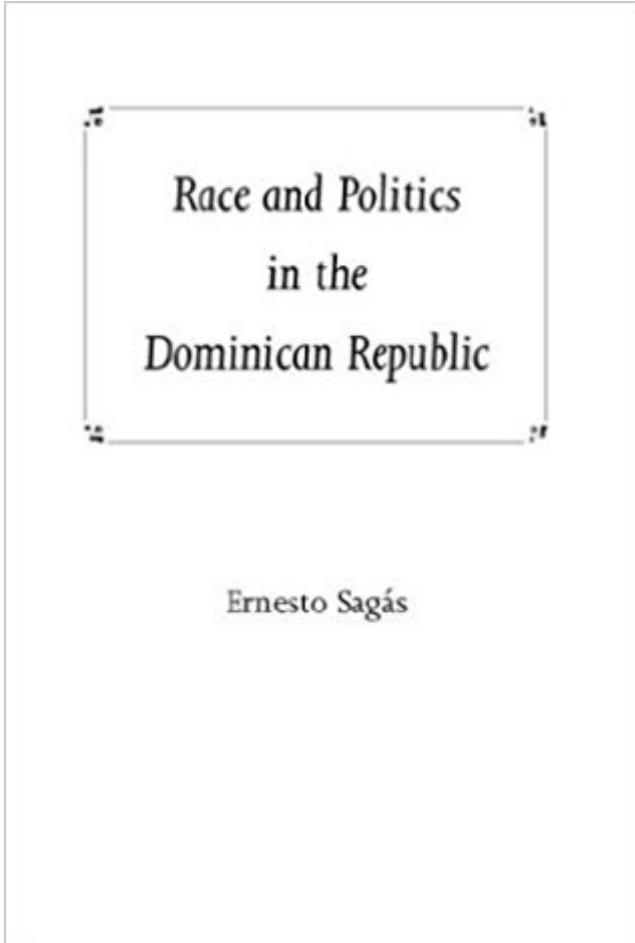


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# Race And Politics In The Dominican Republic



Race and Politics  
in the  
Dominican Republic

Ernesto Sagás



## Synopsis

An examination of the historical development and political use of antihaitianismo, a set of racist and xenophobic attitudes prevalent today in the Dominican Republic. These portray Dominican people as white Catholics, while Haitians are viewed as spirit-worshipping black Africans.

## Book Information

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"There is no other study of the Dominican ideology and practice of anti-haitianismo (anti-Haitian prejudice) of greater breadth and comprehensiveness. . . . Cogently written and suitable for introducing consideration of the anti-haitianismo phenomenon into introductory and advanced-undergraduate courses."--Samuel Martínez, University of Connecticut Ernesto Sagás examines the historical development and political use of antihaitianismo, a set of racist and xenophobic attitudes prevalent today in the Dominican Republic that broadly portray Dominican people as white Catholics, while Haitians are viewed as spirit-worshipping black Africans. More than just a ploy to generate patriotism and rally against a neighboring country, the ideology also is used by Dominican leaders to divide their own lower classes. Sagás looks at the notions of race held by Dominican elites in their creation of an imaginary "white" nation, particularly as the ideas were developed throughout the colonial era, then intellectually refined in the late 19th century, and later exalted to a state ideology during the Trujillo era. Finally, he examines how race and nationalist anti-Haitian feelings still are manipulated by conservative politicians and elites who seek to maintain the status quo, drawing on examples from recent political rhetoric and cartoons, campaign

advertisements, and public school history textbooks. The first book-length study of antihaitianismo, this work offers important lessons for studying racial and ethnic conflict as well as nationalism and comparative politics. Ernesto Sagás teaches in the Department of Puerto Rican and Hispanic Caribbean Studies at Rutgers University. Recently he was guest editor of a special issue of the Latino Studies Journal devoted to Dominicans in the United States.

Ernesto Sagás teaches in the Department of Puerto Rican and Hispanic Caribbean Studies at Rutgers University. Recently he was guest editor of a special issue of the Latino Studies Journal devoted to Dominicans in the United States. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

This is one of the greatest books ever written on anti-Haitianism in the DR. Every single sentence in Sagás' book is impactful. He is one of the few writers that is willing to tell the cold-hearted truth about Dominicans that Dominicans refuse to believe about themselves. As an Afro Dominican woman this book clarified my people for me like no other book ever has. Sagás rightfully shows that the Trujillo regime is to credit for reviving anti-Haitian sentiment amongst Dominicans. He also shows that Dominicans are indeed in denial of their blackness and therefore need to stop the foolishness. I recommend this book to anyone wishing to study geopolitics, transnationalism, immigration, anti-blackness, and black on black racism in the Caribbean.

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This was a very difficult book to read. Almost after every sentence there was a reference as to where the author had read that fact or had quoted it from.

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