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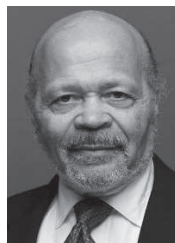
Opinion

The Debt We Owe Haitians

On Oct. 9, 1779, more than 500 Haitian soldiers (referred to as “Les Chasseurs-Volontaires de Saint-Domingue”) fought alongside French troops to aid the Americans in trying to force the British out of Savannah, Ga. in order to open its port for the colonists’ use. The attack was unsuccessful, but it has been noted that the Haitians played a significant role in providing cover for the French soldiers who had to retreat from their positions on the battlefield. But even though Haitians shed blood for American independence, the United States in its foreign policy has always held a deep-seated hostility towards Haiti, despite denials to the contrary.

Haiti was born of a slave revolt that began on the French half of the island of Hispaniola and resulted in a revolution costing 200,000 Black lives.

When the Haitians threw off the French yoke of oppression to become the independent Republic of Haiti, France demanded recompense for the loss of its slaves. This demand for payment was backed up by the threat of an invasion, with the French navy laying off the Haitian coast. This forced payment, totaling more than \$21 billion over the years, began Haiti’s slide from being France’s wealthiest colony to one of the poorest nations in



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the Western Hemisphere.

When Haiti gained its independence, Southern slaveholders in the United States were horrified by the liberation of enslaved Black people by their own efforts. And in response, the U.S. government did not recognize the

“Even though Haitians shed blood for American independence, the United States in its foreign policy has always held a deep-seated hostility towards Haiti

Black nation until 1862, when the United States was in the throes of its own brutal and bloody war over the perpetuation of slavery and the Southern states had seceded from the Union.

But recognition never meant respect. And ever since its creation, Haiti has had to battle against American hostility, with the United States keeping its heel on Haiti’s economy and domestic politics. This included a U.S. invasion in 1914 that precipitated a military occupation

lasting until 1934.

The U.S. military occupied Haiti again in 1994, the year Haiti’s democratically elected president, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, returned from exile after fleeing from a coup by the Haitian military. When Aristide was re-elected in 2000, the U.S. military, in combination with the Haitian military, forcibly removed him from the country and sent him into exile again, this time in South Africa.

It is important to point out the irony of how badly the United States has treated

courage and spirit of those Haitian Volunteers who in 1779 risked their lives for the cause of American Liberty.” The placement of Roosevelt’s plaque and the assistance given by the Haitians is unknown to most Americans. And even a 10-foot monument standing in a busy downtown square of a major U.S. city does not bring this piece of our history to the attention of most Americans.

Haiti’s contributions to the United States are not widely known because, throughout our country’s history, America has shown itself to be hostile towards Haiti and Haitians.

On Oct. 30, 2018, the British newspaper, *The Guardian*, ran the headline, “Flee or hide: Haitian immigrants face difficult decisions under Trump.” This headline, curious to most Americans, has a backstory. After a 7.1-magnitude earthquake hit Haiti in 2010, the U.S. government offered Temporary Protected Status (TPS) to thousands of Haitians whose lives had been destroyed. But now, Donald J. Trump has decided that their imminent deportation is best for America. Haitians who have made new lives in this country are now on the verge of becoming “illegal aliens” by the stroke of Trump’s pen.

Read the rest of this commentary at
TheSkanner.com

Preventing the Fall of America

As we have celebrated the birthday and contribution of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., one has to be concerned about the America that has inherited his dream.

There is a movement afoot to turn back the clock and to undo all our social gains. If it were not for the internet and the rising tide of social consciousness, we would repeat the history of so many civilizations before us that fell from within. If we allow the government shutdown to continue, we will accelerate the collapse from within.

Consider the hundreds of thousands of people now missing their second paycheck, those responsible for our nation’s security, like the Coast Guard and TSA, working without a paycheck.

Food inspectors and those who inspect our airlines working without pay; national parks closed, contractors who perform vital services — out of work and without means of collecting back pay because of the nature of their contracts — and air traffic controllers, who, like so many Americans, are staying on the job out of commitment to this great nation, in spite of the financial hardships.



Dr. John E. Warren
Publisher,
The San
Diego Voice
& Viewpoint

Consider the mortgages, rents, loans and car payments not being made with no requirement for landlords and banks to understand and extend grace periods for repay-

“There is a movement afoot to turn back the clock and to undo all our social gains

ment. The 38 million persons receiving food stamps who are at risk of no food while many good-hearted Americans are creating food pantries to help their neighbors.

The homeless, once marked by many, are now on the verge of having company as thousands of persons could lose their federal housing assistance for rents. And now we see that even FBI (Federal

Bureau of Investigation within the Department of Justice) employees are at risk to lose their health insurance coverage if payments are not restored soon.

The issue is bigger than “A Wall” and President Trump should be tried for treason and breach of his duties as President of the United States. He took an oath to Protect and Defend the Constitution of the United States and, in doing so, the American people. His actions on the government shutdown have done more to support Russia and our “enemies, foreign and domestic” than pushing the button on his nuclear briefcase.

The chaos he and those members of the U.S. Senate who have supported him have created by doing nothing, has caused greater harm to our global standing than the threat of an outright attack. The actions of the President and the Republican Senate that stand with him have sent a global alarm to our enemies that we are now weak and disorganized. Such a position invites military conflicts.

We as a nation must not only pray that God will once again forgive our sins and heal the land, even as Dr. King prayed so often, but we must also

pressure those Republican members of the United States Senate standing with Trump to either join the number necessary to override a Trump veto and a Mitch McConnell block vote in the Senate to end the shutdown, or have them face recall or impeachment for malfeasance in office or trial for high crimes.

Eleven to thirteen Republican senators joining with the Democrats can pass the bill, which both houses agreed to before Christmas, and override a Trump Veto. The very existence of this nation rests on such actions.

Already, over 7 million people have signed petitions calling for the impeachment of Donald Trump. America no longer has the luxury of waiting for the Mueller Report.

We must reach out to our friends, relatives and neighbors in every state in which a Republican Senator supporting Trump’s shutdown is seated and demand that he or she (the U.S. Senator standing with Trump on this shutdown) either break away and vote to reopen government or resign. The issue is greater than our differences and “The Wall.” The Democrats in the House and Senate should “Stand Their Ground.”