

Damming the Flood by Peter Hallward

"*Damming the Flood* is an excellent book, the best study of its kind." Paul Farmer

"A marvelous book" Noam Chomsky

Damming the Flood: Haiti, Aristide and the Politics of Containment is the book that the Haiti solidarity movement, and anyone who has looked critically at the relationship between Haiti and powerful countries, has been waiting for. It is meticulously researched, with ample citations to the mainstream press, human rights reports, and Haiti experts from many countries and political perspectives. It is destined to be a key reference for progressives writing, speaking or learning about Haiti.

Damming the Flood unflinchingly examines the hard questions that many of us ask about the struggles of the *Lavalas* movement to implement its progressive social program and the efforts of the U.S. and other powerful countries abroad, and a hostile Haitian elite to stop that program. After a brief summary of Haitian history from the Revolution to 1990, Hallward carefully examines the advances of the *Lavalas* movement- especially electoral victories in 1990, 1995 and 2000- and the setbacks- especially the coups d'état of 1991 and 2004. The focal point of his analysis is the centuries-old conflict between the majority of Haitian people who are poor, on one hand, and Haitian elites, supported by the media and organizations they control, and the powerful countries they cultivate, on the other.

Damming the Flood is well-written and the story is compelling, so it is a page-turner. It is also an invaluable reference book- my copy will stay by my desk, and will soon be dog-eared, underlined and highlighted as I consult it for writing, talks, and simply responding to the good questions about contemporary Haiti that IJDH fields every day.

Peter Hallward is a philosophy professor at Middlesex University in England, and his writing on Haiti shows both his intellectual rigor, and his broader political commitment to taking the side of the oppressed throughout the world. He has written several books on philosophy, as well several important articles on Haiti: [Option Zero in Haiti](#), one of the most comprehensive treatments of the February 2004 coup d'état, and major interviews with ousted President [Jean-Bertrand Aristide](#), paramilitary leader [Guy Philippe](#) and publisher/organizer/analyst [Ben Dupuy](#).

Damming the Flood is not available in bookstores in North America, but a limited number of copies are available from IJDH. To order, [click here](#).

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