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The New York Times

Assassination of Haiti's President Fuels a Battle for Control

Natalie Kitroeff and Catherine Porter 1 day ago

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The assassination of Haiti's president has thrown the nation into disarray, spawned shootouts on the streets and left terrified citizens cowering in their homes. But behind the scenes a bigger, high-stakes battle for control of the country is already accelerating.



© Hector Retamal/Agence France-Presse — Getty Images The late President Jovenel Moïse, center right, with Senate President Joseph Lambert, center left, in 2018. Most of the country's remaining lawmakers have declared that Mr. Lambert should become provisional president.

The fault lines were drawn long before President Jovenel Moïse was killed. For more than a year before his death, the president had been attacking his political rivals, undermining the nation's democratic institutions and angering church and gang leaders alike.

Then the president was gunned down in his home on Wednesday — and the power play burst into the open, with the interim prime minister claiming to run the country despite open challenges by other politicians.



© Valerie Baeriswyl/Agence France-Presse — Getty Images Pétionville, a suburb of Port-au-Prince, on Friday. The nation has been thrown into chaos since the president was assassinated on Wednesday.

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But even as that battle over who inherits the reins of government plays out in public, analysts say a more complex, less visible battle for power is picking up speed. It is a fight waged by some of Haiti's richest and most well-connected kingmakers, eager for the approval of the United States, which has exercised outsized control over the fate of the Caribbean nation in the past.

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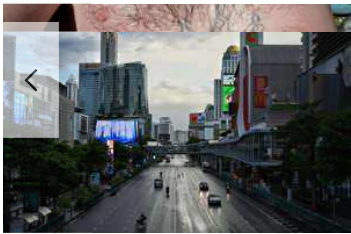
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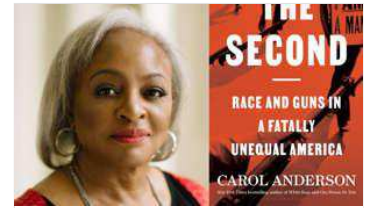
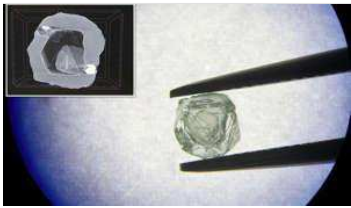
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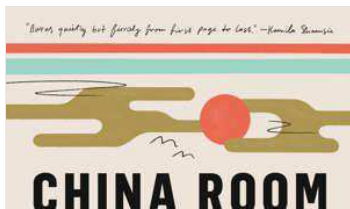
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