

Haiti (1994)

Throughout the 1990s the international community devotes considerable effort to establishing democracy in Haiti. The country's first elected chief executive, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, a Roman Catholic priest, is sworn in as president on February 7, 1991. The military, however, takes control. A multinational peacekeeping force, led by the United States but under the auspices of the United Nations' **Operation Uphold Democracy**, arrives in **1994**.

U.S. soldiers leave in 2000, but U.N. peacekeepers remain. With unemployment of at least 50%, Haiti has turned into a major drug shipment point between Colombia and the U.S. A steady flow of refugees has been arriving in the U.S., often in leaky boats. Despite the international emphasis on democracy, Haiti's government is paralyzed, and lacks the rudiments of a modern civil society, such as an independent court system, parliament, and administrative bureaucracy.



U.N. peacekeepers