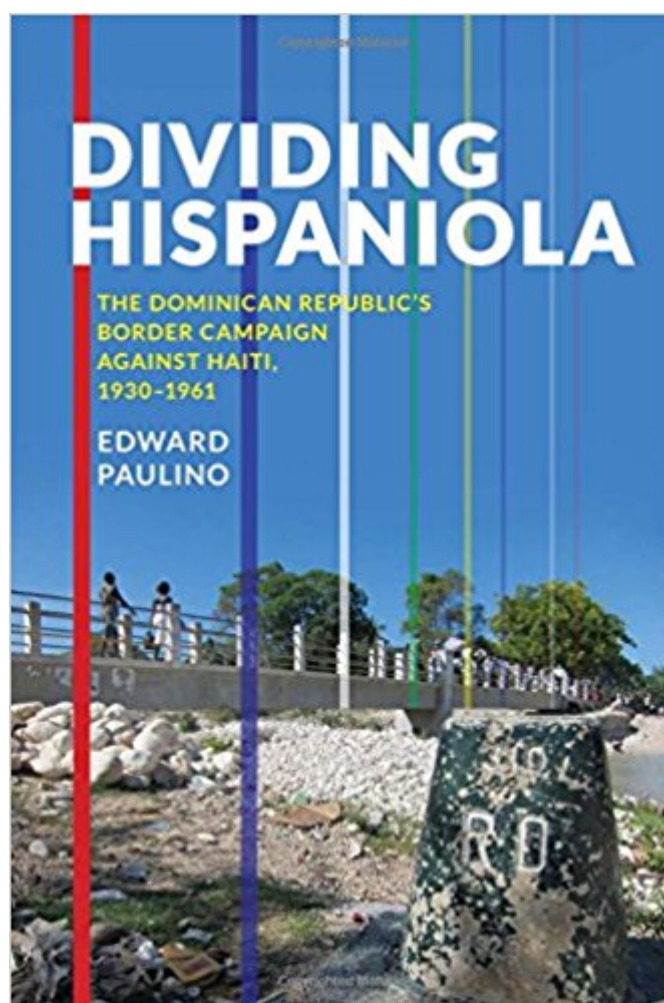


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Dividing Hispaniola: The Dominican Republic's Border Campaign Against Haiti, 1930-1961 (Pitt Latin American Series)



Synopsis

The island of Hispaniola is split by a border that divides the Dominican Republic and Haiti. This border has been historically contested and largely porous. *Dividing Hispaniola* is a study of Dominican dictator Rafael Trujillo's scheme, during the mid-twentieth century, to create and reinforce a buffer zone on this border through the establishment of state institutions and an ideological campaign against what was considered an encroaching black, inferior, and bellicose Haitian state. The success of this program relied on convincing Dominicans that regardless of their actual color, whiteness was synonymous with Dominican cultural identity. Paulino examines the campaign against Haiti as the construct of a fractured urban intellectual minority, bolstered by international politics and U.S. imperialism. This minority included a diverse set of individuals and institutions that employed anti-Haitian rhetoric for their own benefit (i.e., sugar manufacturers and border officials.) Yet, in reality, these same actors had no interest in establishing an impermeable border. Paulino further demonstrates that Dominican attitudes of admiration and solidarity toward Haitians as well as extensive intermixture around the border region were commonplace. In sum his study argues against the notion that anti-Haitianism was part of a persistent and innate Dominican ethos.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“An indispensable account that tracks the troubled contours of one of the bloodiest borders in the

New World. Paulino's scrupulously researched, vigorously argued history is a bridge that reaches back to our island's agonized past but also, hopefully, to its brighter future. • "Junot Díaz, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*

Edward Paulino is assistant professor of global history at John Jay College, City University of New York. He is a cofounder of Border of Lights, an organization that commemorates the anniversary of the 1937 genocidal Haitian massacre and promotes solidarity between Haitians and Dominicans. Paulino serves on the board of the Northern Manhattan Coalition for Immigration Rights, and is a member of the International Association of Genocide Scholars.

A well researched, situated, deeply engaging study of the Haiti-Dominican border through the ideology of the Trujillo Regime. Paulino looks at the ways in which Haiti has been portrayed and produced in the Dominican Republic. A 'must have' for any one interested in Hispaniola's history, race and borders.

A must read for anybody against genocide. Dr. Paulino's writing is amazing, making this non-fiction as enjoyable as a fiction book but with the rigor of a well researched academic work.

I am well pleased with this text. Of course it has confirmed what I have been learning but it has also shed a light on many archival documents and testimonies that were never shared. It is a must read.

Interesting information on how the Dominican - Haitian border was institutionalized. But while reading the book I felt that the author had been cognitively captured by Haiti's own state propaganda. After the 1935 border treaty, in which the Dominican Republic ceded territory to Haiti because the land was occupied by Haitian nationals, the Dominican government understood that it needed to nationalize and occupy the border in order to prevent future loss of territory. This explains most of the activities undertaken by the Dominican government to modernize the border. Every country has the right to protect its national sovereignty. Haiti should start investing and protecting their own country instead of always playing the victim.

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