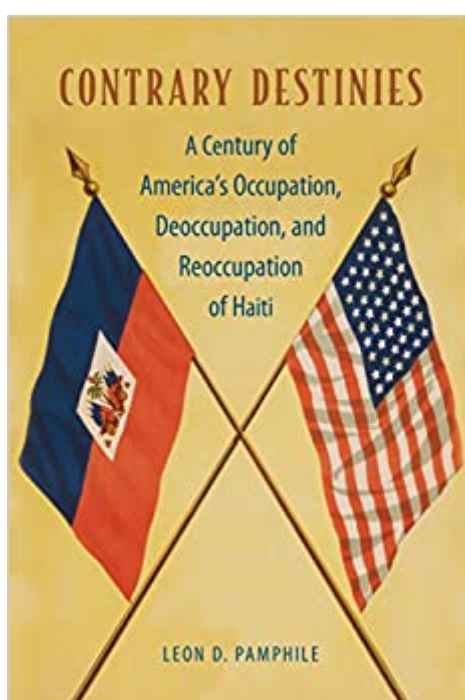


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# Contrary Destinies: A Century Of America's Occupation, Deoccupation, And Reoccupation Of Haiti



## Synopsis

“Provides a wealth of information about the nature of American occupations in Haiti that can be useful to Latin American historians and political scientists interested in international relations between the United States and other countries in the region.” —Leslie G. Desmangles, author of *The Faces of the Gods: Vodou and Roman Catholicism in Haiti*

“Unpacks the cultural, political, and economic impact of U.S. occupation, and by extension, American imperialism in Haiti.” —Quito Swan, author of *Black Power in Bermuda: The Struggle for Decolonization*

In 1915, United States Marines arrived in Haiti to safeguard lives and property from the political instability of the time. While there, the Marine Corps controlled everything from finance to education, from health care to public works and built an army, *La Garde d’Haiti*, to maintain the changes it implemented. Ultimately, the decisions made by the United States about and for Haiti have indelibly shaped the development of what is generally considered the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. *Contrary Destinies* presents the story of the one hundred year relationship between the two countries. Leon Pamphile chronicles the internal, external, and natural forces that have shaped Haiti as it is today, striking a balance between the realities faced by the people on the island and the global and transnational contexts that affect their lives. He examines how American policies towards the Caribbean nation during the Cold War and later as the United States became the sole world superpower and the legacies of the occupation contributed to the gradual erosion of Haitian independence, culminating in a second occupation and the current United Nations peacekeeping mission.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“Surveys the relationship over the last one hundred years between Haiti and the U.S. [A] significant work, partly because of its ambition and partly because of its refreshing perspective. This is Haitian history through the eyes of a Haitian scholar. American Historical Review

Leon D. Pamphile is founder and executive director of the Functional Literacy Ministry of Haiti. He is the author of *Haitians and African Americans: A Heritage of Tragedy and Hope*.

Dr. Leon D. Pamphile, I declare that there is something politically and socially provocative about your book, 'CONTRARY DESTINIES A Century of America's Occupation, Deoccupation, and Reoccupation of Haiti', henceforth ('CONTRARY DESTINIES...'). What needs to take place is a collaboration between yourself and Tariq Nasheed (Director of Hidden Colors I-III) to produce an adaptation of your book into a 4th Hidden Colors DVD documentary. Afterwards, black philanthropic financiers, black screenplay writers, black movie producers, black film directors, black historians/scholars such as yourself could converge to tell the magnificent story of Haiti in a feature film and/or television series from a Black Haitian African-centered perspective. Such a hopeful viewpoint would empower even our young people to analyze or even contextualize racist media sound bites like, '...Haiti is the poorest country in the western hemisphere' that insinuate that Haitians or Black people are incapable of self-governing. Our young people could recall from James Weldon Johnson's book, 'Self-determining Haiti' and your book, 'CONTRARY DESTINIES...', the following: 1) The Monroe Doctrine (1823) encouraged France to deploy armed militia gunboats to 'their' former most profitable slave colony (1825) and forced the Haitians to pay France reparations from 1825-1947 for the initial amount of 150 million francs; 2) Then during the first American occupation of Haiti (1915-1934), the U.S. Marines made their first order of business the seizing of \$500,000 in gold from the central bank of Haiti and having it shipped to a Citigroup Bank in New York which was formerly the private National City Bank of New York; and 3) Also, during the first American occupation of Haiti, it was determined that Haiti must pay 'America' 11 million dollars for whatever contrived reason, also known as extortion. I believe much race vindication and nation

vindication that you have meticulously researched and penned in your book, 'CONTRARY DESTINIES...' is prerequisite to lifting the spirits of both Black Haitians and Black Americans and to further encourage us to take back control of our lives and achieve economic empowerment. Thank you Sir for such an awesome gift and for allowing me the privilege of partaking a portion of your knowledge and wisdom. I stand to be corrected for any misrepresentation or misunderstanding stated herein. HAITI continues to resonate and occupy an iconic place in the very soul of Black Freedom Fighters. Furthermore, by offering 'CONTRARY DESTINIES...' in a Kindle Format would make the book even more accessible.

Dr. Leon D. Pamphile, Sir, I ask that you humor me for attempting to use this book review platform as a conduit for conveying my rather unconventional review of your book 'CONTRARY DESTINIES...'. Posting 'TRUTH' on some social media outlet under your true name could be troublesome (LOL). Currently, I'm not on any type of social media and Tobias Williams is currently my assumed name. I live in Humble, Texas via of Compton, California with my second spouse/wife and youngest of three offspring; and I work in transportation as a blue collar worker, a typical Black man occupation in America. The Honorable Frances Cress Welsing, M.D., authored a book titled, 'THE ISIS PAPERS THE KEYS TO THE COLORS' in which she dedicated her work to victims of this global white supremacy. In chapter 6, entitled 'The Politics Behind Black Male Passivity, Effeminization, Bisexuality, and Homosexuality (August 1974) she made the following hypothetical statement. "The large number of Black male homosexuals and bisexuals who report that they had and have little or no respect for their fathers might have had completely different life histories had they grown up with the knowledge that their fathers died while in defense of their manhood when it was attacked and challenged by the oppressor". I pondered upon the said statement and realized that Dr. Frances Cress Welsing didn't only mean one's biological father; I interpreted that statement to mean that historically/ourstorically speaking, Black men have always valued, defended and placed a premium on their masculinity. And so I wanted to learn more about my Black Fathers and elders resisting the oppressor. I began to purchase books on slave revolts and a few on Haiti and the Haitian Revolution (1791-1804). Then I stumbled upon a book entitled, 'HOMOSEXUALITY AND THE EFFEMINIZATION OF AFRIKAN MALES' by the great prolific author/teacher Baba Mwalimu K. Bomani Baruti either during the fall or winter of 2014. But, it was the U.S. Supreme Court ruling during the summer of 2015 which recognized homosexual marriages that compelled me to read it from cover to cover. And of course, I view this book in the same esteem as I view 'CONTRARY DESTINIES...' and 'THE ISIS PAPERS'. Soon thereafter, I purchased DVDs that Baba Mwalimu Baruti produced and was admonished to become an expert in something. At that moment, I endeavored to start learning all that I could about the Haitian

Revolution and the Haitian warriors because they represent The Best Example Ever (TBEE) of heterosexual Black male masculinity period. And while searching for more books on .com, an uncensored image of your book was propositioned for pre-sale. After hesitating momentarily, I decided to purchase the book a few days later, with my copy arriving September 4, 2015. Dr. Leon D. Pamphile, I commenced to reading 'CONTRARY DESTINIES...' the Friday after Thanksgiving 2015 and finished the following Thursday in a total of 7 days as you already know there are 7 chapters in the book for my initial reading. How ironic is it that 1) your book was published on September 1, 2015 during the centennial anniversary of America's Occupation of Haiti (1915-2015); and 2) Haitian boxer Andre Berto and 'American' boxer Floyd Mayweather Jr. clashed on September 12th? Well after my initial read of 'CONTRARY DESTINIES...', I subsequently discovered that the book cover image was censored on most major online bookstores such as: 1) .com; 2) AbeBooks.com; 3) Alibris.com; 4) Barnes&Noble.com; and 5) Walmart.com etc. After making my 4th or 5th call of protest to .com and alleging that they and their cohorts were engaging in some type of racist organized pseudo distribution-boycott of your book, the book cover image magically reappeared on .com the next day. My preoccupation with .com stems from the fact that that is who I have patronized substantially monetarily over the years. Dr. Leon D. Pamphile, since the enemy censored and then uncensored the front cover of your book, 'CONTRARY DESTINIES...' which depicts the juxtaposing of the Haitian flag to the American flag, I felt such actions warrant another 'look' at your book cover; the metaphor "never judge a book by its cover" notwithstanding. I focused my observation on the layout of the two flags and reasoned that you must be antagonizing and vexing the enemy by engaging in some type of political psychological symbolic warfare. What I have discovered on Google and Wikipedia regarding the layout of flags, is that the study of flags is called vexillology and that one follows flag protocol and flag etiquette according to national and international standards to be politically correct. So, "...when two poles are crossed, the position of honor is the flag that ends on the left side from the point of view of an observer (the pole will therefore end on the right)". Also, "the American flag, when displayed with another flag against a wall from crossed staffs, should be on the right (the flag's own right) and its staff should be in front of the staff of the other flag". Had I served in the armed forces or studied graphic design, etc., I might have already known this. Professor... Good Reverend, I couldn't help for noticing that the Haitian flag on your book cover, 'CONTRARY DESTINIES....' is occupying the position of honor; and therefore the American flag on your book cover, 'CONTRARY DESTINIES...' is occupying the position of dishonor, rightfully so. Furthermore, that the staff supporting the Haitian flag is quite noticeably in front and on top of the staff of the American flag, suggesting Haitian dominance. Just

in case you missed that Professor...Good Reverend, I thought I'd bring it to your attention (LOL). As we say in da hood, "I ain't mad at cha Yo", not at all...not one iota. And again, thank you Sir, it was an honor. Peace.P.S. May we honor our Queen-Mother Dr. Frances Cress Welsing (March 18 1935 - January 2, 2016) and the rest of our elders and ancestors alive or deceased with our newfound cooperation and unity in order to survive this genocidal conspiracy against us. We must unite or perish. Rest In Peace Queen-Mother 'ISIS'.

This was a very instructive book depicting the history of America and Haiti on inversely parallel course from independence to today. If you looking to understand the political and economical issues between Haiti and USA this is the right book for you.

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