Haitian Epistemology
1492

1514

Exploration and Bondage
The Haitian Revolution

The only successful slave revolt in history

(1791-1804)
Toussaint Louverture
Jean-Jacques Dessalines
Alexandre Petion
Women of the Haitian Revolution

Suzanne Simon-Louverture
Marie-Claire Hereuse
Madeleine Lachenais
Sanite Belaire
Catherine Flon
Défilé
1660 French Colonization

Haitian Bondage

* Estimated 770,000 to 1 million slaves brought to Haiti - twice the US number

* Most affluent colony

* Brutality of French Domination

* Retaining a Sovereign Spirit & Mind

French Rule and Resistance
Haitian Spirit

Haitian Mind

Black Consciousness
Louverture

The Threat

* Fear of success of Haitian revolution
* Napoleon forced to sell Louisiana
* Embargo placed on Haiti from US and France
* 150 million gold francs imposed by France
* Rebellions

“In overthrowing me, only the trunk of the tree of negro liberty has been cut down; its branches will shoot up again, for its roots are numerous and deep.”
Independence in the Americas

Abolishment of Slavery

* 1833 British
* 1849 French
* 1863 Dutch
* 1865 US
* 1886 Spanish
750 Haitian Freemen at the Siege of Savannah, GA - 1779

Petion Statue in Caracas, Venezuela

Homage Monuments in North and South America
Haitian Influence on Black Intellectuals

W.E.B. DuBois
Fredrick Douglas
Carter Woodson
C.L.R. James
Haitian Influence on Black Artists

Zora Neale Hurston
Langston Hughes
Duke Ellington
Paul Dunbar
Haitian Cultural Education Model
Upper/Educated Class
* Education
* State
* Church
* Media

Access
* Modeled after French Classical System
* Retaining French, literature, history, philosophy
* City Folks and Upper Class advantage
* Upper Class did not support funds for Public Schools

Education System
19th Century
Goals

* US Reform Efforts to de-Haitianize the School System & Embrace Agricultural Studies
* Elite vs. Small Scale Production
* US Occupation was to Controll Finances of the Government

Advantages

* Supported Presidents were those who upheld US policies
* Lack of qualified teachers
* Introduced Catholic Schools administered by French Orders of Brother and Sisters

US Occupation and Education 1915-1934
* Became a teacher at 17 years old
* Doctoral Studies in France
* 1885 - Of the Equality of the Races
* Paris Anthropology Society
* 1st Black Anthropologist Ethnographer Scholar

Anténor Firmin
1850 - 1911
* 61% literacy rate
* 90% of schools in Haiti are private
* 50% in enrolled in elementary school
* 35% finish middle school
* 9% finish high school
* 1% attend university
* High Risk Tests, 6, 9, 12,13

Haitian School Statistics
* Duvalier Dictatorship
* Increase in Christian Ideology
* Population Doubles
* Aristide and 2nd US Occupation
* Préval and Public School and Transportation
* Martelly Education Funding

Politics and Education
Proves Funding and Support to help Haiti work towards the government’s stated goal of universal primary school enrollment.
Desir Research and Projects

- Sending Context (1986-1996)
- Social and Psychological Adjustment to US Schools
- Lakou Solèy (2010)
- Literacy Initiative for Empowerment (LIFE)
- Haitian Empowerment Literacy Project (HELP)

Lakou Solèy
St. Rafaël, Haiti

Responses from the Diaspora
Agathe said:

Education is something that teaches you how to speak in this society, and how to conduct yourself. If a student has the opportunity to go to school, he too should take the opportunity to learn something so that they can be useful to themselves and to their relatives and especially to those who cannot help themselves.

Elix responded:

Education is the number one opportunity to amount to something in society...School and education will help an individual get ahead. School and education will render an individual valuable to him/herself, to his/her parents and to the society at large.
Elix said:

The police persecuted the youth, especially the youth that had a vision of change and improvement, the youth that wanted to challenge the status quo, the youth that was active politically. These future leaders were arrested, beaten, raped, molested and physically abused. Parents were frightened and anyone who did not support the military was worried about such oppression.

Agathe expressed:

They did not want [us] to grow up to be anything in the future. They did not want [us] to help [our] relatives in the future. They did not want [us] to be useful to ourselves in the future. They came to bother [us] because we wanted to be useful to the country in the future.

School as Political
Fragmenting a Successful Haitian Cultural Education Model
Migration Arrival

Source: MPI tabulation of data from the U.S. Census Bureau 2012 ACS.
Ethnicity, Race, Gender

* Haitian Women  27.4%
* Black Women    21%
* White Women    42%

* Haitian Men    28.4%
* Black Men      17%
* White Men      30%

Bachelors Graduation Rates
Education
Culture
Liberation
What story of Haiti will you teach after completing the FIU Haitian Summer Institute?

The Power of Legacy
Dr. Charlene Désir
Nova Southeastern University
TEN, Global
cdesir13@gmail.com

Thank You - Ayibobo!!!