The weakness of the government has allowed crime groups across the country to take over in recent years.¹ This has created unique challenges for the Haitian people as Haiti struggles to get back on its feet. Haiti is also susceptible to natural disasters, which have battered the country for decades. The continuous instability and damage from increasingly severe natural disasters has left the country in a desperate state.

One of the most important issues facing Haiti today is its poor economy. The country is over reliant on agriculture, which comprises over half of the country's labor force and around one fifth of its gross domestic product (GDP).² As such, it is incredibly important that conditions are created for the economy to diversify. Mismanagement and a lack of foreign investment has made it hard for the economy to continue to grow and provide more opportunities for its citizens. The lack of growth is made even worse by the spread of gang activity in Haiti. Today, over 80 percent of Haiti's capital, Port-au-Prince, is controlled by gangs.³ These organized gangs and militias make life increasingly more desperate for civilians and make it difficult for much needed aid to reach those in need. This forced Prime Minister Ariel Henry to resign in March 2024 after it became clear to him and his government that they alone would not be able to control the gangs.⁴ Combating organized crime will require more than just the domestic police. Part of this is why Haiti established diplomatic ties with Kenya in 2023.⁵ This is incredibly important, as Kenya is heading a United Nations (UN) multinational police force sent to Haiti.⁶ This has angered the gangs, who have increased their activities in order to delay this force's arrival in Haiti. One of the leaders of the gangs, Jimmy Cherizier, had warned that they will fight until the UN police force leaves.⁷ The gangs' resistance to this police force shows how entrenched they are

in Haitian society today.

Organized crime and the absence of the rule of law has also driven countless Haitians to flee the country. Over 1.6 million Haitian citizens live abroad, largely due to gang violence.⁸ Countries across the Caribbean and in the Americas have seen an influx of Haitian refugees crossing into their borders. The millions within the Haitian diaspora have also moved up north to the United States border. This has further worsened the existing migrant crisis occurring there. There are also almost 600,000 internally displaced Haitians (IDPs) today.⁹ IDPs complicate the domestic situation even more, as IDPs are the most vulnerable to human rights abuses. Without any significant humanitarian aid from international organizations, Haitian IDPs will continue to complicate the domestic situation.

As the Cabinet of Haiti, delegates will need to identify their priorities when it comes to stabilizing a country in distress. They must balance a militarized approach to tackling the gangs with ensuring the safety of civilians in gang-controlled areas. Policies must be implemented to grow Haiti's economy and strengthen its foreign policy. These are crucial steps that must be taken, and in doing so will secure a safer future for Haiti. However, the committee should also keep in mind Haiti's deep

1 Ellen Ioannes. "Haiti's Prime Minister Is Out. Here's How It Got so Bad." *Vox*, March 13, 2024. <https://www.vox.com/world-politics/2024/3/12/24098422/haiti-prime-minister-ariel-henry-resigns-gang-violence-g9>.

2 "Haiti." *International Fund for Agricultural Development*, accessed July 19, 2024, <https://www.ifad.org/en/web/operations/w/country/haiti>.

3 Jillian Kestler-D'Amours. "Who Are Haiti's Gangs and What Do They Want? All You Need to Know." *Al Jazeera*, March 13, 2024. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/3/13/who-are-haitis-gangs-and-what-do-they-want-all-you-need-to-know>.

4 Ellen Ioannes. "Haiti's Prime Minister Is Out. Here's How It Got so Bad."

5 Reuters. "Haiti, Kenya Set up Diplomatic Ties." *Reuters*, September 21, 2023. <https://www.reuters.com/world/haiti-kenya-establish-diplomatic-ties-2023-09-21/>.

6 Ellen Ioannes. "Haiti's Prime Minister Is Out. Here's How It Got so Bad."

7 Eyder Peralta. "Haiti's Notorious Gang Leader, Barbecue, Says His Forces Are Ready for a Long Fight." *NPR*, May 13, 2024. <https://www.npr.org/2024/05/13/1250860448/haitis-notorious-gang-leader-barbecue-says-his-forces-are-ready-for-a-long-fight>.

8 Beatrice Dain and Jeanne Batalova, "Haitian Immigrants in the United States," *Migration Policy Institute*, November 8, 2023, <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/haitian-immigrants-united-states>.

9 "Protracted Crises in Haiti Drive 60 Per Cent Increase in Displacement since March," *International Organization for Migration*, June 18, 2024, <https://www.iom.int/news/protracted-crises-haiti-drive-60-cent-increase-displacement-march>.

rooted colonial history.¹⁰ This will be especially important when looking for assistance from much stronger neighboring countries such as the United States. This committee has the power to reshape modern day Haiti, and create a stable future for the country through diplomacy. Through collaboration and compromise, there is a chance the Republic of Haiti can finally be on track for recovery.

History and Description of the Issue

Haitian Decolonization and The Duvalier Era

Haiti was first colonized by the French in the 1660's with French settlers transporting thousands of slaves from Africa to the island of Hispaniola. The slave trade would go on to be a major part of Haiti's history for several decades as colonial powers continued to use the island as a base for the trade of sugar cane, coffee, and other commodities.¹¹ However, multiple slave revolts would break out on the island in the 1700's as slaves began to significantly outnumber white colonial settlers. Toussaint L'Ouverture was a notable icon in early Haitian history. Recognized for leading an army of enslaved people that continued to resist French forces. L'Ouverture became a symbol for the struggles of the slaves of the island. During the start of the revolts, he quickly became a leader thanks to his charisma and tactical prowess. In February 1793, France declared war against Great Britain. Recognizing France's weak position, L'Ouverture forged an alliance with Spanish forces in Santo Domingo in June of 1793.¹² Using their support, he forced France to fight off multiple other colonial superpowers and quickly took control of territory throughout Saint-Domingue. However, this would not mark the full beginning of Haitian independence. Several other powerful leaders would rise as the small island continued to fight off French forces over the next few decades. This would finally end in

1825 when Jean-Pierre Boyer negotiated Haiti's independence from France in return for 150 million francs from Haiti as reparations for the French settlers and plantation owners.¹³

Despite independence, Haiti still struggled with political instability. The violent transfer of power after each leader meant that the country did not have the government and political strength to manage and govern the island. This caught the attention of the US as it was afraid that continued European influence in Haiti would harm American geopolitical interests. As a result, the US intervened in Haiti in 1915 and signed the 1915 Haitian-American Treaty which gave the US almost full control over Haiti.¹⁴ US occupation would last for another 19 years. During the occupation, social unrest and revolts broke out frequently and made it increasingly difficult for the US to maintain its occupation. Following the withdrawal in 1934, the US still maintained a sizable presence on the island and held de facto control over the foreign and economic policies of the newly independent island.

Since its initial independence in 1825, Haiti had been led by mulatto, or mixed, Haitians. Mulatto Haitians prided themselves on their European heritage.¹⁵ They saw themselves as more cultured than black Haitians. This, to them, gave them the right to run Haiti. The Haitian political elite were all mulatto, and even if a black Haitian was Haiti's leader, they were a figurehead for the mulattoes.¹⁶ In 1946, Dumarsais Estime, a black Haitian, was elected president by the Haitian legislature. Estime was one of the first black Haitian leaders of Haiti. His tenure saw many young black Haitian intellectuals serve in his administration. However, the rise in black Haitians working for the government resulted in distrust and anger in the mulatto class. As a result, General Paul Magloire overthrew Estime in 1950 and reversed a majority of Estime's progressive policies.¹⁷ Francois "Papa Doc" Duvalier, a civil servant in Estime's government, was forced out of his position

10 Congressional Research Service. "Haiti's Political and Economic Conditions," March 5, 2020. <https://sgp.fas.org/crs/row/R45034.pdf>.
11 Diana Roy and Rocio Cara Labrador, "Haiti's Troubled Path to Development," Council on Foreign Relations, Last updated June 25, 2024, <https://www.cfr.org/background/haitis-troubled-path-development>.
12 Kedon Willis, "How Toussaint L'Ouverture Rose from Slavery to Lead the Haitian Revolution," History, Last updated August 18, 2023, <https://www.history.com/news/toussaint-louverture-haiti-revolution>.
13 "Jean-Pierre Boyer," Encyclopedia Britannica, Last updated July 5, 2024, <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Jean-Pierre-Boyer>.
14 David Suggs. 2021. "The Long Legacy of the US Occupation of Haiti." Washington Post, August 6, 2021. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/history/2021/08/06/haiti-us-occupation-1915/>.
15 Anselme Remy. "The Duvalier Phenomenon," *Caribbean Studies* 14, no. 2 (1974): 38–65. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/25612610>.
16 Anselme Remy. "The Duvalier Phenomenon."
17 Albin Krebs "Papa Doc, a Ruthless Dictator, Kept the Haitians in Illiteracy and Dire Poverty." *The New York Times*, April 23, 1971. <https://www.nytimes.com/1971/04/23/archives/papa-doc-a-ruthless-dictator-kept-the-haitians-in-illiteracy-and.html>.

when General Magloire took over. Angered and empowered by fellow black Haitians, Duvalier decided to create a secret society focused on overthrowing the new government and reinstating Estime’s progressive government.

To gather more support, Duvalier created his own political ideology. This ideology was known as Duvalierism and was aimed at rallying the black middle class.¹⁸ Duvalierism is an offshoot of black nationalism and claimed that Haiti had a cultural crisis.¹⁹ Duvalierism argued that the mulatto elite used their power to reinforce French contributions to Haitian culture. It was believed that the mulattoes completely disregarded the contributions African slaves had made to Haitian heritage and society. Duvalierism claimed that this insulted the majority of Haitians, most of whom were black. It forced them into seeing themselves as “colored Europeans”.²⁰ This led black Haitians to be disenfranchised as the mulatto Haitians continued to hold power.

To solve this problem, Duvalierism advocated a re-education of the Haitian mind. This would be done through emphasizing African influence on Haitian culture. This included reviving

18 Anselme Remy. “The Duvalier Phenomenon.”

19 Anselme Remy. “The Duvalier Phenomenon.”

20 Anselme Remy. “The Duvalier Phenomenon.”

21 David Nicholls. “Haiti: The Rise and Fall of Duvalierism.” *Third World Quarterly* 8, no. 4 (1986): 1239–52. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3991713>.

22 Nicholas Forsans. “How Haiti Became a Failed State.” *The Conversation*, n.d. <https://theconversation.com/how-haiti-became-a-failed-state-225116>.

23 Albin Krebs. “Papa Doc, a Ruthless Dictator, Kept the Haitians in Illiteracy and Dire Poverty.”

Haitian Vodou which was a prominent Haitian religion that was developed by slaves in the 19th century. Creole language was also a prominent tenant of Duvalierism and was seen as the key to carving a unique Haitian identity that was separated from its French colonial roots. This would bring African culture to the forefront in Haiti, restoring pride to black Haitians. With this newly found cultural power, the goal was for black Haitians to gain more influence and prominence in Haiti.

Duvalier’s ideology would be the driving force that helped him become elected in 1957. This election was an important one since it was the first election where the people directly elected the president of Haiti. By adapting this ideology, Duvalier could rely on the masses, rather than elite mulatto Haitians, to put him in power. It also helped that his opponent, Louis Dejoie, was widely seen as the candidate for the mulatto class.²¹ The next year, Duvalier survived a military-backed coup attempt.²² In response, Duvalier cracked down on the army, reducing it to 5,000 loyal soldiers by 1968.²³ Duvalier’s intense mistrust of the army led him to create the Tonton Macoutes, his own paramilitary force, in 1959. This led to further crackdowns on

President Francois Duvalier

Credit: Unknown artist



any potential opponents, ranging from trade union leaders to members of his own party.²⁴ The Tonton Macoutes were given free rein to handle any opposition to Duvalier.²⁵ They would threaten, torture, and kill any Haitian suspected of dissent. They were also immune to any internal prosecution. Duvalier personally oversaw the Tonton Macoutes, making them accountable only to him. Due to this, no legislative body or court had any jurisdiction over them.²⁶ The Tonton Macoute would operate until 1986. During that time, they killed over 60,000 Haitians and forced many more into exile, beginning a human capital flight that plagues Haiti to this day.²⁷

Duvalier had other methods to consolidate control over Haiti. One of them was his adoption of Vodou. Vodou is a religion based on ancestral spirits and patron saints.²⁸ It combines features from Catholicism and African spirituality. It is incredibly popular in Haiti, especially among peasants. As far back as 1946, Duvalier had claimed Vodou to be the “supreme factor of Haitian unity.”²⁹ He used its popularity to appeal to the Haitian masses.³⁰ Vodou also helped him solidify his rule. It was a valuable tool for Duvalier to gain information about rural areas of Haiti due to its popularity there. Duvalier consulted with Vodou priests regularly to receive this information.³¹ He also did this to create a cult of personality. Duvalier encouraged rumors that he had supernatural powers gifted to him through Vodou.³² This dissuaded any opposition to him. Also, many Tonton Macoute leaders were Vodou priests, giving them a sense of heavenly authority.³³

Duvalier was initially supported by the US due to his anti-Marxist stance. When Duvalier suffered a near-fatal heart attack in 1959, the US flew in specialists to treat him.³⁴

American arms sent to Haiti were used to supply the Tonton Macoute.³⁵ This relationship changed following Duvalier’s further consolidation of power. In 1961, Duvalier created a unicameral legislature composed of members of his party only. He used this to force through an autocratic constitution and extend his term to 1967.³⁶ By 1964, after seeing off one last coup attempt from the head of the Tonton Macoute, Duvalier had declared himself president for life. The US finally moved to cut ties, and stopped sending aid to Haiti.

Haiti’s economy had never been strong under Duvalier, and the lack of US aid made matters even worse. This caused Duvalier to change his tone. The government stopped interfering with business. It guaranteed certain protections and less taxes if they refrained from direct political action.³⁷ Duvalier had long been opposed to the Church in Haiti as well. Many Haitian priests had spoken out against Duvalier resulting in the Tonton Macoutes assassinating or exiling a majority of them. Duvalier soon appointed new clergymen to try to fix relations with the church after the US stopped aid. However, his violent repression continued. He dissolved all youth organizations in the country following student protests. His hatred of the Church continued, and he was eventually excommunicated from the Catholic Church after continuing to deport clergymen who criticized his rule.³⁸ However, the end of Duvalier’s rule was approaching. In 1970, Duvalier suffered another heart attack which was made worse by diabetes and improper treatment. In 1971, Duvalier signaled that he was willing to give his son, Jean-Claude, power due to his ailing health.³⁹ Francois Duvalier would die on April 21, 1971, only a few hours after he transferred his powers to his son.

24 David Nicholls. “Haiti: The Rise and Fall of Duvalierism.”

25 “The Tonton Macoutes: The Central Nervous System of Haiti’s Reign of Terror.” 2010. COHA. <https://coha.org/tonton-macoutes/>.

26 “The Tonton Macoutes: The Central Nervous System of Haiti’s Reign of Terror.”

27 “The Tonton Macoutes: The Central Nervous System of Haiti’s Reign of Terror.”

28 Guilberly Louissant. “What Is Haitian Voodoo?” *The Conversation*, n.d. <https://theconversation.com/what-is-haitian-voodoo-119621>.

29 R. Anthony Lewis, “Language, Culture and Power: Haiti under the Duvaliers,” *Caribbean Quarterly* 50, no. 4 (2004): 42–51, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/40654478>.

30 R. Anthony Lewis, “Language, Culture and Power: Haiti under the Duvaliers.”

31 Time. “The Death and Legacy of Papa Doc Duvalier.” *TIME*, January 17, 2011. <https://time.com/archive/6598315/the-death-and-legacy-of-papa-doc-duvalier/>.

32 Time. “The Death and Legacy of Papa Doc Duvalier.”

33 “The Tonton Macoutes: The Central Nervous System of Haiti’s Reign of Terror.”

34 Albin Krebs. “Papa Doc, a Ruthless Dictator, Kept the Haitians in Illiteracy and Dire Poverty.”

35 Gérard Pierre-Charles. “Haiti: A Complex Situation and an Unknown Struggle.” *Contemporary Marxism*, no. 14 (1986): 21–33. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/29765867>.

36 David Nichols. “Haiti: The Rise and Fall of Duvalierism.”

37 David Nichols. “Haiti: The Rise and Fall of Duvalierism.”

38 Albin Krebs. “Papa Doc, a Ruthless Dictator, Kept the Haitians in Illiteracy and Dire Poverty.”

39 Homer Bigart. “Duvalier, 64, Dies in Haiti; Son, 19, Is New President.” *The New York Times*, April 23, 1971. <https://www.nytimes.com>.

Jean-Claude “Baby Doc” Duvalier was 19 when he gained power in 1971. Initially, Jean-Claude continued his late father’s approach to governance and would begin implementing more progressive policies. The Macoutes’ activity was reduced, and he began to liberalize the Haitian economy.⁴⁰ Tourism and agricultural production increased. Haiti’s economy began to flourish, and between 1971 and 1980, grew around 5 percent per year.⁴¹ He also began to repair Haiti’s relationship with the US. The US was a major player in the transition of power and even paid USD 1.5 million to ensure a smooth transition of power between father and son.⁴² Jean-Claude responded by releasing some political prisoners and ensuring wider freedom of the press.⁴³ Those moves gave Jean-Claude US support and aid began to flow in at much higher rates. This aid was used to help a booming Haitian economy. Economic and social growth led to the 1970s being a prosperous and peaceful time for Haiti.

However, this economic and social progress was short-lived. Unlike his father, Jean-Claude had been wealthy his entire life, and lacked the knowledge of Haiti that his father did.⁴⁴ As a result, he relied on the businessmen for support, rather than the middle class that had bought into Duvalierism. The economic growth Haiti experienced in the 1970s began to slow down considerably. By the 1980s, Haiti’s economy was struggling and getting close to collapse. Agricultural production, which had peaked in the 1970s, dropped to record lows. Haiti’s booming assembly industry began to decline in the 1980s due to an overreliance on cheap labor and declining export prices.⁴⁵ Subsidized public services and tax-exempt commercial profits led to a lack of profit as well. Most Haitians were making less than USD 1.25 a day, and lived in slums.⁴⁶ The middle class,

which had initially supported the elder Duvalier, began to turn on his son. Jean-Claude’s liberalization, started mainly because of American pressure, led to open criticism of the regime from middle class Haitians. Jean-Claude began to crack down on this opposition, but the people had begun to lose faith in Duvalierism and its beliefs.

Popular protest movements began in the countryside in the early 1980s. By 1985, they had spread across the country. Food shortages due to low agricultural production had angered many Haitians and starvation was beginning to affect groups within the countryside.⁴⁷ Additionally, Jean-Claude continued his father’s crackdown on the clergy, albeit less successfully.⁴⁸ Clergymen became some of Jean-Claude’s biggest critics, especially after the Pope visited Haiti in 1982. Their criticism of Jean-Claude grew louder as a result. Students were also unhappy, due to a lack of food and educational opportunities. In November 1985, students began protesting over food shortages in the provincial city of Gonaives. Government troops began firing on the students, killing some.⁴⁹ This sparked nationwide anger, and protests became explicitly political. Haitians young and old took to the streets, calling for Jean-Claude to step down and for the army to take over.

The protests raged on for two months, as government troops continued to crack down, but the people had spoken. On February 6, 1986, Jean-Claude Duvalier stepped down. He claimed it was to save the country from “a nightmare of blood”.⁵⁰ Jean-Claude then boarded an American plane and fled for France as Haitians celebrated in the streets. The army reluctantly took over at the people’s beckoning, with an interim council headed by General Henri Namphy.⁵¹ After 29

com/1971/04/23/archives/duvalier-64-dies-in-haiti-son-19-is-new-president-president.html.

40 David Nicholls. “Haiti: The Rise and Fall of Duvalierism.”

41 World Bank Open Data. “World Bank Open Data,” n.d. <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.MKTP.KD.ZG?locations=HT>.

42 Gérard Pierre-Charles. “Haiti: A Complex Situation and an Unknown Struggle.”

43 The Nation. “Terror, Repression and Diaspora: The Baby Doc Legacy in Haiti | the Nation,” June 29, 2015. <https://www.thenation.com/article/archive/terror-repression-and-diaspora-baby-doc-legacy-haiti/>.

44 David Nicholls. “Haiti: The Rise and Fall of Duvalierism.”

45 United States Institute of Peace. “Haiti’s Economic Challenge,” n.d. <https://www.usip.org/publications/2006/07/haitis-economic-challenge>.

46 The Nation. “Terror, Repression and Diaspora: The Baby Doc Legacy in Haiti | the Nation,”

47 The Nation. “Terror, Repression and Diaspora: The Baby Doc Legacy in Haiti | the Nation,”

48 David Nicholls “Haiti: The Rise and Fall of Duvalierism.”

49 David Nicholls. “Haiti: The Rise and Fall of Duvalierism.”

50 Joseph Treaster, “DUVALIER FLEES HAITI TO END FAMILY’S 28 YEARS IN POWER; GENERAL LEADS NEW REGIME; 20 REPORTED DEAD.” *The New York Times*, February 8, 1986. <https://www.nytimes.com/1986/02/08/world/duvalier-flees-haiti-end-family-s-28-years-power-general-leads-new-regime-20.html>.

51 Joseph Treaster, “DUVALIER FLEES HAITI TO END FAMILY’S 28 YEARS IN POWER; GENERAL LEADS NEW REGIME; 20 REPORTED DEAD.”

years of brutal rule, the Duvaliers no longer had control over Haiti.

Natural Disasters

Haiti has a long history of severe natural disasters. The country is located on the island of Hispaniola which is part of the Greater Antilles in the Caribbean. This region has long been affected by hurricanes and other types of tropical storms that usually occur from June to November. These often result in flooding and landslides, leaving many people stranded without access to food, shelter, and other basic human needs. Hispaniola also lies directly between two fault lines, one of which passes through the country extremely close to Port-au-Prince.⁵² As a result, earthquakes and tsunamis have affected the region for centuries. Written accounts have provided a rough timeline of large earthquakes from 1618.⁵³

In the 1900s, Haiti was hit by many tropical storms, and there were several major hurricanes of note. On October 11, 1954, Hurricane Hazel arrived, a Category 4 hurricane with winds reaching over 135 miles per hour (mph).⁵⁴ It is estimated that between 400 and 1000 Haitians died from the storms, and the resulting landslides almost wiped out the town of Jeremie.⁵⁵ However, the damages in Haiti were overshadowed when Hazel reached the United States. The hurricane's landfall in the United States overshadowed the damages in Haiti, leading to less international aid being given to the island's residents.⁵⁶ In October of 1963, Hurricane Flora hit Haiti extremely hard, causing 3,500 confirmed deaths. Thousands more were unaccounted for, and it caused over USD 125 million in property damage. This time, over the next few months, the United States was much more involved in recovery efforts,

providing 330,105 pounds of supplies.⁵⁷

The 1980 hurricane season was one of the largest to date, with nine hurricanes and even more named tropical storms. As part of this season, Hurricane Allen, one of the largest recorded Category 5 hurricanes in Atlantic history, struck Haiti in August of 1980. With winds up to 180 miles per hour, an estimated 200 to 300 people were killed.⁵⁸ Over 2.5 million were affected in total, and many farms were destroyed by the storm. The damage decreased crop yields and weakened Haiti's economy. Then-President Duvalier was personally involved in recovery efforts and traveled across the country inspecting the damages across the country. He formed multiple committees headed by members of his cabinet and worked with the Haitian Red Cross and United States government to roll out aid to the people. These efforts raised roughly USD 15 million to help the recovery effort, with almost two thirds coming from the United States.⁵⁹ However, the total damage caused by Hurricane Allen is estimated at USD 500 million, so this aid was only a small fraction of what would be needed for a true recovery.⁶⁰ This has been the case after many natural disasters in Haiti. The Haitian economy has not been strong enough to stand on its own and achieve a full recovery. To this day, the frequency of natural disasters of this magnitude means that many Haitian citizens are barely able to recover until the next hurricane season causes damage again.

2008 was another extremely difficult year for Haiti, as it was ravaged by four tropical storms in less than a month. First was Tropical Storm Fay, which crossed over Hispaniola on August 15 and caused extreme flash-flooding across the island.⁶¹ Next came Hurricane Gustav on August 26, destroying much of the countryside as it continued toward Jamaica. On September

52 Jaclyn Diaz, "Why Earthquakes In Haiti Are So Catastrophic," NPR, August 16, 2021, <https://www.npr.org/2021/08/16/1027990749/haiti-earthquake-why-deadly-explainer>.

53 "The Devastating Haiti Earthquake: Questions and Answers," *Live Science*, January 13, 2010, <https://www.livescience.com/9797-devastating-haiti-earthquake-questions-answers.html>.

54 "Hurricane Hazel, October 15, 1954," *National Weather Service*, Accessed July 9, 2024, <https://www.weather.gov/mhx/Oct151954EventReview>.

55 "Hurricane Hazel 1954," University of the West Indies, Accessed July 9, 2024, <https://www.uwi.edu/ekacdm/node/226>.

56 "Hurricane Hazel, October 15, 1954."

57 "October 1963 - Haiti (Hurricane Flora)," National Museum of the US Navy, Accessed July 9, 2024, <https://www.history.navy.mil/content/history/museums/nmusn/explore/photography/humanitarian/20th-century/1960-1969/1963-haiti-hurricane-flora.html>.

58 "Hurricane Allen 1980," *National Weather Service*, Accessed July 9, 2024, <https://www.weather.gov/lch/1980Allen>.

59 "HAITI - Hurricane Allen," Office of US Foreign Disaster Assistance, August 5, 1980, https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PBAAH099.pdf?fbclid=

60 "35th Anniversary of Hurricane Allen," *US Department of Commerce*, Accessed July 10, 2024, https://www.aoml.noaa.gov/hurricane_blog/35th-anniversary-of-hurricane-allen/.

61 "Tropical Storm Fay - August 24-25, 2008," *National Weather Service*, Accessed July 9, 2024, https://www.weather.gov/bmx/event_fay2008.



Destruction from the earthquake

Credit: USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance

1, Hurricane Hanna made landfall in Haiti and intensified flooding across the country, especially in the city of Gonaïves.⁶² Finally, the Category 4 Hurricane Ike hit Haiti on September 6, capping off an especially damaging season.⁶³ In total, these four storms damaged over 110,000 homes, causing almost USD 900 million in damage. It was estimated that it would take over USD 260 million for short-term recovery alone and another almost USD 500 million over the next four years.⁶⁴ The UN requested that the international community attempt to raise USD 108 million, but by November, they had only raised around USD 30 million.⁶⁵ This lack of funding was mainly due to the 2008 Global Recession and made it difficult for countries to find extra funds to contribute.

In 2010, Haiti was hit by a massive earthquake. On January 12, the 7.0 magnitude earthquake devastated Port-au-Prince, injuring over 300,000 people, displacing almost 2.3 million, and causing over USD 8.7 billion in damage.⁶⁶ One reason

that this earthquake was so impactful is that many Haitian buildings are designed to withstand tropical storms. This means that they are more often made with concrete, bricks, and cinder blocks, which can withstand high winds but fall apart during the intense shaking of earthquakes. However, researchers believe that this earthquake marked the start of a period of much more frequent earthquakes in the region. After the January quake, a magnitude 7.2 earthquake occurred on August 14, 2021 and killed roughly 1,200 people.⁶⁷ Tropical Storm Grace made landfall just two days later on August 16, causing significant landslides and pelting the displaced victims with extreme rainfall.⁶⁸ The frequency of these natural disasters shows that designing and implementing infrastructure to better resist both storms and earthquakes could prove invaluable in Haiti's development.

Beyond physical disasters, Haiti has also faced multiple major diseases in recent history. In October of 2010, Haiti was struck

⁶² "Tropical storm Hanna kills 10 in Haiti," *Australian Broadcasting Corporation*, September 2, 2008, <https://reliefweb.int/report/haiti/tropical-storm-hanna-kills-10-haiti>.

⁶³ "HAITI – TROPICAL STORM FAY AND HURRICANES HANNA, GUSTAV, AND IKE," *Hotes Foundation*, Accessed July 10, 2024, <https://hotesfoundation.org/missions/haiti-tropical-storm-fay-hurricanes-hanna-gustav-ike/>.

⁶⁴ "Hurricanes Fay, Gustav, Hanna, and Ike 2008 Haiti Post Disaster Needs Assessment," UNDRR, Accessed July 9, 2024, <https://www.preventionweb.net/publication/hurricanes-fay-gustav-hanna-and-ike-2008-haiti-post-disaster-needs-assessment>.

⁶⁵ Rory Carroll, "We are going to disappear one day," *The Guardian*, November 7, 2008, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2008/nov/08/haiti-hurricanes>.

⁶⁶ United Nations Development Programme, *Haiti: One year later* (Port-au-Prince: United Nations Development Programme, 2015), <https://www.undp.org/publications/haiti-one-year-later>.

⁶⁷ Jaclyn Diaz, "Why Earthquakes In Haiti Are So Catastrophic."

⁶⁸ Center for Disaster Philanthropy, *2021 Haiti Earthquake and Tropical Storm Grace* (Washington D.C.: Center for Disaster Philanthropy, 2021), <https://disasterphilanthropy.org/disasters/2021-haiti-earthquake-and-tropical-storm-grace/>.

by an outbreak of cholera. Cholera is transmitted through contaminated food and water, resulting in severe diarrhea, dehydration, and death if left untreated. After infecting humans, it spreads through fecal matter and poses a large risk in densely populated areas with less access to sanitation.⁶⁹ Haiti was especially susceptible to this epidemic following the earthquakes earlier that year. As a result, cholera quickly spread through camps for displaced people.⁷⁰ Similarly, spikes occurred following Hurricanes Sandy and Matthew in 2012 and 2016, respectively.⁷¹ Cholera remained in Haiti until 2019, with over 820,000 reported cases and 9,792 deaths. Between 2019 and 2022, the government reported no cases of cholera, but it made a reappearance on October 2, 2022. Cholera is a very preventable disease, and the government quickly formed a plan in 2022 to address the rise in cases. However, they were unable to gather enough funds to properly implement the plan. The government requested USD 145.6 million through the UN, and the Haitian government received some aid from international organizations and foreign governments.⁷² There is a vaccine for cholera, and a request was partially granted for 1.6 million vaccines for Haiti.⁷³ However, the disease remains a concern for the Haitian government in 2024 since cases have remained high.⁷⁴

In 2020, COVID-19 became the primary disease concern for Haiti, when the first two cases in Haiti were reported in March of 2020. Soon after, President Moïse enacted a variety of strategies to combat the spread of the disease, including an 8:00 PM curfew, school closures, and limits on social

gatherings.⁷⁵ Despite these measures, COVID-19 continued to spread throughout the country and the government struggled to contain it. Along with the death of President Moïse, COVID-19 was another factor that contributed to Haiti delaying its elections in 2021.⁷⁶ Countries in the Americas sought to vaccinate at least 70 percent of their citizens by September 2022. By then, only 1.9 percent of Haitian citizens were fully vaccinated against COVID-19 due to logistical issues with the rollout, misinformation, and overall social unrest.⁷⁷ Despite these struggles, Haiti has recovered well, having reported no new cases since February of 2024 and stopped tracking the disease completely in April.⁷⁸

Haiti's Economy

Haiti's economy has historically faced many different challenges and difficulties. From mismanagement to heavy debt, Haiti has been held back for centuries in its ability to attract businesses and economic growth. From the beginning of Haiti's independence, it was pressured into paying France reparations and was essentially stunted in its growth from the start. Additionally, the lack of recognition by the United States and other major trading powers in the 19th century caused the island to be isolated from the world.⁷⁹ Trade did not flow in and government officials were unsure how to regulate foreign companies. The lack of experience and disconnection from the global economy made it incredibly difficult for the country to manage its resources. To this day, Haiti still struggles with managing its economy. Despite amazing agricultural

69 "Cholera - Haiti," *World Health Organization*, December 13, 2022, <https://www.who.int/emergencies/disease-outbreak-news/item/2022-DON427>.

70 Renaud Piarroux et al., "Understanding the cholera epidemic, Haiti." *Emerging infectious diseases* 17, no. 7 (2011): 1161-8, <https://doi.org/10.3201/eid1707.110059>.

71 "Rapidly Assessing the Impact of Hurricane Matthew in Haiti," *World Bank Group*, October 20, 2017, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/results/2017/10/20/rapidly-assessing-the-impact-of-hurricane-matthew-in-haiti>.

72 ReliefWeb, "UN and partners appeal for \$145.6 million to assist Haiti in response to cholera and other humanitarian emergencies," News release, November 15, 2022, <https://reliefweb.int/report/haiti/un-and-partners-appeal-1456-million-assist-haiti-response-cholera-and-other-humanitarian-emergencies-enht>.

73 "Cholera - Haiti."

74 ReliefWeb, "Epidemiological update - Cholera in the Region of the Americas - 26 April 2024," News release, April 27, 2024, <https://reliefweb.int/report/haiti/epidemiological-update-cholera-region-americas-26-april-2024>.

75 Sandra Lemaire and Matiado Vilme, "Haiti Confirms its First Coronavirus Cases," *Voice of America News*, March 20, 2020, https://www.voanews.com/a/science-health_coronavirus-outbreak_haiti-confirms-its-first-coronavirus-cases/6186111.html.

76 "Haiti elections postponed indefinitely amid political crisis," *Al-Jazeera*, September 28, 2021, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/9/28/haiti-elections-postponed-indefinitely-amid-crisis>.

77 "COVID-19: Increasing Vaccination Coverage in Haiti through community outreach," *World Health Organization*, September 2022, <https://www.paho.org/en/stories/covid-19-increasing-vaccination-coverage-haiti-through-community-outreach>.

78 Edouard Mathieu et al., "Haiti: Coronavirus Pandemic Country Profile," *Our World in Data*, Last updated July 9, 2024, <https://ourworldindata.org/coronavirus/country/haiti>.

79 Ewout Frankema and Aline Masé, "AN ISLAND DRIFTING APART. WHY HAITI IS MIREN IN POVERTY WHILE THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC FORGES AHEAD," *Journal of International Development* 26, no. 1 (May 29, 2013): 128-48, <https://doi.org/10.1002/jid.2924>.

conditions, the lack of foreign direct investment has made it difficult for Haiti to increase its exports. Coups in the past and the sanctions that would follow crippled the economy as well. Industry has yet to fully recover as the government works towards reforming the economy to become more sustainable in the long term.

Viewed as one of the poorest countries in Latin America and the Caribbean region, Haiti has relied heavily on foreign aid to help keep the country afloat. From 2010 to 2020, over USD 13 billion was provided by the UN. This aid has been used to fund disaster recovery efforts and a variety of other programs focused on developing the country.⁸⁰ These programs have varied in their effectiveness. While money continues to flow into the country and its various programs, there has been a lot of difficulty with implementing them. The poor infrastructure in the country has made it hard for aid trucks to reach parts of the country. This does not apply to just rural areas, but even urbanized areas of the country have been nearly impossible to reach due to poor road conditions. After years of disasters

unable to reconstruct a majority of its infrastructure. Another major issue for aid programs is the security of aid workers. With gangs and organized crime becoming rampant across major cities, many aid organizations and UN humanitarian workers have been unable to deliver aid to civilians who need it.⁸¹ Even if aid is delivered, the lack of security and order in cities often lead to desperate scrambles by civilians. Aid is unable to be equitably provided to everyone. This results in organized crime groups being able to step in and take advantage of the chaos to claim the aid for themselves.⁸²

Despite the setbacks, some progress has been made. Aid organizations such as the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) have made progress focusing on having aid target Haitian-led recovery.⁸³ Instead of delivering pallets of food or clothing, USAID has focused more on cash grants and working with US-based companies to help Haitian farmers rebuild their local economies to feed their communities.⁸⁴ Specifically, the Future Haiti Resilience and Agriculture Sector Advancement (HRASA) Activity targets communities to create local economies again that will help build community ties and

⁸⁰ Rocio Labrador and Diana Roy, “Haiti’s Troubled Path to Development,” Council on Foreign Relations, September 17, 2021, <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/haitis-troubled-path-development>.

⁸¹ Labrador and Roy, “Haiti’s Troubled Path to Development,”

⁸² Labrador and Roy, “Haiti’s Troubled Path to Development,”

⁸³ US Agency for International Development, “Haiti Resilience and Agriculture Sector Advancement Activity Fact Sheet | Fact Sheet | Haiti | US Agency for International Development,” US Agency for International Development, 2024, <https://www.usaid.gov/haiti/fact-sheets/haiti-resilience-and-agriculture-sector-advancement-activity-fact-sheet>.

⁸⁴ US Agency for International Development, “Haiti Resilience and Agriculture Sector Advancement Activity Fact Sheet | Fact Sheet | Haiti | US Agency for International Development,”

Slums in Haiti
 Credit: Rémi Kaupp



encourage people within communities to support each other. The creation of local businesses and taking advantage of the agricultural history allows for communities to band together and support each other through farming jobs and food. This community based approach is less direct than the deliveries led by the World Food Program. However, it has proven to build stronger relationships amongst communities in 33 different communities in Haiti.⁸⁵ HRASA has also created the groundwork for Haitians to generate wealth through employment and protect their assets like homes and farmland.

Programs like the HRASA from USAID demonstrate the value of the agricultural industry in Haiti. By the early 21st century, around two-thirds of the Haitian workforce worked in agriculture.⁸⁶ This shows that agriculture is a major contributor to the Haitian economy and is one of the sectors of the economy that needs the most recovery before Haiti can even consider expanding into other industries. Sugar, bananas, coffee, and corn have consistently been some of the most profitable goods exported by the agricultural industry.⁸⁷ If one were to add them all together, the total contribution to the economy by the agricultural industry would be more than a quarter of the country's GDP.⁸⁸ However, this industry has been ravaged by hurricanes and other natural disasters. The previously mentioned hurricanes in the 20th and 21st centuries have destroyed fields. This has caused many farmers to abandon their fields and move to the cities to seek employment. The migration of farmers from rural areas to the cities has made the food crisis in Haiti even worse by decreasing the number of farmers and functional farms in the country. As a result, less food is being domestically produced which has increased Haiti's reliance on imports. However, natural disasters are

not the only factors causing less food to be produced in the country. Poor farming practices have led to deforestation and soil erosion in many parts of the country.⁸⁹ As forests are cut down, the soil is no longer getting its nutrients and minerals replenished. Additionally, the lack of forests has made the soil loose and dry. This has made the land especially vulnerable to landslides.⁹⁰ More recently in 2008, landslides and erosion caused the destruction of 60 percent of all agricultural products in Haiti.⁹¹ This massive loss of food shows how dangerous of a position Haiti is in due to mismanagement and a lack of oversight.

Due to the mismanagement of the agricultural industry and a lack of oversight, Haiti has become an unattractive location for a majority of multinational corporations. For many companies, a country must have the government institutions in place to help manage and oversee the economy of the country. Considering the high number of coups and current instability of the government, many companies have reconsidered investing in Haiti. They view the country as a risky investment and see the instability within the country as a sign that any investments could lead to a loss. Gang violence and the lack of security has also led to many companies with existing investments to pull out of the country.⁹² This is not a good sign for Haiti since the country relies heavily on trade to help keep its economy from completely collapsing. With 41 percent of the GDP reliant on trade, Haiti needs companies to keep operations in the country in order for it to continue exporting goods to its largest trade partners: the United States and Mexico.⁹³ If companies continue to pull their investments out of Haiti, the economy would see even more strain from higher costs of transport to much

85 US Agency for International Development, "Haiti Resilience and Agriculture Sector Advancement Activity Fact Sheet | Fact Sheet | Haiti | US Agency for International Development,"

86 Rocio Labrador and Diana Roy, "Haiti's Troubled Path to Development," Council on Foreign Relations, September 17, 2021, <https://www.cfr.org/background/haitis-troubled-path-development>.

87 Nathalie Assouline and Tenin Fatimata Dicko, "Agricultural Financing in Haiti : Diagnosis and Recommendations," World Bank, January 1, 2019, 1–98, <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/580191578033510449/pdf/Agricultural-Financing-in-Haiti-Diagnosis-and-Recommendations.pdf>.

88 Assouline and Dicko, "Agricultural Financing in Haiti : Diagnosis and Recommendations,"

89 Stefan Alscher, "Environmental Degradation and Migration on Hispaniola Island," *International Migration* 49 (May 19, 2011): e164–88, <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1468-2435.2010.00664.x>.

90 Alscher, "Environmental Degradation and Migration on Hispaniola Island,"

91 Alscher, "Environmental Degradation and Migration on Hispaniola Island,"

92 Nathalie Assouline and Tenin Fatimata Dicko, "Agricultural Financing in Haiti : Diagnosis and Recommendations," World Bank, January 1, 2019, 1–98, <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/580191578033510449/pdf/Agricultural-Financing-in-Haiti-Diagnosis-and-Recommendations.pdf>.

93 Rocio Labrador and Diana Roy, "Haiti's Troubled Path to Development," Council on Foreign Relations, September 17, 2021, <https://www.cfr.org/background/haitis-troubled-path-development>.

less goods being shipped abroad. One potential solution to fixing Haiti's investment issues are state owned enterprises (SOEs). Currently, the government of Haiti oversees seven SOEs focused primarily on manufacturing simple goods.⁹⁴ While many other manufacturing companies in Haiti have shut down, these SOEs have continued to operate despite the ongoing instability. A modernization program was originally planned to have all SOEs transferred to private ownership and sold to overseas companies. However, the current situation means there are no buyers for these enterprises. Despite the lack of buyers, these SOEs could potentially be a source of stability in the Haitian economy. If the current government were to remain in power, there would be no possibility of these SOEs failing. It would allow the country to continue to rely on their manufacturing capabilities and set the groundwork for future expansion.

Despite the lack of foreign investment, a weak agricultural industry, and mismanagement of the economy, no problem holds Haiti back more than foreign debt. Currently, Haiti owes over USD 5 billion to lenders.⁹⁵ This represents around 30 percent of the country's total GDP and places Haiti in a trap. As the country looks to pay off its debts when they are due, the government is forced to ask for more loans or grants from countries, private lenders, and international organizations like the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Haiti also owes money to the Venezuelan national oil company, Petrocaribe, for subsidized oil payments.⁹⁶ These debts have made it increasingly difficult for the government to support its economy and public services since a majority of government funds are used to pay off its debts. Instead of utilizing its funds to support businesses, improve infrastructure, and make the country more attractive to investment, Haiti's government is forced to either fulfill conditions for debt cancellation or continue paying off its obligations.

However, there is still hope for Haiti's economy. In 2009, Haiti was able to meet the IMF's Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Program and saw a sizable portion of its debt canceled.⁹⁷ This shows that reforms can still be made that will give Haiti some temporary relief as it looks for a more long-term solution for its economy. Haiti was also able to have billions of dollars in its debt canceled after making democratic reforms and conducting fair elections.⁹⁸ Additionally, Haiti created a long-term economic reform program in 1996. This program was focused on budget reforms while working with international organizations to make economic and political reforms in return for grants and additional assistance. This included privatizing SOEs, rebuilding government institutions, addressing environmental issues, and investments in infrastructure and women's education.⁹⁹ These same steps could be taken shortly if Haiti seeks to decrease any portion of its ballooning debt. However, this cannot be done without having some form of political stability and order in the country.

While Haiti seems to be constantly brought down by economic issue after economic issue, the country still holds potential. It has the potential to revamp its agricultural industry. Haiti can still implement reforms to satisfy creditors to cancel their debt. It can also still attract foreign investment and create more jobs for the country's citizens. However, these reforms and changes can only be possible with the support of the people, a stronger government, and a clear vision for how Haiti can plan out its economic future. Reforms and decisions without proper economic planning will only undo all the progress that has been made.

The History of Haitian Gang Violence

Gang violence is nothing new to Haitians. While the issue has only become known worldwide in recent years, Haitians have dealt with gangs for far longer. Francois Duvalier's

⁹⁴ World Bank, "The World Bank in Haiti," World Bank, March 31, 2023, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/haiti/overview>.

⁹⁵ International Monetary Fund., "Haiti: Request for Disbursement under the Rapid Credit Facility-Press Release; Staff Report; and Statement by the Executive Director for Haiti," IMF Staff Country Reports 17, no. 38 (2017): 1, <https://doi.org/10.5089/9781475575538.002>.

⁹⁶ Ciara Nugent, "Why a Venezuelan Oil Program Is Fueling Massive Street Protests in Haiti," Time (Time, June 24, 2019), <https://time.com/5609054/haiti-protests-petrocaribe/>.

⁹⁷ International Monetary Fund., "Haiti: Request for Disbursement under the Rapid Credit Facility-Press Release; Staff Report; and Statement by the Executive Director for Haiti," IMF Staff Country Reports 17, no. 38 (2017): 1, <https://doi.org/10.5089/9781475575538.002>.

⁹⁸ International Monetary Fund., "Haiti: Request for Disbursement under the Rapid Credit Facility-Press Release; Staff Report; and Statement by the Executive Director for Haiti,"

⁹⁹ International Monetary Fund, "Press Release: IMF Approves Three-Year ESAF Loan for Haiti," IMF, October 18, 1996, <https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2015/09/14/01/49/pr9653>.

feared Tonton Macoutes can be seen as the first example of this. The Tonton Macoutes were not linked to Haiti's army in any way. Rather, they were a non-state armed group affiliated to the country's president.¹⁰⁰ They participated in political violence throughout the reign of both Duvaliers until they were disbanded in 1986. However, the Tonton Macoutes were never fully disarmed. They would continue to operate on an informal basis for many years.¹⁰¹

The two years following Jean-Claude Duvalier's ouster in 1986 saw gangs begin to form in Haiti. One of the biggest gang leaders in Haiti was Jean-Bertrand Aristide, who would later become the country's president. Aristide formed armed groups known as Chimeres. He intended to use the Chimeres to gain power for ordinary Haitians.¹⁰² They offered protection rackets against the Macoutes. After Duvalier fled the country, the Chimeres grew more powerful. Aristide would use them as security during his first term in power.

100 "Evolution of gangs, armed groups and political violence." Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime. Accessed June 27, 2024. <https://globalinitiative.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/GITOC-Gangs-of-Haiti-Timeline.pdf>.

101 "Evolution of gangs, armed groups and political violence."

102 Ellen Ioannes. "Haiti's gang violence crisis, briefly explained." Vox. Accessed June 27, 2024. <https://www.vox.com/world-politics/2023/3/26/23657163/haitis-gang-violence-crisis-explained>.

103 Walter Kemp, Mark Shaw, and Arthur Boutellis, "Haiti." *The Elephant in the Room: How Can Peace Operations Deal with Organized Crime?* International Peace Institute, 2013, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/resrep09589.7>.

104 Mark Bromley and Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, *United Nations Arms Embargoes*, 2007, <https://www.sipri.org/sites/default/files/files/misc/UNAE/SIPRI07UNAEHai.pdf>.

105 Elizabeth Gibbons, Richard Garfield, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and School of Nursing, Columbia University, New York, NY, "The Impact of Economic Sanctions on Health and Human Rights in Haiti, 1991-1994," October 1999, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1508819/pdf/amjph00010-0041.pdf>.

106 Walter Kemp, Mark Shaw, and Arthur Boutellis. "Haiti."

Gangs also flourished under Haiti's military regime, which lasted from 1991 to 1994. They used the Macoutes, by now a pro-government gang, to attack supporters of Aristide.¹⁰³ Sanctions placed on the regime by the United Nations also helped the gangs. The UN placed an arms embargo that banned the sale of weapons to Haiti.¹⁰⁴ Additional sanctions from the UN and OAS (Organization of American States) banned exports and oil shipments to Haiti.¹⁰⁵ They created a large black market in Haiti. The gangs smuggled arms through the country as a way to circumvent the arms embargo. They would sell these arms to other gang members or the Haitian military. This cemented a connection between the gangs and the army. The army turned a blind eye to the gangs' violence as long as they received arms and made a cut of the profit.¹⁰⁶

Gang membership surged during Aristide's return to power in 1994. He disbanded the Haitian military that year. Aristide's government promised to give the ex-soldiers pensions. They



Jean-Bertrand Aristide

Credit: LIBERIASTORY

would also re-train the soldiers so they could join the civilian workforce. However, they did not make much progress on those promises. International organizations had left this to the Haitian government and did not intervene to force these reforms through. This lack of action left ex-soldiers poor and unemployed. Many of them joined gangs and paramilitary groups as a result.¹⁰⁷ They were able to use their military connections and the illegal firearm trade to arm themselves.¹⁰⁸ These gangs worked for anyone who paid them, usually Haitian elites.

Aristide also used the gangs to his advantage during Rene Preval's presidency. He revived the Chimeres and used them to subvert Preval's rule. When Aristide won the 2000 election, the Chimeres would grow more useful. They worked with Haitian police to extort Haitians.¹⁰⁹ The Chimeres were also used as an instrument of political oppression. Aristide employed them as his security force, and they received power and political patronage as a result.¹¹⁰ He used the gangs to defend himself after an attempted coup in 2001.¹¹¹ This earned them more power. Like the military regime before him, Aristide turned a blind eye to their violence and crime as long as they supported him.

The gangs eventually turned on Aristide. He began cracking down on gangs and militias in 2001, shortly following the failed coup attempt. Aristide did so because he was worried about the influence they had gained over Haitian politics. In response, the National Revolutionary Front for the Liberation and Reconstruction of Haiti formed. It was an alliance between ex-soldiers and armed gangs who opposed Aristide.¹¹² One of the leaders of this group was Guy Philippe, a noted drug smuggler.¹¹³ Philippe used his ties with regional

smugglers to fund and arm the rebels. They began a full-scale rebellion against Aristide in February 2004, overtaking the city of Gonaives.¹¹⁴ By the end of the month, they had forced Aristide to flee the country.

Chaos ensued. Pro- and anti-Aristide gangs clashed in the streets. Anti-Aristide paramilitaries took control of the former headquarters of the Haitian army.¹¹⁵ Haitian elites took control of this situation by using gangs. The gangs became the leaders in slums across Port-au-Prince and were funded and armed by these elites.¹¹⁶ The elites protected the gangs from arrest, but it did not matter. The Haitian police were so undermanned that they were unable to do so anyway. Some policemen joined the gangs, who were involved in kidnappings, drug trafficking, and local racketeering.

A US-led UN peacekeeping force known as MINUSTAH was established in 2004, and intervened later that year.¹¹⁷ They were able to reduce gang activities by fighting them in the streets of Port-au-Prince. The gangs had initiated combat with MINUSTAH forces but had been driven back. This spurred MINUSTAH peacekeepers into more proactive measures, and they began to increase their anti-gang activity.¹¹⁸ This was continued with the election of Rene Preval in 2006. Preval's term, which lasted from 2006 to 2011, was characterized by a decrease in organized crime rates. He took a hardline stance on the gangs, and warned them to either "surrender or die". Preval appointed Mario Andresol to run the Haitian National Police (HNP). Under Andresol's direction, there was a total reorganization of the HNP.¹¹⁹ Officers with suspected gang links were arrested. This new police force would carry out anti-gang operations, with MINUSTAH support, in 2006 and 2007.¹²⁰ These operations were incredibly successful.

107 "Evolution of gangs, armed groups and political violence."

108 Rafael Fernández, "Haiti: A Gangster's Paradise | ReVista," ReVista: The Harvard Review of Latin America, Accessed June 27, 2024, <https://revista.drclas.harvard.edu/haiti-a-gangsters-paradise/>.

109 Walter Kemp, Mark Shaw, and Arthur Boutellis. "Haiti."

110 "Evolution of gangs, armed groups and political violence."

111 Michael Weissenstein. "Haiti: Everything You Need to About the Ongoing Violence | AP News." AP News, March 12, 2024. <https://apnews.com/article/haiti-gangs-violence-142c57f868c5f8b0cdf01627b3f5350b>.

112 "Evolution of gangs, armed groups and political violence."

113 Walter Kemp, Mark Shaw, and Arthur Boutellis. "Haiti."

114 "Evolution of gangs, armed groups and political violence."

115 "Evolution of gangs, armed groups and political violence."

116 Walter Kemp, Mark Shaw, and Arthur Boutellis. "Haiti."

117 Michael Weissenstein. "Haiti: Everything You Need to About the Ongoing Violence | AP News."

118 "Evolution of gangs, armed groups and political violence."

119 Walter Kemp, Mark Shaw, and Arthur Boutellis. "Haiti."

120 Walter Kemp, Mark Shaw, and Arthur Boutellis. "Haiti."

Organized crime was on the decline, and gangs were losing support.

This changed in 2010 as a massive earthquake struck Haiti. Around 5,000 imprisoned gang members were able to escape in the ensuing chaos.¹²¹ They either rejoined their old gangs or formed new ones within camps for people displaced by the earthquake.¹²² Eventually, escaped prisoners united in the Armee Federale gang. The Armee Federale used the camps as safe havens, overwhelming the HNP.¹²³ The gangs recruited young, unemployed men from the camps as well. Haiti's new president, Michel Martelly, was accused of funding some of these gangs.¹²⁴ Their membership grew exponentially as Martelly, like many Haitian leaders before him, used them to his advantage. Martelly allowed them to occupy former military buildings, and in return, they acted as a security force for him.¹²⁵ Violent crime surged as a result.

By 2013, Haitian gangs had split into three distinct groups. The first were urban gangs. They are composed of young men from cities like Port-au-Prince and are usually supported by local businessmen.¹²⁶ They engage in low-level, local crime and lack a political edge.¹²⁷ The next group is ex-military gangs. These groups are led by former soldiers. Ex-military gangs have members across Haiti. They occupy former military bases and train recruits there.¹²⁸ Unlike urban gangs, they are distinctly political. They usually oppose Haiti's government. Finally, there are the more corporatized private militias. They

are tied to the government, who use them for union-busting and private security.¹²⁹

These gangs solidified their political power following the election of Jovenel Moise in 2017. Moise won a controversial election marred with claims of fraud.¹³⁰ Moise had an uneasy alliance with the gangs. Some gangs, like G9 and 400 Mawozo, had campaigned for Moise. To repay them, Moise did not attempt to crack down on them. He was particularly close to G9.¹³¹ G9 had close links to Moise's party, and handled his security.¹³² His term was marred by political scandals, particularly the Petrocaribe scandal. Petrocaribe was a Haitian business that bought Venezuelan oil with deferred payments. This deferral allowed Haiti's government to develop the economy, but the money to be used for that was pocketed by politicians like Moise.¹³³ Haitians began to protest against this. Moise used gang violence to divert attention away from the scandal. Gangs such as G9 carried out massacres in Port-au-Prince, which slowed down popular mobilization against Moise.¹³⁴

Moise would rule Haiti until 2021 when he was assassinated. His successors, Claude Joseph and Ariel Henry, have been unable to stop the gangs from growing further. G9 has grown to become Haiti's largest gang. They have also involved themselves in politics. Jimmy Cherizier, the leader of G9, accused opposition leaders of plotting Henry's assassination. They have demanded Henry's resignation, which ultimately

121 Walter Kemp, Mark Shaw, and Arthur Boutellis. "Haiti."

122 Ellen Ioanes. "Haiti's gang violence crisis, briefly explained."

123 "Evolution of gangs, armed groups and political violence."

124 Lydia Brown. "Backgrounder: Gang Violence in Haiti." Geopolitical Monitor. Accessed June 27, 2024. <https://www.geopoliticalmonitor.com/backgrounder-gang-violence-in-haiti/>.

125 "Evolution of gangs, armed groups and political violence."

126 Athena Kolbe. "Revisiting Haiti's gangs and organized violence." *Instituto Igarapé* (2013). https://d1wqtxts1xzle7.cloudfront.net/35309485/Kolbe.WritingSample.HASOW-libre.pdf?1414497550=&response-content-disposition=inline%3B+filename%3DDiscussion_Paper_5_May_2013_Revisiting_H.pdf&Expires=1719516979&Signature=ICzSY1PWNyAJJ0LLLeBhL94hbWbM10tpedf3kiiZ2sXF0G8RVAgsx4UasTSYC6kYInanC51CdHMJkYonGnsVtFe96QsoH-rlfEViBFeclnFzerIGRMK9G2yPYWojUDv-on6hOfVC4u9eof88AX6Qe53qffzEsadNZ-t9VmmHPqe9XZGVw-UI6HQh0rJleBJ-3KnI7sFFFq3rCj0wYBPRBiqbCb0EoQJDu7PZgEd3B0S5N8fse9H-a0LznfcBtVnq7aZ13-2bkQx0YAOUU2G5mJQWlIJU2RTH3gYResprbrzTYGzmpjSVMnijFApEqgKNxk4ugCNypuWKLniEKysA__&K ey-Pair-Id=APKAJLOHF5GGSLRBV4ZA

127 Athena Kolbe. "Revisiting Haiti's gangs and organized violence."

128 Athena Kolbe. "Revisiting Haiti's gangs and organized violence."

129 Athena Kolbe. "Revisiting Haiti's gangs and organized violence."

130 Joseph Guyler Delva, "Jovenel Moise Clinches Haiti Presidency, Poll Fraud Ruled Out," *Reuters*, January 4, 2017, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-haiti-election/jovenel-moise-clinches-haiti-presidency-poll-fraud-ruled-out-idUSKBN14O00H/>.

131 Maria Velandia, "GANGS OF HAITI," Report, Edited by Mark Shaw, *Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime*, 2022, <https://globalinitiative.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/GITOC-Gangs-of-Haiti.pdf>.

132 Deven Kanal, "How Did Haiti Become the Land of Gang Violence?" *Firstpost*, March 5, 2024, <https://www.firstpost.com/explainers/how-did-haiti-become-the-land-of-gang-violence-13745424.html>.

133 Maria Velandia. "GANGS OF HAITI."

134 Maria Velandia. "GANGS OF HAITI."

happened in March 2024. They also protested against his interim government by holding up shipments of vital goods.¹³⁵ Other gangs have capitalized on the ensuing power vacuum. At the moment, 80 percent of Port-au-Prince is controlled by gangs.¹³⁶ They also control territory in other parts of the country, where they act as the de facto authority. In these areas, gangs control hospital and market access and enforce curfews.¹³⁷

Gangs in Haiti have always held immense political sway. This is notable more in the present day than it ever has been. They control most of the capital city and vast areas of land across the country. Haitians have fled their hometowns to escape gang violence. Some have joined vigilante movements to combat the gangs. All in all, the gangs have maintained the edge over the government and have become the de facto rulers of the cities.

Current Status

Case Study: Haitian Gangs Today and the “Living Together” Alliance

Since 2020, Port-au-Prince has been the site of an ongoing gang war between two major groups: G9, the largest gang in Haiti, and G-Pep. Haiti’s government and security forces struggle to maintain their control of the country’s capital, which has resulted in gangs controlling up to 90 percent of the city. In March 2024, gang violence spread throughout Port-au-Prince to obtain the resignation of acting prime minister Ariel Henry. This led to the storming of two prisoners and the subsequent release of thousands of prisoners. Eventually, in

April 2024, Ariel Henry resigned, and a transitional council took power in Haiti. Essentially, Haiti has entered a new phase aimed at fixing the state’s crises. However, gangs still have Haiti in their grips.

As mentioned above, the largest gang federation in Haiti today is G9. It was founded in 2020 and consists of nine gangs with bases across the country.¹³⁸ G9’s leader is ex-policeman Jimmy “Barbeque” Cherizier. Cherizier was the head of the Delmas 6 gang, which was affiliated with President Jovenel Moïse.¹³⁹ He then united Delmas 6 with other gangs. The initial intention was to support Moïse. However, by 2021, they had distanced themselves from the President. Cherizier called for Haitians to rise against all political parties. When Moïse was assassinated in July 2021, allegedly by Colombian hitmen, G9 capitalized on the instability that followed. They expanded their territory in Port-au-Prince. By March 2024, G9 controlled the city’s ports and area around the airport.¹⁴⁰

Their rise was challenged by another gang federation, G-Pep. They were founded to counter G9’s rise.¹⁴¹ G-Pep is led by Gabriel Jean-Pierre, the leader of another gang called “Nan Brooklyn”.¹⁴² Jean-Pierre united Nan Brooklyn with other gangs to form G-Pep.¹⁴³ The gangs in G-Pep are funded by Haitian business magnate Reginald Boulos.¹⁴⁴ The gangs began fighting in Port-au-Prince in 2020, with clashes escalating in 2022. Both are accused of committing massacres and other human rights violations. For example, they have killed journalists attempting to report on their activities.

There are other, smaller gang federations operating in the country as well. For example, Fantom 509 is a group of former

135 “Evolution of gangs, armed groups and political violence.”

136 Jillian Kestler-D’Amours, “Who Are Haiti’s Gangs and What Do They Want? All You Need to Know.” *Al Jazeera*, March 13, 2024, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/3/13/who-are-haitis-gangs-and-what-do-they-want-all-you-need-to-know>.

137 “Evolution of gangs, armed groups and political violence.”

138 InSight Crime. “G9 And Family.” InSight Crime, December 11, 2023. <https://insightcrime.org/haiti-organized-crime-news/g9-family-profile/>.

139 InSight Crime. “G9 And Family.”

140 Francis Robles. “Haiti Crisis: Who Are the Gangs That Have Overrun the Capital?”

141 Maria Velandia. “GANGS OF HAITI.” Report. Edited by Mark Shaw. *Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime*, 2022. <https://globalinitiative.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/GITOC-Gangs-of-Haiti.pdf>.

142 Kestler-D’Amours, Jillian. “Who Are Haiti’s Gangs and What Do They Want? All You Need to Know.” *Al Jazeera*. March 13, 2024. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/3/13/who-are-haitis-gangs-and-what-do-they-want-all-you-need-to-know>.

143 Agenzia Fides. “AMERICA/HAITI - the Main Criminal Gangs in Port-au-Prince - Agenzia Fides,” n.d. https://www.fides.org/en/news/74725-AMERICA_HAITI_The_main_criminal_gangs_in_Port_au_Prince.

144 Kim Ives. “In Cité Soleil, the G9 Federation in All-out War with G-Pèp - Haiti Liberte.” *Haiti Liberte - JUSTICE . VERITE . INDEPENDANCE : News/Nouvelles, Analysis/Analyse*, November 14, 2022. <https://haitiliberte.com/in-cite-soleil-the-g9-federation-in-all-out-war-with-g-pep/>.

and current police officers. It emerged out of police protests in 2018 that called for better pay and working conditions.¹⁴⁵ Fantom 509 is well-armed and is explicitly political in its activities. They attack government facilities to call for an improvement in policing conditions. There is also the Baz Galil gang. This gang is filled with Haitians deported from the United States, and it is one of the most powerful gangs outside of Port-au-Prince. They have strong links to G9, which has allowed them to consolidate power. Finally, the Grand Ravine and 5 Second gangs. These gangs oppose both G9 and G-Pep in Port-au-Prince.¹⁴⁶

The new gang federations no longer make their money through drug and arms trafficking. Their main source of income is through extortion and kidnapping.¹⁴⁷ Today, kidnapping has become a daily hazard in Haiti. Even people who cannot pay ransom are targeted.¹⁴⁸ In territories controlled by gangs, both public and private institutions are forced to pay protection money.¹⁴⁹ If they do not, the gangs refuse to let them operate. G9 and G-Pep have also made money from legitimate businesses. For example, they practically control all water and electricity distribution networks, customs taxes, and public markets in their territory.¹⁵⁰ The gangs also control all of the roads going in and out of Port-au-Prince. This limits commerce between Port-au-Prince and the rest of the country. What this means is that the areas under control of G9 and G-Pep need the gangs to survive, because they are economically dependent on them.

From 2020 to 2023, G9 and G-Pep often fought each other in the streets of Port-au-Prince. The fighting was at its worst in Cite Soleil, which is a very poor and densely populated

area in Haiti. Shootouts were common within the commune. Moreover, warring gangs and police often used schools as bases.¹⁵¹ This meant that during the fighting from 2020 to 2023, kids often did not have access to education. On one day in 2022, fighting took the lives of 95 civilians. That same year, at least 60 women and girls were sexually assaulted in Cite Soleil.¹⁵² At times, the violence cut the commune off from the rest of the world. This meant that no food or water would come into Cite Soleil at times. This also meant that items could not be transported outside of the commune as well. This led to a cholera outbreak in 2022 because there was a lack of trash removal.¹⁵³ While Cite Soleil got the worst of the gang violence, similar situations were common in other sections of Port-au-Prince. Shootouts were common in the commune of Martissant, leaving many wounded. In Bel Air, gang members burned down houses and killed civilians who fought back.¹⁵⁴

The tone of the fighting changed in 2024. For context, Ariel Henry asked for international intervention in 2022.¹⁵⁵ Finally, two years later, Henry successfully closed a deal that would provide an UN-led multinational security force to Haiti.¹⁵⁶ His two-year wait seemed to work. However, this move soon backfired. G9 and G-Pep, alongside other Haitian gangs, announced that they would ally. This “Living Together” alliance would rise against Henry. The gangs, led by Cherizier, aimed to remove the Prime Minister from office. They began attacking state institutions, hoping to topple Henry.¹⁵⁷ This included attacking two prisons and releasing prisoners. These attacks were successful. In April 2024, Henry resigned, hoping that his leaving office would return peace to Haiti.¹⁵⁸

145 Agenzia Fides. “AMERICA/HAITI - the Main Criminal Gangs in Port-au-Prince - Agenzia Fides,”

146 Maria Velandia. “GANGS OF HAITI.”

147 InSight Crime. “G9 And Family.”

148 “Chaos in Haiti Escalates as Gang Violence, Fuel Shortages Threaten Access to Health Care.” Partners In Health, March 24, 2023. <https://www.pih.org/article/chaos-haiti-escalates-gang-violence-fuel-shortages-threaten-access-health-care>.

149 Maria Velandia. “GANGS OF HAITI.”

150 Maria Velandia. “GANGS OF HAITI.”

151 Matt Rivers. “Rare Glimpse Inside Neighborhood at the Center of Haiti’s Gang War.” ABC News, July 31, 2023. <https://abcnews.go.com/International/rare-glimpse-inside-neighborhood-center-haitis-gang-war/story?id=101505886>.

152 Matt Rivers. “Rare Glimpse Inside Neighborhood at the Center of Haiti’s Gang War.”

153 Anselm Gibbs. “‘Every Day You’re Hopeless’: Haitians Eye Foreign Help Warily as Gangs, Cholera Outbreak Take Toll.” ABC News, October 21, 2022. <https://abcnews.go.com/International/everyday-hopeless-haitians-eye-foreign-warily-gangs-cholera/story?id=91656041>.

154 Onz Chéry. “Battle for Bel Air Turns Fatal as Residents Resist Gang Takeover.” The Haitian Times, April 2, 2021. <https://haitiantimes.com/2021/04/02/battle-for-bel-air-turns-fatal-as-residents-resist-gang-takeover/>.

155 “Haitian Prime Minister Ariel Henry to Resign in Bid to Restore Calm.” *France 24*, March 12, 2024. <https://www.france24.com/en/americas/20240312-us-pledges-additional-100m-for-haiti-security-force-as-situation-untenable>.

156 Vanessa Buschschlüter. “Haiti Gangs: More Than 50,000 Flee Capital After Surge in Violence,” April 3, 2024. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-68722178>.

157 Francis Robles. “Haiti Crisis: Who Are the Gangs That Have Overrun the Capital?”

158 “Haitian Prime Minister Ariel Henry to Resign in Bid to Restore Calm.”

This has not worked. “Living Together” has continued to attack government buildings. They are continuing these attacks because they want to prevent this international force from deploying. Cherizier has warned that the alliance is prepared for a “long fight”.¹⁵⁹ He claims that “Living Together” will fight until the UN-led force gets tired and leaves Haiti. “Living Together” has also attempted to consolidate control in Port-au-Prince. They brokered a ceasefire agreement between G9 and G-Pep in Cite Soleil.¹⁶⁰ Cherizier also plans to establish a governing council. This council would rule the country and allow the gangs to exert further control.¹⁶¹

The Cabinet has a major problem to tackle in Haiti’s new gangs. Haitian gangs are no longer small groups prone to infighting or clashes with other gangs. They are now seemingly united as one and intent on ruling the country. “Living Together” poses the biggest challenge to reintroducing democratic rule in Haiti, and must be seen as the major threat it is.

Ongoing Disaster Recovery

Today, Haiti is still facing the repercussions of the 2010 earthquake. On top of this, the 7.2 magnitude earthquake it suffered in 2021 was even more disastrous. When it hit, a lot of infrastructure was still in bad condition. This was due to the persistent onslaught of natural disasters and incomplete recovery efforts over the previous decade. However, building practices had improved and more people knew what to do when the shaking began.¹⁶² As a result, the damage from the earthquake was estimated to cost over USD 1.6 billion. This was barely a fifth of the damage in 2010.¹⁶³ The human toll

was also far less. Although 1,200 people died, this number was still significantly less than in 2010.¹⁶⁴ However, Hurricane Grace arrived two days later and dropped 10 inches of rain on the country in a single day. The rain from Grace made it unsafe to build temporary housing for those displaced by the earthquake. What this meant was that thousands of people had to spend the next few days at the mercy of the storm without any protection from the elements.¹⁶⁵ Another thousand people died.¹⁶⁶

One month before Hurricane Grace, President Jovenel Moïse was assassinated. Without a leader of the executive branch, the government’s response was somewhat slow as Prime Minister Henry settled into his new role.¹⁶⁷ Initially, he followed the standard procedure of declaring a national emergency and mobilizing the relevant government systems. Then, on August 31, the government created the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA). With help from the UN and other international bodies, it was meant to get an idea of the total damage caused by the two events.¹⁶⁸ It found that more than 660,000 people were affected by the disasters nationwide. Of those people, almost 40,000 were displaced.¹⁶⁹ In the end, they devised a recovery plan that would cost USD 2 billion. USD 1.5 billion would go to providing housing, healthcare, and other vital social services. The rest would go to commercial efforts to stimulate the economy, rebuilding major infrastructure, and environmental programs. In February of 2022, they hosted a conference in Port-au-Prince to discuss the plan and hopefully raise USD 1.6 billion for this plan.¹⁷⁰ However, they fell short, raising less than half of that amount at USD 600 million.¹⁷¹

159 Eyder Peralta. “Haiti’s Notorious Gang Leader, Barbecue, Says His Forces Are Ready for a Long Fight.” *NPR*, May 13, 2024. <https://www.npr.org/2024/05/13/1250860448/haitis-notorious-gang-leader-barbecue-says-his-forces-are-ready-for-a-long-fight>.

160 Afp. “Rival Gangs Sign Truce in Haiti’s Largest Shantytown.” *Digital Journal*, July 26, 2024. <https://www.digitaljournal.com/world/rival-gangs-sign-truce-in-haitis-largest-shantytown/article>.

161 Francis Robles. “Haiti Crisis: Who Are the Gangs That Have Overrun the Capital?”

162 “Tropical Storm Grace drenching Haiti as quake death toll tops 1400,” *CBS News*, August 17, 2021, <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/tropical-storm-grace-haiti-dominican-heavy-rain-winds/>.

163 Eduardo A. Cavallo, Laura Giles Alvarez, and Andrew Powell, *Estimating the Potential Economic Impact of Haiti’s 2021 Earthquake* (Washington D.C.: Inter-American Development Bank, 2021), <https://publications.iadb.org/en/estimating-potential-economic-impact-haitis-2021-earthquake>.

164 Jaclyn Diaz, “Why Earthquakes In Haiti Are So Catastrophic.”

165 “Tropical Storm Grace drenching Haiti as quake death toll tops 1400.”

166 “Haiti Earthquake Response (2021),” *Community Organized Relief Effort*, 2021, <https://www.coreresponse.org/haiti/earthquake-2021/>.

167 “Tropical Storm Grace drenching Haiti as quake death toll tops 1400.”

168 “Haiti launches Post Disaster Needs Assessment as first step towards a recovery strategy,” *United Nations Development Programme*, September 14, 2021, <https://www.undp.org/news/haiti-launches-post-disaster-needs-assessment-first-step-towards-recovery-strategy>.

169 International Labor Organization, *Post-Disaster Needs Assessment In Haiti* (Port-au-Prince: International Labor Organization, 2021), <https://www.ilo.org/publications/haiti-earthquake-2021-post-disaster-needs-assessment-executive-summary>.

170 “Rebuilding Haiti: The post-earthquake path to recovery,” *United Nations*, February 12, 2022, <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/02/1111382>.

171 “Haiti Aid Conference Brings \$600 Million in Pledges,” *Voice of America News*, February 17, 2022, <https://www.voanews.com/a/haiti->

Many non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have provided contributions to Haiti other than funds. For example, the Red Cross and World Vision International provided resources and services for the Haitian people.¹⁷² However, there are debates as to whether or not these NGOs are effectively carrying out their mission. In 2015, reports were published that revealed that the Red Cross had received almost USD 500 million to help Haiti. Despite this, the organization only managed to build six permanent homes in five years.¹⁷³ It called out the organization for a lack of transparency, failing to properly train staff, making false claims about their projects, and even paying other groups to do the work for them. The Red Cross responded by releasing a summary of their active projects and allocations of funds. However, many of these claims had little concrete evidence and largely failed to refute the report's allegations.¹⁷⁴

There have also been instances of foreign assistance having negative effects on Haiti. For example, the UN was heavily involved in Haiti's recovery in 2010. Later that year, a cholera outbreak began spreading throughout the country. In 2011, a panel found that the origin of the outbreak was in a UN peacekeeper camp. Despite these findings, the UN refused to admit any liability and took few steps to rectify this wrongdoing.¹⁷⁵ In 2016, though, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon acknowledged the UN's role and "moral responsibility" to make up for it.¹⁷⁶ The UN pledged 400 million to help the victims of cholera but has largely failed to follow up with this promise. This epidemic has infected over 800,000 Haitians and killed more than 10,000, and persists today.¹⁷⁷

As part of recovery efforts, Haiti has accumulated large

amounts of debt. In the past, much of the state's debt was forgiven.¹⁷⁸ UN deputy secretary-general Amina Mohammed has also acknowledged the "donor fatigue" that has led to fewer contributions to Haiti over the years.¹⁷⁹ Donor fatigue happens when organizations are less likely to donate over time due to the constant requests for support. Part of this "donor fatigue" comes from the frequency of natural disasters in Haiti. However, poor government decisions and monetary failures have also played a significant role. For example, from 2008 to 2018, a group of high-ranking Haitian government officials were involved in a series of major fraud scandals. In the largest one, they stole USD two billion from a joint oil program with Venezuela.¹⁸⁰ In 2020, the funds were discovered to have been either stolen by the officials or spent on "worthless" government projects. Although President Moïse fired the officials involved, he only did so under pressure from the public.¹⁸¹ This incident tarnished his reputation for the rest of his time in office.

This example is part of a larger pattern of corruption in the Haitian government. In 2023, Haiti scored 17 out of 100 on the Corruption Perceptions Index and ranked 172 of the 180 countries involved. In fact, since 2012 when the Index was established, Haiti's score has never gone above 22.¹⁸² When providing loans, contributors want assurances that their money will be paid back. Donors want to see their money used well. However, Haiti's past failures and long history of disasters mean that donors are becoming less willing to contribute to recovery efforts, creating donor fatigue as a result.

It cannot be denied that international organizations and NGOs have brought about positive change. However, foreign assistance will never be a fully reliable option to help the

aid-conference-brings-600-million-in-pledges-/6445505.html.

172 "Haiti earthquake: Facts, FAQs, and how to help," *World Vision International*, last updated September 5, 2023, <https://www.worldvision.org/disaster-relief-news-stories/haiti-earthquake-facts>.

173 Justin Elliott and Laura Sullivan, "How the Red Cross Raised Half a Billion Dollars for Haiti and Built Six Homes," *ProPublica*, June 3, 2015, <https://www.propublica.org/article/how-the-red-cross-raised-half-a-billion-dollars-for-haiti-and-built-6-homes>.

174 "The Real Story of the 6 Homes in Haiti: Answering Your Questions," *American Red Cross*, June 5, 2015, <https://www.redcross.org/about-us/news-and-events/news/The-Real-Story-of-the-6-Homes-Answering-Questions-about-Haiti.html>.

175 Camila Domonoske, "U.N. Admits Role In Haiti Cholera Outbreak That Has Killed Thousands," *NPR*, August 18, 2016, <https://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2016/08/18/490468640/u-n-admits-role-in-haiti-cholera-outbreak-that-has-killed-thousands>.

176 Anastasia Moloney, "A decade after U.N.-linked cholera outbreak, Haitians demand justice," *Reuters*, October 22, 2020, <https://www.reuters.com/article/world/a-decade-after-un-linked-cholera-outbreak-haitians-demand-justice-idUSKBN2772RL/>.

177 Moloney, "A decade after U.N.-linked cholera outbreak, Haitians demand justice."

178 International Monetary Fund, *Haiti: Request for Disbursement Under the Rapid Credit Facility—Debt Sustainability Analysis* (Washington D.C.: International Monetary Fund, 2023), <https://www.elibrary.imf.org/view/journals/002/2023/080/article-A002-en.xml>.

179 "Haiti Aid Conference Brings \$600 Million in Pledges."

180 US Department of State, *Major Corruption Cases in Haiti and Government of Haiti* (Washington D.C.: US Department of State, 2022), <https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Appendix-C-Developments-in-Haiti-004977.pdf>.

181 US Department of State, *Major Corruption Cases in Haiti and Government of Haiti*.

182 "Our Work In Haiti," *Transparency International*, accessed August 1, 2024, <https://www.transparency.org/en/countries/haiti>.

Haitian people. The UN and Red Cross controversies highlight the crucial shortcomings of these organizations. Rather, an alternative would be larger action by local organizations and, by extension, the Haitian government. Unlike foreign assistance, local groups have a much deeper knowledge of the people that they're helping. The same could be said about a democratic government. On paper, a government chosen by the people for the people's best interests could have a much larger impact. Therefore, Haiti must hold elections for long-term improvements. If an effective government comes into power and addresses the issues affecting the country, it can reopen the door of sustainable, beneficial foreign investment.

Emigration and Internal Displacement

The buildup of many of the issues facing Haiti today has led to a massive population shift within the country. Many people have been displaced by natural disasters, losing homes and jobs in the wake of their destruction. Furthermore, increased gang activity in recent years has forcibly displaced thousands of people fearing for their lives.¹⁸³ The government's failure to address these and other issues has contributed to a recent surge in emigration from Haiti as people seek to rebuild their lives in a new country.

In October of 2023, there were roughly 200,000 internally displaced people (IDPs) in Haiti. These are people who have been forced from their homes but remain in their country.¹⁸⁴ As of June 2024, there are more than 580,000 IDPs in Haiti, nearly tripling in under a year.¹⁸⁵ Some families offer to host IDPs, but in many cases, these host families struggle to provide for themselves, let alone additional IDPs. More often than not, the only remaining option for IDPs is to live in makeshift shelters and camps. Given the provisional nature of these camps, they have very limited resources and face severe

overcrowding. This leads to frequent violence and the spread of diseases like cholera. Schools have also been converted into housing for IDPs, housing roughly 61,000 people across 39 sites.¹⁸⁶ However, they face similar challenges as camps and shelters, and this conversion has led to many children falling behind in their education.

No matter where in the country they go, migrants are left without certainty and stability. In March of 2024, the aftermath of Jimmy Cherizier's gang attacks in Port-au-Prince led to a spike in IDPs in Haiti's southern rural region. This is because these displaced people escaped from Port-au-Prince in an attempt to find a less populated area that might not have as much gang violence. The journey is hard and long for these migrants. The majority of them get into overcrowded buses and venture through gang territories where they risk facing sexual violence, among other dangers. Their arrival also places a lot of stress on Haiti's agricultural communities. In Haiti, agriculture is the backbone of the economy. However, farming communities in Haiti do not have enough resources and infrastructure to support the influx of migrants.¹⁸⁷ However, the migration continues. This puts the land under unsustainable stress. This leads to lower crop yields, hurting the country's economy as a whole. Some people have also tried fleeing to the country's northern region. However, inter-regional travel is heavily limited since gangs' control many of the roads within the country. On the rare occasion that someone manages to successfully leave, they effectively lose access to their homes, families, and assets, including money in banks based in the capital.¹⁸⁸

Instead of remaining in the country, many people have tried to seek refuge in other countries. Currently, an estimated 1.6 million Haitian citizens live abroad.¹⁸⁹ Haiti has consistently

183 "Over 15,000 rendered homeless as gang violence engulfs Haiti," *Daily Sabah*, March 5, 2024, <https://www.dailysabah.com/world/americas/over-15000-rendered-homeless-as-gang-violence-engulfs-haiti>.

184 "As Displacement Soars, Haiti Requires USD 21 Million for Emergency Shelter, Protection Services," *International Organization for Migration*, October 10, 2023, <https://www.iom.int/news/displacement-soars-haiti-requires-usd-21-million-emergency-shelter-protection-services>.

185 "Protracted Crises in Haiti Drive 60 Per Cent Increase in Displacement since March," *International Organization for Migration*, June 18, 2024, <https://www.iom.int/news/protracted-crises-haiti-drive-60-cent-increase-displacement-march>.

186 "Protracted Crises in Haiti Drive 60 Per Cent Increase in Displacement since March."

187 "Over 53,000 Haitians flee capital in weeks following gang takeover," *FOX News*, April 2, 2024, <https://www.foxnews.com/world/53000-haitians-flee-capital-weeks-gang-takeover>.

188 Abner and Reid Davis, "Haiti: Violence and displacement in the capital, yet provincial work continues," *CARE International*, March 27, 2024, <https://www.care.org/news-and-stories/news/haiti-violence-and-displacement-in-the-capital-yet-provincial-work-continues/>.

189 Beatrice Dain and Jeanne Batalova, "Haitian Immigrants in the United States," *Migration Policy Institute*, November 8, 2023, <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/haitian-immigrants-united-states>.



Haitian migrants

Credit: National Archives at College Park - Still Pictures

had a negative net migration rate since the 1960s. But, this has worsened in recent years. This means that more people leave Haiti than there are people who arrive in Haiti. For example, in 2023, Haiti had a net migration of -31,811, meaning 31,811 more people left Haiti than arrived.¹⁹⁰ Unfortunately, for the many people who do leave, the journey is rarely easy. Destinations for Haitian immigrants are mainly in the Americas, including the United States, the Dominican Republic, Chile, and Canada. In the process, they are often shuffled throughout immigration systems and sent from one country to the next, or denied entry altogether.¹⁹¹ In 2023, for example, over 115,000 Haitian migrants in other countries were sent back to Haiti due to improper documentation.¹⁹² Those who manage to stay can struggle to adjust to life in a new country and frequently face discrimination by local citizens.¹⁹³

The United States has played a key role in resettling Haitian migrants. In 2023, roughly 731,000 first-generation Haitian

immigrants lived in the United States. Compared to the overall foreign-born population of the US, Haitian immigrants were more likely to achieve citizenship.¹⁹⁴ However, Haitian immigrants achieved less education, and Haitian households had lower median incomes. Following the earthquake of 2010, President Barack Obama granted Temporary Protected Status (TPS) to Haitian immigrants unlawfully residing in the US. President Donald Trump later attempted to revoke this status, but his attempts were rejected by US courts.¹⁹⁵

Recently, the United States' policy on Haiti has been mixed. In April of 2024, current President Joe Biden resumed sending immigrants back to Haiti to gain anti-immigration supporters with elections coming in late 2024. These flights mainly apply to migrants caught attempting to enter the country unlawfully.¹⁹⁶ However, President Biden also extended TPS for Haitian citizens in June of 2024, citing "simultaneous economic, security, political, and health crises" as a reason for doing so.¹⁹⁷ This extension will apply to over 309,000 Haitians

190 "Net migration - Haiti," *World Bank Group*, Accessed August 2, 2024, https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SM.POP.NETM?locations=HT&most_recent_value_desc=false.

191 Dain and Batalova, "Haitian Immigrants in the United States."

192 "As Displacement Soars, Haiti Requires USD 21 Million for Emergency Shelter, Protection Services" <https://www.iom.int/news/displacement-soars-haiti-requires-usd-21-million-emergency-shelter-protection-services>.

193 Georges E. Fouron, "Haiti's Painful Evolution from Promised Land to Migrant-Sending Nation," *Migration Policy Institute*, August 19, 2020, <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/haiti-painful-evolution-promised-land-migrant-sending-nation>.

194 Dain and Batalova, "Haitian Immigrants in the United States."

195 Dain and Batalova, "Haitian Immigrants in the United States."

196 Gisela Salomon and Elliot Spagat, "US deports about 50 Haitians to nation hit with gang violence, ending monthslong pause in flights," *Associated Press News*, April 18, 2024, <https://apnews.com/article/haiti-deportations-flight-biden-6e76e7614085a047a4c011b787a98da2>.

197 Sergio Martínez-Beltrán, "Biden administration extends protected status for up to 309,000 migrants from Haiti," *NPR*, June 28, 2024,

already in the US and will last until February 3, 2026. This protects them from deportation and allows them to apply for work permits. This protection has led many more Haitians to continue flowing to the US. In June of 2024, over 100 migrants arrived off the coast of Florida in a sailboat. Many advocates argued for them to remain in the country. But, US policy dictated that they would be sent back to Haiti if they could not establish a legal basis to stay.¹⁹⁸

The current flow of migration is wildly unsustainable for all parties involved. As Haiti loses more workers and citizens, its economy approaches the brink of collapse. Many destination cities within Haiti and abroad cannot provide effective housing and essential services to support migrants. Finally, the migrants themselves are left in limbo as they struggle to support themselves without a certain future.

The State of the Haitian Economy

Haiti has struggled to become economically independent. There are a variety of issues that have made this the case. Haiti's economic structure, the government's ability to regulate the economy, and its relationships with other countries are all involved. These issues have made Haiti largely dependent on larger countries for trade and economic support.

The state of the Haitian economy is very important in the regional economy of North America. Haiti's largest trading partner is currently the United States of America, with around 80 percent of its exports going to the US.¹⁹⁹ Although this relationship may seem to go one way, it is also in the United States' best interest to trade with Haiti and provide economic security. If Haiti's economy were to collapse, it would likely lead to an extremely large exodus to the United States, one that neither country could handle effectively. Some US officials have

even suggested using Guantanamo Bay, still an active prison, as a center to process Haitian refugees.²⁰⁰ Beyond migration, the situation in Haiti could spiral and lead to a domino effect throughout the entire region. The Caribbean has significant potential for economic growth, such as the recent discovery of oil deposits in Guyana.²⁰¹ However, the region's stability is still at risk due to the effects of climate change.²⁰² An economic collapse in Haiti could lead to political and economic instability in its neighboring states as well, destabilizing the entire region. In short, addressing the problems in Haiti could make or break the region at large.

One of Haiti's barriers to economic growth is its overreliance on agriculture. Since it was a colony, agriculture has comprised a very large portion of its economy. In 2023, agriculture, forestry, and fishing accounted for over half of Haiti's total labor force and roughly one-fifth of the country's total GDP.²⁰³ The main crops grown in Haiti include corn, rice, and sorghum for consumption. It also produces coffee, cocoa, and tobacco for exports.²⁰⁴ However, centuries of non-stop farming and deforestation have also led to severe soil degradation, making it hard to maintain crops. As a result, crop losses are often high, and yields are heavily impacted by the country's climate, including the frequency of natural disasters.²⁰⁵ In essence, Haiti is trapped in a cycle of agricultural deterioration. New technology and techniques to boost yields are of the utmost importance, but falling agricultural revenue means that Haiti cannot afford to invest in them, leading to lower yields, and so on.

Natural disasters have long been a barrier to the Haitian economy, ravaging the country's farms and agricultural capacity. Additionally, Haiti's long history of economic struggles has meant that full recovery has rarely been achieved. As a result,

<https://www.npr.org/2024/06/28/g-s1-7061/migrants-haiti-tps-immigration-parole>.

198 Gisela Salomon, "More than a hundred Haitian migrants arrived in a sailboat off the Florida Keys," *Associated Press News*, last updated June 26, 2024, <https://apnews.com/article/haiti-migrants-boat-key-west-florida-c65c71b4d98ffea41993c62306e29aed>.

199 Roy and Labrador, "Haiti's Troubled Path to Development."

200 Bryce Engelland, "Pirates, refugees & risk: The global economic consequences of Haiti's collapse," *Thomson Reuters*, May 1, 2024, <https://www.thomsonreuters.com/en-us/posts/global-economy/haiti-collapse/>.

201 Engelland, "Pirates, refugees & risk: The global economic consequences of Haiti's collapse."

202 "The World Bank in the Caribbean," *World Bank Group*, Accessed July 19, 2024, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/caribbean/overview>.

203 "Haiti," *International Fund for Agricultural Development*, Accessed July 19, 2024, <https://www.ifad.org/en/web/operations/w/country/haiti>.

204 "Farmers' Organizations for Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (FO4ACP)," *Food and Agriculture Organization*, Accessed July 19, 2024, <https://www.fao.org/in-action/farmers-organization-africa-caribbean-pacific/country-activities/haiti/en>.

205 "Early period."

damage from these events constantly hinders Haiti's economic growth. Foreign aid from both governments and organizations often fails to provide enough to support the people. For example, after the earthquake of 2010, a group of artists from around the world recorded a song called "We Are The World 25 For Haiti." It was meant to raise awareness and funds for the recovery. This was a new rendition of the song "We Are The World" from 1985. The original song raised over USD 80 million for the famine in Ethiopia and became one of the fastest-selling records of all time.²⁰⁶ However, the new version was widely criticized as a "tacky" publicity stunt. It became obsolete in a matter of weeks and failed to make a notable impact.²⁰⁷ Climate change has already led to distinct increases in the frequency of natural disasters, particularly hurricanes and tropical storms.²⁰⁸ As such, Haiti will need a combination of robust economic development, revised disaster response plans, and creative solutions to ensure successful recoveries in the future.

Another reason that Haiti has historically struggled to develop is debt. Barely 20 years after Haiti became independent, the government quickly found itself in debt. In 1825, Jean-Pierre Boyer agreed to pay the French government 150 million francs in exchange for recognition as an independent country. In reality, Boyer had very little choice, as King Charles X sent an envoy of warships to deliver this message. Had Boyer refused, France could have invaded Haiti and reclaimed it as a colonial territory. This use of "gunboat diplomacy" marked the start of crushing debt that Haiti had to repay over the next 122 years.²⁰⁹ This amount is now worth over USD 20 billion in reparations that went to former slaveholders and their descendants. However, some economists claim that the actual amount may be much higher. Factoring in 200 years

of interest and the impact it had on Haiti's development, one economist estimates the true value may be close to USD 200 billion.²¹⁰

In 2015, French President Francois Hollande stated that France would pay back this "moral debt" by investing USD 145 million in development projects in Haiti.²¹¹ However, this is far from the total amount France charged Haiti. In April of 2024, a group of 20 organizations called for the UN to create an independent body to oversee the repayment of this money, but so far, nothing has been done.²¹² If France were made to pay back this money, it would set an extremely important precedent for paying colonial reparations to a former colony. If other former colonial superpowers did the same, it could stimulate economic growth in developing countries around the world. However, there are few concrete evaluations of the total value that countries would have to pay back to their former colonies. It would also be difficult to structure reparations to prevent rapid deflation after a large infusion of money. Additionally, reparations are a somewhat controversial topic. Some people argue that living people should not have to pay for the actions of their ancestors.²¹³ Regardless, few concrete actions have been taken in this field. So, Haiti's current economic priorities revolve around increasing development in the pursuit of economic independence.

Finally, political instability and government inefficiency are major factors that have led the country into its current economic state. Since parliamentary and presidential elections have been repeatedly delayed over the past decade, many government bodies have lost their legal ability to act. This means that Parliament cannot pass new legislation. Many agencies are also struggling to enforce existing laws and

206 Al Newstead, "The Greatest Night In Pop: We Are The World a suspenseful, entertaining doco of history's biggest charity single," *ABC News*, January 31, 2024, <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-02-01/we-are-the-world-documentary-the-greatest-night-in-pop-review/103414458>.

207 Daoud Tyler-Ameen, "The Worst Ideas Of 2010: We Are The World 25," *NPR*, December 21, 2010, <https://www.npr.org/sections/therecord/2010/12/21/132214278/the-worst-ideas-of-2010-we-are-the-world-25>.

208 "The World Bank in the Caribbean."

209 Greg Rosalsky, "'The Greatest Heist In History': How Haiti Was Forced To Pay Reparations For Freedom," *NPR*, October 5, 2021, <https://www.npr.org/sections/money/2021/10/05/1042518732/-the-greatest-heist-in-history-how-haiti-was-forced-to-pay-reparations-for-freed>.

210 Emma Farge and Catarina Demony, "Haitian groups seek billions in reparations from France," *Reuters*, April 18, 2024, <https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/haitian-groups-seek-billions-reparations-france-2024-04-18/>.

211 Peter Granitz, "Hollande promises to pay 'moral debt' to former colony Haiti," *Reuters*, May 12, 2015, <https://www.reuters.com/article/world/hollande-promises-to-pay-moral-debt-to-former-colony-haiti-idUSKBN0NX2LJ/>.

212 Farge and Demony, "Haitian groups seek billions in reparations from France."

213 Justin Klawans, "Pros and cons of British colonial reparations," *The Week*, May 11, 2023, <https://theweek.com/royal-family/1023334/pros-and-cons-of-british-colonial-reparations>.

regulations.²¹⁴ As a result, many foreign powers are cautious about investing in Haiti. They have no assurance that the government will manage the money. Gang violence has also led to a population shift away from larger cities. This has placed significant stress on the rural areas where farming occurs. Lower crop yields have become the new norm as farmers lose their land and struggle to provide for their communities.²¹⁵ As a result, many of the issues affecting the Haitian economy cannot be legally addressed until political stability is restored and the government's powers are renewed. Prime Minister Garry Conille's cabinet has some limited power to do this, but the only true long-term path to success is through elections.

Bloc Analysis

Points of Division

There are several different points of contention between the members of Haiti's cabinet. They must overcome these differences to change Haiti's future for the better.

First, there are differences between cabinet members on ways to tackle the gangs. There is near universal agreement between its members on the main response to the gangs. They all believe that there should be some sort of military involvement. However, certain members differ in other aspects. Some push for more international cooperation. They want more help from other countries. This would involve the expansion of the multinational police force sent to Haiti. Others prefer to keep this a strictly Haitian operation. They want the Haitian military and policemen to tackle the issue, with little international assistance. With gang influence growing day by day, the cabinet must agree on ways to remove their power.

Second, cabinet members differ in their viewpoints regarding the economy. One of the key issues is debt management. Some members want more international monetary aid. This would include loans from the World Bank and IMF. Other members are wary of this. Haiti already has a large amount

of debt, totaling around USD 2.5 billion.²¹⁶ Taking on more of it would be catastrophic for the economy. There are also differences regarding economic expansion. More traditionalist-thinking members of the cabinet want Haiti to remain reliant on agricultural practices. They fondly remember the 1970s, when a boom in Haitian agriculture was key to improving the economy. As such, they want to stay the course. They believe that further investment in agriculture is key to revitalizing Haiti's economy. Younger members of the cabinet disagree. They want to diversify Haiti's economy by encouraging international investment. This influx of money could allow Haiti to expand into new sectors, such as production. With Haiti's economy as poor as ever, finding common ground will be key to addressing its potential growth.

Third, cabinet members disagree on the military's role in Haiti. Pro-military members of the cabinet want a robust Haitian armed forces. This can be used to tackle the gangs head-on and provide strong security for the Haitian people. However, with the army's checkered past in Haiti, many other cabinet members are wary of this. Giving the army too much power could encourage them to take control of the country again. These members would prefer to check the military's power, ensuring that a military dictatorship does not return to the country. As a result, the members of Haiti's cabinet must find a solution for the military's role in Haiti today.

Finally, the members disagree on the topic of elections. Haiti has not held elections since 2016. All of them widely agree that elections should be held. However, there is disagreement on when and how these elections will occur. Some want elections to be held as soon as possible; others want to wait until the country has stabilized. Some want these elections to go on without international observers; others want them there to ensure a fair and free election. The Haitian people have not had a say in their government for almost a decade. The cabinet must deliberate over the best time and way to hold elections, or else their constitutions risk growing even more disenfranchised.

214 "Haiti announces elections and controversial constitutional referendum for September," *Pledge Times*, June 9, 2021, <https://web.archive.org/web/20210723180417/https://pledgetimes.com/haiti-announces-elections-and-controversial-constitutional-referendum-for-september/>.

215 Vanessa Buschschlüter, "Haiti gangs: More than 50,000 flee capital after surge in violence," *BBC*, April 3, 2024, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-68722178>.

216 MacroTrends. "Haiti External Debt 1960-2024," n.d. <https://www.macrotrends.net/global-metrics/countries/HTI/haiti/external-debt-stock>.

The Haitian Cabinet is in an interesting position. None of the members were directly elected by the Haitian people, having been appointed by ex-Prime Minister Ariel Henry to their roles. As such, delegates must grapple with representing a populace that did not vote for them. They must also take the people's voices into account when making decisions. Through debate and compromise, the Cabinet can shape the future of Haiti – one that relies on their ability to work together to lay down a path to a brighter future.

Military Hardliners

The military hardliners are the more conservative members of Haiti's interim government. They prefer a more militarized approach to dealing with Haiti's issues in the modern day. Haiti has a checkered past with its military, in the past, they have mounted numerous military coups, the most notable being in 1991. During this period, they successfully removed Jean-Bertrand Aristide from power. This led to many international bodies placing sanctions on Haiti, which crippled the nation's economy. When Aristide returned to power in 1994, he disbanded the military. The military was not restored in Haiti until 2017.²¹⁷ The Haitian National Police (HNP) managed national security while the army was disbanded. Many worry that the army will return to their old ways, mounting coups and violating human rights. However, given the radical rise of gangs, many citizens support the usage of this army to deal with these gangs, with acting Prime Minister Ariel Henry mobilizing the military in 2023.²¹⁸ This was done to assist the HNP with combating the gangs.

Members of this bloc want a firm, militaristic approach to tackle Haiti's current issues today. That means a focus on armed combat with gangs and forceful arrest of gang members. They want to serve as a counterbalance to more liberal-minded members of the interim government. However, they also have ties to the old Haitian military. One of the main members of

this bloc is Military Chief of Staff Sadrac Saintil. Saintil held a senior position in the military government of Raoul Cedras, which ruled Haiti from 1991 to 1994.²¹⁹ Other military men, like Derby Guerrier and Jean-Robert Gabriel, held positions in Cedras's government. Gabriel was even a public spokesperson for the military regime.²²⁰

The military hardliners want to get things done, and fast. With members of their ranks being involved in the 1991 coup, they could utilize this experience as a way to enact change. However, they are also open to holding elections – as long as the military is granted more power. Their goal is to pass legislation that is forceful in its approach and prioritizes combating the gangs with internal military capabilities. To them, the military and a strong police force are the key to restoring stability in Haiti. They should keep in mind the democratic nature of the cabinet, and work with other groups to form meaningful coalitions to enact genuine change.

Diplomats

The diplomats in Haiti's interim government are focused on looking outwards. Their task is to create, edit, and implement Haiti's foreign policy. Haiti faces many issues, ranging from pervasive gang violence to a slumping economy. The diplomats wish to use international cooperation as a way to solve them. They have been successful at creating new bonds abroad in recent years. The best example of this was establishing diplomatic ties with Kenya in 2023.²²¹ This set the stage for a UN police force, led by Kenya, to be deployed to Haiti.

Two of the main members of this bloc are Dominique Dupuy and Louis Harold Joseph. Dupuy, at 34, is one of the youngest members of Haiti's interim government. She serves as Haiti's Minister for Foreign Affairs. Before this, she served as the country's ambassador to the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).²²² This

217 Andres Martinez Casares and Joseph Guyler Delva. "Haitian Army Set to Make Controversial Return After Two Decades." *Reuters*, November 19, 2017. <https://www.reuters.com/article/world/haïtian-army-set-to-make-controversial-return-after-two-decades-idUSKBN1DJ02B/>.

218 Evens Sanon. "Haiti PM Turns to Military for Help in Fighting Gangs | AP News." AP News, March 17, 2023. <https://apnews.com/article/haïti-activate-military-gangs-bb05bdc98d0c7fafdccbbe5743223ed>.

219 Jake Johnston. "Meet the New Haitian Military? It's Starting to Look a Lot Like the Old One." Center for Economic and Policy Research, November 20, 2020. <https://www.cepr.net/meet-the-new-haitian-military-it-s-starting-to-look-a-lot-like-the-old-one/>.

220 Jake Johnston. "Meet the New Haitian Military? It's Starting to Look a Lot Like the Old One."

221 Reuters. "Haiti, Kenya Set up Diplomatic Ties." *Reuters*, September 21, 2023. <https://www.reuters.com/world/haïti-kenya-establish-diplomatic-ties-2023-09-21/>.

222 Robenson Geffrard. "Meet Dominique Dupuy: The New Minister of Foreign Affairs, Worship, and Haitians Abroad," June 12, 2024.

experience helps to explain Dupuy's more outward-facing views. She aims to use diplomacy to restore security in Haiti.²²³ Joseph is more close-minded. As the Ambassador to the United States, he is focused on maintaining Haiti-US relations. Joseph was crucial in securing American military aid to Haiti in September 2023.²²⁴ This is Joseph's second stint as Haiti's ambassador to the US, having previously served from 2010 to 2011.²²⁵ He also twice served as Haiti's ambassador to the Bahamas.

The diplomats serve a different purpose than the rest of the blocs in Haiti's interim government. They have different powers but serve a singular purpose: to shape Haiti's perception and trajectory. If they are successfully able to pass legislation that paves the way for new bonds to be forged abroad, they can accomplish their goals. They must work together to accomplish this and unite their different positions to work as one.

Economic Specialists

The economic specialists of Haiti's transitional government are tasked with balancing the country's finances. Their main goal is to manage Haiti's money and stimulate its economy to help stabilize the country. One of Haiti's main economic concerns is debt management. Haiti has had its debt cleared many times over the years, however, years of natural disasters and low revenues mean that the government repeatedly returns to debt. Although Haiti had another round of debt forgiven in 2023, it is still on a downward trajectory.²²⁶ Additionally, this bloc has to address Haiti's internal economic struggles. Increased protests and gang activity in larger cities have cut off people's access to many consumer goods, such as food and clothing.²²⁷ This hurts both the people who need these products to survive and the producers, especially farmers, who need the money.

Depending on how the issue persists, this bloc has to consider alternative methods of ensuring that businesses within Haiti can survive.

One member of this bloc is Jean Baden Dubois, Governor of the Bank of Haiti (BRH), Haiti's central bank, for almost ten years. Although he is not a traditional member of the cabinet, he is very ambitious and a highly influential figure in Haiti's finances through the BRH. He aims to expand agriculture insurance and promote trade through increased access to credit for companies that are large exporters.²²⁸ Another member of this bloc is the Minister of Economy and Finance, Ketleen Florestal. She has worked for the World Bank Group, InterAmerican Development Bank, and IMF in high-ranking positions.²²⁹ As such, she has a wide breadth of experience to draw from. Florestal seeks to use her position to foster economic growth, and job creation, and improve the standard of living for all Haitian people.²³⁰

The members of this bloc focus on different sectors and bring different approaches to the table. Regardless, they will all need to be ready and adaptable as new issues come up, such as natural disasters and gang violence. They will also need to come up with larger policy decisions to affect Haiti's long-term growth. Two important parts of this are economic diversification and improving Haiti's trade relationships. In short, their ultimate goal is to bring about economic stability and prosperity for the country and the people of Haiti.

Social Ministers

The social ministers focus largely on the people of Haiti and improving their daily lives. In 2022, Haiti's Human Development Index (HDI) score was 0.552, the lowest of any Latin American country.²³¹ This score indicates a relatively

<https://lenouvelliste.com/en/article/248629/meet-dominique-dupuy-the-new-minister-of-foreign-affairs-worship-and-haitians-abroad>.

223 HaitiLibre.com. "Haiti - Diplomacy : Towards a New Era in Haitian Diplomacy - HaitiLibre.com : Haiti News 7/7," n.d. <https://www.haitilibre.com/en/news-42550-haiti-diplomacy-towards-a-new-era-in-haitian-diplomacy.html>.

224 Humeyra Pamuk and Michelle Nichols. "US Pledges New Aid for Haiti, Urges UN to Authorize Security Mission." *Reuters*, September 22, 2023. <https://www.reuters.com/world/us-pledges-new-aid-haiti-urges-un-authorize-security-mission-2023-09-22/>.

225 Embassy of Haiti. "The Ambassador," n.d. <https://www.haiti.org/the-ambassador/>.

226 International Monetary Fund, *Haiti: Request for Disbursement Under the Rapid Credit Facility—Debt Sustainability Analysis*.

227 Marisa Del Vecchio, "The Economic Crisis in Haiti," *The Borgen Project*, September 18, 2023, <https://borgenproject.org/economic-crisis-in-haiti/>.

228 "Jean Baden Dubois," *The Dialogue*, accessed July 31, 2024, <https://www.thedialogue.org/experts/jean-baden-dubois/>.

229 "Ketleen Florestal," *Copenhagen Consensus Center*, Accessed July 31, 2024, <https://copenhagenconsensus.com/expert/ketleen-florestal>.

230 "Haiti - Politic : Installation of the new Minister of Economy and Finance," *HaitiLibre*, June 18, 2024, <https://www.haitilibre.com/en/news-42577-haiti-politic-installation-of-the-new-minister-of-economy-and-finance.html>.

231 "Human Development Insights," *United Nations Development Programme*, accessed July 31, 2024, <https://hdr.undp.org/data-center/>

low standard of living. Issues such as disaster recovery and gang violence have contributed to poverty in Haiti, but the government has made recent efforts to address them. One example is the UN police force combating gang violence throughout the country. However, more than 15,000 people have already been left homeless from gang violence in Port-au-Prince alone.²³² This number is only increasing as the conflict continues, and the government has done little to help alleviate it. It is the social ministers' job to evaluate the impact of government policies on the average citizen and figure out how best to support them.

One member of this bloc is Antoine Augustin, the Minister of National Education and Vocational Training. He frequently worked on United Nations education programs around the world and in Haiti, giving him a wide perspective that he can use to strengthen Haiti's education system.²³³ One of his main goals is to improve Haitian public schools, redesigning state testing to be more efficient and cost-effective.²³⁴ Another member of this bloc is the Minister of Justice, Carlos Hercule. He served as President of the Bar Associations of both Port-au-Prince and Haiti as a whole. His progressive attitude helped modernize both organizations through an updated Code of Ethics and wider use of technology.²³⁵ Hercules's main goals are to strengthen the justice system, weed out corruption, and restore democracy through elections.

The members of this bloc have a wide variety of responsibilities, from roadwork and public transportation to healthcare. Much of their overall role will be mitigating damage and keeping in touch with the public's needs. They must also keep in mind the government's largest priorities and limited funds, being sure not to spend more than they have available. Despite this, their joint purpose is to provide for the Haitian people, building

up infrastructure and providing public programs and services.

Committee Mission

In normal times, the Haitian Cabinet of Ministers is meant to advise the executive branch of the government. The Prime Minister appoints ministers to the cabinet to oversee different departments within the government. When the President is unable to serve, many of their duties fall to the Cabinet. The Prime Minister becomes interim President, and this system remains in place until a replacement is found.²³⁶ However, the cabinet is now in uncharted territory. After the loss of both major heads of state, the cabinet has to take up a much larger mantle.

Since April of 2024, the Transitional Presidential Council (TPC) has held the primary powers of the executive branch.²³⁷ Shortly after, the TPC appointed Garry Conille as interim Prime Minister. His job is to oversee the government's day-to-day operations while the TPC continues to plan for elections. After conferring with the TPC, Prime Minister Conille appointed his new cabinet in June of 2024. They are a group of highly experienced specialists meant to bring stability and order to a country in disarray.²³⁸

In the short term, one of the government's largest priorities is tackling the gang violence ravaging the country. Until recently, gang violence in Haiti has been largely unchecked. When the TPC was first installed, Jimmy Cherizier issued a message telling members of the government to "Brace yourselves."²³⁹ His gangs still control vast swathes of Haitian territory, displacing many Haitians in the process. However, with renewed international support coming in, the government seeks to weaken his influence and push gangs out of Haiti

country-insights#/ranks.

232 "Over 15,000 rendered homeless as gang violence engulfs Haiti."

233 Jonasson Odigène, "Who is Augustin Antoine, the New Minister of Education and Culture?" *Le Nouvelliste*, June 11, 2024, <https://lenouvelliste.com/en/article/248592/who-is-augustin-antoine-the-new-minister-of-education-and-culture>.

234 "Haiti - Education : Minister Augustin Antoine meets the DDEs of the Great North," *HaitiLibre*, June 30, 2024, <https://www.haitilibre.com/en/news-42662-haiti-education-minister-augustin-antoine-meets-the-ddes-of-the-great-north.html>.

235 Robenson Geffard, "Meet Carlos Hercule: The New Minister of Justice and Public Security," *Le Nouvelliste*, June 12, 2024, <https://lenouvelliste.com/en/article/248628/meet-carlos-hercule-the-new-minister-of-justice-and-public-security>.

236 "Haiti 1987 (rev. 2012)," *Constitute*, accessed August 7, 2024, https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Haiti_2012.

237 "Haiti transitional government takes power as gangs hold capital 'hostage,'" *Reuters*, April 25, 2024, <https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/haiti-pm-henry-steps-down-transitional-government-takes-power-2024-04-25/>.

238 "Haiti's Prime Minister Garry Conille officially names his ministry cabinet," *Institute of the Black World 21st Century*, June 14, 2024, <https://ibw21.org/editors-choice/haitis-prime-minister-garry-conille-officially-names-his-ministry-cabinet/>.

239 Steven Aristil and Harold Isaac, "Haiti police bolster security around palace ahead of transition," *Reuters*, April 23, 2024, <https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/haiti-police-bolster-security-around-palace-ahead-transition-2024-04-24/>.

once and for all.²⁴⁰ Furthermore, the cabinet seeks to improve natural disaster preparedness. As the effects of climate change are felt in the Caribbean, the majority of Haitians are at risk of multiple natural disasters. Tropical storms, earthquakes, and heat waves are among the many issues threatening the country.²⁴¹

Long-term development efforts will involve economic restructuring, building better trade relationships, and curbing the country's reliance on agriculture. Although many of its institutional debts have been forgiven, Haiti is still deeply indebted to other countries. At the current rate, it is still projected that the national debt will reach a new high by 2029.²⁴² Additionally, rebuilding and improving key infrastructure will be key to Haiti's stabilization, including social programs. As this progresses, the cabinet will also have to find ways to resettle the thousands of displaced people within Haiti. Finally, the cabinet must work toward gaining public support. A string of past corruption scandals has led many Haitians to lose their faith in the government. The government cannot achieve meaningful long-term growth without the full backing of the Haitian people.

Most importantly, the need for elections is the most pressing issue facing Haiti today. Elections have been derailed time and time again due to natural disasters, gang violence, and corruption. But, as the country becomes more stable, it is essential that the government takes advantage and carries out elections. A President, an official administration, and a strengthened Parliament will allow the government to keep its momentum and keep helping the citizens of Haiti.²⁴³ There are still some points of contention within the government. These include how soon elections should occur and if they should be supervised. No matter what, the cabinet must do everything in its power to stabilize the country and ensure a smooth return to a democratic system.

Overall, the Haitian cabinet has a long road ahead of it. Many modern issues have affected Haiti for decades, and addressing

them will not be easy. It will be up to members of the cabinet to overcome their differences and collaborate to pull Haiti out of the crisis stronger than ever before.

²⁴⁰ "Haiti, Kenya Set up Diplomatic Ties."

²⁴¹ Gustavo Canavire-Bacarreza, Naraya Carrasco, and Luis Recalde-Ramírez, "A look into poverty and disaster preparedness in Haiti," *World Bank Blogs*, August 10, 2023, <https://blogs.worldbank.org/en/latinamerica/poverty-and-disaster-preparedness-haiti>.

²⁴² "National debt of Haiti from 2007 to 2029," *Statista*, accessed August 2, 2024, <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1392186/national-debt-haiti/>.

²⁴³ "Haiti announces elections and controversial constitutional referendum for September," *Pledge Times*, June 9, 2021, <https://web.archive.org/web/20210723180417/https://pledgetimes.com/haiti-announces-elections-and-controversial-constitutional-referendum-for-september/>.

Committee Representatives

NB: Because of the rapidly evolving situation in the Republic of Haiti, changes in the cabinet are possible. If your representative is removed from their position, you should research their replacement instead. For example, if the Minister of Defense is dismissed, the delegate assigned to represent the Minister of Defense should research and plan to represent the incoming Minister of Defense.

Ambassador to the United Nations

Haiti's Ambassador to the United Nations plays a crucial role in how Haiti interacts with the rest of the world. This person represents Haiti at the United Nations' meetings. Therefore, they play a key role in communicating Haiti's problems to the UN. This means this person has to work closely with the rest of the ministers to gather information and statistics about various issues plaguing the country so that this information can be accurately delivered to the United Nations. Moreover, this person is the "middleman" between the UN and Haiti, meaning that they deliver messages and news from the United Nations to the rest of Haiti. This role is crucial and is no doubt a large factor in Haiti's foreign alliances.

Ambassador to the United States

Haiti's Ambassador to the United States represents Haitian interests in the US. The United States is one of Haiti's most important trading partners, purchasing 80 percent of their exports, and providing billions of dollars of aid to the country. The Ambassador takes point in negotiations with the US and keeps them updated with goings on in Haiti. If the cabinet needs anything from the US, the Ambassador is their highest-ranking representative to guide the discussions. Like other diplomats, they believe cooperation with foreign countries is the best way to secure a safer future for Haiti.

Governor of the Bank of the Republic of Haiti

The Governor of the Bank of the Republic of Haiti (BRH) is charged with running the largest bank in Haiti. The BRH is Haiti's national bank, meaning that it is fully owned by the government. It is a very important source of money throughout the country. The Governor is responsible for overseeing the Bank's operations and plays a key role in directing Haiti's monetary policy.¹ Some major duties include supervising credit, interest rates, and exchange rates between Haitian Gourde (HTG) and other major currencies. The Governor works closely with other Ministers to determine if the Cabinet's goals are feasible.

Military Chief of Staff

The Military Chief of Staff is the commander of the Haitian Armed Forces. When the Minister of Defense tells them to send troops to combat the gangs, they do so. They are mostly loyal to the Minister of Defense and hold a similar position on combating the gangs. However, Haiti has long had a questionable relationship with its military. The Military Chief of Staff has been a member of Haiti's armed forces since the 1990s and was involved in the brutal Cedras regime which overthrew Jean-Bertrand Aristide in 1991. They want to return Haiti's military to its past glory and will stop at nothing to achieve that. If they wish to turn against the Minister of Defense, they can do so. However, that would completely ruin any work made towards combating the gangs.

Minister of Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Rural Development

The Minister of Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Rural Development is responsible for overseeing agricultural practices in Haiti. This mainly involves setting up major regulations and government subsidies. They are also responsible for promoting

¹ "Mission et Organisation," *Banque de la République d'Haiti*, accessed August 23, 2024, <https://www.brh.ht/la-brh/mission-et-organisation/>.

development in the rural regions of Haiti. As more people migrate away from cities, it is part of the Minister of Agriculture's job to manage the increased stress on rural communities. Finally, they frequently work with the Minister of the Environment to help preserve Haiti's natural resources.

Minister of Commerce and Industry

Haiti's Minister of Commerce and Industry is the chief architect of Haiti's economy. They set the prices of goods and services in the country. Another important job the minister has is facilitating trade and diversifying the economy. Lastly, they control the Haitian tourism board - it is up to them to make Haiti as attractive of a vacation spot as possible. The Minister, along with the Minister for Economy and Finance, is at the head of the economic specialist's bloc; as the chief economist of the country, they put the plans in motion for ways to grow Haiti's stagnant economy. They believe that diversification and reducing the cost of business in Haiti are key ways to grow the economy.

Minister of Culture and Communication

Haiti's Minister of Culture and Communication is directly responsible for the cultural policy of Haiti. This includes policies to support artists and art organizations, as well as policies to protect Haiti's national heritage. However, more important is the role of communications. This minister has the responsibility of overseeing telecommunications within the country, postal services, broadcasting, and print media. This minister plays a crucial role in the delivery of information to citizens and vice versa and is influential in sectors of television, radio, and broadcasting.

Minister of Defense

Haiti's Minister of Defense controls the methods that Haiti can use to defend itself. That means that the Minister has control over the armed forces and the Haitian National Police. It is up to them to direct the way that the armed forces will combat the gangs. The Minister of Defense is more of a hardliner. They will want to handle the gangs as roughly as possible, and while they are appreciative of the multinational police force sent to assist them, they are wary of its effectiveness. As the preeminent military hardliner in Haiti's cabinet, they are looking to use whatever means necessary to handle the gangs.

Minister of the Economy and Finance

The Minister of the Economy and Finance controls Haiti's budget. They are aware of Haiti's massive debts, and it is up to them to come up with ways to correct them. They also control the level of taxation and spending in the country. The Minister has experience working with the IMF and World Bank; with that knowledge, they can play a major role in securing aid and favorable debt rates. Alongside the Minister for Commerce, Industry, and Tourism, they are the heads of the economic specialist's bloc. Their sole focus is improving the economy.

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Haiti's Minister of Foreign Affairs is in charge of developing Haiti's foreign policy. This involves analyzing international cooperation issues ranging from natural disaster recovery to military assistance.² As Haiti's chief diplomat, the Minister of Foreign Affairs can be seen as the head of the diplomats' bloc. They are in charge of appointing ambassadors and controlling Haiti's diplomatic missions abroad.³ They are also responsible for handling negotiations over humanitarian and military aid. This will be important

² Ministère des Affaires Étrangères et des Cultes. "Mission - Ministère Des Affaires Étrangères Et Des Cultes." Ministère Des Affaires Étrangères Et Des Cultes, May 16, 2023. <https://mae.gouv.ht/mission/>.

³ Ministère des Affaires Étrangères et des Cultes. "Mission - Ministère Des Affaires Étrangères Et Des Cultes."

to secure Haiti's future.

Ministers of Haitians Living Abroad

The Minister of Haitians Living Abroad is responsible for the Haitian immigrants who have migrated to other states. Not to be confused with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, this minister's sole focus is on overseeing the updates and new initiatives regarding Haiti's migrants. This also means communicating closely with other states on issues related to immigration policy. This minister plays a crucial role in Haiti's foreign communications.

Minister of Justice and Public Security

The Minister of Justice and Public Security is a key figure in law enforcement and public safety. They play an important role in creating, revising, and enforcing Haiti's justice system and national laws, including criminal law. They also play an active role in advising the Cabinet on important legal matters. One major focus for the Minister of Justice will be cracking down on gangs, both in planning engagement and legal processing once the matter is resolved. The Minister of Justice sometimes works with the Minister of Defense on national policing. They also work with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship to manage international intervention, such as the UN Police deployed in Haiti.

Minister of National Education and Vocational Training

The Minister of National Education and Vocational Training regulates the Haitian education system and professional training. The Ministry evaluates school curriculums, conducts state educational testing, and supervises vocational training programs to help prepare Haitians for their jobs and careers. Currently, many Haitian schools have been converted into housing facilities for displaced people. The Ministry of National Education seeks to continue to provide education for Haitian students. Another long-term goal for the Minister of Education is to make the Haitian public school system more efficient to improve Haiti's literacy rate.

Minister of Planning

The Minister of Planning's main responsibility is to plan the way that the cabinet is going to implement its policies. If the rest of the cabinet has the role of sponsoring their specific part of a policy, the Minister of Planning's role is to plan how each policy would fit into the overall solution. In short, this person's role is incredibly important, and can often make or break how legislation is received.

Minister of Public Health and Population

Haiti's Minister of Public Health is responsible for running Haiti's national healthcare system. This involves combating diseases, educating the public, and providing government health services. Haiti's current public health spending is only USD 13 per capita annually, among the lowest in the Americas. The Haitian public health system has been historically mismanaged, especially during major disease outbreaks, such as cholera and COVID-19. It is the current Minister's job to improve spending and the use of existing resources to put Haiti back on the right track.

Minister of Public Works, Transport, and Communications

The Minister of Public Works, Transport and Communications has a very broad position. Firstly, they are responsible for the upkeep of public buildings and structures, such as roads and bridges. They also supervise Haitian public transportation services and telecommunications. However, they also oversee a variety of other services, such as water, power, roadwork, and building

codes.⁴ Haiti's infrastructure has been severely damaged by natural disasters, and gangs' control large swathes of roads throughout the country, making transportation very difficult. As such, they have a vested interest in expelling the gangs from Haiti to do their job effectively.

Minister of Social Affairs and Labor

Haiti's Minister of Social Affairs and Labor controls workplace standards for Haitian workers. If a company has poor standards, it is up to the Minister to deal with it. They work closely with Haitian labor unions and advocate for their rights. The Minister of Social Affairs and Labor is a more liberal member of the Cabinet. Like many members of the economic specialist's bloc, they are aiming to give a boost to Haiti's economy. However, their main focus is the workers. They believe that implementing fair working conditions will make Haitian jobs more accessible, and thus will improve the economy.

Minister of the Environment

The Minister of the Environment works to protect Haiti's environment and natural resources. Their job is to come up with plans for environmental preservation and a sustainable future. Outright conservation efforts are not at the forefront of the Cabinet's agenda. However, sustainable development is vital in ensuring long-term stability for Haiti. Haiti's environment has been hurt by over farming, overfishing, and the effects of climate change.⁵ They often work closely with the Minister of Agriculture to reduce these and other harmful practices to protect Haiti's natural resources. The Minister of the Environment is also heavily involved with natural disaster recovery efforts.

Minister of Tourism

The Minister of Tourism directs the activities of the tourism industry through developing policies that enhance this sector. However, this minister may also work closely with the Minister of Haitians Living Abroad, as well as the Minister of Foreign Affairs. This Minister is focused on ensuring that those who enter Haiti can do so without any hassle, as well as ensuring that the tourism industry is doing well. This means that this minister is also focused on the economic development of tourism as well, implying that they would work closely with the Minister of Finance.

Minister of Women's Affairs

Haiti's Minister of Women's Affairs mainly focuses on women's rights and equal representation in society. This involves increased spending on services for women to help them balance their professional careers and personal lives. Recently, the current Minister has also pushed for the inclusion of families under the Ministry's purview. This would expand the Ministry into providing improved social services for families, such as counseling and emotional support. This would aim to reduce delinquency among children and domestic violence.⁶

Minister of Youth, Sports, and Civic Action

The Minister of Youth, Sports, and Civic Action supervises Haitian youth services and activities, as well as sports at the national level. The Ministry has instituted initiatives promoting health and fitness among the Haitian public, such as the "Haïti réveil

⁴ "Le Ministère des Travaux Publics en bref," *Ministère des Travaux Publics, Transports et Communications*, accessed August 23, 2024, https://www.mtpctc.gouv.ht/accueil/le-ministere/page_presentation.html.

⁵ "Environment and Climate Change," *USAID*, accessed August 23, 2024, <https://www.usaid.gov/haiti/our-work/environment>.

⁶ "Haiti - Politic : The Minister for the Status of Women wants to transform and rename her Ministry," *HaitiLibre*, June 18, 2024, <https://www.haitilibre.com/en/news-42580-haiti-politic-the-minister-for-the-status-of-women-wants-to-transform-and-rename-her-ministry.html>.

santé,” or “Haiti revitalize health,” program in 2014.⁷ The Minister of Youth, Sports, and Civic Action also oversees national sports teams for international competitions, such as the Olympics. Finally, the Ministry is charged with protecting citizens’ rights to get involved with the government. Some prominent examples of this right are petitioning the government and peacefully protesting.

⁷ “Haïti réveil santé launched by the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Civic Action,” *Le Nouvelliste*, July 17, 2014, <https://lenouvelliste.com/article/133512/haïti-reveil-sante-launched-by-the-ministry-of-youth-sports-and-civic-action>.

Research and Preparation Questions

Your dais has prepared the following research and preparation questions as a means of providing guidance for your research process. These questions should be carefully considered, as they embody some of the main critical thought and learning objectives surrounding your topic.

Topic A

1. How can the Haitian Cabinet ensure free and fair elections even during the most contentious of times?
2. Is there a way to prevent the proliferation and reliance on Haitian gangs by politicians and the government?
3. What are some preventive measures Haiti can implement to reduce the impact of future natural disasters such as earthquakes, landslides, and hurricanes?
4. What are some steps Haiti can take to reduce its debt to other countries like the United States and France?
5. Given the rise of cholera, what solutions can this cabinet formulate to tackle outbreaks of diseases like it?
6. How can Haiti engage in diplomatic relations with other countries to mitigate international organized crime present in the country?
7. What can be done for the economic modernization of Haiti, that can be delivered in an equitable manner consistent with the goals of sustainable development?
8. What are potential mechanisms to limit corruption within the government?
9. How can the impact of the historical caste system of Haiti be mitigated to create a more equal society?
10. How can trade relations with other states be improved to allow Haiti to function in a globalized economy?

Important Documents

Topic A

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