

the black jacobins

the black jacobins is a term that captures the profound impact of the Haitian Revolution, a transformative event in world history. This article explores the origins, significance, and legacy of the black jacobins, focusing on their central role in the only successful slave revolt that led to the founding of an independent nation. Readers will discover the historical context of the revolution, the influence of leaders such as Toussaint Louverture, and the broader implications for anti-colonial and freedom movements worldwide. The article also examines the lasting importance of C.L.R. James's seminal work, "The Black Jacobins," and how it reshaped scholarly understanding of revolution, race, and emancipation. By delving into the story of the black jacobins, this comprehensive guide provides insight into their enduring legacy and relevance today.

- Understanding the Black Jacobins: Definition and Origins
- Historical Context: Saint-Domingue Before the Revolution
- Key Figures: Toussaint Louverture and Revolutionary Leaders
- The Haitian Revolution: Major Events and Turning Points
- The Influence of the French Revolution and Enlightenment
- Impact on World History and Emancipation Movements
- C.L.R. James and the Book "The Black Jacobins"
- Enduring Legacy of the Black Jacobins

Understanding the Black Jacobins: Definition and Origins

The term "the black jacobins" refers to the leaders and participants of the Haitian Revolution, particularly those who drew inspiration from the radical ideologies of the French Jacobins. These revolutionary figures were primarily formerly enslaved Africans and free people of color in Saint-Domingue, the French colony that would become Haiti. The black jacobins adopted and adapted the principles of liberty, equality, and fraternity, channeling them into a struggle not only for independence but also for the abolition of slavery. The phrase gained global recognition through C.L.R. James's influential 1938 book, which chronicled the revolution's complexities and highlighted the agency of black revolutionaries. Today, "the black jacobins" symbolizes both

a specific group of historical actors and a larger movement for human rights and anti-colonialism.

Historical Context: Saint-Domingue Before the Revolution

Before the eruption of the Haitian Revolution in 1791, Saint-Domingue was the wealthiest colony in the Caribbean and a cornerstone of the French colonial empire. Its prosperity was built on the brutal exploitation of enslaved Africans, who worked vast sugar, coffee, and indigo plantations under inhumane conditions. The colony's population was highly stratified, with a small white planter elite, a sizeable population of free people of color (*gens de couleur*), and a majority of enslaved Africans. Racial tensions, economic disparities, and the influence of Enlightenment ideas combined to create a volatile environment ripe for revolt. The social and economic dynamics of pre-revolutionary Saint-Domingue are essential to understanding the emergence and objectives of the black jacobins.

Key Figures: Toussaint Louverture and Revolutionary Leaders

Toussaint Louverture: The Architect of Revolution

Toussaint Louverture is the most renowned leader among the black jacobins. Born into slavery, Louverture rose to become a military and political strategist whose vision and diplomatic skills shaped the course of the revolution. He united disparate rebel factions, negotiated with European powers, and implemented reforms that laid the groundwork for Haitian independence. Louverture's leadership exemplified the revolutionary potential of the formerly enslaved and inspired generations of freedom fighters.

Other Prominent Black Jacobins

Alongside Louverture, several other key leaders played vital roles in the success of the Haitian Revolution. Figures such as Jean-Jacques Dessalines, Henri Christophe, and Alexandre Pétion contributed to both military victories and the eventual declaration of Haitian independence. Their collective efforts were instrumental in overturning the colonial order and establishing a new society based on principles of freedom and equality.

- Toussaint Louverture: Commander and strategist

- Jean-Jacques Dessalines: Military leader and first ruler of independent Haiti
- Henri Christophe: Key general, later King of northern Haiti
- Alexandre Pétion: Leader and president, supporter of Latin American independence

The Haitian Revolution: Major Events and Turning Points

The Haitian Revolution unfolded between 1791 and 1804, marked by a series of decisive uprisings, battles, and political shifts. It began with a massive slave revolt in August 1791, as enslaved Africans across the northern plains of Saint-Domingue rose up against their oppressors. The conflict quickly escalated into a complex civil war involving white planters, free people of color, and external powers such as France, Spain, and Britain.

Critical Phases of the Revolution

Throughout the revolution, the black jacobins forged alliances, navigated betrayals, and adapted to shifting political landscapes. The abolition of slavery in the French colonies in 1794 was a crucial victory for the rebels, and the subsequent reimposition of slavery by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802 reignited hostilities. The final expulsion of French forces in 1803, led by Dessalines and other black Jacobin generals, paved the way for the declaration of Haiti's independence on January 1, 1804.

1. 1791: Outbreak of the slave revolt in the northern plains
2. 1793: Louverture emerges as a leader and negotiates with European powers
3. 1794: Abolition of slavery by the French National Convention
4. 1802: French attempt to restore slavery under Napoleon
5. 1803: Defeat of French forces
6. 1804: Declaration of independence and founding of Haiti

The Influence of the French Revolution and Enlightenment

The black jacobins were profoundly influenced by the broader revolutionary currents of the late eighteenth century. The French Revolution and its radical phase, led by the original Jacobins in France, provided both a model and a set of ideals for the leaders in Saint-Domingue. Concepts such as universal rights, popular sovereignty, and emancipation were adapted and reinterpreted in the context of colonial oppression and slavery. The interaction between metropolitan French politics and colonial realities created both opportunities and challenges for the black jacobins, who navigated shifting alliances and ideological contradictions in their pursuit of freedom.

Impact on World History and Emancipation Movements

The success of the black jacobins in achieving both independence and the abolition of slavery had far-reaching consequences for the world. The Haitian Revolution shattered the myth of white supremacy and inspired enslaved and colonized peoples across the Americas and beyond. The creation of Haiti as the first black republic sent shockwaves through slave-owning societies, influencing abolitionist movements in the United States, Latin America, and Europe. The strategies, rhetoric, and achievements of the black jacobins became touchstones for later struggles against colonialism, racism, and oppression.

Global Legacy of the Haitian Revolution

- Inspired slave revolts in the Caribbean and Americas
- Contributed to the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade
- Influenced independence movements in Latin America
- Challenged Eurocentric narratives of revolution and progress

C.L.R. James and the Book “The Black Jacobins”

C.L.R. James’s groundbreaking book, “The Black Jacobins: Toussaint

L'Ouverture and the San Domingo Revolution," published in 1938, redefined the historiography of the Haitian Revolution. James, a Trinidadian historian, provided a detailed account of the political, economic, and social dynamics of the revolution, emphasizing the agency and strategic brilliance of black revolutionaries. The book highlighted the connections between the Haitian and French Revolutions and challenged prevailing racist interpretations of history. "The Black Jacobins" has become a foundational text in studies of Atlantic slavery, postcolonial theory, and revolutionary history, continuing to shape scholarly and popular understanding of the era.

Enduring Legacy of the Black Jacobins

The legacy of the black jacobins endures in the ongoing struggles for justice, equality, and self-determination. Haiti's revolution remains a beacon for movements against racial oppression and colonial domination. The story of the black jacobins is commemorated in literature, art, and political discourse, reminding the world of the power of collective action and the enduring quest for human dignity. Their achievements continue to inform debates about freedom, citizenship, and the meaning of revolution in the modern era.

Q&A: Trending Questions about The Black Jacobins

Q: What is the significance of the black jacobins in world history?

A: The black jacobins were central to the Haitian Revolution, which was the first successful slave revolt leading to the creation of an independent nation. Their struggle demonstrated the potential for enslaved people to achieve freedom and self-governance, influencing emancipation and independence movements globally.

Q: Who were the main leaders among the black jacobins?

A: The main leaders included Toussaint Louverture, Jean-Jacques Dessalines, Henri Christophe, and Alexandre Pétion. Each played a crucial role in military strategy, governance, and the eventual establishment of Haiti as a free republic.

Q: How did the French Revolution influence the black jacobins?

A: The principles of liberty, equality, and fraternity from the French Revolution provided ideological inspiration for the black jacobins. They adapted these ideas to their struggle against colonial oppression and slavery in Saint-Domingue.

Q: What is the main thesis of C.L.R. James's "The Black Jacobins"?

A: C.L.R. James's book argues that the Haitian Revolution was a pivotal event driven by the agency and leadership of black revolutionaries, linking it to broader revolutionary and anti-colonial struggles. The book emphasizes the global significance of the Haitian Revolution in the history of freedom.

Q: What impact did the Haitian Revolution have on the abolition of slavery?

A: The Haitian Revolution directly challenged the institution of slavery and led to its abolition in the colony. It also inspired abolitionist movements worldwide and contributed to the eventual end of the transatlantic slave trade.

Q: Why is Toussaint Louverture often called the "Black Napoleon"?

A: Toussaint Louverture earned the nickname "Black Napoleon" due to his exceptional military and political leadership during the Haitian Revolution, his ability to outmaneuver European powers, and his role in transforming a slave uprising into a revolution for independence.

Q: In what ways did the Haitian Revolution influence other revolutions?

A: The Haitian Revolution inspired other slave and anti-colonial revolts by demonstrating that oppressed peoples could overthrow powerful colonial regimes. It influenced independence movements in Latin America and abolitionist campaigns in the United States and Europe.

Q: What challenges did the black jacobins face during the revolution?

A: The black jacobins faced challenges such as internal divisions, foreign

interventions by France, Britain, and Spain, and attempts to reimpose slavery. Despite these obstacles, they maintained unity and strategic focus, ultimately securing victory.

Q: How is the legacy of the black jacobins remembered today?

A: The legacy of the black jacobins is celebrated in Haiti and around the world as a symbol of resistance, freedom, and anti-colonial struggle. Their achievements continue to inspire contemporary movements for racial justice and equality.

Q: What does the term “black jacobins” symbolize in modern discussions?

A: Today, “black jacobins” symbolizes revolutionary leadership, the fight against oppression, and the pursuit of universal human rights. It represents a legacy of courage, resilience, and transformative social change.

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The Black Jacobins: A Revolutionary History You Need to Read

Are you fascinated by history, revolution, and the fight for freedom? Then you absolutely need to delve into C.L.R. James's seminal work, *The Black Jacobins: Toussaint L'Ouverture and the San Domingo Revolution*. This isn't just another historical account; it's a gripping narrative of courage, betrayal, and the birth of a nation forged in the fires of revolution. This blog post will explore the book's key themes, its lasting impact, and why it remains a vital read today. We'll dissect its historical context, examine its literary style, and discuss its continuing relevance in our modern world.

Understanding the Haitian Revolution: A Context for The Black Jacobins

Before diving into James's masterpiece, it's crucial to understand the backdrop of the Haitian Revolution (1791-1804). This wasn't merely a slave revolt; it was a complex struggle involving enslaved Africans, free people of color, French colonists, and European powers all vying for control of the incredibly lucrative sugar colony of Saint-Domingue (modern-day Haiti). The French Revolution, with its ideals of liberty, equality, and fraternity, initially offered hope to the enslaved population, but the realities of colonial power and racial prejudice soon shattered those promises. This intricate web of conflicting interests forms the dramatic stage for Toussaint L'Ouverture's rise and the subsequent fight for Haitian independence.

The Rise of Toussaint L'Ouverture: From Slave to Revolutionary Leader

The Black Jacobins centers around the extraordinary life of Toussaint L'Ouverture, a former enslaved man who rose through the ranks of the revolutionary army to become a brilliant military strategist and leader. James masterfully portrays Toussaint's pragmatic approach, his unwavering commitment to the liberation of his people, and his complex relationship with both the French and the enslaved population. He wasn't merely a military leader; he was a statesman who navigated the treacherous political landscape with cunning and resolve.

The Revolutionary Tactics and Strategies of Toussaint

Toussaint's military genius was instrumental to the success of the revolution. James meticulously details his strategic maneuvers, highlighting his ability to adapt to changing circumstances and outwit his opponents. His use of guerrilla warfare, his understanding of the terrain, and his ability to inspire loyalty among his troops were crucial factors in his victories against vastly superior forces. This section of the book offers invaluable insights into the military aspects of the revolution and its significance in shaping the course of Haitian history.

The Internal Conflicts and Betrayals Within the Revolution

The Black Jacobins doesn't shy away from depicting the internal conflicts and betrayals that plagued the revolution. The struggles between different factions – the enslaved population, free people of color, and the French – created significant obstacles to achieving unity and independence. James exposes the political machinations and the brutal realities of power struggles, illustrating how personal ambitions often overshadowed the greater cause of liberation. This nuanced portrayal makes the narrative all the more compelling and realistic.

The Lasting Impact of The Black Jacobins and its Literary Style

C.L.R. James's writing style is both captivating and insightful. He weaves together historical analysis with vivid storytelling, creating a narrative that's both academically rigorous and accessible to a

wide audience. *The Black Jacobins* transcends a simple historical account; it's a powerful testament to the human spirit and the enduring struggle for freedom and equality. The book's impact has been far-reaching, influencing generations of scholars, activists, and writers. It continues to inspire discussions on colonialism, race, revolution, and the power of collective action.

Relevance of *The Black Jacobins* in the Modern World

The themes explored in *The Black Jacobins* remain incredibly relevant today. The struggle against oppression, the fight for self-determination, and the ongoing challenges of racial injustice are all powerfully echoed in the narrative. The book serves as a reminder of the historical roots of contemporary inequalities and inspires critical reflection on the ongoing fight for social justice. The Haitian Revolution, as portrayed in James's book, demonstrates the transformative power of collective action and the enduring human capacity for resilience.

Conclusion

The Black Jacobins is far more than just a historical account; it's a literary masterpiece that offers profound insights into the complexities of revolution, the enduring struggle for freedom, and the legacy of colonialism. C.L.R. James's masterful storytelling and insightful analysis make this book a must-read for anyone interested in history, politics, and the fight for social justice. Its continued relevance in the 21st century is a testament to its enduring power and importance.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. Who is C.L.R. James? C.L.R. James (1901-1989) was a Trinidadian historian, journalist, and political activist known for his Marxist and Pan-Africanist perspectives. He was a prolific writer and thinker, whose work had a significant impact on postcolonial studies and critical theory.
2. What makes *The Black Jacobins* unique among historical accounts of the Haitian Revolution? James's work goes beyond a simple chronological account, focusing on the socio-political dynamics and offering a detailed examination of Toussaint L'Ouverture's strategic and political brilliance. He also highlights the revolutionary ideals and the internal struggles within the movement.
3. Is *The Black Jacobins* suitable for a general audience, or is it primarily for academics? While it delves into complex historical events, James's engaging writing style makes the book accessible and captivating for a broad readership, not just academics specializing in history.
4. What are some of the key themes explored in *The Black Jacobins*? Key themes include the struggle against slavery and colonialism, the rise of revolutionary leadership, the complexities of political power, internal conflicts within revolutionary movements, and the significance of collective action in achieving liberation.
5. How does *The Black Jacobins* contribute to our understanding of modern-day issues of race and

social justice? The book provides a powerful historical context for understanding ongoing struggles against systemic racism and oppression. It demonstrates the enduring power of collective action and highlights the importance of continuing the fight for equality and social justice.

the black jacobins: The Black Jacobins C. L. R. James, 2001-05-31 In 1789 the West Indian colony of San Domingo supplied two-thirds of the overseas trade of France. The entire structure of what was arguably the most profitable colony in the world rested on the labour of half a million slaves. In 1791 the waves of unrest inspired by the French Revolution reached across the Atlantic dividing the loyalties of the white population of the island. The brutally treated slaves of Saint Domingo seized at this confusion and rose up in rebellion against masters. In this classic work, CLR James chronicles the only successful slave revolt in history and provides a critical portrait of their leader, Toussaint L'Ouverture, 'one of the most remarkable men of a period rich in remarkable men'.

the 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.

the 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.

the 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

the 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.

the 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.

the black jacobins: Black Spartacus Sudhir Hazareesingh, 2020-09-03 The definitive modern biography of the great slave leader, military genius and revolutionary hero Toussaint Louverture The Haitian Revolution began in the French Caribbean colony of Saint-Domingue with a slave revolt in August 1791, and culminated a dozen years later in the proclamation of the world's first independent black state. After the abolition of slavery in 1793, Toussaint Louverture, himself a former slave, became the leader of the colony's black population, the commander of its republican army and eventually its governor. During the course of his extraordinary life he confronted some of the dominant forces of his age - slavery, settler colonialism, imperialism and racial hierarchy. Treacherously seized by Napoleon's invading army in 1802, this charismatic figure ended his days, in Wordsworth's phrase, 'the most unhappy man of men', imprisoned in a fortress in France. Black Spartacus draws on a wealth of archival material, much of it overlooked by previous biographers, to follow every step of Louverture's singular journey, from his triumphs against French, Spanish and British troops to his skilful regional diplomacy, his Machiavellian dealings with successive French colonial administrators and his bold promulgation of an autonomous Constitution. Sudhir Hazareesingh shows that Louverture developed his unique vision and leadership not solely in response to imported Enlightenment ideals and revolutionary events in Europe and the Americas, but through a hybrid heritage of fraternal slave organisations, Caribbean mysticism and African political traditions. Above all, Hazareesingh retrieves Louverture's rousing voice and force of personality, making this the most engaging, as well as the most complete, biography to date. After his death in the French fortress, Louverture became a figure of legend, a beacon for slaves across the Atlantic and for generations of European republicans and progressive figures in the Americas. He inspired the anti-slavery campaigner Frederick Douglass, the most eminent nineteenth-century African-American; his emancipatory struggle was hailed by those who defied imperial and colonial rule well into the twentieth. In the modern era, his life informed the French poet Aimé Césaire's seminal idea of *négritude* and has been celebrated in a remarkable range of plays, songs, novels and statues. Here, in all its drama, is the epic story of the world's first black superhero.

the 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.

the 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.

the 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.

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the 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.

the 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.

the black jacobins: *His Excellency* Joseph J. Ellis, 2004-10-26 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.

the 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.

the black jacobins: *The Old Regime and the Haitian Revolution* Malick W. Ghachem, 2012-03-05 A provocative history of Haiti up to 1804, when Haitians became the first formerly enslaved people to overthrow a colonial slaveholding power.

the black jacobins: *Beyond A Boundary* C L R James, 2014-08-28 'To say the best cricket book ever written is piffingly inadequate praise' Guardian 'Great claims have been made for [Beyond a Boundary] since its first appearance in 1963: that it is the greatest sports book ever written; that it brings the outsider a privileged insight into West Indian culture; that it is a severe examination of the colonial condition. All are true' Sunday Times C L R James, one of the foremost thinkers of the twentieth century, was devoted to the game of cricket. In this classic summation of half a lifetime spent playing, watching and writing about the sport, he recounts the story of his overriding passion and tells us of the players whom he knew and loved, exploring the game's psychology and aesthetics, and the issues of class, race and politics that surround it. Part memoir of a West Indian boyhood, part passionate celebration and defence of cricket as an art form, part indictment of colonialism, Beyond a Boundary addresses not just a sport but a whole culture and asks the question, 'What do they know of cricket who only cricket know?'

the 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-empires 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 warded 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.

the 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 Years' 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.

the 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.

the black jacobins: *The Black Jacobins* Cyril Lionel Robert James, 1938

the 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.

the black jacobins: *The Apocalypse of Settler Colonialism* Gerald Horne, 2018-03-12 Account 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--

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

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

the black jacobins: *The Counter-Revolution of 1776* Gerald Horne, 2014-04-18 Illuminates how the preservation of slavery was a motivating factor for the Revolutionary War The successful 1776 revolt against British rule in North America has been hailed almost universally as a great step forward for humanity. But the Africans then living in the colonies overwhelmingly sided with the British. In this trailblazing book, Gerald Horne shows that in the prelude to 1776, the abolition of slavery seemed all but inevitable in London, delighting Africans as much as it outraged slaveholders, and sparking the colonial revolt. Prior to 1776, anti-slavery sentiments were deepening throughout Britain and in the Caribbean, rebellious Africans were in revolt. For European colonists in America, the major threat to their security was a foreign invasion combined with an insurrection of the enslaved. It was a real and threatening possibility that London would impose abolition throughout the colonies—a possibility the founding fathers feared would bring slave rebellions to their shores.

To forestall it, they went to war. The so-called Revolutionary War, Horne writes, was in part a counter-revolution, a conservative movement that the founding fathers fought in order to preserve their right to enslave others. The Counter-Revolution of 1776 brings us to a radical new understanding of the traditional heroic creation myth of the United States.

the black jacobins: Freedom's Mirror Ada Ferrer, 2014-11-28 Studies the reverberations of the Haitian Revolution in Cuba, where the violent entrenchment of slavery occurred while slaves in Haiti successfully overthrew the institution.

the 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

the black jacobins: Frankétienne and Rewriting Rachel Douglas, 2009-06-16 'Rewriting' in the context of critical work on Caribbean literature has tended to be used to discuss revisionism from a variety of postcolonial perspectives, such as 'rewriting history' or 'rewriting canonical texts.' By shifting the focus to how Caribbean writers return to their own works in order to rework them, this book offers theoretical considerations to postcolonial studies on 'literariness' in relation to the near-obsessive degree of rewriting to which Caribbean writers have subjected their own literary texts. Focusing specifically on FrankZtienne, this book offers an overview of how the defining aesthetic and thematic components of FrankZtienne's major works have emerged over the course of his forty-year writing career. It reveals the marked development of key notions guiding his literary creation since the 1960s, and demonstrates that rewriting illustrates the central aesthetic of the Spiral which has always shaped his Iuvre. It is, the book argues, the constantly moving form of the Spiral which FrankZtienne explores through his constant reworking of his previously written texts. FrankZtienne and Rewriting negotiates between the literary and material ends of the burgeoning field of postcolonial studies, arguing that literary characteristics in FrankZtienne connect with changing political, social, economic, and cultural circumstances in the Haiti he rewrites.

the black jacobins: From Dessalines to Duvalier David Nicholls, 1996 Rich in subject matter and eminently readable, this book is also a fine work of scholarship. The more than 1,200 footnotes are models of clarity and relevance; the bibliography and index seem scrupulously accurate. . . While each generation must rewrite its own history, as Nicholls remarks, no book on Haiti for a long time to come will properly be able to ignore the analysis he here provides. --Ethnic and Racial Studies Step by step, Nicholls] guides us through the various historical time periods of Haitian political and national development, illuminating each one of them by a cogent and learned discussion of the main ideas and ideologies that accompanied them. --The Political Quarterly Probably the best book written about Haitian history after its independence . . . a thorough, thoughtful, extremely well-researched work. --Handbook of Latin American Studies In this lively, provocative, and well-documented history, David Nicholls discusses the impact of color on political and social alliances during almost two hundred years of Haitian history. While consciousness of racial identity has been a powerful factor which, from the earliest days, has united Haitians in a determination to preserve their national independence, color has been a divisive factor, leading to the erosion of the stability of that independence. Nicholls grounds this sophisticated analysis in great historical detail and engaging, witty prose. Students and general readers alike will gain much from this insightful and informative history of Haiti. A new preface to this edition covers the last ten years in Haitian history. David Nicholls is a major authority on Haiti, and was in the country as a newspaper correspondent during the 1987 election disaster. His other books include Haiti in the Caribbean Context: Ethnicity; The Pluralist State; and Deity and Domination.

the black jacobins: Crossing the River Caryl Phillips, 2011-02-15 Shortlisted for the Booker Prize Winner of the James Tait Black Memorial Prize for Fiction Caryl Phillips' ambitious and

powerful novel spans two hundred and fifty years of the African diaspora. It tracks two brothers and a sister on their separate journeys through different epochs and continents: one as a missionary to Liberia in the 1830s, one a pioneer on a wagon trail to the American West later that century, and one a GI posted to a Yorkshire village in the Second World War. 'Epic and frequently astonishing' The Times 'Its resonance continues to deepen' New York Times

the 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.

the black jacobins: *The Last Kings of Shanghai* Jonathan Kaufman, 2021-06-01 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 The Sassoons and the Kadoories stood astride Chinese business and politics for more than one hundred seventy-five years, profiting from the Opium Wars; surviving Japanese occupation; courting Chiang Kai-shek; and nearly losing everything as the Communists swept into power. Jonathan Kaufman tells the remarkable history of how these families ignited an economic boom and opened China to the world, but remained blind to the country's deep inequality and to the political turmoil on 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 black jacobins: *CLR James* John L. Williams, 2023-03-30 , Historian, revolutionary and cricket writer, CLR James was one of the truly radical voices of the twentieth century. Born in Trinidad in the final days of the Victorian era, he debated with Trotsky, played cricket with Constantine, was published by Leonard and Virginia Woolf, inspired Kwame Nkrumah, and was a profound influence on the British Black Power movement. And yet by the late 1970s, CLR James was all but forgotten. The books he had written over the past half century were nearly all out of print. There were a few circles in which his name rang a bell: serious students of Black history; obsessive cricket fans. But that was it. When he died in Brixton in 1989, CLR James was internationally famous - lauded as the greatest of Black British intellectuals: the 'Black Plato', according to The Times. The ideas he put forward in his own time - of the importance of identity alongside class, of rebellion coming from below, of the leading roles of Black people, women and youth in political struggle - have gradually made their way to the forefront of our political thinking. His two great books, *The Black Jacobins* and *Beyond a Boundary*, still have the power to change readers' understanding of the world today. But while CLR James's work has been much examined, his long and remarkable life story has often been overlooked. For the first time, in a biography full of original research, human drama and keen insight, John L. Williams unveils the rich and compelling story of an intellectual giant. In doing so, he firmly establishes the importance of CLR James for the twenty-first century - if Black Britain has had a presiding genius, it remains CLR James.,

the black jacobins: *The Black Radical Tragic* Jeremy Matthew Glick, 2016-01-15 Also available as an ebook -- Verso title page.

the black jacobins: *The Case for West-Indian Self Government* Cyril Lionel Robert James, 1967

the black jacobins: The Haitian Revolution , 2014-09-03 A landmark collection of documents by the field's leading scholar. This reader includes beautifully written introductions and a fascinating array of never-before-published primary documents. These treasures from the archives offer a new picture of colonial Saint-Domingue and the Haitian Revolution. The translations are lively and colorful. --Alyssa Sepinwall, California State University San Marcos

the black jacobins: *Minty Alley* C.L.R. James, 2021-02-04 The only novel from the world-renowned writer C.L.R. James - this extraordinary, big-hearted exploration of class was the first novel by a black West Indian to be published in the UK 'A novel written nearly a hundred years ago that brings the past alive with such charm, vitality and humour.' Bernardine Evaristo, from the Introduction 'As he walked home he looked up at the myriads of stars, shining in the moonlight. Did people live there? And if they did, what sort of life did they live?' It is the 1920s in the Trinidadian capital, and Haynes' world has been upended. His mother has passed away, and his carefully mapped-out future of gleaming opportunity has disappeared with her. Unable to afford his former life, he finds himself moving into Minty Alley - a bustling barrack yard teeming with energy and a spectacular cast of characters. In this sliver of West Indian working-class society, outrageous love affairs and passionate arguments are a daily fixture, and Haynes begins to slip from curious observer to the heart of the action. *Minty Alley* is a gloriously observed portrayal of class, community and the ways in which we are all inherently connected. An undisputed modern classic, this is an exceptional story told by one of the twentieth century's greatest Caribbean thinkers. Selected by Booker Prize-winning author Bernardine Evaristo, this series rediscovers and celebrates pioneering books depicting black Britain that remap the nation.

the black jacobins: Brixton Rock Alex Wheatle, 2014-11-30 Pacey; witty; his characters are real and recognisable LINTON KWESI JOHNSON Alex Wheatle writes from a place of honesty and passion with the full knowledge and understanding that change can only happen through words and actions STEVE McQUEEN, director of Small Axe South London in the 1980s. Brenton Brown is a 16-year-old mixed-heritage boy who has lived in a children's home all his life. He has never met his mother and is haunted by her loss. The best thing happens: Brenton is reunited with his mother, Cynthia. And then the worst: he falls in love with his beautiful half-sister, Juliet. At the same time, Brenton meets his nemesis in the shape of Terry Flynn, a killer who scars him for life. Brenton must seek revenge. All this leads to an explosive climax as Brenton struggles to hold on to his sanity. *Brixton Rock* is the powerfully explosive debut of one of the UK's finest writers, with pitch-perfect descriptions of South London street life.

the 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.

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