

Discounted advance copies of Peter Hallward's book *Damming the Flood: Haiti, Aristide, and the Politics of Containment* are now available from IJDH.

Damming the Flood covers the whole period of Haitian politics since the fall of Jean-Claude Duvalier in 1986, paying particular attention to what happened after Jean-Bertrand Aristide was re-elected president in 2000. It is published by Verso Books, and it will cost \$29.95 when it becomes available in North American bookshops in February 2008; IJDH has advance copies available now for \$25, plus postage. Discounts for larger numbers- 2 for \$40. To order, [click here](#).

Brief description of the book

Once the most lucrative European colony in the Caribbean, Haiti has long been one of the most divided and impoverished countries in the world. In the late 1980's a remarkable popular mobilization known as *Lavalas*, or "the flood," sought to liberate the island from decades of US-backed dictatorial rule. After winning a landslide election victory, in 1991 the Lavalas government led by President Jean-Bertrand Aristide was overthrown by a bloody military coup. *Damming the Flood* analyzes how and why Aristide's enemies in Haiti, the US and France made sure that his second government, elected with another overwhelming majority in 2000, was toppled by a further coup in 2004.

The elaborate international campaign to contain, discredit and then overthrow of Lavalas at the start of the twenty-first century was perhaps the most successful act of imperial sabotage since the end of the Cold War. Its execution and its impact have much to teach anyone interested in the development of today's political struggles in Latin America and the rest of the post-colonial world.

Back-cover endorsements

"Very convincing, a marvellous book. This riveting and deeply-informed account should be carefully read by those who recognize that Haiti's tragic history is a microcosm of imperial savagery and heroic resistance – resistance which, as Hallward argues, will continue to shape Haiti's political future if its people are granted the opportunity to take their fate into their own hands." —**Noam Chomsky**, MIT.

"*Damming the Flood* demonstrates that, contrary to what so many self-proclaimed experts have led us to believe with the steady diet of half-truths and outright lies they have been feeding us, it is indeed possible to 'get Haiti right.' All it takes is a healthy dose of respect for a nation and a people so deserving of it, and an uncompromising devotion to the truth."—**Patrick Elie**, political activist and former Secretary of State for National Defense, Haiti.

"*Damming the Flood* is an excellent book, the best study of its kind. It offers the first accurate analysis of recent Haitian history, and of its history in the making. Finally, we have an honest rendering of how the Haitian poor sought to advance their struggle for dignity at the close of the twentieth century, and of the forces that have stymied their struggle. Hallward's new book is required reading for anyone who seeks to know Haiti and

to understand the forces arrayed against all those who believe in genuine democracy.”—
Paul Farmer, Harvard University.

About the author:

Peter Hallward is teaches at the Centre for Research in Modern European Philosophy at Middlesex University in the UK. He was educated at Oxford and Yale. Before moving to Middlesex he taught for several years in the French department at King’s College London. His research ranges across several debates in recent continental philosophy and the reception of post-colonial literature; he also works on some of the obstacles currently facing progressive political movements in various parts of the world. *Damming the Flood* (2007) is his fourth book, after *Absolutely Postcolonial* (2001), *Badiou: A Subject to Truth* (2003), and *Out of this World: Deleuze and the Philosophy of Creation* (2006).

A summary CV is available at Peter Hallward’s Middlesex staff webpage,
<http://www.mdx.ac.uk/www/CRMEP/staff/PeterHallward.htm>.

Peter Hallward’s other articles and interviews about Haiti include:

- ‘Did He Jump or Was He Pushed? Aristide and the 2004 Coup in Haiti’, published in eight instalments in *Haiti Liberté*, October-November 2007, www.haitiliberté.com.
- ‘If Stones Could Float: The British Press and the Turks and Caicos Boat Disaster’, *Radical Philosophy* 145 (September 2007), 53-55. The complete version of this text is available online at <http://haitianalysis.com/2007/9/4/if-stones-could-float-the-british-press-and-the-turks-and-caicos-boat-disaster>.
- ‘Aristide and the Violence of Democracy’ [review of Alex Dupuy, *The Prophet and Power*, 2007], published in three instalments in *Haiti Liberté* numbers 1-3, July 2007; online at <http://www.haitianalysis.com/2007/8/18/hallward-reviews-dupuy-s-the-prophet-and-power-jean-bertrand-aristide-the-international-community-and-haiti>.
- ‘Insurgency and Betrayal: An Interview with Guy Philippe’, *HaitiAnalysis* 23 March 2007, <http://www.haitianalysis.com/2007/3/25/insurgency-and-betrayal-an-interview-with-guy-philippe>.
- ‘One Step at a Time: An Interview with Jean-Bertrand Aristide’, *London Review of Books* 29:4 (22 February 2007, http://www.lrb.co.uk/v29/n04/hall02_.html). The complete English transcript is available online at <http://www.haitianalysis.com/2007/2/18/%E2%80%98one-step-at-a-time%E2%80%99-an-interview-with-jean-bertrand-aristide> and in French at http://narconews.com/Issue45/article_fr2559.html.
- ‘Option Zero in Haiti,’ *New Left Review* 27 (May 2004), 23-47. <http://www.newleftreview.net/NLR26102.shtml>
- ‘Haitian Inspiration: Notes on the Bicentenary of Independence,’ *Radical Philosophy* 123 (January 2004), 2-7. http://www.radicalphilosophy.com/default.asp?channel_id=2187&editorial_id=14344

[Spanish translation in *Metapolítica* 36 (August 2004):
<http://www.metapolitica.com.mx/36/vimpresa/dossier/09.htm>].