

# Deforestation in Haiti: A History Rooted in Imperialism and Individualism

It's easy to forget recent history when we look at modern countries. Those we call less "developed" are suffering from a lack of infrastructure and education. If we dig deeper, there's a great chance that these current issues stem from a not too distant history of imperialism and slavery. Haiti is the poorest country in

the western hemisphere. However, it has an history of revolt, being the first slave population to claim their independence. This seems to be something we've forgotten, only seeing them now as a country filled with poverty. What series of events brought them to their current environmental and economic conditions?

A major setback for Haitians was the debt France imposed on Haitians after their Revolution. France demanded \$21 billion in today's money, which took Haiti 100 years to payback, while cutting off public services. The problem isn't that Haitians are unaware of the negative impacts of cutting down the less than 2% remaining forests. They have no other option if that are are going to feed their family. What would you do?

## Process of Deforestation in Haiti

