

A MONSTER'S CASTLE

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Cap Haitien, Haiti. On a

steep mountain top three thousand feet high above the north coast of Haiti, stands this staggeringly gigantic fortress.

It is the *Citadelle Laferrière*, revered by professional distortionists of history as “the greatest monument to black freedom in the Americas.” What it really is instead is a monument to totalitarian insanity.

In 1807, the leader of a victorious slave army against the French named Henri Christophe (1767-1820) seized Haiti and proceeded to re-enslave his people. With their slave labor, he built La Citadelle – 20,000 slaves died under the lash or from utter exhaustion building it, hauling hundreds of cannons, tens of thousands of cannon balls, and millions of bricks and rocks 3,000 feet up the steep slopes to the site.

Finally, in 1820, Christophe’s slaves rebelled, his body dissolved in a huge vat of liquid lime, the mortar for the fortress’ bricks. The Citadelle has been a deserted ruins ever since. I was the only visitor there. So much for “the monument to black freedom.” Haiti has never experienced a single day of freedom in its entire existence to this very day.

Haiti, in other words, is not only a failed state – for over 200 years, it has always been a failed state. Tragically, the odds are high it always will be. (*Glimpses of Our Breathtaking World #265 photo ©Jack Wheeler*)

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