



Original Regions of Hispaniola (pre-Europeans)



Haiti Today (shares island of Hispaniola with Dominican Republic)



Toussaint L'Ouverture
A leader in Haitian Independence
Betrayed by French



Jean Jacques Dessalines
A leader of the Haitian Revolution
First ruler of independent Haiti

Size – almost the same as Maryland

Population – 9.03 million (as of 2009)

GDP – \$790 (2008 estimate)

Exports – coffee, mangoes, sisal products

Brief Timeline

Prior to 1492	Hispaniola is originally divided in 5 or 6 long established regions.
1492	Christopher Columbus lands in current day Haiti.
1512	Laws of Burgos, 1 st set of national laws, governing treatment of the natives; the laws were difficult to enforce and had virtually no impact.
1517	African slave trade begins.
1600's	Pirates/Buccaneers flood the region.
1697	Treaty of Ryswick settles disputes between France and Spain, it divides the island of Hispaniola between the 2 countries, France is granted the western third of the island.
1785	John James Audubon is born in Les Cayes, Saint-Domingue.
1790	Saint-Domingue (current day Haiti) becomes the richest French colony in the New World, much of the success due to sugar and coffee plantations and the indigo trade. (And yet, in less than 200 years, it becomes the poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere.)
1791	Slave revolution begins. Toussaint L'Ouverture, a freed slave, becomes its most accomplished leader.
1804	Citizens of Saint-Domingue declare independence and change the name of the new country to Haiti.
1815	South American political leader Bolivar flees from Jamaica to Haiti and leaves with the conditional financial support of the Haitian president.
1821	Haitian President Boyer reunifies both sides of the island of Hispaniola and abolishes slavery on the east side.
1825	President Boyer and King Charles X set terms of official independence with a payment of 150 million francs.
1843	A long string of coups begin after the ousting of the President.
1915-1937	The US occupies the island of Hispaniola and sets the border between Haiti and the Dominican Republic.
1987	A new constitution is adopted in Haiti.
2004	A revolt begins, leading to the president fleeing and United Nations sending peacekeepers to Haiti (UN still has a presence there).
2010	An earthquake devastates Haiti and turns the eyes of the world to this small Caribbean country.