



From Dessalines to Duvalier: Race, Colour and National Independence in Haiti

David Nicholls

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"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*.



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