

Haiti's Contribution to Greek Independence







One of the most remarkable but little-known episodes in international history is Haiti's support for Greece during the Greek War of Independence (1821–1829).

The First Nation to Support Greece

In 1822, while Greece was fighting for independence from the Ottoman Empire, Greek revolutionaries sent a request for assistance to several countries. At the time, Haiti was led by Jean-Pierre Boyer, who governed the world's first independent Black republic.

Although Haiti was a young nation struggling economically after its own revolutionary war, President Boyer responded favorably to the Greek appeal. Historians widely recognize Haiti as the first independent state to officially express support for the Greek cause.

Boyer's Historic Letter

President Boyer wrote a letter to the Greek revolutionaries expressing solidarity and comparing the Greek struggle to Haiti's own fight for freedom. In part, he explained that Haiti's financial resources were limited because the country was still recovering from years of war, but he assured the Greeks that Haitians supported their quest for liberty.

The letter emphasized that peoples fighting oppression should support one another regardless of distance, race, or religion.

Shipment of Haitian Coffee

Unable to provide military forces or large sums of money, Haiti reportedly sent a shipment of coffee to help the Greek revolutionaries raise funds by selling it in Europe. According to Greek historical tradition, the coffee shipment was intended to assist the Greek struggle financially.

Symbolic Importance

Haiti's support carried tremendous moral significance. At a time when many powerful nations hesitated to recognize revolutionary movements, Haiti openly endorsed Greece's right to self-determination.

Today, both Greeks and Haitians often view this episode as an early example of international solidarity between two peoples who fought for independence against powerful empires.

Greek Recognition of Haiti's Support

Visit of Greek Officials to Haiti

Over the years, Greek diplomats, historians, and cultural representatives have acknowledged Haiti's assistance during the Greek War of Independence.

One notable event occurred in 2004, during the bicentennial celebrations of Haitian independence. Representatives from Greece participated in commemorative activities honoring Haiti's revolutionary legacy and the historical friendship between the two nations.

In 2021, during the 200th anniversary of the Greek War of Independence, Greek leaders and institutions again publicly recognized Haiti's early support. The historical correspondence between President Boyer and the Greek revolutionaries received renewed attention in Greece and internationally.

The Legacy Today







The Haiti–Greece connection remains a source of pride for both countries:

- Haiti became one of the first nations to support Greek independence.
- President Jean-Pierre Boyer demonstrated international solidarity despite Haiti's own economic hardships.
- Greece continues to recognize Haiti's contribution as an important chapter in the history of Greek independence.
- The story symbolizes how two small nations, separated by an ocean, were united by a common desire for freedom.

A Historical Reflection

When Greece sought freedom in 1822, Haiti had already achieved what many believed impossible: independence through a successful slave revolution. Haiti's support showed that the ideals born from the Haitian Revolution extended beyond the Caribbean and inspired struggles for liberty around the world.

This unique friendship between Haiti and Greece remains one of the most inspiring examples of international solidarity in modern history.