



VIEWER VOICES

COMMENTS & ANSWERS TO FAREED'S QUESTION OF THE WEEK 01-17-2010

(to remove your name or entire comment please [email](#) webmaster)

Last week we asked “do you think the United States ought to expend large amounts of money and resources to re-build Haiti? How much can or should the US do to save a country with problems as deep as Haiti's?”

Approximately half of our viewers said yes, the US should give money and aid to Haiti, although most of those viewers qualified their answers by saying that it must be a global effort rather than just an American effort. Approximately 25% of our viewers said no because of the state of the United States economy. Another 25% of our viewers proposed different plans of action or less than clear positions.

[Here is a sample of our viewer comments:](#)

If this country wants to be seen as a fair-minded participant in world affairs, we should expend at least as much time and effort performing humanitarian missions, and convincing our world neighbors to do the same, as we expend on making war against those who threaten us and most of those same countries. America, as a country and as a people, can not keep trying to lead and drag other countries along with us on our endeavors. We have got to work harder to reach out to our neighbors and demonstrate our willingness to take the long term view of the needs of the world and ALL the people in it. This has to include not only those countries from which we may expect some Return On Investment based on their material or political resources, but also those countries from which we can expect (or hope for) nothing at all except their peaceful growth and a semblance of cooperation with the rest of the world. We are not the boss of the world.

We are merely one more teammate.

Clif Officer

I simply want to let you know that I value your program. I am recording each show on my cable DVR and have installed Slingbox technology so that I can watch the shows while traveling overseas.

The level of excellence in journalism that you present is both figuratively and literally unmatched on broadcast journalism in my humble view. I applaud the intellectual integrity underpinning your selection of topics and the professional, balanced way you conduct your interviews and select your panels.

Your programs are intellectually stimulating and provocative without apparent bias. It is also refreshing that you take personal

positions without stifling opposing views.

Please keep up the good work, we need you out here.

Larry L. Emery
Portland, Oregon

Although necessary, I believe there are much higher priorities than spending the money you actually don't have. What Haiti in mid to long term needs is a plan composed within active discussions by individual bright minds. And then coordination, prior to any money injection.

Anonymous

Regarding to this week's question, as Dominican Rep. citizen, I think not only the US, but the whole International Community (including the G8, UN and others) should once for all fix the haitian's situation, not just sending money to the politicians, the way it has always been, if not, making contribution and leaded or couched by the US. United States does not need to withdraw a bunch of money, just ensure that things get done.

Alex Figueroa
Master Affaires Internationales
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

Why should we send money to a country that was bad before the quake and will be the same long after the quake? We have plenty of our own problems here and do not need to rebuild their country. What are we are going to do, borrow more money from the Chinese to rebuild Haiti?

Anonymous

Yes I think the US but also the rest of the world, especially France and Canada, should invest in rebuilding a lasting and self managing country and rethink the way development aid has been practiced in Haiti.

The United States has promised about 70 million dollars, the united nation about 500 million dollars and huge amount of tactical staff and material has been sent to help the country. Imagine what could have been done with this money if allocated to lasting development measures.

At a time where the whole world talks about sustainable development, environmental and global challenges I think actions that aim at preventing/reducing the impact of such natural catastrophe (that obviously can't be avoided), and thus reducing the spending of million of dollars for emergency aid and crisis management, are the only real helping and constructive measures any government, international institution or private corporation can't take... And this is of course valid for every poor country on this planet

**From Nürnberg in Germany, with best regards,
Arnaud Agbo-Panzo**

It is a tragic event that has occurred in Haiti and my condolences go out to all those that are suffering. It is truly unimaginable to me sitting in the comfort of my American existence what the Haitians have gone through before this event and are now suffering Being in international business and having traveled all over the world (and to this Island Hispaniola) any immediate help and long term solution must involve family planning, i.e., birth control in order to break the cycle of poverty and degradation of environment that has and is causing so much of the

suffering Overpopulation which leads to degradation of the environment thus making the environment non sustaining for the population is the 8,000 lb gorilla in the room that everyone ignores when discussing poverty, hunger, aid in general and countries like Yemen, Sudan, Haiti, Ethiopia, Somalia in particular Please consider this family planning element when reporting on long- term solutions for poverty in general and Haiti in particular.

[Mitchell Fuller](#)

I think the Western hemisphere nations should pool resources to put Haiti on its feet and set those feet on the path to micro businesses along the lines of those devised so successfully by Muhammad Yunnus. Help the Haitians to help themselves in perpetuity.

[Liz Lyons](#)

Over and above the humanitarian reasons which are paramount, Haiti is in the US "Monroe Doctrine" hemisphere. If we do not help restore Haiti and rebuild its democracy, there is a good chance given its chaos, poverty and restlessness that dictators from Chavez to Castro to Jihadists and even China may see the opportunity to move close to US shores, step in if we leave a void, and set up their own spheres of influence and become an even greater physical, philosophical, political and economic danger to the US. We have no choice but to help. President Obama has done the right thing so far on Haiti. Thank you.

[A.L. Simpson](#)

This is an opportunity to increase jobs and sales in the U. S. while aiding Haitians. Skilled workers from the U.S. could build infrastructure and bldgs with U.S.

purchased materials and equipment. Unskilled labor could be hired locally. Those 100's of Millions of dollars could go a long way if used properly.

Anonymous

The U.S. can spend substantial reconstruction Aid in Haiti, a country that has been leveled to mere rubble. A year in half ago, the US spent \$1 billion to rebuild Georgia after an unnecessary war, and the rest of the international community spent even more. This tragedy, however, was not ditched out by the Haitian people who unfortunately have to take it. Thus, I am expecting to hear of a reconstruction package in the range of \$5 to 10 billion.

**Isaac Marcelin
Carbondale IL**

I think rather than put more debt on our county's tab, we should let the other nations take over the aid, especially china. This would make our country less susceptible to bankruptcy and better for the world economy

Gary Wright

Regardless of how much money the U.S. spends to aid and help rebuild any unfortunate countries, the money spent should be used to subsidize American businesses to go help rebuild these countries. This money will help our economy, create American jobs, help the countries in need, create a positive and reciprocal relationship between nations, and the American people will feel better about our tax dollars being used consciously with everybody's good interest. The money should not be given to the sovereign nation's government.

Xavier Pol

...The point is, once the emergency situation in Haiti is under control, the US needs to work closely with the Haitian government to ensure that a strong education policy is put into place, as part of a plan for continued assistance, to educate it's population so Haiti will be able to take care of itself - not to be taken care of for endless decades by NGO's and foreign aid. This will take time, but if that is where and how a large portion of US aid is targeted, it will help the Haitians build a foundation for a much brighter future.

Tanya Priber
Montclair, NJ

I think the U.S. should offer as much long-term assistance to Haiti as possible, but we need to make sure that we truly strengthen the Haitians rather than allowing for the kind of opportunism outlined by your guest in her book *The Shock Doctrine*. In this spirit I offer two suggestions. First, the Haitian government should pass a law requiring all businesses, whether owned locally or by international investors, to engage in some level of profit sharing. The exact formula would no doubt differ from one type of business to another, so that level of detail would have to be worked out by economists and mathematicians. But every worker should be earning more than a substandard wage. Second, there should be grants - not loans - grants to encourage small farming, reforestation and other sound practices of ecological stewardship. Through these two paths, I believe Haiti could become the kind of paradise on earth that it has the potential to be.

Sue Cross
Laguna Beach, CA

How, by any stretch of the imagination, will allocating money to the Haitian government in the future assist the general population? We haven't improved the lives of the people with our billions of dollars of aid over the past few years. I'm sure the government of Haiti would appreciate the money to assist in rebuilding the Presidential Palace. How that would help the people at all is beyond my grasp. How the government can even live with themselves seeing all the poverty around such an outlandish building is unbelievable. Apparently the Haitian government has never assisted in providing safe housing or even the basic human needs. Merely providing money won't help unless there is massive guidance and supervision over the allocation of those funds.

Anonymous

I think the United States should not only donate more money, but should temporarily take over the administration of the gov't of Haiti. This may sound extreme to some, but one must understand that the gov't of Haiti can't possibly manage or coordinate the aid agencies, nor can it stabilize the fragile political situation at this time. There's no doubt that the Haitians will welcome this move because they pretty much have no confidence in their government-a body which is virtually non-existence. The United States has a moral and military obligation to save lives, and nothing short of taking over the administration will not do it. Don't call it a coup, it's for Haiti's good.

**Ebou Sowe
Jackson, MS**

The US will help Haiti. The United States is sending billions to countries all over the world. Perhaps these needy countries would like to become a "state" or territory of the USA. Then, at least, we can feel like we are helping "our own".

C. Ann Shaw
Florida

As a Cuban-born US citizen, I believe that the key to neighborly relations with Cuba is understanding what these people value most then respecting that particular value. What Republicans don't get is what most Cubans in Cuba have in their hearts and have had in their collective conscience throughout its history: it is Independence. Gomez, Maceo, Cespedes, Marti, and now Castro.

Anonymous

I visited Haiti for a week in 1972 and have cared about it ever since.

This is a great opportunity to teach the Haitians "to fish" as wise people say, teaching them to take care of themselves as they are hard-working, resilient people. A great opportunity to use photovoltaics as I read about being used in Iraq for limited electrical use in individual homes but may be enough for their needs; green technology like composting toilets so building complicated sewer systems can be reduced; reforesting the country as all trees were cut for charcoal. And rebuilding roads. Investors who are satisfied with a fair rate of return on their money instead of taking advantage. This sounds daunting but if the people are given these tasks to save their country, they will do the work.

Do I sound naive? I'm a retired speech pathologist from the NYC public schools where one is forced to find hope and renew oneself in order to keep teaching with enthusiasm.

Anonymous

Not only should the US spend large amounts of money and resources to rebuild Haiti, but all wealthy nations should individually "adopt" the poorest nations in their neighborhoods and focus on rebuilding economies and infrastructure one nation at a time. This would likely benefit not only the "adopted" nations but entire regions. It would have to be without military occupation or undue political coercion and would be especially in our interests if the "adopted" nation is a fledgling democracy.

Anonymous

A SUGGESTION: This should be paid for by a total restructuring of our priorities: Already we spend more than what the entire rest of the world spends on the military-industrial complex. What if we only spent twice what our nearest real and/or imagined enemy spends? How much further hue and cry could there be about our bankruptcy now pending according to those that never saw a war they did not embrace?

Anonymous

The U.S. owes Haiti. U.S. actions recently, over many decades and even centuries has impoverished the country and inhibited development. See Dr. Paul Farmer's seminal history, "The Uses of Haiti." See also an article written yesterday by the director of the Center for Constitutional Rights, Bill Quigley (on commondreams.org).

**Leslie Fleming
Berkeley, CA**

We should continue to aid Haiti. All the help today will be for

naught unless additional investment of funds and human efforts are made to set-up a basic functioning government that can render public services.

H. Rick Jones

United States should help Haiti through humanitarian aid, donations and jump starting the infrastructure in the short term. However we should not take the role of a nation builder. With all of our economic problems, two wars in Afghanistan & Iraq we already have a lot on our plate. In the long term the nation of Haiti should be responsible for redefining and rebuilding itself.

**Dan Semenov,
Seattle, WA**

Yes, I believe we should do whatever it takes to help the people of Haiti, they are our brothers and sisters in freedom. Their revolution in the early 1800's directly helped America keep its freedom. The Louisiana purchase was a direct result of the Haitian revolt. Their revolution gave us the time to build our strength by keeping the Super powers at the time at bay. I live in Missouri, which would probably be called the state of Lafayette if it wasn't for our Haitian friends...We should have never allowed them to live the way they have for the last 200 years to begin with. Now is our chance to give back to the people of Haiti what they deserved from us so long ago.

John DeRosa

Yes, we should definitely expend large amounts of resources to aid and rebuild Haiti. The US has historically played a significant role in Haiti, from our nearly 20 year occupation of the country beginning in 1915, to our decision to redraw the Haiti/DR border to our meddling in the financial and economic system of the country

(resulting in a huge siphoning of resources that should have been reinvested in the Haitian economy) to Clinton's "Operation Restore Democracy" in the 90s and to our continuous involvement in the tumultuous government of the region, which may honestly have been better off left alone. When you consider that the US has had such a significant role in the politics and economy of Haiti (which, clearly, hasn't exactly positioned the nation for prosperity), I believe that we do have a responsibility to assist in the rebuilding of the nation. In fact, it's just a shame that it has taken such a monumental tragedy to redirect our attention to the country.

[Teresa - Brooklyn, NY](#)

No, the U.S. response must be a balanced one between its compassion and its reason. With our hearts, we can give personnel to help pick up the mess and rebuild. But money? We must give up the urge to "play strong" when we are fast heading downward ourselves. Our resources are spread way to thin already.

[Linda Hassler, retired journalist](#)

Thank you for asking the question. NOT ONE DOLLAR! This country is dead, and nothing can breathe life into this Titanic. This is not a cruel rant. After hundreds of millions dollars were spent by the Clinton administration in 1994, there was not a functioning infrastructure in place on the day before the earthquake. This country was a conduit for the drug traffic into our country. Every official from the janitor in the palace to the president of the week is on the take. If they don't look the other way, they are killed. Easy choice to make. This disaster will reduce the drugs on the streets here. This is a good thing.

[Anonymous](#)

Asking Haiti to rebuild itself is out of the question since they were not even "built" before the earthquake struck. We are probably the only country with both the resources and the proximity to Haiti to really care about its future and the only at least moral answer is "yes", we ought to expend large amounts of money to help rebuild and yes, we cannot morally say that anyone is in too bad a shape for us to help. Of course, these same questions apply to New Orleans and that leaves me in doubt that Haiti can count on us for much beyond whatever glory is in it for our politicians while the news is hot. I would not want to be a resident of that country as soon as the spotlight goes dim for our leaders who will tend to follow the spotlight much more than the drudgery of helping a foreign country in distress. New Orleans has already spoken on this.

George Cooper

I think that Haiti is a tragic situation and we should continue to give voluntarily as we have in the past. However, it is time for OTHER countries to step up! We are currently rebuilding two countries with our tax dollars.

At some point, we need to face facts. We are not the country that we once were. We have huge debts which will ruin our ability to help others in the future.

Anonymous

No we should not pay to re-build Haiti. We have enough problems at home with our bad economy, the wars, a wasteful government (Congress) and just trying to keep our infrastructure up to par, which needs our financial and service resources.

We have done more than anyone over the years to assist Haiti and on your

cable station indicated that since 1992 we have already expended in excess of a billion dollars to the corrupt government of Haiti. We can't be the policeman and banker to the world.

Stephen Brady
Katy, Texas

Even though US should not help since it is bleeding itself silently and quietly, it has no choice but to spend the money to prevent the mass exodus of the Haitian people/boats into US borders. The US is willing to accept Cubans but not Haitians as refugees ,for the mere fact that Haitians don't have the political support systems that Cubans have in America, i.e. senator and congressman, pay offs.

Haiti has been and will be a quagmire of abuse and human greed, all the money/aid sent to Haiti will end up in hands of bunch of corrupt people without any "trickle down" effect.

Anonymous

I am Haitian. I am a student here in the United States. I don't need to tell you how sad and heartbreaking it is to watch those images on television everyday. You asked us if we think that the U.S ought to help Haiti and how much should be put in.

1) First of all, what is really sad is that an earthquake was needed to attract the U.S.'s attention on Haiti. This country has been living in dire conditions forever, right there, an hour and forty-five minutes away from Florida. I am not playing the blame game here, just pointing the obvious: it's a perfect reflection of our economic system: the strong doesn't

care about the week, as long as there is no real interest.

2) Second of all, as a Haitian who has lived in Haiti from birth until 19 years-old, i am worried when i see these huge amount of money being poured in the country. I am not criticizing the process itself. But, if i have learned something in the history of Haiti, it is the fact that money has never solved anything over there. The situation in Haiti prior to the earthquake (as of now- if hell existed- Port-au-Prince is as close to it as you can be) is a result of a complex historical mix of national and international malversations; malversations based on the same principles that are destroying our world right now: "might is right", and "survival of the fittest."

I dont believe in coincidences or accident. This earthquake could be a very positive sign for the world to move away from our illusion of separateness and express our oneness. I am hopeful when i see the whole world ready to help my country. Cuba has allowed the U.S to use its aerial territory, thanks to this event. For the first time in history, a French president might walk on Haiti's soil. So, it is an opportunity for us to truly realize that nothing really separates us and unite as one big family. That is what we are. But, i am afraid there might be something larger going on here; i am afraid we might let this extraordinary opportunity pass

Anonymous

Should the U.S. expend money on rebuilding Haiti? - Yes, but in a different way than up till now. As everywhere and always, the most important thing to concentrate on is good schooling, maybe with big

incentives for some foreign teachers to be included, perhaps from Cuba, for example.

Robert Boeninger

...I am against providing money to any organization that continues to play an ideological or "Lady Bountiful" role vis á vis the Haitian people. This only encourages mendacity and dependence which has been so well established by past "support" strategies employed for so many decades by the developed world organizations "working" in Haiti.

Joan Murray

Ethnographer and French teacher, retired

As always, your insight on Haiti and the centuries of mismanagement, that helped to create the scale of today's disaster. I value this very much, as I miss this kind of background in most of our media.

Should the US put in large amounts of money? Money and large amounts sure will be needed, but I would like to see a 'coalition of the willing', help to put the Haitians on their feet again and develop their country once and for all in a sustainable way. We need brains to do that and money, but most of all good brains.

Thank you for your excellent program, I do enjoy it every week on CNN International, here in Belgium. I couldn't do without it !

Kindest regards,

Ireen Houben

Belguim

Haiti has become the shame and bastard child of Western Hemisphere. Exploited by Europeans, the indigenous people nearly killed off by imported diseases, repopulated with Africans, this nation is an amalgam of dysfunction largely due to of the avarice of four continents. Wars were the least of her problems, the greater being the willing abuse by any well financed despot who sought to govern a tropical idyll.

The responsibility to correct these wrongs is now a global issue and despite our best intentions, the U.S will require assistance and advice from all corners of the world map before any substantive change will occur in Haiti. Thank you for the continued excellence of the weekly program, Global Public Square.

D. Walczak
Illinois, USA

Not to sound rude or uncaring towards the situation in Haiti. But how can our government afford to spend large amounts of money to rebuild other countries when our own country needs lots of help. We have large amounts of people in the US, without jobs, without money to put food on their table. Many Americans are going homeless because they have not had a job for a long time. I know many of people who have been out of work for over a year. So when is it time to stop spending money on other countries and start helping our own?

Anonymous

I suggest that the US give 1 million to each man women and child and let then find a place to live, leave Haiti and abandon the island. In the next 50 years the island could be sold to private owners who would clean it up and help it to recover. Large amounts of money have been

sent there offer the years and it has all gone to a few corrupt people who have taken it out of the country. We should help the individuals help themselves, not the ones in power. Power and money corrupt...

Bernie
Anchorage AK

Even as we struggle to survive and rebuild here in the United States, we must help Haiti rebuild. Haiti will never recover and become self sufficient without the help of the U.S. and the world. It's our responsibility to not only give Haiti fish, but to finally teach these people how to fish. Another clique that comes to mind, is a friend in need is a friend indeed. This can change relations that we have with Haiti. Maybe some new businesses can be started in Haiti by American businesses. After all the people have either been rescued or recovered, Haiti will be a nation ready for change. I just hope that it's positive change and not more corruption that they have experienced over the years.

Carolyn Chang
Los Angeles, CA

Regarding nation building in Haiti, I think it would be quite refreshing to take on such a task in a place where the people don't hate us.

Eddie Markham
Illinois

The key word in your question is "can". With two wars and an economy that is struggling, The United States does not have the large amounts of money and resources to rebuild Haiti. We should; but we can not. That is reality.

Tom Turner

Spartanburg, South Carolina

Good question. Pumping large amounts of money into Haiti will not resolve anything. However, carefully working with the Haitian government funding development projects with strict oversight of this funding is the only chance to succeed. Other wise, the money will find its way into wealthy private hands. But yes, infrastructure must be developed. Self-sufficiency must be pursued. Land management must be initiated, smart development especially in the capital. and lastly, smart construction must develop. I am not very hopeful. But then again, I never thought I would live to see a peaceful North Ireland.

We can pray.

Bill Katz

It is not in the interest of either the US or Haiti for us to be the sole benefactor or dictator of Haiti's future, but it is absolutely in the best interest of both countries for us to help Haiti become an economically and socially stable country and to lead the long term international effort to bring the country into the 21st century. It is time that Haiti escapes the past imposed on it by other countries after as slaves they overthrew their French masters, and the Haitian people have been showing that same spirit this week.

The alternative is let Haiti continue to be a destitute country with it's citizens dependent other countries to maintain a barely survival-level economy and culture, and to risk Haiti becoming a danger

to its own citizens and/or its neighbors in the region.

Let's truly give Haiti a fighting chance. Let Haitians learn to govern, in other words--- teach them to fish so they can help themselves and the world in the future. Stop trampling all over the Haitian and other Black leaders. Unfortunately racism is alive and well and until the whole world addresses this--it will continue

Anonymous

Since our President has pledged \$100 million of our money to Haiti this is what I think. Take thousands of unemployed construction and other workers off of US Unemployment and give them fair wages from that \$100 million, send them to Haiti to clear off the rubble and rebuild homes and business to Haitian design with US standards of construction.

Jeanne Granger

The UN exists to handle situations like Haiti's. All the financial help given by the developed countries should be given to an appropriate UN department and the UN should make requests from countries on a proportional basis dependent upon their wealth.

Jean Davids San Francisco

Wow! You had three women on your show today. That is a welcome improvement.

Penny Norman
Oklahoma City

I love your show on CNN, I really appreciate good journalism.

I believe that is important to help others in need even if they are not in America. Yes money is important but more important is to have and show compassion for people. Money comes second when it comes to this matter. There are many lives to be saved and people to be fed. They need they help of the big countries like the US and European countries. Who cares what others say???It is time to HELP!!!!

Haydee

10 million people needing not just homes schools hospitals and roads but a whole new economy and infrastructure? Cheaper and more effective in the long-term to bring them to the U.S. and give them dual citizenship.

Not half as crazy as it sounds.

Pat Sommer

Beijing

I'm 72 and as long as I can remember Haiti has been a dysfunctional hell hole. We should only give immediate humanitarian aid and use our money to rebuild America, not Haiti.

William D. Jaynes

San Marcos, CA

- 1. The Navy and the Air Force are little used in the Iraq and Afghan wars; turn their full resources on Haiti for now.**
- 2. If we can sent 30,000 military to Afgan to fight a war, we can send 30,000 to Haiti to encourage peace in a nation torn asunder with poverty, corruption as well as earthquake damage.**

Peace, Shalom, Shalaam, Paix, Vrede, He'pi'ng, Pace, Mir, Pax, Paz, Frieden,
[Alan Elmore, D.Min.](#)
[Greenville, SC](#)

Yes, to a certain extent the US should help to rebuild Haiti. The question is, will the problems disappear once the infrastructure is re-installed? It is the whole political and social structure that need to be renovated. Countries like Haiti are driven from one extreme to the other. History has seen regimes swinging from nepotism to communism.

Best regards

[jacqueline von hettlingen, schwyz. switzerland](#)

Terrific program. Even better than when you were on PBS. But, please, please, please include an audio podcast. I watch your program, but often want to listen to it again while driving or doing chores so I want to put an audio version on my mp3 player. Video is rarely necessary for your segments, so please give us the audio podcast!!

[Stan Winter](#)

I do not watch often; but if you have programs like this regularly, I will at 7:30 am Costa Rica time.

[Larry Doores](#)

[American in Grecia, Costa Rica](#)

I think Fared Zakaria maligned Yemen in his comments just now. I have lived there and traveled there often. It is not a "completely lawless" country. It is not chaotic. It

is a tribal society where important decisions (i.e. "laws") are embraced and enforced. Honor and pride and a strong sense of humor (and poetry) are first in the hearts of the men. Women have a world of their own, and I do not advocate that apartheid. (But I do know happy Yemeni women.) There are lawyers and activists in Yemen. Saleh is not quite a "little Saddam." I agree that the US must tread very carefully in Yemen, aiming only at the terrorists--except that this is a country well worth developmental assistance. The people are to a large extent medieval, yes. But they are wonderful! I have experienced Arab hospitality in every part of the country. This is a living, breathing museum, and its people should not suffer discrimination on that basis.

Peggy Hanson
McLean, VA

Your Jan. 17th panel on Wall Street excesses was an excellent program showing the diversity of opinion within the Jewish community

Chet Roman
Fort Collins, Colorado

I truly commend and appreciate Mr. Zakaria on providing the history of Haiti as the introduction to his program which aired on Sunday, January 17th. As a Haitian American, I have always wanted the American public to be aware of the state of a country that lies just at the United States' backyard. I was, however, expecting that the history Mr. Zakaria provided to include the VERY important aspects of why the country is in the state it is today...and that is the nearly two decade rule of the heinous and brutal Haitian dictator Francois Duvalier (1957-1971), whose dictatorship remains INFAMOUS in world history AND the failure of President Jean-Bertrande Aristide. Believe me, at the time Aristide was put back into power in 1994

and 2001, we, as Haitians and Americans, were all VERY hopeful at the prospects of Haiti perhaps regaining a foothold in the world community. Unfortunately, his presidency only provided disappointment in the mismanaged funds received from foreign aid and, what many Haitians believe, his own greed. This resulted in the riots that occurred in Haiti in 2004 and his eventual exile. I implore CNN, that when giving an explanation as to why Haiti is in its present state to clearly identify the pivotal points in modern history. Again, I truly thank CNN (and many exemplary reporters such as Mr. Zakaria) in all of the efforts to give voice to a story that for so long remained unheard. It is unfortunate and heart-wrenching that this catastrophic event had to occur in order for the whole story to be told in the public platform.

Fabiola J
Hagerstown, Maryland

Thank you for enlightening me on some facts of Haiti's history I did not know. I'm disappointed you did not go into some detail on Papa Doc and his Ton Ton Macoute that eventually filled the vacuum when U.S. troops left.

Personally I am happy to see the Presidential Palace destroyed. Like President Mugabe's Palace, I consider them to be an obscenity and a crime against the people.

I would hope you would use whatever influence you have with CNN to have them intersperse, with the constant coverage of this horrific human tragedy, a sense of what Papa Doc was able to do, since Haiti was of no interest to North American media and few were watching.

Ray Joseph Cormier
Ottawa-Hull
Canada

GPS is the only show I know that seems to have an agenda to rehabilitate Elliott Spitzer. Other than dumb arrogance, I do not know what makes Fareed Zakaria feel that he can ignore the backlash he received after the first appearance of Elliott Spitzer on this show. Mr.Zakaria, you may help Elliott Spitzer rebuild his credibility, but do not expect him to return the favor when viewers will decide seeing Spitzer regularly on your show is more than they can stomach.

Jossef Perl
Irving, Texas

You always show Arabs as nondemocratic and Pakistanis as Violent, and on the other hand you don't even mention anything about Israeli occupation and humiliation of Palestinians and very few about American violence in the Middle East.

I hope this change...

Naif Makkah
Saudi Arabia

I would like to thank you for your book list. I'm learning a lot more about the world I live in through the books on your list. Please keep them coming. I have one question when you find books for the show, and you think they could help the U.S. the with other country's do you recommend them to President Obama?

Roslyn Williams

I'm your average middle to lower class dark skinned Black Afro American, and I'm sick and tired of hearing about the coverage on Haiti. The age old question of "Why do we continue to help people who insist on doing

nothing for themselves?” strikes a nerve.

Throughout my existence, I've continued to see descendants of Africans across the world chose to live in substandard living conditions, only to have other nations run to their aid. It seems like the only thing these people know how to do is live on the national welfare system. How much does the world owe these people, as a whole?

Their language is primitive, and so is their level of thinking. These people are savages and I don't blame people for backing out if conditions become potentially dangerous. My thoughts are the same on hurricane Katrina. It is the natural ability for humans to evolve, but these humans continue to live on par with the lowest species of animal. Even when we see what the world is capable of, with all we have at our exposure, why does this continue to be a persistent problem?

A century ago if there was a devastating earthquake in a remote part of the world, no one would know and little would care. Do I think we should stand by when we have the power to assist people in need with our technological abilities and advancement as a civilization? No. But if you asked me a century ago, I'd say let nature take its course. What a waste. Sometimes I think to myself, was slavery good? Maybe these people should have stayed on the boat.

Additionally, this shouldn't be used as a political hot plate for people to redeem themselves when they dropped the ball on Katrina, excluding former president Bush.

Chris Baylor
King of Prussia, Pennsylvania, US

I just watched GPS on CNN and was impressed by the impressive program hosted by Fareed Zakaria. I'm glad to see that CNN allowing and promoting good interviews and interviewees. The financial segment in particular had some great/informative debate. Its just a shame I won't be getting CNN World when I return back to college. Anyway, keep up the good work!

Sohail

Thanks for the history of Haiti. Good panels. Good Show over all. First time I have watched this show. Will watch in the future.

Anonymous

Thank you, thank you, thank you for the absolutely on point discussion of Haiti-- fabulous insights from your guests and for providing such a complete list of who is working in Haiti providing care. GPS is the most important show to air in the US, you have to broaden the platform into schools, we need more of this, much more.

There is a MacArthur foundation RFP open from Jan 12 to 22 for innovative use of media in education. Maybe you folks could think up something that would wake up American, tune them in to the kind of discussion we see on GPS. Maybe the GPS classroom, some sort of format in which students could learn how to prep show and then discuss show after. Something that broadens the reach of young American mind. This show is the best!!!!

Ingrid Furlong

I watch your show every Sunday. You have insightful views, topical subjects and great guests. I feel you really control the show in a positive manner. Your guests each get their point across without talking over each other or interrupting one another. This past week I really enjoyed listening to Elliot Spitzer's views. It's too bad he had to resign in shame from public office. He is brilliant in the area of the financial banking system. Thanks again for another very interesting show.

Cynthia Culliton
Ben Lomon, California

Your historical account of the past history of Haiti was right on the money. The muddy relationship waters between the U.S. and Haiti run deep and all of America's attempts to clarify those waters have failed for whatever reason. Leaving Haiti as a complete and utter basket case. But your apt assessment of Yemen was the real masterpiece. In order to answer your question on the U.S. continuing involvement in Haiti, I would ask that you change the word "Yemen" in your Yemeni assessment to "Haiti". The implied outcome would be the same. Some things are beyond the U.S's ability to fix and certainly Yemen and Haiti are two of them.

Best regards and thanks for your enlightening program.

Gary Villiard
Bangkok