GlobalResearch
Center for Research on Globalization

Hands Off Haiti!

By Thomas L. Knapp
Global Research, July 12, 2021
The William Lloyd Garrison Center for Libertarian Advocacy Journalism 9 July 2021

Region: Latin America & Caribbean
Theme: History, Law and Justice
In-depth Report: HAITI

All Global Research articles can be read in 51 languages by activating the "Translate Website" drop down menu on the top banner of our home page (Desktop version).

Visit and follow us on Instagram at @crg_globalresearch.

***

Associated Press headline, July 8: "Biden with few options to stabilize Haiti in wake of slaying." Following the assassination of president Jovenel Moïse, AP reports, "the U.S. is unlikely to deploy troops."

Nonetheless, the American political and media establishments seem to blithely assume that Haiti's internal affairs are very much America's business. State Department spokesman Ned Price says "It is still the view of the United States that elections this year should proceed." An "electoral timetable" proposed by Moïse was "backed by the Biden administration, though it rejected plans to hold a constitutional referendum."

Imagine, for a moment, that Russian president Vladimir Putin announced his support for the US holding 2022 congressional midterm elections, but denounced a proposed constitutional amendment.

Haven't American politicians spent the last several years kvetching about supposed "Russian meddling" in US elections? Is there some particular reason why "election interference" is bad when others do it to us, but good when we do it to others?

The United States has intervened in Haiti's internal affairs for more than 200 years, almost always with poor results for both countries' populations.

After Haiti's slave population rose up and overthrew their French masters, Federalists led by Alexander Hamilton recognized Toussaint Louverture's new regime and encouraged independence (Louverture maintained the colonial relationship with France until 1804).

Under Thomas Jefferson, the US withdrew that diplomatic recognition under pressure from slave owners who feared a spread of Louverture's rebellion to the American mainland, and refused to recognize Haiti's independence until 1862. Subsequently, Washington intervened militarily in Haiti multiple times, occupied the country from 1915 to 1934, and supported the dictatorships of Francois "Papa Doc" and Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier from 1957 to 1986 on the Cold War logic that Haiti could be a Caribbean "counterweight" to Communist Cuba.

Since the fall of Duvalier The Younger, the US government has continued to intervene in Haitian affairs — dangling and withdrawing aid, engaging in economic blockade, and intercepting and repatriating US-bound refugees, based on who's in charge in Port-au-Prince and whether they toe Washington's line.

While it's simplistic to conclude that the US government is responsible for all of Haiti's many problems, Washington certainly bears a great deal of responsibility for those problems. The way forward and out of that culpability is less, not more, interference in Haiti's affairs.

If the US government really needs a "Haiti policy," that policy should include two elements: Free trade and welcoming refugees. Beyond that, hands off Haiti!

*

Note to readers: Please click the share buttons above or below. Follow us on Instagram, @crg_globalresearch. Forward this article to your email lists. Crosspost on your blog site, internet forums. etc.

Thomas L. Knapp (Twitter: @thomaslknapp) is director and senior news analyst at the William Lloyd Garrison Center for Libertarian Advocacy Journalism (thegarrisoncenter.org). He lives and works in north central Florida.

Featured image: Haiti's National Police guard remove makeshift barricades made of steel fences and tree branches protesters placed to block the National Palace entrance, Oct. 31, 2019. (Photo: Matiado Vilme / VOA — Public Domain)

The original source of this article is The William Lloyd Garrison Center for Libertarian Advocacy Journalism
Copyright © Thomas L. Knapp, The William Lloyd Garrison Center for Libertarian Advocacy Journalism, 2021

Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page

Become a Member of Global Research

Articles by: Thomas L. Knapp

Disclaimer: The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: publications@globalresearch.ca

www.globalresearch.ca contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: publications@globalresearch.ca