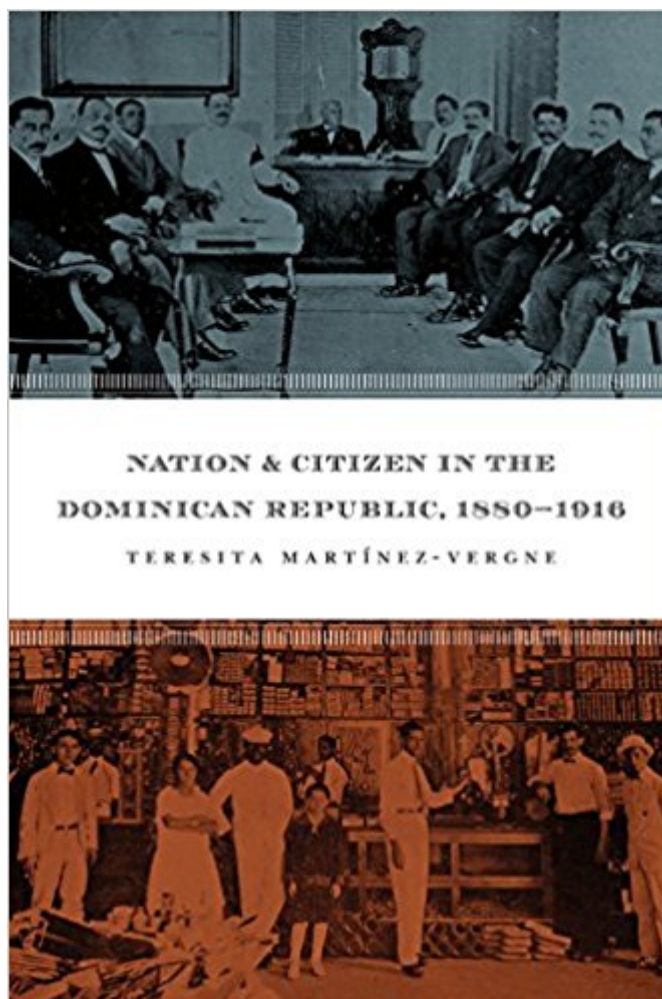


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Nation And Citizen In The Dominican Republic, 1880-1916



Synopsis

Combining intellectual and social history, Teresita Martinez-Vergne explores the processes by which people in the Dominican Republic began to hammer out a common sense of purpose and a modern national identity at the end of the nineteenth and beginning of the twentieth centuries. Hoping to build a nation of hardworking, peaceful, voting citizens, the Dominican intelligentsia impressed on the rest of society a discourse of modernity based on secular education, private property, modern agricultural techniques, and an open political process. Black immigrants, bourgeois women, and working-class men and women in the capital city of Santo Domingo and in the booming sugar town of San Pedro de Macoris, however, formed their own surprisingly modern notions of citizenship in daily interactions with city officials. Martinez-Vergne shows just how difficult it was to reconcile the lived realities of people of color, women, and the working poor with elite notions of citizenship, entitlement, and identity. She concludes that the urban setting, rather than defusing the impact of race, class, and gender within a collective sense of belonging, as intellectuals had envisioned, instead contributed to keeping these distinctions intact, thus limiting what could be considered Dominican.

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Customer Reviews

Compelling. . . . This book makes a significant contribution to two underdeveloped fields of inquiry. . . . Martinez-Vergne's valuable analysis of this formative period in Dominican history will undoubtedly direct scholarly attention away from the dominant, political narrative to local archives that reveal the daily struggles and social interactions that have given meaning to and continue to shape Dominican

national identity and citizenship.--Urban History[A] monumental contribution to the historical literature. . . . Offer[s] highly sophisticated insights into the complex process of state formation and nation-building.--Journal of Latin American StudiesA thought-provoking combination of intellectual and social history. . . . An extremely well-researched and well-documented study.--Latin Americanist

Adding an excellent volume to the recent growth in literature is Caribbean historian Martinez-Vergne with her focus on Dominican nationalism at the end of the nineteenth and the beginning of the twentieth centuries. . . . [This book offers] clear and lucid prose, clarity of argument, and insightful discussions of intellectuals, nationalism, citizenship, gender, race, immigration, the working poor, and urban reform.--AmericasBrimming with original sources and distinguished by its comparative perspective, this book illuminates the political imaginary of the Dominican intelligentsia at the turn of the twentieth century and shows how both elite and subaltern urban populations sought to mold and exploit nascent state institutions, citizenship rights, and discourses of 'progress.' The book will be useful for scholars of modern Latin American history as well as of modernity at large.--Richard Lee Turits, University of MichiganThis is an original book that will certainly make a contribution to Dominican historiography, particularly through its concentration on the urban world, a neglected topic in Dominican studies.--Pedro L. San Miguel, University of Puerto Rico

I appreciate this book. It gives insight into the pre-Trujillo era, a time I find highly ignored by many scholars of the DR. Her work runs along the lines of April Mayes' The Mulatto Republic. It's a tad more entertaining than L. Derby's book.

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