

black jacobins

black jacobins is a term that resonates with both ornithology enthusiasts and historians alike. Whether referencing the striking hummingbird species found across South America or the influential revolutionary movement in Haiti, black jacobins have a fascinating legacy. This article explores the natural history of the black jacobin hummingbird, its ecological role, distinctive traits, and conservation status. It also delves into the historic significance of the Black Jacobins in the context of the Haitian Revolution, analyzing their impact on global history and social change. Readers will discover the taxonomy, behavior, and cultural symbolism of black jacobins, gaining a comprehensive understanding of their relevance in both nature and human society. The following sections provide an organized overview of everything you need to know about black jacobins, ensuring an informative and engaging experience for anyone interested in birds, revolutionary history, or both.

- Overview of Black Jacobins
- Taxonomy and Identification
- Habitat and Geographic Distribution
- Behavior and Ecological Role
- Conservation Status and Threats
- Historical Context: The Black Jacobins in the Haitian Revolution
- Cultural and Symbolic Significance
- Frequently Asked Questions

Overview of Black Jacobins

Black jacobins are a subject of interest in both zoology and history. In the natural world, the black jacobin (*Florisuga fusca*) is a remarkable hummingbird species known for its glossy black plumage and unique behavioral traits. Meanwhile, the term "Black Jacobins" has historical significance, referring to the revolutionary leaders in Haiti who played a pivotal role in the fight for independence and abolition of slavery. This dual meaning gives black jacobins a multifaceted presence in scholarly and popular discussions. Understanding both the bird and the revolutionary group provides insight into their lasting impact on biodiversity and social movements.

Taxonomy and Identification

Scientific Classification of the Black Jacobin Hummingbird

The black jacobin hummingbird (*Florisuga fusca*) belongs to the Trochilidae family, which includes all hummingbirds. Its classification is as follows:

- Kingdom: Animalia
- Phylum: Chordata
- Class: Aves
- Order: Apodiformes
- Family: Trochilidae
- Genus: *Florisuga*
- Species: *Florisuga fusca*

Distinctive for its iridescent black plumage, the black jacobin stands out among tropical birds. Its slender bill and rapid wing movement make it a masterful flyer, often mistaken for other hummingbird species due to its swift motions and size.

Physical Features and Identification

The black jacobin is medium-sized for a hummingbird, typically measuring around 12 to 13 centimeters in length. Its plumage is predominantly black with subtle metallic green sheen on the back, and a noticeable white patch on the lower back and tail. Males and females share similar markings, though males may exhibit slightly brighter feather gloss. Their long, straight bills are adapted for nectar feeding, and their agile flight style aids in quick maneuvering through dense forest canopies.

Habitat and Geographic Distribution

Natural Habitats of Black Jacobins

Black jacobins thrive in subtropical and tropical regions, especially within the Atlantic Forest biome of Brazil, Paraguay, and northeastern Argentina. They prefer humid forest edges, secondary growth, and gardens, where flowering plants are abundant. Their adaptability allows them to survive in both pristine and disturbed habitats, making them successful in landscapes affected by human activity.

Geographic Range and Migration Patterns

The species' range is concentrated in southeastern South America. Black jacobins are generally non-migratory, residing year-round within their territories. Some populations may move locally in search of flowering plants, but they do not undertake long-distance migrations like other hummingbirds. Their widespread presence in urban parks and gardens highlights their resilience and adaptability.

Behavior and Ecological Role

Feeding Habits and Pollination

Black jacobins are nectarivores, feeding primarily on the nectar of brightly colored flowers. Their fast wingbeats allow them to hover while feeding, facilitating pollination. They also consume small insects for protein, especially during breeding season. Their feeding behavior is crucial for the pollination of native plants, contributing to ecosystem health and biodiversity.

Social Structure and Territoriality

These hummingbirds are territorial, often defending feeding sites from rivals. Males exhibit aggressive displays to protect their chosen flower patches. During breeding, males perform aerial displays to attract mates. Black jacobins are solitary outside of the breeding season, but their interactions influence the distribution and abundance of flowers in their habitats.

Conservation Status and Threats

Population Trends

The black jacobin hummingbird is currently classified as Least Concern by conservation organizations. Its population remains stable, thanks to its adaptability to varied habitats, including urban environments. However, ongoing deforestation and habitat fragmentation pose potential threats.

Key Threats to Survival

- Loss of native forest due to agriculture and urban expansion
- Pesticide use affecting insect food sources
- Climate change impacting flowering cycles
- Competition with invasive species

Conservation initiatives focus on habitat preservation and restoration, promoting native plant growth and sustainable land use to ensure continued survival of black jacobins in the wild.

Historical Context: The Black Jacobins in the Haitian Revolution

Origins of the Black Jacobin Movement

The term “Black Jacobins” refers to the revolutionary leaders and their followers in Haiti during the late 18th century. Inspired by the radical Jacobins of the French Revolution, these Haitian revolutionaries aimed to abolish slavery and secure independence from colonial rule. Their movement marked one of the most significant anti-slavery uprisings in history.

Major Figures and Achievements

- François-Dominique Toussaint Louverture – the primary leader of the Haitian Revolution
- Jean-Jacques Dessalines – led Haitian forces to final victory and declared independence
- Henri Christophe – influential military leader and later king of northern Haiti

The Black Jacobins succeeded in overthrowing French colonial power, establishing Haiti as the first free Black republic in the world. Their actions had profound effects on abolition movements globally, challenging colonialism and promoting human rights.

Cultural and Symbolic Significance

Symbolism of the Black Jacobin Hummingbird

In South American folklore, the black jacobin hummingbird is often seen as a symbol of agility, endurance, and adaptability. Its striking appearance and energetic behavior have inspired local art and storytelling. The bird's role as a pollinator also associates it with renewal and natural balance.

Legacy of the Black Jacobin Revolutionaries

The legacy of the Black Jacobins extends beyond Haiti, influencing global discussions on freedom, equality, and resistance. Their story is celebrated in literature, art, and academic research, often depicting the fight for liberty as a universal human aspiration. The movement remains a source of inspiration for civil rights advocates worldwide.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the black jacobin hummingbird known for?

A: The black jacobin hummingbird is recognized for its glossy black plumage, rapid wing movement, and important role in pollinating native South American plants.

Q: Where can black jacobins be found?

A: Black jacobins inhabit the Atlantic Forest region of Brazil, Paraguay, and Argentina, thriving in humid forests, gardens, and urban areas.

Q: What do black jacobins eat?

A: They primarily feed on nectar from flowers and supplement their diet with small insects, especially during breeding season.

Q: Are black jacobins endangered?

A: The black jacobin hummingbird is currently listed as Least Concern, but deforestation and habitat loss remain potential threats.

Q: Who were the Black Jacobins in history?

A: The Black Jacobins were Haitian revolutionaries who led the successful struggle for independence and the abolition of slavery in Haiti.

Q: What impact did the Black Jacobins have on world history?

A: They inspired global abolition movements, challenged colonialism, and established Haiti as the first free Black republic.

Q: How do black jacobins contribute to their ecosystem?

A: Their nectar-feeding behavior facilitates pollination, supporting the health and diversity of native plant communities.

Q: What is the symbolism of the black jacobin hummingbird?

A: The bird symbolizes agility, resilience, and renewal in South American folklore.

Q: Can black jacobins adapt to urban environments?

A: Yes, black jacobins are highly adaptable and often found in city parks and gardens where flowering plants are abundant.

Q: What are the main threats to black jacobin populations?

A: Habitat loss, pesticide use, climate change, and competition with invasive species are the primary threats facing black jacobin hummingbirds.

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Black Jacobins: A Deep Dive into the Haitian Revolution

Introduction:

Have you ever heard of a slave rebellion that successfully toppled a colonial power and established an independent nation? The Haitian Revolution, a brutal and inspiring struggle for freedom, remains one of history's most significant events. C.L.R. James's seminal work, *The Black Jacobins: Toussaint L'Ouverture and the San Domingo Revolution*, provides a powerful and compelling narrative of this pivotal moment. This post will delve into the key aspects of Black Jacobins, exploring its historical significance, James's unique perspective, its literary merit, and its lasting impact on our understanding of revolution, race, and freedom. We'll unpack the complexities of the revolution, the key players, and the enduring legacy of this remarkable achievement.

H2: Understanding the Context: Pre-Revolutionary Saint-Domingue

Before we delve into the events chronicled in *Black Jacobins*, understanding the societal landscape of pre-revolutionary Saint-Domingue (modern-day Haiti) is crucial. Saint-Domingue was the wealthiest colony in the French empire, its economy built on the brutal exploitation of enslaved Africans. The rigid social hierarchy – comprising white colonists, free people of color, and enslaved Africans – was a powder keg ready to explode. The inherent inequalities, the simmering resentment, and the growing influence of Enlightenment ideals created a volatile atmosphere ripe for rebellion. James meticulously lays out this context, allowing readers to fully grasp the magnitude of the upcoming revolution.

H2: Toussaint L'Ouverture: The Architect of Haitian Independence

Black Jacobins centers around the figure of Toussaint L'Ouverture, a remarkable leader who rose from enslavement to become the architect of Haitian independence. James masterfully portrays Toussaint not as a simple revolutionary but as a complex and strategic military and political leader. He highlights Toussaint's brilliance in uniting diverse factions, his military genius in outmaneuvering superior forces, and his unwavering commitment to the cause of freedom. James's portrayal goes beyond simple biography; it explores the complexities of Toussaint's character, his motivations, and his ultimate betrayal.

H3: Toussaint's Military Strategies and Diplomatic Acumen

Toussaint's success wasn't merely due to luck or brute force. James meticulously details his strategic brilliance, emphasizing his ability to adapt to changing circumstances, his understanding of terrain, and his mastery of guerrilla warfare tactics. Moreover, Toussaint's diplomatic skills were crucial in navigating the complex international landscape, forming alliances and securing recognition (albeit temporarily) from various European powers.

H2: The Role of the Enslaved Population in the Revolution

Black Jacobins doesn't simply focus on the leadership; it sheds light on the crucial role played by the enslaved population. James highlights the collective agency of the enslaved Africans, their determination to fight for freedom, and their unwavering resistance against brutal oppression. He demonstrates how the revolution was not simply orchestrated by a few leaders but rather a mass movement driven by the collective will of an oppressed people.

H3: The Significance of the Revolutionary Ideology

While the Haitian Revolution was driven by the desire for freedom from enslavement, James also explores the ideological underpinnings of the struggle. He examines the influence of Enlightenment ideals on the revolutionaries, showing how they adapted and interpreted these ideas to fit their unique circumstances. This nuanced portrayal goes beyond a simplistic narrative of a simple fight for liberty; it highlights the intricate interplay of practical politics and revolutionary ideology.

H2: The Aftermath and Lasting Legacy of the Haitian Revolution

The success of the Haitian Revolution had a profound and lasting impact on the world. Black Jacobins explores the aftermath of the revolution, including the challenges faced by the newly independent nation, the ongoing struggles for stability, and the long-term consequences of the revolution on the global political landscape. The abolition of slavery in Haiti sent shockwaves throughout the Americas and Europe, challenging the existing power structures and inspiring movements for social justice around the world.

H2: C.L.R. James: A Revolutionary Voice

C.L.R. James himself was a revolutionary figure, a socialist, and a Pan-Africanist. His perspective shapes the narrative of Black Jacobins, adding a layer of depth and understanding. His own experiences and beliefs informed his analysis of the Haitian Revolution, making it more than just a historical account; it becomes a powerful statement on the nature of revolution, colonialism, and the fight for liberation.

Conclusion:

Black Jacobins remains a vital and relevant work, a testament to the power of human resilience and the enduring struggle for freedom and equality. James's masterful storytelling, combined with his sharp analytical skills, creates a powerful and compelling narrative that continues to resonate with readers today. It's a crucial text for understanding not only the Haitian Revolution but also the broader history of colonialism, slavery, and the ongoing fight for social justice.

FAQs:

1. Why is Black Jacobins considered such a significant work? It provides a nuanced and detailed account of the Haitian Revolution, highlighting the complexities of the struggle and the significant contributions of the enslaved population. It challenges traditional historical narratives and centers the voices of the oppressed.
2. What makes C.L.R. James's perspective unique? James, a socialist and Pan-Africanist, brings a

revolutionary perspective to the narrative, challenging Eurocentric viewpoints and highlighting the global implications of the revolution.

3. How does *Black Jacobins* contribute to our understanding of revolution? It demonstrates the power of popular uprisings and the importance of collective action in achieving revolutionary change, highlighting the strategic and tactical brilliance required for success.

4. What is the significance of the title "*Black Jacobins*"? The title draws a parallel between the Haitian revolutionaries and the French Jacobins, highlighting the revolutionary fervor and ideological similarities, but also emphasizing the racial aspect of the Haitian struggle.

5. Is *Black Jacobins* suitable for a general audience? While the historical context is complex, James's engaging writing style makes the book accessible to a wide range of readers interested in history, politics, and the struggle for freedom.

black jacobins: The Black Jacobins C.L.R. James, 2023-08-22 A powerful and impassioned historical account of the largest successful revolt by enslaved people in history: the Haitian Revolution of 1791–1803 “One of the seminal texts about the history of slavery and abolition.... Provocative and empowering.” —The New York Times Book Review The *Black Jacobins*, by Trinidadian historian C. L. R. James, was the first major analysis of the uprising that began in the wake of the storming of the Bastille in France and became the model for liberation movements from Africa to Cuba. It is the story of the French colony of San Domingo, a place where the brutality of plantation owners toward enslaved people was horrifyingly severe. And it is the story of a charismatic and barely literate enslaved person named Toussaint L'Ouverture, who successfully led the Black people of San Domingo against successive invasions by overwhelming French, Spanish, and English forces—and in the process helped form the first independent post-colonial nation in the Caribbean. With a new introduction (2023) by Professor David Scott.

black jacobins: Confronting Black Jacobins Gerald Horne, 2015-10-22 The Haitian Revolution, the product of the first successful slave revolt, was truly world-historic in its impact. When Haiti declared independence in 1804, the leading powers—France, Great Britain, and Spain—suffered an ignominious defeat and the New World was remade. The island revolution also had a profound impact on Haiti's mainland neighbor, the United States. Inspiring the enslaved and partisans of emancipation while striking terror throughout the Southern slaveocracy, it propelled the fledgling nation one step closer to civil war. Gerald Horne's path breaking new work explores the complex and often fraught relationship between the United States and the island of Hispaniola. Giving particular attention to the responses of African Americans, Horne surveys the reaction in the United States to the revolutionary process in the nation that became Haiti, the splitting of the island in 1844, which led to the formation of the Dominican Republic, and the failed attempt by the United States to annex both in the 1870s. Drawing upon a rich collection of archival and other primary source materials, Horne deftly weaves together a disparate array of voices—world leaders and diplomats, slaveholders, white abolitionists, and the freedom fighters he terms Black Jacobins. Horne at once illuminates the tangled conflicts of the colonial powers, the commercial interests and imperial ambitions of U.S. elites, and the brutality and tenacity of the American slaveholding class, while never losing sight of the freedom struggles of Africans both on the island and on the mainland, which sought the fulfillment of the emancipatory promise of 18th century republicanism.

black jacobins: Making The Black Jacobins Rachel Douglas, 2019-09-27 C. L. R. James's *The Black Jacobins* remains one of the great works of the twentieth century and the cornerstone of Haitian revolutionary studies. In *Making The Black Jacobins*, Rachel Douglas traces the genesis, transformation, and afterlives of James's landmark work across the decades from the 1930s on. Examining the 1938 and 1963 editions of *The Black Jacobins*, the 1967 play of the same name, and

James's 1936 play, *Toussaint Louverture*—as well as manuscripts, notes, interviews, and other texts—Douglas shows how James continuously rewrote and revised his history of the Haitian Revolution as his politics and engagement with Marxism evolved. She also points to the vital significance theater played in James's work and how it influenced his views of history. Douglas shows *The Black Jacobins* to be a palimpsest, its successive layers of rewriting renewing its call to new generations.

black jacobins: The Black Jacobins Reader Charles Forsdick, Christian Høgsbjerg, 2017-01-06 Containing a wealth of new scholarship and rare primary documents, *The Black Jacobins Reader* provides a comprehensive analysis of C. L. R. James's classic history of the Haitian Revolution. In addition to considering the book's literary qualities and its role in James's emergence as a writer and thinker, the contributors discuss its production, context, and enduring importance in relation to debates about decolonization, globalization, postcolonialism, and the emergence of neocolonial modernity. The Reader also includes the reflections of activists and novelists on the book's influence and a transcript of James's 1970 interview with Studs Terkel. Contributors. Mumia Abu-Jamal, David Austin, Madison Smartt Bell, Anthony Bogues, John H. Bracey Jr., Rachel Douglas, Laurent Dubois, Claudius K. Fergus, Carolyn E. Fick, Charles Forsdick, Dan Georgakas, Robert A. Hill, Christian Høgsbjerg, Selma James, Pierre Naville, Nick Nesbitt, Aldon Lynn Nielsen, Matthew Quest, David M. Rudder, Bill Schwarz, David Scott, Russell Maroon Shoatz, Matthew J. Smith, Studs Terkel

black jacobins: Toussaint Louverture Charles Forsdick, Christian Høgsbjerg, 2017 The leader of the only successful slave revolt in history, Toussaint Louverture is seen by many to be one of the greatest anti-imperialist fighters who ever lived. Born into slavery on a Caribbean plantation, he helped lead an army of former enslaved Africans to victory against the professional armies of France, Spain and Britain in the Haitian Revolution (1791-1804). Louverture's fascinating life is explored here through the prism of his radical politics. His revolutionary legacy has inspired millions in the two centuries since his death. This book provides the perfect starting point for anyone interested in the roots of modern-day resistance movements and black political radicalism today.--Back cover.

black jacobins: Conscripts of Modernity David Scott, 2004-12-03 At this stalled and disillusioned juncture in postcolonial history—when many anticolonial utopias have withered into a morass of exhaustion, corruption, and authoritarianism—David Scott argues the need to reconceptualize the past in order to reimagine a more usable future. He describes how, prior to independence, anticolonialists narrated the transition from colonialism to postcolonialism as romance—as a story of overcoming and vindication, of salvation and redemption. Scott contends that postcolonial scholarship assumes the same trajectory, and that this imposes conceptual limitations. He suggests that tragedy may be a more useful narrative frame than romance. In tragedy, the future does not appear as an uninterrupted movement forward, but instead as a slow and sometimes reversible series of ups and downs. Scott explores the political and epistemological implications of how the past is conceived in relation to the present and future through a reconsideration of C. L. R. James's masterpiece of anticolonial history, *The Black Jacobins*, first published in 1938. In that book, James told the story of Toussaint L'Ouverture and the making of the Haitian Revolution as one of romantic vindication. In the second edition, published in the United States in 1963, James inserted new material suggesting that that story might usefully be told as tragedy. Scott uses James's recasting of *The Black Jacobins* to compare the relative yields of romance and tragedy. In an epilogue, he juxtaposes James's thinking about tragedy, history, and revolution with Hannah Arendt's in *On Revolution*. He contrasts their uses of tragedy as a means of situating the past in relation to the present in order to derive a politics for a possible future.

black jacobins: The Haitian Revolution Toussaint L'Ouverture, 2019-11-12 Toussaint L'Ouverture was the leader of the Haitian Revolution in the late eighteenth century, in which slaves rebelled against their masters and established the first black republic. In this collection of his writings and speeches, former Haitian politician Jean-Bertrand Aristide demonstrates L'Ouverture's

profound contribution to the struggle for equality.

black jacobins: Black Spartacus Sudhir Hazareesingh, 2020-09-01 Winner of the 2021 Wolfson History Prize “Black Spartacus is a tour de force: by far the most complete, authoritative and persuasive biography of Toussaint that we are likely to have for a long time . . . An extraordinarily gripping read.” —David A. Bell, *The Guardian* A new interpretation of the life of the Haitian revolutionary Toussaint Louverture Among the defining figures of the Age of Revolution, Toussaint Louverture is the most enigmatic. Though the Haitian revolutionary’s image has multiplied across the globe—appearing on banknotes and in bronze, on T-shirts and in film—the only definitive portrait executed in his lifetime has been lost. Well versed in the work of everyone from Machiavelli to Rousseau, he was nonetheless dismissed by Thomas Jefferson as a “cannibal.” A Caribbean acolyte of the European Enlightenment, Toussaint nurtured a class of black Catholic clergymen who became one of the pillars of his rule, while his supporters also believed he communicated with vodou spirits. And for a leader who once summed up his *modus operandi* with the phrase “Say little but do as much as possible,” he was a prolific and indefatigable correspondent, famous for exhausting the five secretaries he maintained, simultaneously, at the height of his power in the 1790s. Employing groundbreaking archival research and a keen interpretive lens, Sudhir Hazareesingh restores Toussaint to his full complexity in *Black Spartacus*. At a time when his subject has, variously, been reduced to little more than a one-dimensional icon of liberation or criticized for his personal failings—his white mistresses, his early ownership of slaves, his authoritarianism —Hazareesingh proposes a new conception of Toussaint’s understanding of himself and his role in the Atlantic world of the late eighteenth century. *Black Spartacus* is a work of both biography and intellectual history, rich with insights into Toussaint’s fundamental hybridity—his ability to unite European, African, and Caribbean traditions in the service of his revolutionary aims. Hazareesingh offers a new and resonant interpretation of Toussaint’s racial politics, showing how he used Enlightenment ideas to argue for the equal dignity of all human beings while simultaneously insisting on his own world-historical importance and the universal pertinence of blackness—a message which chimed particularly powerfully among African Americans. Ultimately, *Black Spartacus* offers a vigorous argument in favor of “getting back to Toussaint”—a call to take Haiti’s founding father seriously on his own terms, and to honor his role in shaping the postcolonial world to come. Shortlisted for the Baillie Gifford Prize | Finalist for the PEN / Jacqueline Bograd Weld Award for Biography Named a best book of the year by the *The Economist* | *Times Literary Supplement* | *New Statesman*

black jacobins: Confronting Black Jacobins Gerald Horne, 2015-10-22 The Haitian Revolution, the product of the first successful slave revolt, was truly world-historic in its impact. When Haiti declared independence in 1804, the leading powers—France, Great Britain, and Spain—suffered an ignominious defeat and the New World was remade. The island revolution also had a profound impact on Haiti’s mainland neighbor, the United States. Inspiring the enslaved and partisans of emancipation while striking terror throughout the Southern slaveocracy, it propelled the fledgling nation one step closer to civil war. Gerald Horne’s path breaking new work explores the complex and often fraught relationship between the United States and the island of Hispaniola. Giving particular attention to the responses of African Americans, Horne surveys the reaction in the United States to the revolutionary process in the nation that became Haiti, the splitting of the island in 1844, which led to the formation of the Dominican Republic, and the failed attempt by the United States to annex both in the 1870s. Drawing upon a rich collection of archival and other primary source materials, Horne deftly weaves together a disparate array of voices—world leaders and diplomats, slaveholders, white abolitionists, and the freedom fighters he terms Black Jacobins. Horne at once illuminates the tangled conflicts of the colonial powers, the commercial interests and imperial ambitions of U.S. elites, and the brutality and tenacity of the American slaveholding class, while never losing sight of the freedom struggles of Africans both on the island and on the mainland, which sought the fulfillment of the emancipatory promise of 18th century republicanism.

black jacobins: The Making of Haiti Carolyn E. Fick, 1990 The present work is an attempt to illustrate the nature and the impact of the popular mentality and popular movements on the course

of revolutionary (and, in part, postrevolutionary) events in eighteenth-century Saint-Domingue.
--pref.

black jacobins: *C.L.R. James* Paul Buhle, 2017-10-10 A new edition of C.L.R. James's authorized biography C.L.R. James was a man of prodigious and varied accomplishments. He was a protean twentieth-century Marxist intellectual, widely recognized as a pioneering scholar of slave revolt; a leading voice of Pan-Africanism; a peripatetic revolutionary and scholar active in US and UK radical movements; a novelist, playwright, and critic; and one of the premier writers on cricket and sports. This intellectual portrait was written by James's longtime interlocutor and comrade Paul Buhle, and initially published in 1988. With a new final chapter, updated bibliography, a new foreword by historian Robin D.G. Kelley and a new afterword by Paul Buhle and the philosopher Lawrence Ware, this long-awaited revised edition of a classic biography will be a key resource in the James revival.

black jacobins: *Toussaint Louverture* Philippe Girard, 2016-11-22 The definitive biography of the Haitian revolutionary Toussaint Louverture, leader of the only successful slave revolt in world history Toussaint Louverture's life was one of hardship, triumph, and contradiction. Born into bondage in Saint-Domingue (present-day Haiti), the richest colony in the Western Hemisphere, he witnessed first-hand the torture of the enslaved population. Yet he managed to secure his freedom and establish himself as a small-scale planter. He even purchased slaves of his own. In Toussaint Louverture, Philippe Girard reveals the dramatic story of how Louverture transformed himself from lowly freedman to revolutionary hero. In 1791, the unassuming Louverture masterminded the only successful slave revolt in history. By 1801, he was general and governor of Saint-Domingue, and an international statesman who forged treaties with Britain, France, Spain, and the United States-empire that feared the effect his example would have on their slave regimes. Louverture's ascendancy was short-lived, however. In 1802, he was exiled to France, dying soon after as one of the most famous men in the world, variously feared and celebrated as the Black Napoleon. As Girard shows, in life Louverture was not an idealist, but an ambitious pragmatist. He strove not only for abolition and independence, but to build Saint-Domingue's economic might and elevate his own social standing. He helped free Saint-Domingue's slaves yet immediately restricted their rights in the interests of protecting the island's sugar production. He ward off French invasions but embraced the cultural model of the French gentility. In death, Louverture quickly passed into legend, his memory inspiring abolitionist, black nationalist, and anti-colonialist movements well into the 20th century. Deeply researched and bracingly original, Toussaint Louverture is the definitive biography of one of the most influential people of his era, or any other.

black jacobins: *The Black Jacobins* Nick Broten, 2017-07-05 Published in 1938, The Black Jacobins tells the story of the only successful slave revolution in history-an uprising inspired by the ideals of the French Revolution. The long struggle of African slaves in the French colony of San Domingo led to the establishment of the Republic of Haiti in 1804.

black jacobins: *Goodness Beyond Virtue* Patrice L. R. Higonnet, 1998 Who were the Jacobins and what are Jacobinism's implications for today? In a book based on national and local studies--on Marseilles, Nîmes, Lyons, and Paris--one of the leading scholars of the Revolution reconceptualizes Jacobin politics and philosophy and rescues them from recent postmodernist condescension. Patrice Higonnet documents and analyzes the radical thought and actions of leading Jacobins and their followers. He shows Jacobinism's variety and flexibility, as it emerged in the lived practices of exceptional and ordinary people in varied historical situations. He demonstrates that these proponents of individuality and individual freedom were also members of dense social networks who were driven by an overriding sense of the public good. By considering the most retrograde and the most admirable features of Jacobinism, Higonnet balances revisionist interest in ideology with a social historical emphasis on institutional change. In these pages the Terror becomes a singular tragedy rather than the whole of Jacobinism, which retains value today as an influential variety of modern politics. Higonnet argues that with the recent collapse of socialism and the general political malaise in Western democracies, Jacobinism has regained stature as a model for contemporary democrats, as well as a sober lesson on the limits of radical social legislation.

black jacobins: *Avengers of the New World* Laurent DUBOIS, Laurent Dubois, 2009-06-30
Laurent Dubois weaves the stories of slaves, free people of African descent, wealthy whites and French administrators into an unforgettable tale of insurrection, war, heroism and victory.

black jacobins: His Excellency Joseph J. Ellis, 2005-11-08 National Bestseller To this landmark biography of our first president, Joseph J. Ellis brings the exacting scholarship, shrewd analysis, and lyric prose that have made him one of the premier historians of the Revolutionary era. Training his lens on a figure who sometimes seems as remote as his effigy on Mount Rushmore, Ellis assesses George Washington as a military and political leader and a man whose "statue-like solidity" concealed volcanic energies and emotions. Here is the impetuous young officer whose miraculous survival in combat half-convinced him that he could not be killed. Here is the free-spending landowner whose debts to English merchants instilled him with a prickly resentment of imperial power. We see the general who lost more battles than he won and the reluctant president who tried to float above the partisan feuding of his cabinet. His Excellency is a magnificent work, indispensable to an understanding not only of its subject but also of the nation he brought into being.

black jacobins: The Black Count Tom Reiss, 2012-09-18 WINNER OF THE PULITZER PRIZE FOR BIOGRAPHY • ONE OF ESQUIRE'S BEST BIOGRAPHIES OF ALL TIME General Alex Dumas is a man almost unknown today, yet his story is strikingly familiar—because his son, the novelist Alexandre Dumas, used his larger-than-life feats as inspiration for such classics as *The Count of Monte Cristo* and *The Three Musketeers*. But, hidden behind General Dumas's swashbuckling adventures was an even more incredible secret: he was the son of a black slave—who rose higher in the white world than any man of his race would before our own time. Born in Saint-Domingue (now Haiti), Alex Dumas made his way to Paris, where he rose to command armies at the height of the Revolution—until he met an implacable enemy he could not defeat. *The Black Count* is simultaneously a riveting adventure story, a lushly textured evocation of 18th-century France, and a window into the modern world's first multi-racial society. *TIME* magazine called *The Black Count* one of those quintessentially human stories of strength and courage that sheds light on the historical moment that made it possible. But it is also a heartbreaking story of the enduring bonds of love between a father and son.

black jacobins: Race to Revolution Gerald Horne, 2014-07-08 The histories of Cuba and the United States are tightly intertwined and have been for at least two centuries. In *Race to Revolution*, historian Gerald Horne examines a critical relationship between the two countries by tracing out the typically overlooked interconnections among slavery, Jim Crow, and revolution. Slavery was central to the economic and political trajectories of Cuba and the United States, both in terms of each nation's internal political and economic development and in the interactions between the small Caribbean island and the Colossus of the North. Horne draws a direct link between the black experiences in two very different countries and follows that connection through changing periods of resistance and revolutionary upheaval. Black Cubans were crucial to Cuba's initial independence, and the relative freedom they achieved helped bring down Jim Crow in the United States, reinforcing radical politics within the black communities of both nations. This in turn helped to create the conditions that gave rise to the Cuban Revolution which, on New Year's Day in 1959, shook the United States to its core. Based on extensive research in Havana, Madrid, London, and throughout the U.S., *Race to Revolution* delves deep into the historical record, bringing to life the experiences of slaves and slave traders, abolitionists and sailors, politicians and poor farmers. It illuminates the complex web of interaction and influence that shaped the lives of many generations as they struggled over questions of race, property, and political power in both Cuba and the United States.

black jacobins: The Black Jacobins Nick Broten, 2017-07-05 Published in 1938, *The Black Jacobins* tells the story of the only successful slave revolution in history—an uprising inspired by the ideals of the French Revolution. The long struggle of African slaves in the French colony of San Domingo led to the establishment of the Republic of Haiti in 1804.

black jacobins: Haiti: The Aftershocks of History Laurent Dubois, 2012-01-03 A passionate and

insightful account by a leading historian of Haiti that traces the sources of the country's devastating present back to its turbulent and traumatic history. Even before the 2010 earthquake destroyed much of the country, Haiti was known as a benighted place of poverty and corruption. Maligned and misunderstood, the nation has long been blamed by many for its own wretchedness. But as acclaimed historian Laurent Dubois makes clear, Haiti's troubled present can only be understood by examining its complex past. The country's difficulties are inextricably rooted in its founding revolution—the only successful slave revolt in the history of the world; the hostility that this rebellion generated among the colonial powers surrounding the island nation; and the intense struggle within Haiti itself to define its newfound freedom and realize its promise. Dubois vividly depicts the isolation and impoverishment that followed the 1804 uprising. He details how the crushing indemnity imposed by the former French rulers initiated a devastating cycle of debt, while frequent interventions by the United States—including a twenty-year military occupation—further undermined Haiti's independence. At the same time, Dubois shows, the internal debates about what Haiti should do with its hard-won liberty alienated the nation's leaders from the broader population, setting the stage for enduring political conflict. Yet as Dubois demonstrates, the Haitian people have never given up on their struggle for true democracy, creating a powerful culture insistent on autonomy and equality for all. Revealing what lies behind the familiar moniker of the poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere, this indispensable book illuminates the foundations on which a new Haiti might yet emerge.

black jacobins: The Common Wind Julius S. Scott, 2018-11-27 Winner of the 2019 Stone Book Award, Museum of African American History A remarkable intellectual history of the slave revolts that made the modern revolutionary era *The Common Wind* is a gripping and colorful account of the intercontinental networks that tied together the free and enslaved masses of the New World. Having delved deep into the gray obscurity of official eighteenth-century records in Spanish, English, and French, Julius S. Scott has written a powerful “history from below.” Scott follows the spread of “rumors of emancipation” and the people behind them, bringing to life the protagonists in the slave revolution. By tracking the colliding worlds of buccaneers, military deserters, and maroon communards from Venezuela to Virginia, Scott records the transmission of contagious mutinies and insurrections in unparalleled detail, providing readers with an intellectual history of the enslaved. Though *The Common Wind* is credited with having “opened up the Black Atlantic with a rigor and a commitment to the power of written words,” the manuscript remained unpublished for thirty-two years. Now, after receiving wide acclaim from leading historians of slavery and the New World, it has been published by Verso for the first time, with a foreword by the academic and author Marcus Rediker.

black jacobins: An Analysis of C.L.R. James's *The Black Jacobins* Nick Broten, 2017-07-05 Today we take it for granted that history is much more than the story of great men and the elites from which they spring. Other forms of history – the histories of gender, class, rebellion and nonconformity – add much-needed context and color to our understanding of the past. But this has not always been so. In CLR James's *The Black Jacobins*, we have one of the earliest, and most defining, examples of how ‘history from below’ ought to be written. James's approach is based on his need to resolve two central problems: to understand why the Haitian slave revolt was the only example of a successful slave rebellion in history, and also to grasp the ways in which its history was intertwined with the history of the French Revolution. The book's originality, and its value, rests on its author's ability to ask and answer productive questions of this sort, and in the creativity with which he proved able to generate new hypotheses as a result. As any enduring work of history must be, *The Black Jacobins* is rooted in sound archival research – but its true greatness lies in the originality of James's approach.

black jacobins: Hegel, Haiti, and Universal History Susan F. Buck-Morss, 2009-02-22 In this path-breaking work, Susan Buck-Morss draws new connections between history, inequality, social conflict, and human emancipation. *Hegel, Haiti, and Universal History* offers a fundamental reinterpretation of Hegel's master-slave dialectic and points to a way forward to free critical

theoretical practice from the prison-house of its own debates. Historicizing the thought of Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel and the actions taken in the Haitian Revolution, Buck-Morss examines the startling connections between the two and challenges us to widen the boundaries of our historical imagination. She finds that it is in the discontinuities of historical flow, the edges of human experience, and the unexpected linkages between cultures that the possibility to transcend limits is discovered. It is these flashes of clarity that open the potential for understanding in spite of cultural differences. What Buck-Morss proposes amounts to a new humanism, one that goes beyond the usual ideological implications of such a phrase to embrace a radical neutrality that insists on the permeability of the space between opposing sides and as it reaches for a common humanity.

black jacobins: Moving Against the System David Austin, 2018-09-07 In 1968, as protests shook France and war raged in Vietnam, the giants of Black radical politics descended on Montreal to discuss the unique challenges and struggles facing their brothers and sisters. For the first time since 1968, David Austin brings alive the speeches and debates of the most important international gathering of Black radicals of the era. Against a backdrop of widespread racism in the West, and colonialism and imperialism in the "Third World," this group of activists, writers, and political figures gathered to discuss the history and struggles of people of African descent and the meaning of Black Power. With never-before-seen texts from Stokely Carmichael, Walter Rodney, and C.L.R. James, *Moving Against the System* will prove invaluable to anyone interested in Black radical thought, as well as capturing a crucial moment of the political activity around 1968.

black jacobins: The Black Jacobins Cyril Lionel Robert James, 1980

black jacobins: The Apocalypse of Settler Colonialism Gerald Horne, 2018-03-12 Account of of the slave trade and its lasting effects on modern life, based on the history of the Eastern Seaboard of North America, the Caribbean, Africa, and what is now Great Britain--

black jacobins: The Last Kings of Shanghai Jonathan Kaufman, 2020-06-02 In vivid detail... examines the little-known history of two extraordinary dynasties.--The Boston Globe Not just a brilliant, well-researched, and highly readable book about China's past, it also reveals the contingencies and ironic twists of fate in China's modern history.--LA Review of Books An epic, multigenerational story of two rival dynasties who flourished in Shanghai and Hong Kong as twentieth-century China surged into the modern era, from the Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Shanghai, 1936. The Cathay Hotel, located on the city's famous waterfront, is one of the most glamorous in the world. Built by Victor Sassoon--billionaire playboy and scion of the Sassoon dynasty--the hotel hosts a who's who of global celebrities: Noel Coward has written a draft of *Private Lives* in his suite and Charlie Chaplin has entertained his wife-to-be. And a few miles away, Mao and the nascent Communist Party have been plotting revolution. By the 1930s, the Sassoons had been doing business in China for a century, rivaled in wealth and influence by only one other dynasty--the Kadoories. These two Jewish families, both originally from Baghdad, stood astride Chinese business and politics for more than 175 years, profiting from the Opium Wars; surviving Japanese occupation; courting Chiang Kai-shek; and losing nearly everything as the Communists swept into power. In *The Last Kings of Shanghai*, Jonathan Kaufman tells the remarkable history of how these families participated in an economic boom that opened China to the world, but remained blind to the country's deep inequality and to the political turmoil at their doorsteps. In a story stretching from Baghdad to Hong Kong to Shanghai to London, Kaufman enters the lives and minds of these ambitious men and women to forge a tale of opium smuggling, family rivalry, political intrigue, and survival. The book lays bare the moral compromises of the Kadoories and the Sassoons--and their exceptional foresight, success, and generosity. At the height of World War II, they joined together to rescue and protect eighteen thousand Jewish refugees fleeing Nazism. Though their stay in China started out as a business opportunity, the country became a home they were reluctant to leave, even on the eve of revolution. The lavish buildings they built and the booming businesses they nurtured continue to define Shanghai and Hong Kong to this day. As the United States confronts China's rise, and China grapples with the pressures of breakneck modernization and global power, the long-hidden odysseys of the Sassoons and the Kadoories hold a key to understanding the present

moment.

black jacobins: *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa* Walter Rodney, 2018-11-27 “A call to arms in the class struggle for racial equity”—the hugely influential work of political theory and history, now powerfully introduced by Angela Davis (Los Angeles Review of Books). This legendary classic on European colonialism in Africa stands alongside C.L.R. James’ *Black Jacobins*, Eric Williams’ *Capitalism & Slavery*, and W.E.B. Dubois’ *Black Reconstruction*. In his short life, the Guyanese intellectual Walter Rodney emerged as one of the leading thinkers and activists of the anticolonial revolution, leading movements in North America, South America, the African continent, and the Caribbean. In each locale, Rodney found himself a lightning rod for working class Black Power. His deportation catalyzed 20th century Jamaica’s most significant rebellion, the 1968 Rodney riots, and his scholarship trained a generation how to think politics at an international scale. In 1980, shortly after founding of the Working People’s Alliance in Guyana, the 38-year-old Rodney would be assassinated. In his magnum opus, *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa*, Rodney incisively argues that grasping the great divergence between the west and the rest can only be explained as the exploitation of the latter by the former. This meticulously researched analysis of the abiding repercussions of European colonialism on the continent of Africa has not only informed decades of scholarship and activism, it remains an indispensable study for grasping global inequality today.

black jacobins: *C. L. R. James* Aldon Lynn Nielsen, 2010-12 This study of C. L. R. James’s writings is the first to look at them as literature and not as theory. This sustained analysis of his major published works places them in the context of his less well-known writings and offers an encompassing critique of one of the African diaspora’s most significant thinkers and writers. Here the author of *Black Jacobins*, *World Revolution*, *A History of Pan-African Revolt*, *Beyond a Boundary*, and the lyric novel *Minty Alley* is seen not only as among the great political philosophers but also as the literary artist that he remained, from his first writings in his native Trinidad through his underground years in America, to his final essays and speeches in London. The writings of James have inspired revolutionaries on three continents. They have altered the course of historiography, shown that way toward independent black political struggles, and established a base for much of today’s study of culture. This study evaluates them as powerful works of literature.

black jacobins: *You Are All Free* Jeremy D. Popkin, 2010-08-30 The events leading to the abolition of slavery in the French colony of Saint-Domingue in 1793, and in France.

black jacobins: *We Slaves of Suriname* Anton de Kom, 2022-01-19 Anton de Kom’s *We Slaves of Suriname* is a literary masterpiece as well as a fierce indictment of racism and colonialism. In this classic book, published here in English for the first time, the Surinamese writer and resistance leader recounts the history of his homeland, from the first settlements by Europeans in search of gold through the era of the slave trade and the period of Dutch colonial rule, when the old slave mentality persisted, long after slavery had been formally abolished. 159 years after the abolition of slavery in Suriname and 88 years after its initial publication, *We Slaves of Suriname* has lost none of its brilliance and power.

black jacobins: *The Pleasures of Exile* George Lamming, 1992 An examination of the effects of colonialism on those who are held in check

black jacobins: *C. L. R. James in Imperial Britain* Christian Høgsbjerg, 2014-03-07 C. L. R. James in *Imperial Britain* chronicles the life and work of the Trinidadian intellectual and writer C. L. R. James during his first extended stay in Britain, from 1932 to 1938. It reveals the radicalizing effect of this critical period on James’s intellectual and political trajectory. During this time, James turned from liberal humanism to revolutionary socialism. Rejecting the imperial Britishness he had absorbed growing up in a crown colony in the British West Indies, he became a leading anticolonial activist and Pan-Africanist thinker. Christian Høgsbjerg reconstructs the circumstances and milieus in which James wrote works including his magisterial study *The Black Jacobins*. First published in 1938, James’s examination of the dynamics of anticolonial revolution in Haiti continues to influence scholarship on Atlantic slavery and abolition. Høgsbjerg contends that during the Depression C. L. R. James advanced public understanding of the African diaspora and emerged as one of the most

significant and creative revolutionary Marxists in Britain.

black jacobins: *Mariners, Renegades, and Castaways* Cyril Lionel Robert James, 1985

black jacobins: *The Black Jacobins. Toussaint Louverture and the San Domingo Revolution. [With Portraits and a Map.]* Cyril Lionel Robert James, François Dominique Toussaint L'OUVERTURE, 1938

black jacobins: *Tropicopolitans* Srinivas Aravamudan, 1999 Exposes new relationships between literary representation and colonialism, focusing on the metaphorizing colonialist discourse of imperial power in the tropics.

black jacobins: *The Last Shot* Darcy Frey, 2004 It ought to be just a game, but basketball on the playgrounds of Coney Island is much more than that -- for many young men it represents their only hope of escape from a life of crime, poverty, and despair. In *The Last Shot*, Darcy Frey chronicles the aspirations of four of the neighborhood's most promising players. What they have going for them is athletic talent, grace, and years of dedication. But working against them are woefully inadequate schooling, family circumstances that are often desperate, and the slick, brutal world of college athletic recruitment. Incisively and compassionately written, *The Last Shot* introduces us to unforgettable characters and takes us into their world with an intimacy seldom seen in contemporary journalism. The result is a startling and poignant expose of inner-city life and the big business of college basketball.

black jacobins: *The Dawning of the Apocalypse* Gerald Horne, 2020-06-30 Acclaimed historian Gerald Horne troubles America's settler colonialism's creation myth August 2019 saw numerous commemorations of the year 1619, when what was said to be the first arrival of enslaved Africans occurred in North America. Yet in the 1520s, the Spanish, from their imperial perch in Santo Domingo, had already brought enslaved Africans to what was to become South Carolina. The enslaved people here quickly defected to local Indigenous populations, and compelled their captors to flee. Deploying such illuminating research, *The Dawning of the Apocalypse* is a riveting revision of the "creation myth" of settler colonialism and how the United States was formed. Here, Gerald Horne argues forcefully that, in order to understand the arrival of colonists from the British Isles in the early seventeenth century, one must first understand the "long sixteenth century" - from 1492 until the arrival of settlers in Virginia in 1607. During this prolonged century, Horne contends, "whiteness" morphed into "white supremacy," and allowed England to co-opt not only religious minorities but also various nationalities throughout Europe, thus forging a muscular bloc that was needed to confront rambunctious Indigenes and Africans. In retelling the bloodthirsty story of the invasion of the Americas, Horne recounts how the fierce resistance by Africans and their Indigenous allies weakened Spain and enabled London to dispatch settlers to Virginia in 1607. These settlers laid the groundwork for the British Empire and its revolting spawn that became the United States of America.

black jacobins: *Prophetic Visions of the Past* Víctor Figueroa, 2015 In *Prophetic Visions of the Past: Pan-Caribbean Representations of the Haitian Revolution*, Víctor Figueroa examines how the Haitian Revolution has been represented in twentieth-century literary works from across the Caribbean. Building on the scholarship of key thinkers of the Latin American decolonial turn such as Enrique Dussel, Aníbal Quijano, Walter Dignolo, and Nelson Maldonado-Torres, Figueroa argues that examining how Haiti's neighbors tell the story of the Revolution illuminates its role as a fundamental turning point in both the development and radical questioning of the modern/colonial world system. *Prophetic Visions of the Past* includes chapters on literary texts from a wide array of languages, histories, and perspectives. Figueroa addresses work by Alejo Carpentier (Cuba), C. L. R. James (Trinidad), Luis Palés Matos (Puerto Rico), Aimé Césaire (Martinique), Derek Walcott (Saint Lucia), Edouard Glissant (Martinique), and Manuel Zapata Olivella (Colombia). While underscoring each writer's unique position, Figueroa also addresses their shared geographical, historical, and sociopolitical preoccupations, which are closely linked to the region's prolonged experience of colonial interventions. Ultimately, these analyses probe how, for the larger Caribbean region, the Haitian Revolution continues to reflect the tension between inspiring revolutionary hopes and an

awareness of ongoing colonial objectification and exploitation.

black jacobins: Democracy in Exile Daniel Bessner, 2018-04-15 DEMOCRACY IN EXILE -- Contents -- Preface -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction: Democracy, Expertise, and U.S. Foreign Policy -- 1. Masses and Marxism in Weimar Germany -- 2. The Social Role of the Intellectual Exile -- 3. Public Opinion, Propaganda, and Democracy in Crisis -- 4. Psychological Warfare in Theory and Practice -- 5. The Making of a Defense Intellectual -- 6. The Adviser -- 7. The Institution Builder -- 8. Social Science and Its Discontents -- Conclusion: Speier, Expertise, and Democracy after 1960 -- Abbreviations -- Archival and Source Abbreviations -- Notes -- Archives Cited -- Index

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