



Haiti and the United States: The Psychological Moment

By Brenda Gayle Plummer

University of Georgia Press. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 320 pages. Dimensions: 8.6in. x 6.4in. x 0.8in. In a prescient remark made at the turn of the century, U. S. Secretary of State Elihu Root said that establishing the right sort of relations with Haiti must await the psychological moment. Indeed, as Brenda Gayle Plummer notes, much of the Haitian-U. S. relationship has turned on matters of perception. For many in the United States, tales of voodoo, political violence, and stark deprivation have made Haiti appear to be a doomed land, beyond comprehension and help. Haitians, meanwhile, have often seen the United States as persistently racist, grossly materialist, and lacking in spiritual values. In *Haiti and the United States*, Plummer pays special attention to the role of social and cultural factors in the two countries' views of each other and the manner in which relations have developed as a result of those perceptions. The disparities between the two republics, she notes, are all the more remarkable in that their experiences of anticolonial rebellion and nationhood converged in some striking ways. Despite the parallels, however, the varying cultural and racial identities of Haiti and the United States and the sociohistorical context in...



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