

# What scholars have written: Books by Patrick Bellegarde-Smith

**HAITI: THE BREACHED CITADEL (Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1990), (Toronto: Canadian Scholars' Press, 2004 -- 2nd edition).**

## **SECOND EDITION:**

Noam Chomsky

Massachusetts Institute of Technology:

The updated edition of this perceptive study HAITI: THE BREACHED CITADEL could hardly appear at a more auspicious moment, as the latest phase of the tragedy of Haiti is unfolding. It brilliantly illuminates the rich tapestry of Haitian culture, and reveals the remarkable resilience of the Haitian people, subjected to centuries of rapacity and violence; and brutally punished for revealing, in the author's accurate words, "the limited definition of freedom adopted by the French and American revolutions." As he relates, Haitians have continued to teach such lessons to this day, frightening the rich and powerful in their own tortured land and at the center of global rule. It is our great loss if we choose not to understand, and there is no better starting point than this learned and penetrating inquiry.

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Edwidge Danticat

Haitian writer:

HAITI: THE BREACHED CITADEL is one of the smartest, most thorough and most lyrical books ever written about Haiti. On the bicentennial of Haiti's independence, this second edition offers extraordinary insight into a much maligned but enduring history and culture. Whether you've never heard of Haiti or think you know it well, you will learn a great deal from these pages.

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Claudine Michel

Editor, Journal of Haitian Studies:

A splendidly engaging and illuminating volume that does justice to an endlessly fascinating subject. A most significant and timely contribution.

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Patrick Taylor

York University:

Written with a deep commitment to Haitian popular culture and its revolutionary role in the struggle against the persistent forces of global capitalism, Bellegarde-Smith's succinct overview of Haitian history offers us a critical challenge: Will Haiti ever be allowed to re-invent itself?

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## **FIRST EDITION:**

Manning Marable

Columbia University:

Professor Bellegarde-Smith has written a thoughtful and important introduction to the people, culture and turbulent history of Haiti. The author provides new details on several aspects of Haiti's development, particularly the status of women and the intricate role of religion within the social structure. Haiti: The Breached Citadel is well-written, extensively researched, and an intellectually challenging study.

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Robert Farris Thompson

Yale University:

Haiti: The Breached Citadel advances our thinking about Haiti's embattled culture in rich and marvelous ways. I strongly recommend it to all interested in African-Caribbean contributions to world culture.

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Irving Leonard Markovitz

CUNY-Queen's College:

Haiti: The Breached Citadel is absolutely essential reading for an understanding of contemporary Haiti. This brilliant study illuminates every aspect of Haitian history and civilization. Particularly insightful is Bellegarde-Smith's interpretations of the role of women in traditional and contemporary society; his understanding of Vodou as integral to the development of any true mass based democracy; and his analysis of social structure as it evolved through intense periods of class conflict.

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Locksley Edmondson

Cornell University:

An imaginative and impressive study that succeeds admirably in articulating a decidedly Haitian perspective on wider Caribbean and global concerns. Especially commendable is Bellegarde-Smith's sensitivity to the usually misinterpreted functions of the Vodou religion and the Kreyol language which he sees as positive nation-building attributes, as well as his highlighting of the usually neglected role of women and peasants as moving forces in Haitian history, political economy, culture, social thought, race relations, and international relations. For rescuing Haiti from the frequent contempt of Western scholarship, this sensitive non-balanced analysis of Haitian achievements alongside failures, promises alongside betrayals, is highly recommended.

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Brenda Gayle Plummer

University of Wisconsin, Madison:

The last ten years have witnessed a veritable renaissance in the publication of material in the social sciences on Haitian subjects. Patrick Bellegarde-Smith has made an important addition to this cannon. The questions that [he] raises are path-breaking for non-anthropological social scientists.

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Audre Lorde

Essayist; Poet:

It gives me a sense of Haiti that nothing else I have read equals. It is an extraordinary piece of work.

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**FRAGMENTS OF BONE: NEO-AFRICAN RELIGIONS IN A NEW WORLD (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2004)**

Karen McCarthy Brown

Author of *Mama Lola: A Vodou Priestess in Brooklyn*:

Patrick Bellegarde-Smith's collection of essays on religion that developed out of the experience of chattel slavery and colonialism takes the reader to a deeper and broader understanding of Afro-Caribbean traditions than we have had before. Many of these fine essays situate their subject matter in micro or macro historical contexts that acknowledge the social dynamics of sexuality, race, and gender. The cumulative effect of this unusual collection moves religions such as Vodou, Santeria, Palo, and Candomble out of the realm of the exotic and into a merited position among progressive religious alternatives in the contemporary world.

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Sylvester A. Johnson

Vol. 74, No. 3 (September 2006), *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*:

[Extracts]

With *Fragments of Bone*, the editor and contributors have succeeded brilliantly in producing a text that advances keen scholarship on African religions. Readers will appreciate the prudent selection of articles that are international in scope and interdisciplinary in method. The revisionist analytics and methodological shifts embedded in the essays of *Fragments of Bone* merit serious attention from scholars of religion.

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Diane M. Stewart

Department of Religion, Emory University:

[Extracts]

Underscoring an important shift in studies of African diasporic religions, Bellegarde-Smith frames this volume with an introductory essay and querying title: "What if History Were Written by the Vanquished?" His insider-outsider position as houngan and scholar lends credibility to an integrative and collaborative approach to knowledge production, one that benefits not only from transdisciplinary but also from translocation, something rarely encountered in the scholarship on African and African-derived religions. In penetrating the boundaries between theology and religion, technology and spirituality, politics and aesthetics, and time and space, the essays offer responses to Bellegarde-Smith's question.

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Anthony Adam,

History 15-1-0062, Prairie View A & M University:

[Extracts]

The articles are universally well-written, although undergraduates without a background in this field might have a hard time following the arguments. *FRAGMENTS OF BONE* is a fine addition to the scholarly discussion of African belief systems in the New World, along with Murphy's *WORKING THE SPIRIT...* (1994) and Simpson's *BLACK RELIGIONS IN THE NEW WORLD* (1978). *MULTICULTURAL REVIEW* VOL. 15 no. 1 (SPRING 2006)

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Claudine Michel

Author of "Aspects Moraux et éducatifs du Vodou haïtien:"

This is a rare and important work. "Fragments of Bone" makes major progress toward restructuring and rehabilitating historically subjugated indigenous spiritualities. It is a masterpiece of religious writings which present New-World African religious realities as parallel universes linked by some ultimate knowledge. Each chapter makes the argument that these various religious experiences publicly enacted, embody continuity and change through ancestral and transgenerational memory. The book is innovative, informative, and of utmost significance. Its publication is a major event.

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Richard Brent Turner

African-American World Studies and Religious Studies, University of Iowa:

Impeccably researched, persuasively argued, and engagingly written. I read every word of "Fragments of Bone" and loved it. This is the most comprehensive, creative collection available, and should become the standard text for courses on the subject in the United States and abroad.

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***IN THE SHADOW OF POWERS: DANTÈS BELLEGARDE IN HAITIAN SOCIAL THOUGHT.* (Englewood, NJ: Humanities Press International, 1985).**

***A L'OMBRE DES GRANDES PUISSANCES: DANTÈS BELLEGARDE DANS LA PENSÉE SOCIALE HAÏTIENNE* (traduit de l'anglais par Max H. Dorsinville). (Montréal: Éditions du CIDIHCA 2010).**

Robert K. Lacerte

(Review) "Americas:"

The great virtue of this study is that while the work concentrates on Dantès Bellegarde's thought and diplomatic career, it tells us a great deal about Haitian intellectual responses to the currents of political and economic liberalism as well as positivism in the nineteenth century and to Marxism in the twentieth. Bellegarde-Smith has written an appreciative and critical study of a distinguished Haitian. The author, however, devotes most of his study to the development of Haitian social thought; and in doing so provides a welcome addition to the history of ideas in Haiti.

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Leon-Francois Hoffman

Princeton University:

This... is an excellent and important book. The first part... is a valuable contribution to the study of a constant tension in the Haitian elite's self-image and role-model adoption. Professor Bellegarde-Smith then lucidly and elegantly explains how the ideology leading to the unique form of Haitian class structure originated and evolved. The second part deals with the life of Professor Bellegarde-Smith's grandfather, Dantès Bellegarde. To this intellectual biography he also brings a lucid, objective attitude.

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Rayford W. Logan

Howard University:

Thoroughly researched, lucidly written and comprehensively documented volume... The work is all the more valuable because Patrick Bellegarde-Smith has presented a balanced evaluation of his grandfather's distinguished career. It is neither an uncritical encomium nor an iconoclastic critique.

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Lucius Outlaw

Haverford College:

Provides an insightful analysis that is informed by the understanding of class and color stratifications, foreign interventions, and cultural complexities. And he does not refrain from advancing the critique when it falls on persons close to him or on those among whom were he in Haiti -- in all probability -- would have his social grounding. Here, for me, is the demonstration of honesty and integrity: to go where the analysis leads, regardless.

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Irving Leonard Markovitz

CUNY - Queens College:

This work is an absolutely essential study of Haitian intellectual development of the 19th and 20th century as reflected through the thought of Dantès Bellegarde (1877-1966). Overall, Bellegarde-Smith provides ample evidence that he is himself an excellent social scientist and an intellect of the highest order.

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Yves Bénot

French historian:

Je [l'] ai lu d'un trait avec le plus grand intérêt.... Votre étude me paraît tout à fait cohérente, et j'ajoute, passionnante dans le contexte actuel.