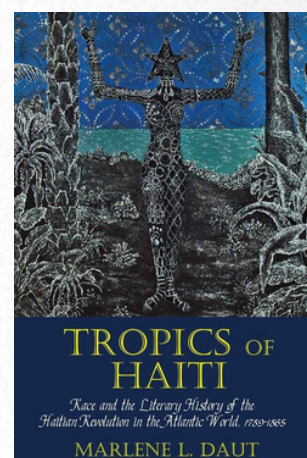
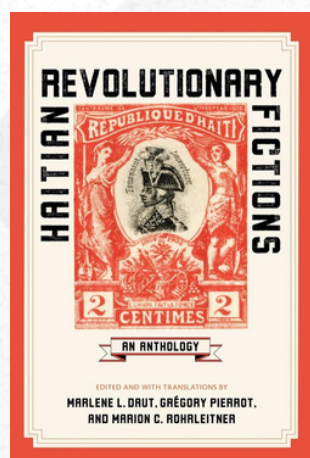
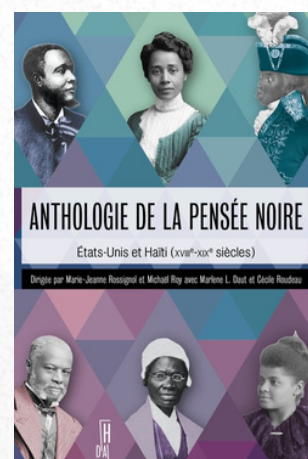
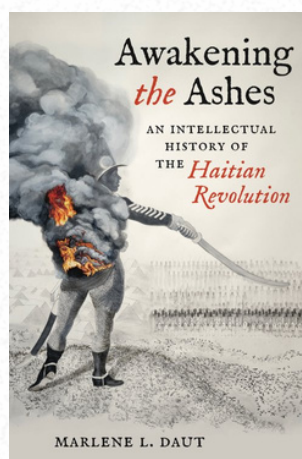
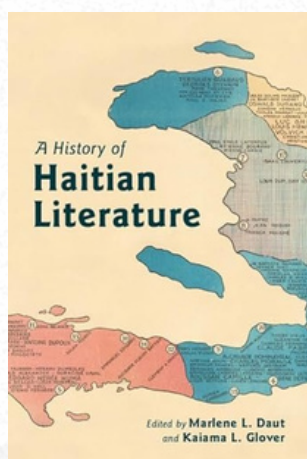
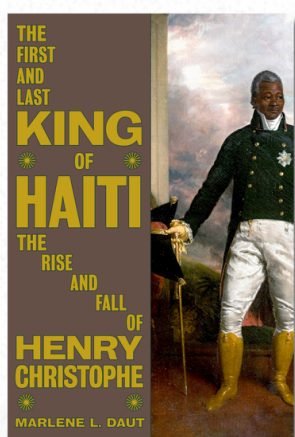


# MARLENE L. DAUT

Professor • Editor • Writer.



  @FictionsofHaiti  @tropicsofhaiti  Marlene Daut



# MEDIA KIT

# ABOUT MARLENE



**Marlene L. Daut** is an author, scholar, editor, and professor. Her books include *Tropics of Haiti: Race and the Literary History of the Haitian Revolution in the Atlantic World* (Liverpool UP, 2015); *Baron de Vastey and the Origins of Black Atlantic Humanism* (Palgrave, 2017); *Awakening the Ashes: An Intellectual History of the Haitian Revolution* (UNC Press, 2023); and *The First and Last King of Haiti: The Rise and Fall of Henry Christophe* (Knopf, 2025).

Her articles on Haitian history and culture have appeared in over a dozen magazines, newspapers, and journals including, *The New Yorker* ("What's the Path Forward for Haiti?"), *The New York Times* ("Napoleon Isn't a Hero to Celebrate"), *Harper's Bazaar* ("Resurrecting a Lost Palace of Haiti"), *Essence* ("Haiti isn't Cursed. It is Exploited"), *The Nation* ("What the French Really Owe Haiti"), and the *LA Review of Books* ("Why did Bridgerton Erase Haiti?"). She has won several awards, grants, and fellowships for her contributions to historical and cultural understandings of the Caribbean, notably from the Ford Foundation, the American Council of Learned Societies, the Haitian Studies Association, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Most recently, she won a grant from the Robert Silvers Foundation for *The First and Last King of Haiti*.

She graduated from Loyola Marymount University with a B.A. in English and French in 2002 and went on to teach in Rouen, France as an Assistante d'Anglais before enrolling at the University of Notre Dame, where she earned a Ph.D. in English in 2009. Since graduating, she has taught Haitian and French colonial history and culture at the University of Miami, the Claremont Graduate University, and the University of Virginia, where she also became series editor of *New World Studies* at UVA Press. In July 2022, she was appointed as Professor of French and African American Studies at Yale University.

Marlene lives in the New Haven, CT area with her spouse and children.

# THE FIRST AND LAST KING OF HAITI

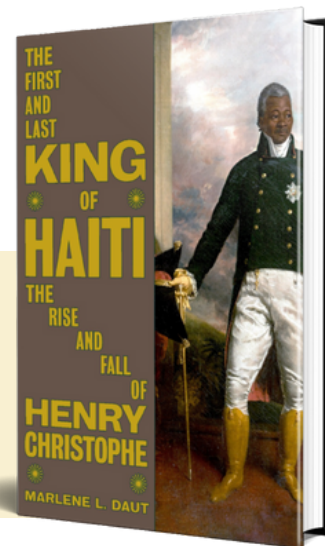
## The Rise and Fall of Henry Christophe

**Publisher:** Knopf

**Publication Date:** January 7, 2025

**ISBN:** (Hardcover) 978-0593316160

**Price:** \$40.00



---

"A tour de force. Daut brings King Henry Christophe vividly back to life in this deeply researched and rivetingly told biography. In a work overflowing with new archival discoveries and insights, she carries us expertly through a moment of revolutionary political thought and cultural transformation that reshaped our world and its possibilities. Everyone should know this history."

—Laurent Dubois, author of *Haiti: The Aftershocks of History*

"Daut is meticulous, indeed, forensic, in her examination of the extant archival and textual documentation of Christophe's life and times. Daut's monumental work conclusively demystifies one of the most misunderstood, romanticized and demonized figures of the Haitian Revolution in order to set him free once more. This is an important, signal work from one of Haiti's leading historians."

—Myriam J. A. Chancy, author of *Harvesting Haiti: Reflections on Unnatural Disasters*

"This indispensable book offers us an excellent, granular biography not only of King Henry Christophe of Haiti but of the revolution of the enslaved in which he fiercely participated and of which he was the political offspring. The photorealistic portrait of colonial and then revolutionary Haiti that Marlene Daut paints is a gift to those who know the broad outlines of the story well but who have been thirsty for the life-breathing details. Meticulous in her research, Daut shows us, often for the first time, the various personal, cultural, political, and financial forces that created the controversial future king in all his complexity, as well as the specific contours of his leadership—and his failures. From a place of heartfelt agony, she deploys magnificent archival detective work to catalogue the horrors of enslavement and the slave-based economy from which sprang the world-historic Haitian revolution, progenitor of the modern era. And in the end, with sympathetic humanity, she presents us with the singular figure who navigated intense and complicated international pressures and presided over the new nation's difficult first years." —Amy Wilentz, author of *The Rainy Season: Haiti Since Duvalier*

**PRAISE FOR *THE FIRST AND LAST KING OF HAITI***

---

**The essential biography of the controversial revolutionary and only king of Haiti. Henry Christophe (1767 - 1820) is one of the most richly complex figures in the history of the Americas, and was, in his time, popular and famous the world over: in *The First and Last King of Haiti*, a brilliant, award-winning Yale scholar unravels the still controversial enigma that he was.**

Slave, revolutionary, king, Henry Christophe was, in his time, popular and famous the world over. Born to an enslaved mother on the Caribbean island of Grenada, Christophe first fought to overthrow the British in North America, before helping his fellow enslaved Africans in Saint-Domingue, as Haiti was then called, to gain their freedom from France. Yet in an incredible twist of fate, Christophe ended up fighting with Napoleon's forces against the very enslaved men and women he had once fought alongside. Later, reuniting with those he had abandoned, he offered to lead them and made himself their king. But it all came to a sudden and tragic end when Christophe—after nine years of his rule as King Henry I—shot himself in the heart, some say with a silver bullet.

But why did Christophe turn his back on Toussaint Louverture and the very revolution with which his name is so indelibly associated? How did it come to pass that Christophe found himself accused of participating in the plot to assassinate Haiti's first ruler, Dessalines? And what caused Haiti to eventually split into two countries, one ruled by Christophe in the north, who made himself king, the other led by President Pétion in the south?

Drawing from a trove of previously overlooked sources to paint a captivating history of his life and the awe-inspiring kingdom he built, Marlene L. Daut offers a fresh perspective on a figure long overshadowed by caricature and cliché. Peeling back the layers of myth and misconception reveals a man driven by both noble ideals and profound flaws, as unforgettable as he is enigmatic. More than just a biography, *The First and Last King of Haiti* is a masterful exploration of power, ambition, and the human spirit. From his pivotal role in the Haitian Revolution to his coronation as king and eventual demise, this book is testament to the enduring allure of those who dare to defy the odds and shape the course of nations.

***The First and Last King of Haiti* is a riveting story of not only geopolitical clashes on a grand scale but also of friendship and loyalty, treachery and betrayal, heroism and strife in an era of revolutionary upheaval.**

---

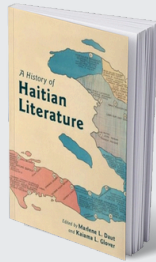
# SPEAKING SUBJECTS

- **Black Royalty in the Media:** The fascination with Black royalty today, as seen in media coverage of figures like Meghan Markle, echoes the scrutiny faced by Haiti's King Henry Christophe, but more specifically, as Daut shows, the harassment faced by his wife Queen Marie-Louise as she tried to live a quiet life in exile after her husband's suicide, first, in England, and then in Italy. Just as today's media fixates on and even hounds Black members of royalty, 19th-century newspapers around the world closely followed and often vilified Christophe during his reign, and his family members after his death, using language and biases that persist in modern media coverage.
- **Haiti and U.S. Democracy:** Christophe's reign raises questions about the applicability of U.S.-style democracy in Haiti, especially given the ongoing political challenges in the country following the 2021 assassination of Haiti's president Jovenel Moïse. Christophe's belief that no single form of government suits all nations is increasingly relevant in modern discussions about Haiti's political future. Christophe's caution against imposing U.S. democracy in Haiti could offer a historical perspective on current debates about the viability of representative democracy in Haiti, particularly in light of ongoing international interference.
- **Caribbean Ecological Concerns:** The destruction of Christophe's Sans-Souci palace by an earthquake in 1842 mirrors the devastation of the 2010 earthquake in Haiti and underscores the region's ongoing vulnerability to natural disasters. The ruins of Sans-Souci, whose history Daut fully unfolds for the first time, is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site; and the ongoing restitution of the Citadelle Laferrière, also a UNESCO World Heritage Site, connects to broader themes of cultural heritage and preservation.
- **Expanding the Narrative of the American Revolution:** Christophe's involvement in the American Revolution at the October 1779 Battle of Savannah is here laid out with documentation for the first time. However, he was also involved in the American Revolution's Caribbean theatre during the July 1779 French Siege of Grenada. Paying attention to this aspect of the American Revolution challenges the narrow focus on the continental U.S. in discussions of the war of independence. With the bicentennial of the American Declaration of Independence approaching in 2026, this is a timely opportunity to highlight the Caribbean's role in the American Revolution and Christophe's contributions, more broadly.
- **Reparations for Slavery:** What happened to Haiti after the king's suicide in 1820 joins an ongoing conversation about reparations for slavery in the twenty-first century. The king of Haiti was intimately involved in the question over economic restitution for slavery and was adamantly against any payments for the enslavers. But the 150 million *francs* indemnity that in 1825 Haiti's subsequent ruler, Jean-Pierre Boyer, was forced to agree to pay France as the price of France's recognition of Haiti's independence offers a tragically true cautionary tale, one that continues to haunt Haiti to this day. Haiti ended up paying France 112 million francs (approximately 500 million US dollars) over more than a century (about 22 billion U.S. dollars in today's money), a stark reminder of the long-term economic consequences of slavery and colonialism and its role in Haiti's poverty and under-development today.
- **Groundbreaking Archival Discoveries:** Daut's research has confirmed, through previously unexamined archival documents, the Queen of Haiti's true identity and real birth name, which was not Coidavid, correcting a long-standing historical error. Daut has also uncovered the actual names and dates of ownership of the Hotel La Couronne, where Christophe worked before the Haitian Revolution, challenging previous historical accounts that lacked proper citation. The book also discloses, for the first time, that Christophe was incarcerated twice in 1793 and details how he secured his release by aligning with the French government; and maps out his transformation into a wealthy businessman, pinpointing the exact locations of his enterprises and plantations during the colony's post-emancipation period.
- **Christophe's Famous Friends and Rivals:** There are a large and fascinating number of characters who populate the story of Christophe's rise and fall. There are world leaders from England, the United States, Prussia, and the Netherlands, who contradictorily allow their citizens to trade with Haiti while formally denying the independence and sovereignty of Haiti; there are all of Christophe's political rivals—from Louverture to Dessalines, from Pétion to Boyer, from Napoléon to Louis XVIII, and from Thomas Jefferson to James Madison; then, there are British and US American merchants who relocated to Haiti in order to pursue their own fortunes, along with famous abolitionists, both Black and white—Thomas Clarkson, William Wilberforce, Prince Saunders, William Allen, Joseph Banks—who sought to travel to Haiti gather information helpful in the fight against slavery and the slave trade; and finally there are the dozens of dukes, counts, barons, and their families who sometimes found themselves in the crosshairs of the mercurial Christophe, and who ended up forming a conspiracy against him in the days before the king committed suicide.
- **Exclusive Visual Content:** The book contains many unseen portraits and images. The book features two key images printed in color for the first time: a detailed portrait of the Palace at Sans-Souci by Numa Desroches and a never-before-seen nineteenth-century portrait depicting Christophe moments after his death. Included in the book are also actual images from the time period of Christophe's residence in Cap-Français during the Revolution, brought to light through Daut's examination of previously unexplored archival documents. Outlets that focus on art, culture, or architectural history—such as *Smithsonian Magazine*, *National Geographic*, or *Hyperallergic*—might be particularly interested in these exclusive visuals.

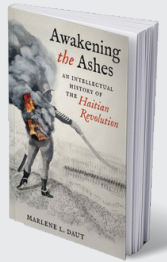
# RECENT WORKS



**Book Title:** A History of Haitian Literature  
**Publisher Name:** Cambridge University Press  
**Publication Year:** 2024  
**Price:** Hardcover \$120.00  
**ISBN:** 978-1009485111



**Book Title:** Awakening the Ashes: An Intellectual History of the Haitian Revolution  
**Publisher Name:** The University of North Carolina Press  
**Publication Year:** 2023  
**Price:** Hardcover \$72.02 / Paperback \$26.75  
**ISBN:** 978-1469674742 / 978-1469676845



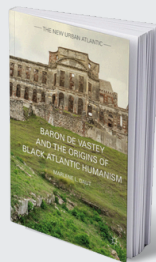
**Book Title:** Anthologie de la pensée noire - Etats-Unis et Haïti  
**Publisher Name:** Hors D'Atteinte  
**Publication Year:** 2023  
**Price:** Paperback \$41.34  
**ISBN:** 978-2382570937



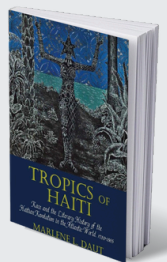
**Book Title:** Haitian Revolutionary Fictions: An Anthology  
**Publisher Name:** University of Virginia Press  
**Publication Year:** 2022  
**Price:** Hardcover \$123.97 / Paperback \$51.17  
**ISBN:** 978-0813945699 / 978-0813945705



**Book Title:** Baron de Vastey and the Origins of Black Atlantic Humanism  
**Publisher Name:** Palgrave Macmillan  
**Publication Year:** 2017  
**Price:** Hardcover \$29.99 / Paperback \$32.99  
**ISBN:** 978-1137479693 / 978-1349693764



**Book Title:** Tropics of Haiti: Race and the Literary History of the Haitian Revolution in the Atlantic World, 1789-1865  
**Publisher Name:** Liverpool University Press  
**Publication Year:** 2015  
**Price:** Hardcover \$150.00 / Paperback \$42.05  
**ISBN:** 978-1781381847 / 978-1781381854



**For media inquiries:**  
Nanda Dyssou, Publicist  
nanda@corioliscompany.com  
(424)-226-6148