

## **HISTORICAL TIMELINE OF HAITI\***

**December 17, 1995** Former Prime Minister and close confidant of Jean-Bertrand Aristide, René Préval, elected President in a landslide victory.

**February 15, 1996** Rosny Smarth is appointed Prime Minister.

**June 9, 1997** Prime Minister Smarth resigns. Indecision over the transition of a new Prime Minister creates a political deadlock within the parliament and the government “functions” without a Prime Minister for 18 months.

**December 15, 1998** Jacques-Édouard Alexis is confirmed as the new Prime Minister.

**January 11, 1999** The terms of members of Parliament expire. René Préval dissolves the parliament and rules by decree.

**January 14, 1999** Alexis enters into office. The cabinet and the governmental program are established without parliamentary approval.

**March 16, 1999** René Préval establishes a provisional electoral counsel in charge of organizing the elections.

**April 3, 2000** Assassination of Jean Dominique, a well known and outspoken journalist. The killing marks the beginning of a decline in the human rights condition in Haiti.

**May 21, 2000** Elections for local and parliamentary administrations are held. The vote counting is contested. The electoral counsel used a flawed vote count to favor Fanmi Lavalas (Aristide’s party). The opposition declares the vote illegal; the OAS, EU, US and Canada demand a revision, Haiti does not respond, and the donors suspend their aid programs.

**July 9, 2000** Second round of elections: Fanmi Lavalas obtains 72 of the 83 seats in Parliament and 2/3 of the 75,000 municipal seats.

**November 26, 2000** Presidential elections held, with opposition refusing to participate. Jean Bertrand Aristide is elected President.

**February 7, 2001** Aristide is sworn in as president. The Democratic Convergence creates a parallel government: Gérard Gourge is sworn in as a provisional president.

\* Please note that this timeline is a continuation of the “Historical Timeline of Haiti” found in SCIS’s *Instructional Guide to Latin America in Transition* starting on p. 127.

**December 17, 2001** Attempted coup d'état. According to the opposition, it is a government production staged in order to pursue the opposition. The Convergence headquarters are burned down after the "coup".

**March 1, 2002** The OAS signs an accord with Haiti to allow an OAS mediation mission in the midst of the political crisis.

**July 2002** Haiti is approved as a full member of the Caribbean Community (Caricom) trade bloc.

**January 2004** Celebrations marking 200 years of independence were marred by violence and protests against President Aristide's rule.

**February 19, 2004** The U.S. says it is open to Aristide stepping down, acknowledging his departure could be a way out of the crisis.

**February 26, 2004** The UN Security Council adopts resolution 1529 authorizing the deployment of a multinational force to Haiti.

**February 29, 2004** Aristide leaves under circumstances still to be confirmed. Boniface Alexandre takes office as Haiti's new interim president.

**March 10, 2004** Gérard Latortue, the Haiti former foreign minister, is named the new interim prime minister, by a council of seven.

**March 15, 2004** Ousted Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide leaves his temporary exile in Africa and flew to Jamaica despite opposition to his presence in the Caribbean.

**March 27, 2004** The 15-nation Caribbean Community withholds recognition from Haiti's U.S.-backed interim government as leaders close a summit renewing calls for a U.N. investigation into the ouster of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

**May 4, 2004** A provisional council was sworn to oversee fresh elections.

**May 24, 2004** Heavy rains leave as many as 2,000 people dead across the island of Hispaniola. Health officials fear up to 1,000 people could be dead in the Haitian town of Mopau. Floods wipe out villages across Haiti and the Dominican Republic. The final toll is over 3,300 dead.

**May 31, 2004** Ousted Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and his family received a first-class diplomatic welcome from South Africa, his new home in exile.

**June 1, 2004** US commanders begin turning over authority to a UN force under Gen. Augusto Pereira of Brazil.

**September 17-19, 2004** Nearly 3,000 killed in flooding in the north, in the wake of tropical storm Jeanne.

**February 7, 2006** René Préal is elected president in the first general elections held since President Aristide was overthrown in 2004.

**June 9, 2006** Prime Minister Jacques-Édouard Alexis takes office.