

## Haiti and “other African countries”

Hi! I’ve been taking a break from this page, but I feel the President of the United States has asked me to pick up the mic.

First, Haiti. As all of my students have heard me say, Haiti should be the most respected and esteemed country in the Western Hemisphere. Haiti is the only country where a slave-led rebellion actually succeeded in throwing off the shackles of bondage and forming a black-run republic. The only time it’s ever happened, in 1791. There were literally dozens of slave rebellions in the Caribbean, and Europeans were able to put down all of them except for this one. Saint-Domingue had been France’s richest colony, absolutely dominating the sugar trade, when Toussaint L’Ouverture led an uprising that had the entire colony’s white population flee, and dragged Napoleon into a twelve-years-long war. After Napoleon tricked Toussaint into surrendering, Toussaint’s general, the black-supremacist Dessalines, took over the colony and renamed it Haiti, cutting the white part out of the French flag. Eventually, Napoleon said “Forget it,” left Haiti, and sold the Louisiana Territory to Thomas Jefferson in order to fund his wars back in Europe. Dessalines was possibly mentally unstable, however, and was killed by his own men. His successors split Haiti into two: King Christophe ruled the north while Andre Petion ruled the south. Petion was a creole (biracial), and assured allegiance by promising people they never had to grow sugar again. Christophe wanted to maintain the sugar economy, however, and reinstated the plantation system with free labor. But Christophe was also possibly mentally unstable and killed himself. Afterwards Haiti turned into a nation of independent farmers and their sugar production went down by 90%. In addition, the U.S., France, Britain, Spain, and every other Western nation that still had slavery refused to do business with Haiti because they did not want their slaves influenced by the example of a bunch of free blacks running their own country. Haiti was frozen out of the economic community of nations for the next 80 years! It has been impoverished ever since then both because they have been playing economic catch-up and because they live in a part of the world where natural disasters come and go with the seasons. That is the reason they are a “shithole.” Imagine if you were starting a business. What if you had to start your business with no capital? Then, imagine if no vendors would sell you supplies, and no retailers would carry your products. You would have a shithole business. But for every person who loves freedom, who loves the idea of the human spirit rising to throw off the shackles of oppression, Haiti should be a revered member of and shining example to the Western hemisphere. But they are not, because Western nations don’t teach their schoolchildren the history of Haiti. The best book on it is “The Black Jacobins,” the second-best book is probably “Avengers of the New World.”

Now to Africa. You can’t appreciate the state Africa is in until you understand the history of colonialism. In the 1880s, European nations began a “scramble for Africa,” and colonized 90% of the continent within 20 years. When the majority of those nations left Africa in the 1960s, they left colonies full of people who they had never bothered to teach how to run a Western-style state. There had been dozens of thriving civilizations in Africa prior to the 1880s, but none of them were built along nation-state parameters. Then, after 80 years of brutal rule and substandard education of native peoples, most African countries awoke to a Cold War world where they had to either side with the U.S. or with the

Soviet Union for capital to start their countries. As a result, both superpowers funded dozens of proxy wars all over Africa, where Africans holding American guns would kill Africans holding Russian guns, and vice versa. Much of this ridiculous and criminal exploitation only ended in the 1990s—hence, your shithole.

I highly recommend Frank Smitha's website, [Macrohistory.com](http://Macrohistory.com) for more details. I know some of you voted for Trump. If so, please encourage him, through prayer or other means, to read his history before he makes uninformed remarks. Ignorance does not look good on a head of state. Happy Dr. Martin Luther King Day!