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Chapter 1

Historical Background on the Haiti Earthquake

1. Haiti Is Hit by an Earthquake 13
   Gale Student Resources in Context
   A web-based reference source provides an overview of the 7.0 magnitude earthquake that hit Haiti on January 12, 2010. The earthquake killed thousands in the poverty-stricken Caribbean nation, left countless others homeless, destroyed infrastructure, and caused chaos.

2. The Red Cross Rushes to Get Supplies to Survivors of the Haiti Earthquake 20
   International Committee of the Red Cross
   The humanitarian organization details its efforts to send much-needed food, water, and medical supplies to Haiti; however, the disbursement of the supplies is challenged by the near-total destruction of infrastructure and services in and around Port-au-Prince, Haiti's capital and location of the greatest damage.

3. US President Barack Obama Outlines Relief Efforts in Haiti 28
   Barack Obama
The president of the United States reports that US rescue and relief workers have arrived in Haiti to help United States and Haitian citizens in their recovery from the earthquake. He pledges ongoing help for Haiti.

4. Canada Responds Swiftly to the Haiti Earthquake  
John Geddes
A Canadian journalist reports on the Canadian government's establishment of the Stabilization and Reconstruction Task Force (START), which ensures a swift and efficient response to disasters worldwide. In Haiti, START went on the scene quickly with supplies, shelter, and humanitarian relief.

5. Violence Flares in Haiti  
Lucy Cockcroft
A British journalist reports on the days immediately after the Haiti earthquake when armed residents took to the streets to find food and water—resulting in looting and vigilantism. In the growing violence, US troops were called to provide security.

6. US Troops Arrive in Haiti to Provide Aid and Security  
Ed Pilkington
A British journalist reports on the arrival in Haiti of US troops, who insist they are not an occupying force but are there to provide help to the Haitian people. The journalist notes that most Haitians seem to welcome the troops.
7. US Troops Pack to Leave Haiti

USA Today
A US national newspaper details the departure of US troops two months after the Haiti earthquake. Despite criticism from some sources that US military aid was unwanted, most Haitians welcomed the Americans and were sad to see them leave, USA Today reports.

8. Crime and Violence Increase in the Months After the Earthquake

Louis-Alexandre Berg
A scholar at the US Institute of Peace reports on the rising violence and crime in Haiti during the months that followed the earthquake. The violence is attributed to numerous factors, including the escape of many prisoners from jail, the resurgence of gangs, political graft and upheaval, and the large numbers of displaced people still living in tent camps.

CHAPTER 2

Controversies Surrounding the Haiti Earthquake

1. Haiti Gives Conflicting Count for Quake Deaths

Michelle Faul
A month after the Haiti earthquake, an Associated Press journalist reports on the “wildly conflicting death tolls” provided by Haitian government officials. International agencies express doubt about the figures and skepticism over Haitian governmental procedures for calculating the tally.
2. A Controversial Report Dramatically 
   Lowers the Estimated Cost of the 
   Haiti Earthquake

   Guy Adams
   An Irish journalist describes a report 
   commissioned by the United States Agency 
   for International Development (USAID) that 
   concludes the actual death toll and property 
   damage from the Haiti earthquake were far 
   less than that announced by the Haitian gov-
   ernment and other groups.

3. A US Researcher Defends His 
   Calculation of the Haiti Earthquake 
   Death Toll

   Timothy Schwartz
   The writer of a controversial USAID report 
   calculating the death toll and material costs of 
   the Haiti earthquake explains why his results 
   are so different from the figures presented by 
   the Haitian government and why he believes 
   his calculations are accurate.

4. The US Military Presence in Haiti 
   Is an Unwelcome Invasion

   Ezili Dantò
   A Haitian writer and lawyer believes the 
   presence of the US military in Haiti was an 
   invasion taking place under the guise of a 
   humanitarian effort. The writer contends that 
   soldiers blocked first responders from reach-
   ing the scene of the tragedy and took over 
   important government functions without 
   permission.
5. The US Military Is Welcome in Haiti

*Mitchell Landsberg*

A *Los Angeles Times* writer contends that in spite of the military occupation in Haiti by the United States that took place in the early twentieth century, most Haitians welcomed the US soldiers’ help after the 2010 earthquake.

6. Nursing Mothers Donate Breast Milk for Haitian Infants

*Tamara Lytle*

A US journalist reports on nursing mothers in the United States donating breast milk to milk banks to feed infants in Haiti.

7. International Health Organizations Call for Appropriate Infant Feeding in Haiti

*UNICEF, WHO, and WFP*

The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the World Food Programme (WFP) issue a joint statement calling for the breast-feeding of infants in Haiti, including relactating infants who have been previously bottle-fed. The organizations discourage donation of human breast milk because of storage concerns and donation of infant formula because of safety concerns.

8. A Christian Group Illegally Takes Haitian Children

*Matthew Clark*

A *Christian Science Monitor* editor reports on the arrest of members of the New Life Children’s Refuge group who took thirty-three Haitian children across the border to
the Dominican Republic without permission. Members of the group claim they were rescuing orphans; Haiti says they were engaged in child trafficking.

9. Christians Are Urged to Adopt Haitian Children Orphaned by the Earthquake

Christians Today
Magazine editors argue that Christians should strive to adopt because of the 210 million children in the world in need of adoption, including Haitian orphans. Neither bureaucratic red tape nor political correctness should stand in the way of finding good homes for children from Haiti and other countries, the authors contend.

10. Guidelines Are Established to Prevent the Illegal Adoption of Haitian Children After the Earthquake

Annie E. Casey Foundation
A children’s organization offers guidelines concerning the treatment of Haitian children in order to prevent illegal adoption and child trafficking.

11. A US Evangelist Blames Haiti’s Earthquake on Haitian Religion

Russell Goldman
A US journalist reports on the claims of televangelist Pat Robertson that Haiti’s earthquake was caused by the Haitian people’s “pact with the devil” as articulated through their commitment to the voodoo religion.
CHAPTER 3  Personal Narratives

1. A Sixteen-Year-Old Boy Loses His Mother and Home

   Plan International

   In an interview with an international aid agency, a sixteen-year-old boy who survived the earthquake along with his thirteen-year-old sister tells the story of losing his mother and his two other sisters in the earthquake.

2. A US Graduate Student Is Trapped in Wreckage

   Laura Wagner

   A doctoral graduate student studying anthropology and living in Port-au-Prince recalls finding herself trapped in the wreckage of the house in which she was living in Haiti during the 2010 earthquake.

3. A Haitian Man Tells the Story of the Earthquake by Telephone

   Ferero Dessources, interviewed by Seth Daniel

   A writer from the Revere Journal speaks with his brother-in-law, who is a Haitian survivor of the earthquake, and records his first-person account.

4. Three Medics Describe Their Experience in Haiti

   Betsy Fine, John McGlade, and Eric Holden

   A doctor, an emergency medical technician, and a physician's assistant, all members of the NYC Medics international relief organization,
tell their individual experiences in providing medical response to the victims of the Haiti earthquake.

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