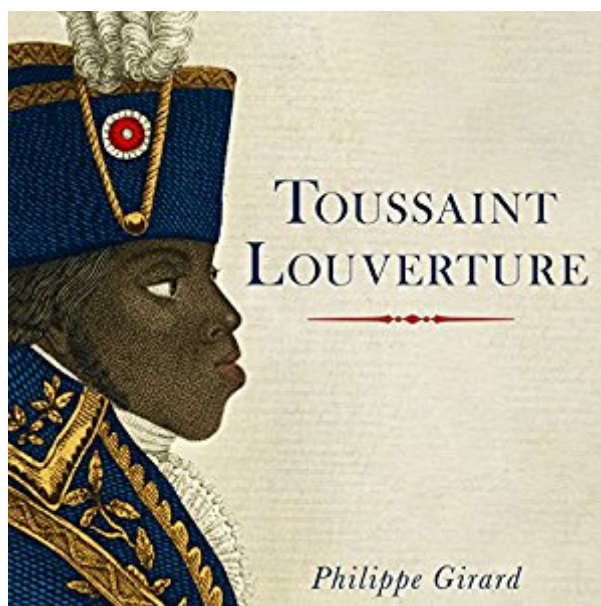


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Toussaint Louverture: A Revolutionary Life



Synopsis

Toussaint Louverture's life was one of hardship, triumph, and contradiction. He was born a slave on Saint-Domingue, yet earned his freedom and established himself as a small-scale planter. He even purchased slaves of his own. Philippe Girard shows how Louverture transformed himself from lowly freedman into revolutionary hero as the mastermind of the bloody slave revolt of 1791. By 1801, Louverture was governor of the colony where he had once been a slave. But his lifelong quest to be accepted as a member of the colonial elite ended in despair: he spent the last year of his life in a French prison cell. His example nevertheless inspired anticolonial and black nationalist movements well into the 20th century. Based on voluminous primary-source research, conducted in archives across the world and in multiple languages, Toussaint Louverture is the definitive biography of one of the most influential men in history.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 10 hours and 26 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Tantor Audio

Audible.com Release Date: November 22, 2016

Language: English

ASIN: B01M8QKZ9M

Best Sellers Rank: #378 in Books > History > Americas > Caribbean & West Indies #436

in Books > History > Americas > United States > African Americans #788 in Books > Audible

Audiobooks > Biographies & Memoirs > Historical & Political Figures

Customer Reviews

Well-researched and thoroughly interesting book about the enigmatic Louverture-essential reading for anyone looking to understand modern Haiti and global politics.

Very interesting book. An acquaintance of my husband's touted it, so we got it and were surprised by practically everything in this history of a Caribbean nation. We would recommend it to anyone who has an open mind and would like to learn something which was not presented in American education, and probably still isn't.

This is an amazing book.

A new president of Haiti, J. Moïse, will be certified in 11 days and inaugurated in 7 weeks. He must create a strong sovereign nation through the artful use of global networks, by comprehending the true competitive advantages of Haiti's economy, and by reestablishing the relationship between the people and all its democratically elected leaders, which has been severed by the USA and the international 'charities' that are its proxies. The only thing that unites all Haitians, whatever the pallor of their skin, is their independence in 1803. And Haitians have never been free since.

This is a magnificent work of scholarship. Girard presents a balanced, unvarnished look at the life of Louverture based on an amazing array of archival and secondary materials. He takes someone whose life has been distorted by two centuries of accumulated hagiography and polemics and restores him to full-blooded humanity. Louverture's incredible life sat at the intersection of titanic forces that continue to sculpt human society today: colonialism, capitalism, racism, liberalism, nationalism, religious reform. Girard's study is a must read for anyone who truly wants to understand the history of Haiti, North America more generally, the French Revolution, the Enlightenment, or indeed the modern world we live in today.

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