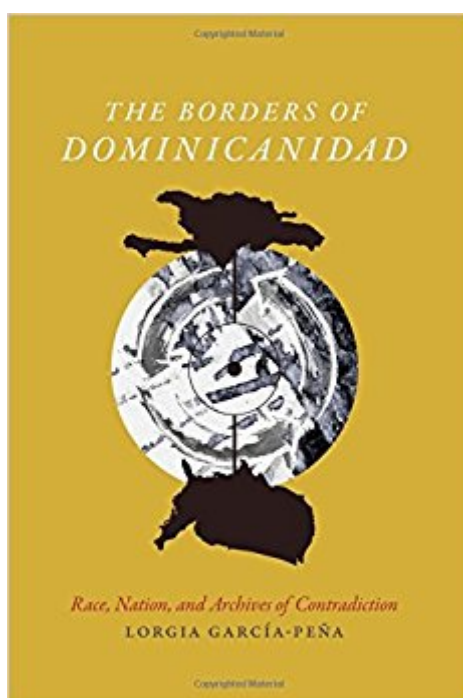


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# The Borders Of Dominicanidad: Race, Nation, And Archives Of Contradiction



## Synopsis

In *The Borders of Dominicanidad* Lorgia García-Peña explores the ways official narratives and histories have been projected onto racialized Dominican bodies as a means of sustaining the nation's borders. García-Peña constructs a genealogy of dominicanidad that highlights how Afro-Dominicans, ethnic Haitians, and Dominicans living abroad have contested these dominant narratives and their violent, silencing, and exclusionary effects. Centering the role of U.S. imperialism in drawing racial borders between Haiti, the Dominican Republic, and the United States, she analyzes musical, visual, artistic, and literary representations of foundational moments in the history of the Dominican Republic: the murder of three girls and their father in 1822; the criminalization of Afro-religious practice during the U.S. occupation between 1916 and 1924; the massacre of more than 20,000 people on the Dominican-Haitian border in 1937; and the 2010 earthquake in Haiti. García-Peña also considers the contemporary emergence of a broader Dominican consciousness among artists and intellectuals that offers alternative perspectives to questions of identity as well as the means to make audible the voices of long-silenced Dominicans.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"A magnificent far-ranging volume that examines the history, politics, and meaning of Afro-dominicanidad in all its glorious thorny complexity. Lorgia García-Peña pursues her claim with a wide-ranging intersectional rigor . . . For those who seek to pierce the murky racial legacies that continue to envelop the Dominican Republic—and by extension the rest of our

world. "The Borders of Dominicanidad is a beacon." (Junot Díaz)"In this groundbreaking and unique book Lorgia García-Peña brings the oft-forgotten Caribbean to the center of analysis of both U.S. empire and subject formation. Instead of capitulating to the argument that Haiti bears the burden of signifying blackness in the Hispanic Caribbean, she presents case studies in violence as national history that move us away from the gravity point of the Trujillo regime as the most important period in the definition of dominicanidad. The Borders of Dominicanidad will be the pivotal and necessary bridge between Dominican and Haitian studies." (Nicole M. Guidotti-Hernandez, author of *Unspeakable Violence: Remapping U.S. and Mexican National Imaginaries*)

Lorgia García-Peña is Assistant Professor of Romance Languages and Literatures and of History and Literature at Harvard University.

This is a groundbreaking, fantastic book chock full of original research about the history of people living in the border region between Haiti and the Dominican Republic. The author is clearly passionate about the history of the Dominican Republic and works hard to set the record straight about the people who have lived in the border region. It's important reading for those interested in American intervention into the Caribbean, and important revisionist history in general. As a New Yorker, I also found it very useful for understanding the ongoing difficulties between Haitian and Dominican immigrant communities. Much respect to this author.

The Borders of Dominicanidad: Race, Nation and Archives of Contradictions challenges historical and fictional foundational narratives that have delineated Dominican national identity. The Borders of Dominicanidad questions the role of silences and repetitions in the structural foundation of what García-Peña dubs as Archive of Dominicanidad through a groundbreaking analysis of five pivotal moments in the history of the Dominican nation: the murders of The Galindo Virgins in 1822; the criminalization of Afro-religious practices during the U.S. occupation between 1916 and 1924 and the death of Afro-Dominican religious leader, Papá Liborio; the massacre of more than 20,000 ethnic Haitians and Afro-Dominicans on the Dominican-Haitian border in 1937; the 1965 US military intervention and the massive emigration that succeeded it; and the 2010 earthquake. By taking a revisionist and interdisciplinary approach, García-Peña recovers archives that contradict, challenge, negotiate, and can potentially redefine official stories. Thus, García-Peña historicizes dominicanidad through

counter-hegemonic dictions that challenge the veracity and accuracy of the official archive by recurring to previously unexplored historical documents and relatively unknown cultural artifacts (photographs, films, performances, literary texts, salves). *The Borders of Dominicanidad: Race, Nation, and Archives of Contradiction* will become required reading for the fields of Latinxs studies, borders studies, Dominican studies, and race studies. Highly recommend!

A seminal text that is illuminating in content and method. Engaging with this level of scholarship is both necessary and provocative-- not only for the range of propositions that emerge from its explorations of dominicanidad but also for its commitment to finding a more complete version of "the truth", a process of recovery that hones in on the silences and gaps left in the dominant archives. A must-read, many times over!

My sister loves this book. She said it's a jewel. A must read.

"For those who missed their two seconds of Dominican History..." to quote Yunion this is a must read. Lorgia Garc  a-Pe  a debunks myths, contradicts narratives and proposes a new way of thinking about and looking at Dominicaness and dominicanidad. All with a clear prose and compassion for the silenced and marginalized. From "Las v  rgenes de Galindo" to "El Ni  o" be prepared to be outraged and engaged.

A clear and poignant assessment on race, power and nation building which at once indicts elite dominance and illuminates the subaltern reality. Read this if you are interested in learning how the governing bodies seek to define who is who in order to control them. Read this if you are interested in how the subaltern records reality through cultural production. Read this if you want to see how the past explains current trends of hegemonic power and the people's resistance to it. Garcia-Pena guides the reader fluidly from a 19th century murder, a 20th century massacre, Liborista resistance songs and eclectic music videos to convincingly expound her theory that the powerful lie and the powerless sow truth. This helps anyone understand events not just in the Dominican Republic but anywhere injustice has taken root.

I was very lucky to have attended one of Prof. Garc  a-Pe  a's conferences, and I remembered she said "I wanted to write what I didn't get to read." That is precisely what she has done in *The*

Borders of Dominicanidad: She rewrote our history and talks about recent events from the point of view of the truth; from the point of view no one else had written before and is afraid of writing. Thank you so much for this necessary and valuable delivery/work of art.

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