

Aid State

author: Jake Johnston

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Synopsis

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Haiti's state is near-collapse: armed groups have overrun the country, many government officials have fled after the 2021 assassination of President Moïse, refugees desperately set out on boats to reach the US and Latin America, and the economy reels from the after-effects of disasters, both man-made and natural, that destroyed much of Haiti's infrastructure. How did a nation founded on liberation—a people that successfully revolted against their colonizers and enslavers—come to such a precipice?

In *Aid State*, Jake Johnston, researcher and writer at the Center for Economic and Policy Research, reveals how US and European capitalist goals re-enslaved Haiti under the guise of helping it. To the global West, Haiti has always been a place where labor is cheap, politicians are compliant, and profits are to be made. Over the course of nearly 100 years, the US has sought to control Haiti with occupying police, military, and euphemistically-called peacekeeping forces, as well as hand-picked leaders meant to quell uprisings and protect corporate interests. Earthquakes and hurricanes only further hurt a state already decimated by the aid industrial complex.

Based on years of on-the-ground reporting in Haiti and interviews with politicians in the US and Haiti, UN officials, and Haitians who struggle for their lives, homes, and families, *Aid State* is a conscience-searing book of witness.

Reader's comments

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