

Rituals, Runaways, and the Haitian Revolution

The Haitian Revolution was perhaps the most successful slave rebellion in modern history; it created the first and only free and independent Black nation in the Americas. This book tells the story of how enslaved Africans forcibly brought to colonial Haiti through the trans-Atlantic slave trade used their cultural and religious heritages, social networks, and labor and militaristic skills to survive horrific conditions. They built webs of networks between African and ‘creole’ runaways, slaves, and a small number of free people of color through rituals and marronnage — key aspects to building the racial solidarity that helped make the revolution successful. Analyzing underexplored archival sources and advertisements for fugitives from slavery, Crystal Eddins finds indications of collective consciousness and solidarity, unearthing patterns of resistance. Considering the importance of the Haitian Revolution and the growing scholarly interest in exploring it, Eddins fills an important gap in the existing literature. This title is also available as Open Access on Cambridge Core.

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Collective Action in the African Diaspora

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CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,
New Delhi – 110025, India

103 Penang Road, #05–06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

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www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781009256155

DOI: [10.1017/9781009256148](https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009256148)

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Reissued as Open Access, 2022

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When citing this work, please include a reference to the DOI [10.1017/9781009256148](https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009256148)

First published 2022

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

NAMES: Eddins, Crystal Nicole, 1984- author.

TITLE: Rituals, runaways, and the Haitian Revolution : collective action in the African diaspora / Crystal Nicole Eddins.

DESCRIPTION: Cambridge, United Kingdom ; New York, NY : Cambridge University Press, 2022. |

Series: Cambridge studies on the African diaspora | Includes bibliographical references and index.

IDENTIFIERS: LCCN 2021027125 (print) | LCCN 2021027126 (ebook) | ISBN 9781108843720 (hardback) |

ISBN 9781009256155 (paperback) | ISBN 9781009256148 (epub)

SUBJECTS: LCSH: Slave insurrections–Haiti–History. | Blacks–Race identity–Haiti. | Maroons–Haiti–Ethnic identity. | Rites and ceremonies–Haiti. | Blacks–Haiti–Social life and customs. | Group identity–Haiti. | Social movements–Haiti–History. | Haiti–History–Revolution, 1791–1804–Causes. | BISAC:

HISTORY / Latin America / General

CLASSIFICATION: LCC F1923 .E23 2022 (print) | LCC F1923 (ebook) | DDC 305.896/07294–dc23

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2021027125>

LC ebook record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2021027126>

ISBN 978-1-009-25615-5 Paperback

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