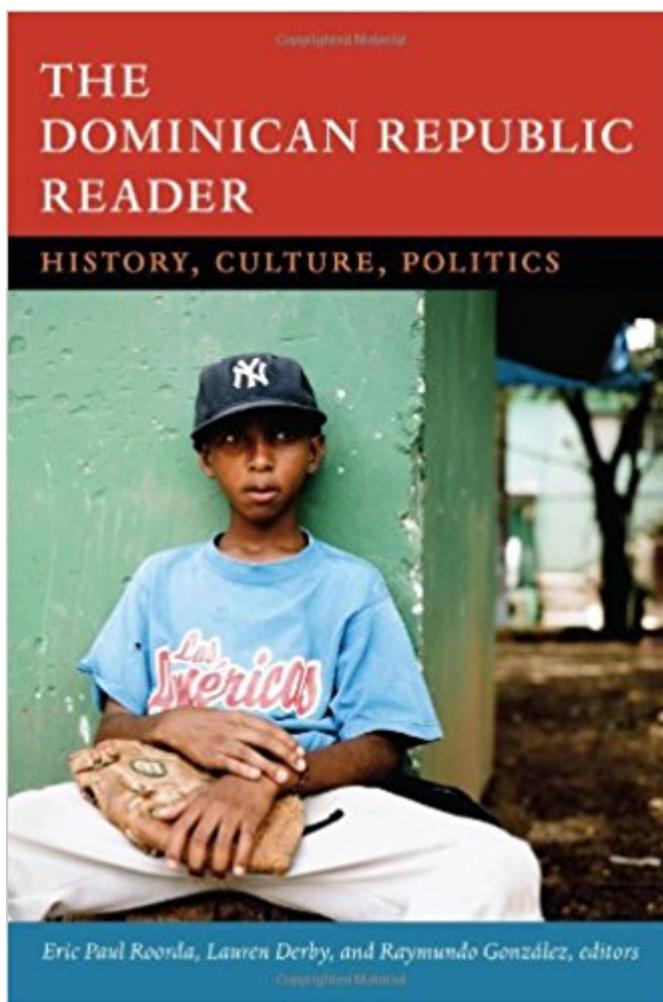


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# The Dominican Republic Reader: History, Culture, Politics (The Latin America Readers)



## Synopsis

Despite its significance in the history of Spanish colonialism, the Dominican Republic is familiar to most outsiders through only a few elements of its past and culture. Non-Dominicans may be aware that the country shares the island of Hispaniola with Haiti and that it is where Christopher Columbus chose to build a colony. Some may know that the country produces talented baseball players and musicians; others that it is a prime destination for beach vacations. Little else about the Dominican Republic is common knowledge outside its borders. This Reader seeks to change that. It provides an introduction to the history, politics, and culture of the country, from precolonial times into the early twenty-first century. Among the volume's 118 selections are essays, speeches, journalism, songs, poems, legal documents, testimonials, and short stories, as well as several interviews conducted especially for this Reader. Many of the selections have been translated into English for the first time. All of them are preceded by brief introductions written by the editors. The volume's eighty-five illustrations, ten of which appear in color, include maps, paintings, and photos of architecture, statues, famous figures, and Dominicans going about their everyday lives.

## Book Information

Series: The Latin America Readers

Paperback: 560 pages

Publisher: Duke University Press Books (May 23, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0822357003

ISBN-13: 978-0822357001

Product Dimensions: 6.2 x 1.2 x 9.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.8 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 6 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #121,349 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #3 in Books > Travel > Caribbean > Dominican Republic #7 in Books > History > Americas > Caribbean & West Indies > Dominican Republic #58 in Books > Travel > Caribbean > General

## Customer Reviews

"A splendid introduction to an often-misrepresented nation, tracing its history from the pre-Columbus era through the Trujillo dictatorship to the ever-increasing influence—demographic, musical, literary, and sporting—of contemporary Dominicans in U.S. life. An excellent choice of brief texts makes this an attractive reader for undergraduate courses on the Caribbean." (Richard Price,

author of *The Convict and the Colonel, Travels with Tooy, and Rainforest Warriors*) "This is a unique reader that brings together essential historical documents with insightful essays and studies by a select group of outstanding scholars at the frontline of Dominican studies, a recent special field in contemporary Latin American studies. A very welcome arrival for college and graduate courses. Congratulations!" (Frank Moya Pons, author of *The Dominican Republic: A National History*) "The best available collection of writing in English for anyone wanting a broad and varied introduction to Dominican history, politics and culture. Very much a book for dipping into, which works well for the appealingly diverse sections on religion, popular culture and the Dominican diaspora but means the history sections, necessarily lacking a consistent narrative, work better for those with some prior knowledge of the country's past." (The Rough Guide to the Dominican Republic) "Roorda, Derby, and González use source materials from onsite actors/observers, government officials, writers, and intellectuals (Dominican and otherwise) to add an intimacy and sense of familiarity to the book's narrative. They blend and merge important and formative events and actors that make up the formal history of the Dominican Republic with accounts designed to help readers understand the Dominican character and bases for social norms. The dozens of essays and accounts (some from contributors more familiar to casual readers, some less familiar), with an appropriate apportioning of emphases on nations influential in Dominican affairs (such as the US), complete a historiography that is both challenging and insightful. In a collection of different tiles in the Dominican mosaic, nothing is really trivial here. Highly Recommended. Upper-level undergraduates and above." (W. J. Nelson Choice) "Curious travelers, study-abroad students and faculty, and Latinamericanists generally will find this book to be a solid departure point to understand issues of race, religion (the Virgen of Altavista, syncreticism), music, gendered roles (machismo and marijanismo), and the turbulent imprint of caudillos on the evolution of the Dominican Republic. Over 150 suggested readings point the way to further explore an island in the Caribbean whose history, culture and politics have much to say about the human condition there and elsewhere." (Joseph Scarpaci Journal of Latin American Geography) "The Dominican Republic Reader is a well-crafted study that will engage readers. The documents, essays, and other vignettes are representative of the Dominican Republic's rich and colorful history and culture." (Michael R. Hall The Latin Americanist 2015-12-01) "A student of Caribbean history or culture, or a student of Latin America, coming to this book would leave with a broad sense of what the Dominican Republic is, what its major historical and cultural issues are and have been, and how its current democracy has been achieved. That is not a bad achievement for a book clearly aimed at an undergraduate reader."

and held together with essays that illuminate the texts presented to its audience. (F.S.J. Ledgister Caribbean Quarterly 2015-12-01)"The Dominican Republic Reader represents the most thought-provoking and interdisciplinary volume offered thus far to an English-speaking [audience]. It is a must for any university library, as well as a much-needed addition to any class dedicated to the study of Hispaniola, the Spanish Caribbean, or Dominicans in the United States." (Juan José Ponce-Vázquez The Black Scholar 2016-11-17)"With its broad-minded collection of documents, the reader is a welcome and well-crafted addition to a bookshelf of English-language works on the Dominican Republic and is certain to be just as valuable in the classroom." (Anne Eller HAHR 2017-01-31)

Eric Paul Roorda is Professor of History at Bellarmine University in Louisville, Kentucky. He is the author of *The Dictator Next Door: The Good Neighbor Policy and the Trujillo Regime in the Dominican Republic, 1930–1945*, published by Duke University Press. Lauren Derby is Associate Professor of History at the University of California, Los Angeles. She is the author of *The Dictator's Seduction: Politics and the Popular Imagination in the Era of Trujillo*, also published by Duke University Press. Raymundo González is a researcher at the Dominican National Archives and Social Science Coordinator for the Dominican Ministry of Education. He teaches at the Universidad Iberoamericana and the Instituto Filosófico Pedro Francisco Boná, both in Santo Domingo.

This book is filled with many historical facts, but is not a history book. As you can read in the back of the book it is a selection of "essays, speeches, journalism, songs, poems, legal documents, testimonials and short stories

Every Dominican should read this book! Full of information I had no idea about. This book is very organized and a very enjoyable read.

great book

This book offers great history and cultural perspective of the Dominican Republic. Exactly what I was in the market for!!

Needed this book for a class on the Dominican Republic, got it much earlier than expected. Very

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