

DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 390 764

SO 025 638

AUTHOR Harris, Danielle  
 TITLE The Road of U.S. Intervention in Haiti. Study Guide. Episode #802. America's Defense Monitor, Educational TV for the Classroom.  
 INSTITUTION Center for Defense Information, Washington, DC.  
 PUB DATE Sep 94  
 NOTE 9p.; This brochure accompanies a VHS videotape of the same title (not available at EDRS). For other study guides in this series, see SO 025 635-642.  
 AVAILABLE FROM The Center for Defense Information, 1500 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20005 (\$25 per VHS copy; educational discounts available).  
 PUB TYPE Guides - Classroom Use - Teaching Guides (For Teacher) (052)  
 EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.  
 DESCRIPTORS Foreign Countries; Higher Education; \*International Relations; Secondary Education; Social Studies; World Affairs; \*World Problems  
 IDENTIFIERS \*Haiti

ABSTRACT

This program examines the history of U.S.-Haitian affairs and the events leading up to the recent deployment of U.S. troops to Haiti. This program provides essential background to those interested in the current and future situation in Haiti as it struggles with democracy-building. The study guide offers questions to use before viewing the video, questions to follow the video, classroom activities to focus student thinking on the problem, topics for further research, and a list of eight resources. (EH)

\*\*\*\*\*  
 \* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made \*  
 \* from the original document. \*  
 \*\*\*\*\*

PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS  
MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY

MARK SUGG

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES  
INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

# AMERICA'S DEFENSE MONITOR

Educational TV for the Classroom

## STUDY GUIDE FOR THE ROAD TO U.S. INTERVENTION IN HAITI

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
Office of Educational Research and Improvement  
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION  
CENTER (ERIC)

This document has been reproduced as  
received from the person or organization  
originating it

Minor changes have been made to improve  
reproduction quality

Points of view or opinions stated in this docu-  
ment do not necessarily represent official  
OPRE position or policy

**EPISODE # 802**

**BEST COPY AVAILABLE**

Produced by the Center for Defense Information

ED 390 764

S0025638

## **THE ROAD TO U.S. INTERVENTION IN HAITI**

This thirty minute program takes a look at the history of U.S.-Haitian affairs and the events leading up to the recent deployment of American troops to that country.

The U.S. invaded Haiti in 1915 and remained there until 1934, leaving the national guard as the only intact and organized institution. Since then, Haiti has been dominated by dictators and military leaders. Yet, in the atmosphere of the Cold War, the U.S. considered Haiti among its allies, largely due to its being "in our backyard", supplying military and developmental aid and training to Haitian officers in American military schools. Haiti saw its first democratic elections in 1990 when Jean Bertrand Aristide came to power with 67% of the vote. Less than a year later, Aristide was overthrown in a military coup. The U.S. responded through economic sanctions, varying refugee policies and joining in international condemnation of the military government. While these actions were aimed at weakening the military rule, some argue that they in fact made life more difficult for the lower classes. Repeated refusal of the military leaders to step down in response to threats eventually led to UN authorization of a U.S.-led invasion in July of 1994. Last minute diplomacy in the face of a visible threat provoked the military dictator, Raul Cedras, to agree to step down.

This program provides an essential background to anyone interested in the current and future situation in

Haiti. The multinational force, composed predominantly of U.S. troops, faces an indeterminate mandate in a devastated country. Policy experts and Aristide's own spokesman discuss the legacy of American involvement in Haitian affairs and whether the military is the appropriate agency for democracy-building.

**THIS PROGRAM FEATURES:**

Randall Robinson, Executive Director, TransAfrica.

Dr. Paul Farmer, M.D., Partners in Health, author of The Uses of Haiti.

Elliott Abrams, Senior Fellow, Hudson Institute, Former Assistant Secretary for Latin American Affairs under the Reagan Administration.

Jean-Claude Martineau, Spokesman for President Aristide.

James Matlack, Director, American Friends Service Committee.

Harriet Babbitt, U.S. Ambassador to the Organization of American States.

## BEFORE VIEWING QUESTIONS

- 1) In what ways could a country intervene abroad?
- 2) Given the end of the Cold War, what changes, if any, should there be in U.S. foreign policy?
- 3) What do you think the role of the United Nations should be in the new world order?
- 4) What European nation colonized Haiti in the 1700's?
- 5) What characterizes a military dictatorship?
- 6) Give examples of past foreign intervention in Haiti?

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS AFTER VIEWING

- 1) Did the United States have a moral obligation to intervene in Haiti?
- 2) Can social and economic problems be solved by military means?
- 3) What is the role of the United Nations in situations like Haiti, which do not transcend international borders?
- 4) Where should our foreign aid dollars be spent?
- 5) What was the justification for the United States to train the Haitian military?

## CLASSROOM ACTIVITY

Imagine that it is the eve of the planned American invasion of Haiti. Split the students into groups. Assign each group to prepare an argument on why the United States should or should not intervene in Haiti, explaining that there still exists a chance for last minute diplomatic negotiation. Then, have the group(s) that argued for intervention prepare another argument on what form the intervention should take. The group(s) arguing against intervention should try to propose alternative plans. If this proves difficult, have the students brainstorm a list of pros and cons for invasion and a list of alternative modes of actions.

## RESEARCH TOPICS

1) In the program, Jean-Claude Martineau, President Aristide's spokesman discusses the U.S. occupation of Haiti from 1915-1934. He mentions land reform and the creation of a national guard as having detrimental effects on the Haitian economy and infrastructure. Research the period of occupation in an attempt to shed light on the overall effects of the occupation.

2) Elliott Abrams, Senior Fellow at the Hudson Institute and Former Assistant Secretary for Latin American Affairs under the Reagan administration, in speaking about military dictatorships in Latin America in the context of the Cold War, states that while the U.S. "did not install these dictatorships... any government that was anti-communist clearly had a leg up." Research justifications for U.S. support of Haiti in the Cold War era.

3) The program focuses on the history of American-Haitian relations in the 20th century. Research Haiti's relationships with foreign nations in the 19th century. How would you compare Haiti's position on the international spectrum in the 19th century with its position today?

## RESOURCES

Best, Richard A., Jr., *The U.S. Occupation of Haiti, 1915-1934*, Congressional Research Service: May 26, 1994.

Farmer, Dr. Paul, *The Uses of Haiti*, Common Courage Press: 1994.

Haggarty, Richard, ed., *Dominican Republic and Haiti, Country Studies*, Federal Research Division, Library of Congress: 1993.

*Haiti: Killing the Dream*, video, Crowing Rooster Arts, Inc.: 1993.

Ridgeway, James, ed., *The Haiti Files*, Essential Books: 1994.

*Silencing a People: the Destruction of Civil Society in Haiti*, America's Watch and National Coalition for Haitian Refugees: 1993.

Taft-Morales, Maureen and Steven R. Bowman, *Haiti's Political Crisis: U.S. Policy Options*, Congressional Research Service: July 14, 1994.

*Terror Prevails in Haiti: Human Rights Violations and Failed Diplomacy*, Human Rights Watch/Americas Watch, Vol. 6, No. 5: April 1994.



**AMERICA'S DEFENSE MONITOR:  
THE PERFECT WAY TO BRING ISSUES  
TO LIFE IN THE CLASSROOM**

*America's Defense Monitor* offers an in-depth look at our nation's military and security-related policies. Each thirty minute program is a visually stimulating and entertaining resource for the high school or college classroom. Episodes can be used to supplement regular classroom material or to introduce new topics. By bringing topics to life through the medium of video, this award-winning series can help arouse student interest in crucial issues.

Topics range from the social costs of military spending to nuclear proliferation, the arms trade, and the impact of the military on society, the media and the environment. Each program features interviews with important policy makers.

*America's Defense Monitor* is produced by the Center for Defense Information, an independent monitor of the military. For more information and a complete catalogue, contact us at:

**Center for Defense Information**

1500 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20005

or call 1-800-CDI-3334

Fax (202) 862-0708; email: [cdi@igc.apc.org](mailto:cdi@igc.apc.org)

This Study Guide created by Danielle Harris.