



# AIDS and Accusation: Haiti and the Geography of Blame

*By Paul Farmer*

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Does the scientific “theory” that HIV came to North America from Haiti stem from underlying attitudes of racism and ethnocentrism in the United States rather than from hard evidence? Award-winning author and anthropologist-physician Paul Farmer answers with this, the first full-length ethnographic study of AIDS in a poor society. First published in 1992 this new edition has been updated and a new preface added.

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### Editorial Review

From Library Journal

Physician and anthropologist Farmer studied the impact of AIDS on the impoverished people of Haiti, and his portrayal for his doctoral dissertation, of a small rural village--its clinic, religious life, folk healers, and voodoo beliefs--brings Haitian culture powerfully to life. He provides an extensive history of the country, finally exploring the connection between suffering and blame: Americans have blamed Haitians for "causing" AIDS, while Haitians have accused one another of "sending" it through sorcery. Rarely is a book based on a dissertation so engaging. Highly recommended for academic and subject collections.

- *Judith Eannarino, Washington, D.C.*

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### Review

"This superbly crafted volume is dedicated to explaining and refuting a popular U.S. Belief that AIDS came to the United States from Haiti. . . . Farmer has made an outstanding scholarly contribution to the 'anthropology of suffering,' the assessment of illness as perceived and experienced by a patient embedded in an interlocking fabric of culture and history. "-- *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*

From the Inside Flap

*Praise for the first edition:*

"Farmer's sensitive exploration of the lives and deaths of the people at [the village of] Do Kay give his study a distinctly human face and an emotional edge.... The book is at the same time fiercely personal and coldly objective. The result is both moving and illuminating."— *Science*

"Farmer renders a richly layered and nuanced ethnographic portrait."— *Harvard Educational Review*

"This superbly crafted volume is dedicated to explaining and refuting a popular U.S. belief that AIDS came to the United States from Haiti. . . . Farmer has made an outstanding scholarly contribution to the 'anthropology of suffering,' the assessment of illness as perceived and experienced by a patient embedded in an interlocking fabric of culture and history."— *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*

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