Haiti Under Pressure

Trace how an internal conflict grows and affects civilians.

SS24.CWI.7 "Outline the causes and progressions of current conflicts around the world, including interstate, intrastate, and extrastate conflicts. 7a Investigate and explain how individuals and non-governmental groups may cause or perpetuate conflict..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two conditions that helped the conflict grow, circle the names of an individual and a group that shaped events, and number three major events in order. Use your marks to trace how the conflict progressed.

How Haiti's Crisis Grew

1. Haiti's current crisis did not begin with a single attack. Years of weak public institutions and poverty left many neighborhoods without reliable protection or services. After President Jovenel Moïse was assassinated in 2021, political leaders struggled to establish a stable government. Armed gangs expanded their control over streets, ports, and roads. Some demanded payments from drivers and businesses, gaining money that helped them buy weapons and recruit members. This is mainly an intrastate conflict: armed groups challenge authority within Haiti. It is not an interstate war between two national governments.

2. In early 2024, several gangs joined forces in an alliance called Viv Ansanm. Jimmy Chérizier, a prominent gang leader, publicly promoted cooperation among armed groups. The alliance attacked police stations and prisons in and around Port-au-Prince, and thousands of prisoners escaped. These coordinated assaults made it harder for the government to restore order. Prime Minister Ariel Henry announced in March 2024 that he would resign once a transitional council was formed. Gang leaders did not need to hold government office to shape national events: their attacks disrupted public authority and helped prolong the struggle.

3. For residents, the conflict has meant closed schools, interrupted medical care, and families forced to leave their homes. Roadblocks and attacks also keep food and supplies from reaching some neighborhoods. In June 2024, a Kenya-led security mission began supporting Haitian police, but outside assistance alone cannot settle the political crisis. One possible approach pairs safer routes for aid with investigations of gang financing and negotiations among political leaders over a legitimate government. Protecting residents during police operations matters too: a plan that harms civilians could deepen mistrust and make recruitment by armed groups easier.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Explain how two conditions described in the passage helped armed gangs gain power in Haiti.

2. Trace the conflict from the 2021 political crisis through Ariel Henry's March 2024 announcement. Include the attacks in early 2024.

3. How did Jimmy Chérizier and Viv Ansanm each help shape or prolong the conflict?

4. Why is this mainly an intrastate conflict rather than an interstate war? Identify two effects on civilians.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a five-sentence briefing for a local civic group proposing two linked steps to reduce violence in Haiti. Explain how each step addresses a cause or actor in the passage, predict one effect on residents, and name one risk the plan must avoid.

ANSWER KEY

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HIGH SCHOOL · SS24.CWI.7

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two conditions that helped the conflict grow, circle the names of an individual and a group that shaped events, and number three major events in order. Use your marks to trace how the conflict progressed. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Explain how two conditions described in the passage helped armed gangs gain power in Haiti.	**Weak institutions left neighborhoods without reliable protection, while political instability after the 2021 assassination made it difficult to establish a stable government.**
2	Trace the conflict from the 2021 political crisis through Ariel Henry's March 2024 announcement. Include the attacks in early 2024.	**After Moïse's assassination in 2021, leaders struggled to establish a stable government. In early 2024, Viv Ansanm attacked police stations and prisons. Henry announced in March that he would resign once a transitional council was formed.**
3	How did Jimmy Chérizier and Viv Ansanm each help shape or prolong the conflict?	**Chérizier publicly promoted cooperation among armed groups. Viv Ansanm carried out coordinated attacks that disrupted public authority and made it harder to restore order.**
4	Why is this mainly an intrastate conflict rather than an interstate war? Identify two effects on civilians.	**Armed groups challenge authority within Haiti, rather than two national governments fighting each other. Civilians have faced effects such as closed schools, interrupted medical care, displacement, and difficulty obtaining food.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A first step is to protect routes used to deliver food and medical supplies. This would address the roadblocks and attacks that prevent supplies from reaching neighborhoods. A second step is to investigate the payments gangs collect from drivers and businesses, since that money can support recruitment and weapons purchases. Together, these steps could make supplies more available to residents while limiting a source of gang power. Police must avoid harming civilians during these efforts, or mistrust could grow.

Accept other passage-supported causes, effects, and sequences. For the briefing, look for two connected steps, a clear link to the conflict's causes or actors, a plausible effect on residents, and a risk to avoid.