

Citation

Payton, C. A. (2021). City of water: Port-au-Prince, inequality, and the social meaning of rain. *Journal of Urban History*, 49(1), 3–24. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0096144221992030>

Summary

- In the article, Payton describes the history of colonization within the modern-day country of Haiti, particularly in the city of Port-au-Prince. The article discusses how short sightedness combined with centuries of oppression and exploitative labor tactics have created a crisis of flooding and water insecurity throughout Port-au-Prince. Payton conducted an ethnographic review of the city, discussing the populous issues regarding water equity and scarcity. She then ties these discoveries to the history of colonization and slavery within Haiti; leaving the reader with a plan of action for Haiti going forwards.

Evaluation

- The article goes into extreme detail on the history of Haiti and Port-au-Prince, diving deep into archival texts to develop a thesis on the topic. Due to this, the text is extremely long and often difficult to follow at multiple points. Much of the detail that the article goes into is arbitrary and adds little to the main points of the text. The results of the research provide little to assist in the topic, pointing out the seemingly obvious and failing to provide additional viewpoints on the topic. Therefore, It is my belief that due to the number of redundancies seen throughout the article, that it fails to provide adequate new information on the topic.

Reflection

- This article introduced me to the topic of water equity within Haiti, as I had little to no knowledge of the topic prior to the reading. I believe that the article provides adequate historical information to which future research can be built upon. It provides a neutral viewpoint on the issue, presenting the facts as they have been recorded. The article notes that much of the data on the topic has been lost due to inadequate historical recordings.