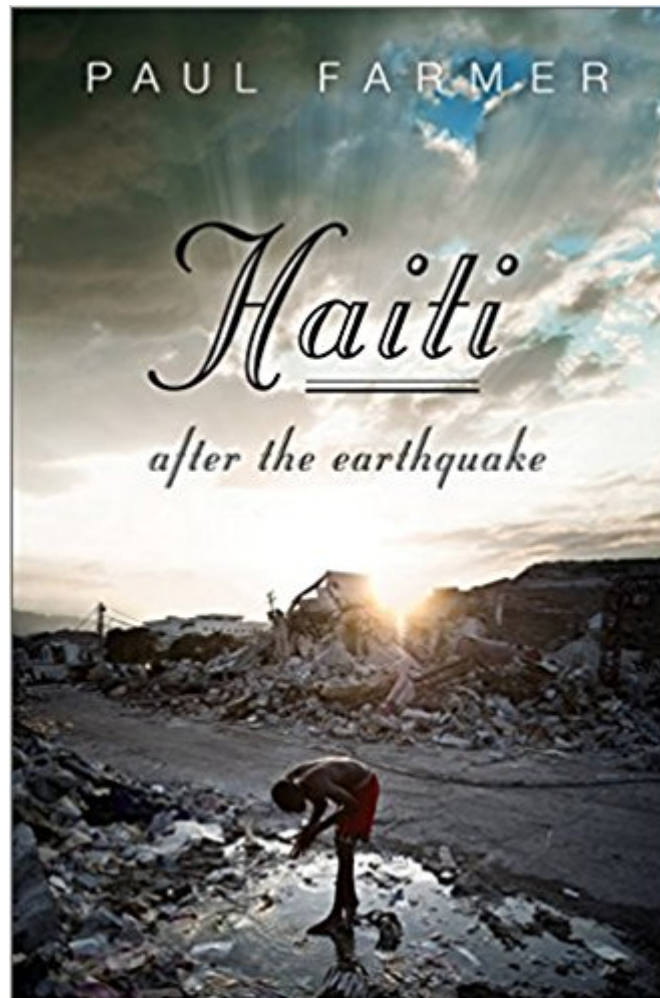




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Haiti After The Earthquake



Synopsis

Paul Farmer, doctor and aid worker, offers an inspiring insider's view of the relief effort. —Financial Times

The book's greatest strength lies in its depiction of the post-quake chaos; In the book's more analytical sections the author's diagnosis of the difficulties of reconstruction is sharp. —Economist

A gripping, profoundly moving book, an urgent dispatch from the front by one of our finest warriors for social justice. —Adam Hochschild

His honest assessment of what the people trying to help Haiti did well; and where they failed; is important for anyone who cares about the country or international aid in general. —Miami Herald

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

President Bill Clinton: A gripping recollection of the quake's ruin, chaos, and despair, and the story of remarkable persistence, hope, and love in the aftermath. — Once you've seen Haiti through Paul Farmer's eyes, you'll never see Haitians, or any of the world's poorest people, quite the same way again. —Adam Hochschild

Profoundly moving....An urgent dispatch from the front by one of our finest warriors for social justice. — With eloquence and wisdom, Paul Farmer shows how we cannot fully comprehend one of the great natural disasters of history without understanding the man-made suffering that Americans and others have inflicted on Haiti. —Madison Capital Times, July 14, 2011

Paul Farmer is Kolokotronis University Professor at Harvard University and chair of the Department of Global Health and Social Medicine at Harvard Medical School. He is chief of the Division of Global Health Equity at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, and cofounder of Partners In Health. He also serves as UN Deputy Special Envoy for Haiti under Special Envoy Bill Clinton. Among his numerous awards and honors is the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation's "genius award."

Farmer is never more so at the top of his game than now in the newly released Haiti after the Earthquake. Poignantly written, Farmer articulates his first hand account of the January 12th earthquake. With detailed descriptions of the redevelopment efforts in post earthquake Haiti, Farmer simultaneously calls attention to the broken and empty promises and efforts made by the international community while celebrating the heroic efforts of so many in the hours just after bagay la (the thing). Noting the unpreparedness of the international community for such a disaster, the reader is able to not only sympathize but feel the immense frustration that so many on the ground felt in those first few hours. The second half, equally moving and inspiring, is told from others' points of view and reveals the hopes and dreams for a Haiti built back better. A must read for anyone interested in Haiti and the redevelopment efforts, or for those frustrated with the seemingly slow pace of reconstruction who are looking for optimism amidst the crushing rubble.

The book provided a real first-person insight into the disasters in Haiti from an American doctor's perspective. It helped me to understand how dire the situation was and what really took place. However, I felt that it was saying the same things over and over. If you read the first chapter, that's pretty much the whole book. I would have liked it to be more of an incorporation of different events from different perspectives. It does have a section for other perspectives at the end, but it's really at the very end. It's just confusing and has a lot of name dropping. I just wanted him to get to the point and teach me what I needed to know. It looked more like a diary from a very confused person rather than reading material.

A loving documentary of a troubled people and raped environment. Farmer takes the first hundred or so pages to layout his compassion for his adopted people and his absolute frustration with the carrying out of rebuilding a post-quake society and a highly disparate culture: Living in the squalor and misery of filth, degeneracy, lies, malaise, self-righteousness, a self imposed poverty, disease - cholera & malaria & tuberculosis, unorganized, superstitious, hopeless, hapless, transplanted

indigenous people. Looking at the current CIA website for a current estimation of the country's viability it is said to not be a place that normal civilians should choose to go. Paul Farmer and his cadre of committed writers and leaders are too few and too apolitical to really make the changes wanted but unobtainable. Even the Harold Hill of the Clinton Foundation has not seemingly dented the hurt, pain, death, discouragement, and destituteness that is Haiti.

A heartbreaking account of the devastating earthquake that ripped Port-au-Prince. Farmer combines thoughtful analysis on policy and historic aspects that contributed to Haiti's precarious situation with on-the-ground accounts of the human dimension of the tragedy. Sorrowful accounts that affect even the most hardened. A great, and important, read.

I am a frequent visitor to Haiti representing a mission that helps children with scholarships to school and provides lunches for them. What I've found over the years is how hard it is to understand the culture. It is always great to read different opinions of how things are going. It's hard to imagine how bad the earthquake was or how big the challenges are. Paul Farmer has assembled a number of views of the post earthquake scene in Haiti by people who are very close to the situation. It is refreshing to see the Haitian people wanting to develop their nation in their own unique way. Sometimes this looks rather chaotic to outsiders, but how can they ever feel proud about themselves if they don't do it themselves. Farmer's book gives us glimpses of this and doesn't paint an overly pessimistic picture.

Loving such a sad story is strange. But Farmer is such an expert in his subject - Haiti - and was so involved in the recent history that this book is a page turner. I learnt so much about Haiti and could relate to the places I've been to. This story makes you wonder how so called "Aid Organizations" and International Development should work and what is their real effect where they operate. Sometimes eye opening, the book is essential to understanding modern day relations with poor countries. A must read for anybody either interested and travelling to Haiti or wanting to understand modern international Aid.

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