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Ada Ferrer

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INSURGENT CUBA



Race, Nation, and Revolution, 1868-1898

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Ada Ferrer : Insurgent Cuba: Race, Nation, and Revolution, 1868-1898 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Insurgent Cuba: Race, Nation, and Revolution, 1868-1898:

33 of 35 people found the following review helpful. Pathbreaking work on race and revolutionBy A Customer Insurgent Cuba tracks the transformation of racial and gendered narratives of the revolution from the abolition of slavery to the war of independence. In this fascinating and pathbreaking book, Professor Ferrer reveals that, with the emergence of late 19th century Cuban nationalism, narratives of race, slavery, and the place of black

people in the revolution shift dramatically. Through the voices of leaders like Jose Marti, black insurgents were constructed as color-blind patriots committed to the liberation of Cuba, not slaves and ex-slaves attempting to overthrow the regime of slavery and demand equal rights. Black people were transformed in these three decades from a problem and threat to the republic to the symbols of Cuban nationalism's commitment to multiracial democracy. Anti-racism became a weapon in the hands of Cuban revolutionaries in their battle against Spain, which changed the status of black insurgents, put them on a pedestal in a way, and made their stories fundamental to the narrative of the new republic--one that is colorblind and willing to incorporate everyone as long as they are patriots. For blacks and mulattoes, this discourse gave them a platform to complain about racism in the ranks of the army, in everyday life, everywhere. On the other hand, the ellision of racism in the discourse of Cuban nationalism and the celebration of multiracial republicanism was often used against critics of racism in Cuba. "To speak of race, then," Ferrer writes, "was to challenge the depth of racial and national unity." Any attempts to mobilize on the basis of racial solidarity was then dismissed as divisive and unpatriotic. By reconstructing these different narratives in the context of specific revolts and campaigns, Ferrer offers us a stunning alternative narrative of the struggle for Cuban Independence. Insurgent Cuba is perhaps the best book available on race and Cuba.² of 2 people found the following review helpful. nice book on CubaBy NATASHAI bought this book for my Latin America class it was interesting an not so hard to read good description too0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Irline FrancoisVery good book.

In the late nineteenth century, in an age of ascendant racism and imperial expansion, there emerged in Cuba a movement that unified black, mulatto, and white men in an attack on Europe's oldest empire, with the goal of creating a nation explicitly defined as antiracist. This book tells the story of the thirty-year unfolding and undoing of that movement. Ada Ferrer examines the participation of black and mulatto Cubans in nationalist insurgency from 1868, when a slaveholder began the revolution by freeing his slaves, until the intervention of racially segregated American forces in 1898. In so doing, she uncovers the struggles over the boundaries of citizenship and nationality that their participation brought to the fore, and she shows that even as black participation helped sustain the movement ideologically and militarily, it simultaneously prompted accusations of race war and fed the forces of counterinsurgency. Carefully examining the tensions between racism and antiracism contained within Cuban nationalism, Ferrer paints a dynamic portrait of a movement built upon the coexistence of an ideology of racial fraternity and the persistence of presumptions of hierarchy.

[An] important analysis of race in early Cuban nationalism."Choice" This book is the best overview in English of the role of race in the Cuban independence movement."Journal of American History" Ferrer's book is a significant contribution to the historiography on race and race relations in Cuba."American Historical "Y" An important analysis of race in early Cuban nationalism."Choice" An admirable book; Ada Ferrer has attentively examined the dynamics between the racial groups involved in Cuba's struggle towards independence."Times Literary Supplement" Anyone who wants to understand modern Cuba should read Ferrer's account of the Cuban insurgency."Journal of Military History" An exhaustively researched, brilliant, and absorbing reinterpretation of Cuba's nineteenth-century revolution, emphasizing its anticolonial and antiracist rhetoric and dimensions. Ferrer's original and nuanced analysis captures the complex nature of the struggle and its inner tensions and contradictions. An outstanding contribution to Cuban historiography.--Colin A. Palmer, Graduate School and University Center, City University of New York An admirable book; Ada Ferrer has attentively examined the dynamics between the racial groups involved in Cuba's struggle towards independence. . . . [She] meticulously documents these struggles and provocatively reinterprets them. Most impressive is her ability to keep her analytical eye close to the Cuban ground.--Times Literary Supplement Ferrer's book is a significant contribution to the historiography on race and race relations in Cuba, its revolutionary movements, and on the construction of Cuban nationhood. . . . An insightful study on Cuba's subaltern population and the role it played in constructing the Republic of Cuba. It should be read in courses on race relations and independence movements in Latin America and the Caribbean.--American Historical This book is the best overview in English of the role of race in the Cuban independence movement. . . . This book makes clear both the great accomplishments in day-to-day race relations that were achieved and the deep structures of race that still stood when the Yankees intervened.--Journal of American History Ada Ferrer's study of the Cuban revolution is one of the most original and stimulating treatments of race relations and racial ideologies in the Americas that I have seen in a decade. The book should have an appeal to both Latin American specialists and to students of race and racism in the Americas and elsewhere. This is a powerful story, powerfully told.--Thomas C. Holt, University of Chicago [An] important analysis of race in early Cuban nationalism.--Choice [This] study combines in-depth archival research in Cuba with a judicious use of more recent writing on race, nationalism, and postcolonial theory. Ferrer is particularly successful at showing how notions of freedom, citizenship, race, labor, and cubanidad were all contested social constructs that were forged in the context of Cuba's two wars for independence.--Latin American Research This is a painful story that has never been told before, because race has never been placed so squarely at the center of the Cuban revolution, where it belongs. Ferrer cuts against the grain of a romantic, nationalist Cuban historiography that tends to see only what was inclusive and

progressive in the wars for liberation. Anyone who wants to understand modern Cuba should read Ferrer's account of the Cuban insurgency.--Journal of Military History
From the Inside Flap
Examines the tensions between racism and anti-racism in Cuba's struggle to become a nation between 1868 and 1898.