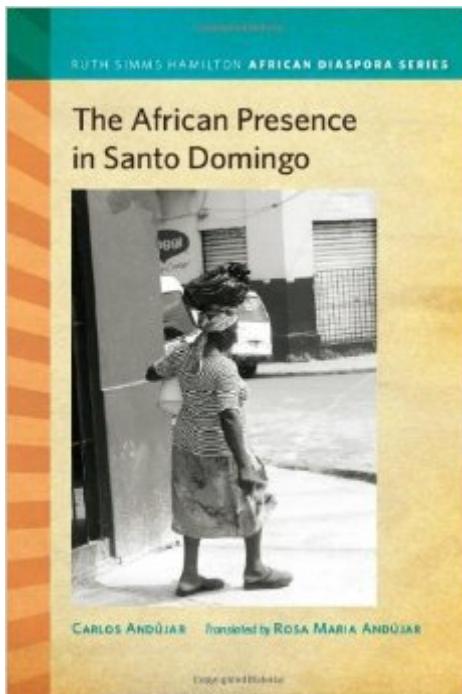


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The African Presence In Santo Domingo (Ruth Simms Hamilton African Diaspora)



Synopsis

Throughout its long and often tumultuous history, *La Hispaniola* has taken on various cultural identities to meet the expectations and especially the demands of those who governed it. The island shared by the Dominican Republic and Haiti saw its first great shift with the arrival of Spanish colonists, who eliminated the indigenous population and established a pattern of indifference or hostility to diversity there. This enlightening book explores the Dominican Republic through the lens of its African descendants, beginning with the rise of the black slave trade in fifteenth- and sixteenth-century West Africa, and continuing on to slavery as it existed on the island. An engaging history that vividly details black life in the Dominican Republic, the book investigates the slave rebellions and evaluates the numerous contributions of black slaves to Dominican culture.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book is a great start for beginners. However, it is only about 77 pages in length; thus, not exhaustive. This book does, however, challenge hegemonic notions of Dominicanness or dominicanidad. It was awesome coming across the list of names of the various African ethnic groups ("tribes") that came to the shores of Santo Domingo. Actually an essay and finally translated by the author's sisters into English, this book is simply nice having in one's library, simply so that curious folk and visitors can have a quick read of it. Peace & Blessings.

False advertising. This is not a book but an essay. And a weak one at that. Fully one-third of this

short work is mere padding. The history of pre-colonial Africa and "triangle trade" is superficial and generalized. Wikipedia can do better. The thesis--African culture in the Santo Domingo diaspora--is barely touched upon, in random bits. For example, on the influence of West African language on Dominican Spanish, the deletion of final consonants in speech is noted. That's all. The essay is mostly irrelevant padding. Insights and explanations are few and far between. NOT RECOMMENDED.

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