Spanish colonial society was divided into a racial and religious caste system. At the bottom were slaves, many of whom sought power through African magic. Meanwhile, children of Jewish fathers and African women tried to gain status by embracing Judaism—but they risked retribution from the Spanish Inquisition, whose tribunals zealously prosecuted the perceived threat to the colonies from multicultural witchcraft and from alleged secret Jews. These two tales, of a biracial surgeon in Cartagena engaged in sorcery who denounced a colleague for clandestine Judaism and of a Mexican slave who elevated her status by devoting herself to Judaism until it sent her to prison, illustrate the perils tied to religious identity and practice in the colonies.

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“The book is really a historical gem.”
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“It tells the true stories of Puerto Rican women who resisted American colonial rule in the decades spanning the 1930s to the 1950s. This struggle included armed rebellion throughout the island [including the killing of five Congressmen] and a plot to assassinate President Truman. Some of the women ultimately received a life sentence in prison for their nationalist actions. Extensive notes round out this exhaustively researched, meticulously presented, and utterly fascinating compendium.”
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“The book has the power to make a deep impact upon readers . . . fascinating reading that makes us witnesses of an episode in our history that was both great and tragic.”
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PUERTO RICO: AN INTERPRETIVE HISTORY FROM PRE-COLUMBIAN TIMES TO 1900

OLGA JIMÉNEZ DE WAGENHEIM

As many of the documents about Puerto Rico were written by the colonizers, only the victors were celebrated. With this in mind, the author has composed this book from the viewpoint of the colonized, suppressed, and exploited.

“A work of substantive scholarship and meticulous research.”
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By Fernando Picó

These essays constitute a delightful San Juan reader. Their themes range from Puerto Rican events, as seen from Paris, to politics encompassing the harassment of Puerto Rican dissenters in the early 1970s, and the proliferation of referenda on the island to lyrical descriptions of the disappearance of rural landscapes and cultural traditions.

“An unforgettable glimpse into the extraordinary diversity of cultures that compose Puerto Rico in general and San Juan in particular, Puerto Rico Inside and Out is highly recommended.”

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**Fernando Pico**

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“Like all excellent histories of the Caribbean, this one is inordinately rich on the social aspects of community formation and the inevitable cross-imperial relations that invariably frustrated local administrators.”

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—**Choice**

“When German U-boats sank more ships in the Caribbean than anywhere else, the American government resolved to turn the island of Vieques into an unsinkable battleship...”

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**American Colonialism in Puerto Rico**

**Efrén Rivera Ramos**

“This important book analyzes the conviction among [many] Puerto Ricans that their stability is guaranteed by law... It is a colonialism with rights that enjoys the consent of the colonized, thanks to the employment of certain methods of persuasion and coercion... Provocative, extremely well documented, and innovative in many of its approaches.”

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“A brilliant and expansive work.”

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—**Arcadio Díaz-Quinones, Princeton University**
Manuel Zeno-Gandia’s *La Charca*, published in 1894, is widely acknowledged as the first major novel to emerge from Puerto Rico. His bitter melodrama offers stark contrasts: the beautiful Puerto Rican countryside, a veritable Garden of Eden, yet within that “regal panorama”, starved, diseased human beings clung desperately to life.

“*A classic of Latin American fiction in a modern and colloquial translation.*”

— *The Nation*

Slave Revolts in *Puerto Rico* is a richly documented volume dealing with expressions of collective resistance. The image of the docile and submissive slave presented by the prevailing historiography until very recently is no longer valid.

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“It will be an asset for middle school, high school, and early college students who seek to understand the diverse experiences of Puerto Rican emigrants in New York City.”

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González dismantles the myth of a dominant Spanish and racially white national culture in Puerto Rican history. He claims that the national identity is primarily Mestizo with a significant contribution from Africa. Afro-Antilleans and Mestizos constitute the first “storey,” or tier, of the “Puerto Rican house” of the title story, landowners the second, urban professionals the third, and the managerial class the fourth.

“González is one of the most eloquent and important of Puerto Rico’s contemporary writers.”

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Sometimes sad and sometimes hilariously comic, these stories represent in many respects an authentic voice of the Puerto Rican people.

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Jonathan Schorsch
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—Midwest Book Reviews

The 16th- and 17th-century Iberian Atlantic was a turbulent world of adventures, slaves traders, and forced conversion to Catholicism. Coverted Africans and Jews were persecuted in the Inquisition for secretly practicing their former religions. The Spanish and Portuguese rulers used caste and “blood” to divide the peoples of the empire, who, in turn, created their own societies to cope with their oppressors and one another. Schorsch describes the interactions between members of these diverse groups within households and with their societies at large.

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Josette Capriles Goldish

In the nineteenth century, Jews of Curacao left the Dutch island for other Caribbean ports. This is their story.

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“Barnet explores the mythology and practices of Afro-Cuban religious movements. He illuminates the complex pantheon of deities worshipped in each tradition and examines the rituals, music, and dance of each in a clear, straightforward manner. He also compares and contrasts Cuban practices with those in the African homelands.”

—Library Journal

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Winner of the Lydia Cabrera Award

Cubans celebrate Humboldt as the second “discoverer” of the island (after Columbus), and the controversial publication history of this book mirrors Cuba’s history. The Spanish version was banned in colonial Cuba, and the American translation created an international controversy.

This book remains an up-to-date and engrossing document more than one hundred fifty years after its initial publication. It is a key source for studies of 19th-century Cuba and slavery in the Caribbean, and has appeared in translated editions throughout the world.

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“This invaluable anthology is required reading for those interested in Cuba’s history, religious forms, and popular culture.”
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FERNANDO PICÓ

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—New West Indian Guide

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Bernard Diederich

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—Bulletin of Latin American Research

“An easy and informative read that describes with Panglossian lenses the Haiti of the 1950s prior to Duvalier’s ascendance.”

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“Stella” is the first published Haitian novel and combines descriptions of moving scenes with factual accounts of the Haitian revolution (1791-1804). “Stella” is also an important document of Caribbean and fictionalized history.

“Ably translated into English [by Adriana Umaña Hossman... ] and featuring an informative introduction by the translator and Louis Duno-Gottberg, “Stella” is a 19th century novel that holds up extraordinarily well and is an inherently fascinating and entertaining read. Very highly recommended.”

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Charles Arthur, Michael Dash, Eds.

Haiti’s dramatic history, pressing social problems, and rich culture make it one of the most fascinating nations in the Americas. This book aims to reflect some of Haiti’s extraordinary diversity through the best of writing. While many journalistic accounts are rapidly overtaken by events, this collection reveals the more deep-rooted reality of the “magic” island’s people and society.

“For anyone seriously interested in Haiti, it is an indispensable work.”

—French Review

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**The Price of Blood: History of Repression and Rebellion in Haiti Under Dr. François Duvalier, 1957-1961**

**Bernard Diederich**

This is the terrifying history of how Dr. François (Papa Doc) Duvalier used terrorism to reach power, and how he institutionalized terrorism as a weapon of the state. The book reports in detail the stories of the many unsuccessful attempts to end Papa Doc’s inhuman tyranny and why they failed. The result of years of investigation and exclusive interviews by the author, *The Price of Blood* is a chilling and shocking account of how a power mad, one-time physician truly morphed from a Dr. Jekyll to a Mr. Hyde.

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**Bernard Diederich**

François Duvalier’s hold on power in Haiti, initially tenuous, grew stronger as American confrontations with Cuba under President Kennedy fostered a fear that Communism could sweep Haiti if Papa Doc were ousted. Nonetheless, several groups of daring rebels took on the formidable task of overthrowing the dictator. The mini-revolutions had little chance of success, but one thing was guaranteed: brutal retribution if the rebels were caught by the Duvalier regime and its militia of Tonton Macoutes. For the first time, Diederich reveals the names and personal stories of these rebels, adding color and detail to the tangled storyline of the Duvalier years.

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**Melville J. Herskovits**

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—*The New York Times Book Review*

“‘The book is highly readable’—*Atlantic*”

*For more books on Haiti, see pages 12-14

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**Black Rebels: African-Caribbean Freedom Fighters in Jamaica**

**Werner Zips**

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“This book fulfills the author’s promise to write a history of resistance instead of a history of domination.”

“Stimulating and well researched.”

—New West Indian Guide

“Zips skillfully combines the critical analysis of historical documents, oral history, and ethnography based on his fieldwork in the 1980s. This book is clearly written and has a good bibliography.”

—Choice

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“Highly recommended reading for students of Black studies, women’s studies, and 19th century history.”

—Bookwatch

“Her unique insight into nineteenth-century Russian life and her depiction of an unusual aspect of American slavery make her memoir an important historical document as well as a riveting autobiography.”

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**Busha’s Mistress: A Stirring Romance from the Days of Slavery in Jamaica**

**Cyrus Francis Perkins,**
**Edited by Paul E. Lovejoy, Verene Shepherd and David Trotman**

This is one of the earliest Caribbean novels written in English. The novel tells the story of Catherine, the slave concubine of a cruel white overseer on Greenside Estate, near Falmouth, whose ruins today attest to the tensions of a colonial overseer, finding refuge with sympathetic friends who take her to England.

This book is important not only as an early Jamaican novel, but also because it provides an eyewitness perspective on Jamaica’s slave system, in particular on the roles of color, gender, and racism in the exploitation of enslaved women.

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Capoeira and Candomblé: Conformity and Resistance Through Afro-Brazilian Experience

Floyd Merrell

Capoeira is a unique music-dance-sport-play activity created by African slaves in Brazil, and Candomblé is a hybrid religion combining Catholic and African beliefs and practices. Merrell informs his experiences with historical facts and research. The result is informative and entertaining, a description and analysis that allows readers to understand and even experience the spirit of Capoeira and Candomblé.

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The Biography of Mahommah Gardo Baquaqua: His Passage from Slavery to Freedom in Africa and America

Robin Law, Paul E. Lovejoy, Eds.

Now in an expanded second edition, this remains one of the few biographies of a slave born in Africa who left a detailed account of his life and struggle for freedom in America, Brazil, Haiti, and Canada.

“A given the editors’ scholarly rigor, this book represents the authoritative edition of Baquaqua’s narrative.”

—Hispanic American Historical Review

“A rich reconstruction, extensive details, and a clear overview.”

—International Journal of African Historical Studies

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Tropical Kitsch: Mass Media in Latin American Art and Literature

Lidia Santos

Santos explores the social and political implications of art, music, and literature by using theoretical frameworks of cultural studies and queer theory. This ambitious and fascinating work is also a wonderful read. Santos is a creative writer with two books of short stories published, and her writing skills are fully in place here. A significant contribution to the study of Latin American literature and art, queer studies, and cultural studies, this book is highly recommended for academic libraries and bookstores.”

—Criticas

“Best book in Brazilian studies.”

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ANCIENT SLAVERY AND MODERN IDEOLOGY
Moses I. Finley
Brent D. Shaw, Ed.

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—The New Yorker

“Finley presents his arguments with exemplary lucidity and a measure of good common sense.”
—The American Historical Review

“A major creative achievement in historical interpretation.”
—Times Literary Supplement

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