

Historical Dictionary of the Dominican Republic (Historical Dictionaries of the Americas)

Eric Paul Roorda



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The colony called Santo Domingo, which became the Dominican Republic, was the violent crucible in which the ingredients of the New World, drawn from America, Europe and Africa, were fused together for the first time: humans, religions, technologies, animals, plants and learned behaviors. The history of the Dominican Republic diverged from the patterns established by the rest of Latin America, as it ultimately gained independence not from Spain, but from Haiti, and Spain later recolonized the country during a watershed period in the 1860s. In the 20th century, the United States occupied the Dominican Republic on two formative occasions, from 1916 to 1924 and again in 1965-1966, interventions detailed in this volume. At every turn, the backdrop to this pattern of shaky sovereignty has been the extreme instability of Dominican politics, which has been punctuated by incessant civil wars, coups, and periods of dictatorship, until the last few decades.

The *Historical Dictionary of the Dominican Republic* contains a chronology, an introduction, appendixes, and an extensive bibliography. The dictionary section has over 500 cross-referenced entries on important personalities, politics, economy, foreign relations, religion, and culture. This book is an excellent access point for students, researchers, and anyone wanting to know more about the Dominican Republic.

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