

HISTORICAL TIMELINE OF HAITI

December 17, 1995 Former Prime Minister and close confidant of Jean-Bertrand Aristide, René Prével, is 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 Prével 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 Prével establishes a provisional electoral council 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 human rights conditions in Haiti.

May 21, 2000 Elections for local and parliamentary administrations are held. The vote counting is contested. The electoral council used a flawed vote count to favor Fanmi Lavalas (Aristide's party). The opposition declares the vote illegal; the OAS, EU, United States, 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 two thirds of the 75,000 municipal seats.

November 26, 2000 Presidential elections are held, with opposition refusing to participate. Jean-Bertrand Aristide is elected president.

February 7, 2001 Aristide is sworn in as president. The opposition Democratic Convergence party creates a parallel government, Gérard Gourgue is sworn in as a provisional president.

December 17, 2001 There is an attempted coup d'état. According to the opposition, it is a government production staged in order to blame 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 2, 2002 Haiti is approved as a full member of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) trade bloc.

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

February 19, 2004 The United States says it is open to Aristide stepping down, acknowledging that 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 goes into exile after a three-week rebellion against him. Boniface Alexandre takes office as Haiti's new interim president.

March 10, 2004 Gérard Latortue, Haiti's 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 flies to Jamaica despite opposition to his presence in the Caribbean.

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

May 4, 2004 A provisional council is sworn in 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 death toll is over 3,300.

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

June 1, 2004 U.S. commanders begin turning over authority to a UN force under General Augusto Pereira of Brazil.

September 17-19, 2004 In the wake of tropical storm Jeanne, nearly 3,000 Haitians are killed in flooding in the north.

April 9, 2005 Police in Port-au-Prince kills a prominent rebel leader Ravix Remissainthe.

February 7, 2006 René Préval 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.

October 10, 2006 The United States partially lifts a 1991 arms embargo to allow Haiti to buy weapons for its police to fight crime and violence committed by street gangs.

January 25, 2007 UN troops launch a new offensive against armed gangs in the capital's slums.

April 12, 2008 Parliament dismisses Prime Minister Jacques-Édouard Alexis following widespread violent rioting over soaring food prices, which led to the deaths of at least six people.

May 16, 2008 The United States announces extra food aid totaling 20 million dollars, adding to a ten million dollar World Bank grant.

August-September 2008 A series of devastating storms and hurricanes kill nearly 800 people and leave hundreds injured.

May 18, 2009 Former U.S. President Bill Clinton is appointed UN special envoy to Haiti.

June 30, 2009 The World Bank and International Monetary Fund cancel 80 percent of Haiti's debt (\$1.2 billion) after judging it to have fulfilled economic reform and poverty reduction conditions.