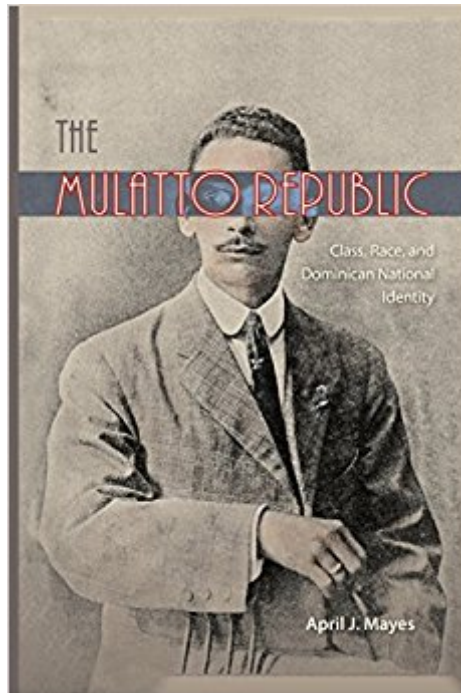




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The Mulatto Republic: Class, Race, And Dominican National Identity



Synopsis

compels the reader to not lean solely on the crutch of Dominican anti-Haitianism in order to understand Dominican identity and state formation. Mayes proves that there was a multitude of factors that sharpen our knowledge of the development of race and nation in the Dominican Republic. "Miller Polyné, author of *From Douglass to Duvalier* is a fascinating book. Mayes discusses the roots of anti-Haitianism, the Dominican elite, and the ways in which race and nation have been intertwined in the history of the Dominican Republic. What emerges is a very interesting and engaging social history." Kimberly Eison Simmons, author of *Reconstructing Racial Identity and the African Past in the Dominican Republic* The Dominican Republic was once celebrated as a mulatto racial paradise. Now the island nation is idealized as a white, Hispanic nation, having abandoned its many Haitian and black influences. The possible causes of this shift in ideologies between popular expressions of Dominican identity and official nationalism has long been debated by historians, political scientists, and journalists. In *The Mulatto Republic*, April Mayes looks at the many ways Dominicans define themselves through race, skin color, and culture. She explores significant historical factors and events that have led the nation, for much of the twentieth century, to favor privileged European ancestry and Hispanic cultural norms such as the Spanish language and Catholicism. Mayes seeks to discern whether contemporary Dominican identity is a product of the Trujillo regime "and, therefore, only a legacy of authoritarian rule" or is representative of a nationalism unique to an island divided into two countries long engaged with each other in ways that are sometimes cooperative and at other times conflicted. Her answers enrich and enliven an ongoing debate.

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THE BOOK WAS WELL WRITTEN WITH A LOT OF HISTORY. I NOW UNDERSTAND WHY MOST DOMINICANS DON'T LIKE BEING REFERRED TO AS BLACK OR OF AFRICAN DECENT. NEVERTHELESS I THINK MS MAYES COULD HAVE SPENT MORE TIME EXPLAINING HOW BLACKS WHO WEREN'T FROM OTHER ISLANDS ARRIVED IN THE D.R.! SHE SEEMS TO SKIM OVER SLAVERY WHICH ACCOUNTS FOR THE INITIAL PRESENCE OF AFRICANS IN THE D.R.! I THINK IT MIGHT HELP TO HAVE IN HIGH SCHOOLS AS REQUIRED READING FOR A BETTER UNDERSTANDING BEFORE ADULthood.

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