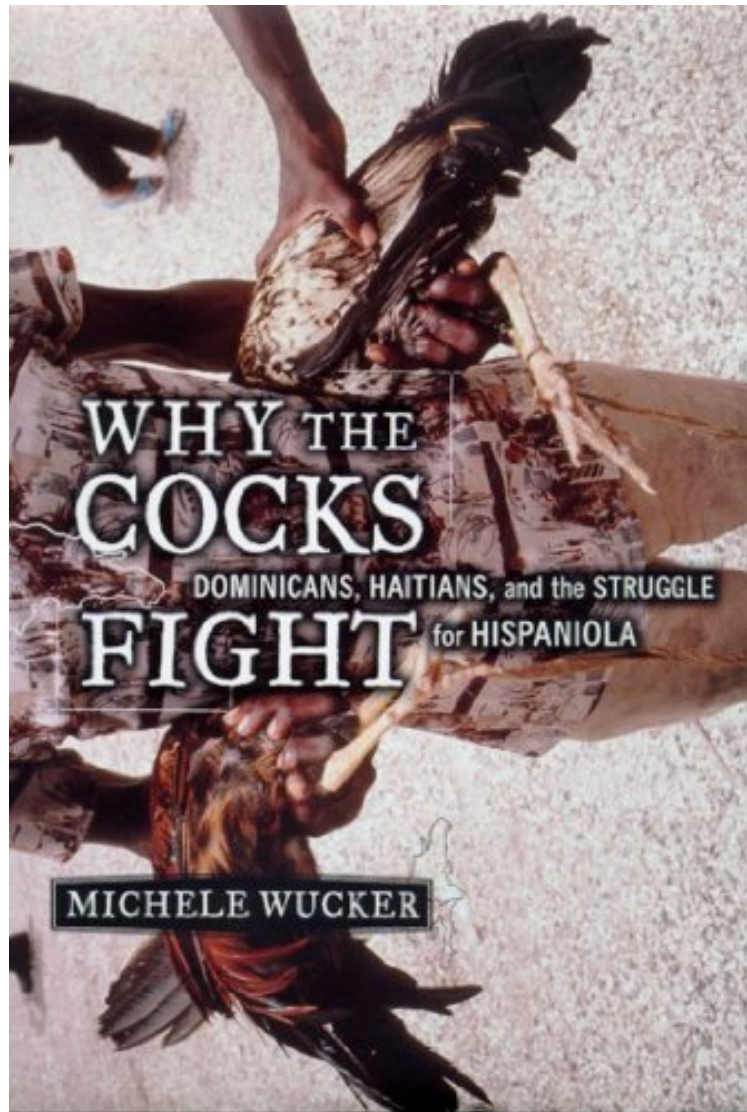


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Why the Cocks Fight: Dominicans, Haitians, and the Struggle for Hispaniola

Von Michele Wucker

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Von Michele Wucker : Why the Cocks Fight: Dominicans, Haitians, and the Struggle for Hispaniola before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Why the Cocks Fight: Dominicans, Haitians, and the Struggle for Hispaniola:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. ratifico mi opinion de nuevo y no es nada personalVon Luis MndezTHIS BOOK HAS SHOCKED ME DEEPLY. I AM NOT

SAYING THAT THE BOOK IS BAD, BUT IT LACKS THE COURAGE IT SHOULD HAVE HAD HAD IT BEEN WRITTEN BY A DOMINICAN. SHE GIVES A VERY INACURATE PICTURE OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC AND HAITY, FOCUSING LARGELY ON PETTY STRIFES THAT IN NO WAY INTEREST THE READER SEEKING INFORMATION ON THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. WORST OF ALL, SHE ANALYZES HISPANIOLA AS A WHOLE INSTEAD OF WRITING SEPARATE BOOKS ABOUT EACH COUNTRY. OF COURSE HER ANALISYS LACKS VALIDITY, FOR SHE IS WRITING FROM A DISTANCE WHERE NOTHING CAN AFFECT HER. WOULDN'T IT BE THE SAME IF I WROTE A BOOK ABOUT HER HOMETOWN FROM MY LIVING ROOM? SHE PRETENDS TO BE DEEP IN HER CRITIQUES, BUT INSTEAD ENDS OF TELLING THE PEOPLE THAT WE ARE A SEMI LITERATE PEOPLE, PEOPLE INTERESTED IN COCKFIGHTING AND RUM, A CULTURE OF ILITERATE ONES AND OF RICH PEOPLE WITH EXPENSIVE AND STUPID TASTES. NOT THAT I HAVEN'T LEARN QUITE A FEW THINGS FROM HERE, LIKE THE PART ABOUT BALAGUER SON, WHICH TOOK ME BY SURPRISE, I CONSIDER THIS INFORMARTION SHOULD HAVE BEEN SAID BY DOMINICANS TO THEIR OWN PEOPLE.. I WOULD NOT RECOMMEND THE BOOK TO ANYBODY INTERESTED IN DEEP LEARNING ABOUT THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

THERE ARE MORE LUIS MENDEZ luismendez@codetel.net. dops quiero ratificar aqui que esta es mi opinion y que no tengo nada en contra de la autora, si aparece de nuevo en esta sesion es que estoy haciendo un update de todo lo escrito por mi, y mi opinion respecto al libro no ha cambiado luis mendez0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Brilliant prose, hard nose reporting, a great read! Von Ein Kunde After living for almost 28 years in the Dominican Republic, I thought there was not much I could learn about the culture and peoples of Hispaniola, but Michele Wucker's *Why the Cocks Fight* has opened up a whole new chapter in my knowledge of this enchanting island. Her choice of the cockfights as a metaphore to illustrate the island's struggle through its five centuries of history, is a brilliant way to describe the complex dynamics at work in the two societies trapped within it. For some of my fellow Dominicans, this book will be a tough drink to swallow, because Michele, in this well researched work, has confronted the ghosts that have haunted Hispaniola for 500 years of history, and that have bound together the paths of these two nations. In the early 1900's, Dominican poet Juan Antonio Alix, in his work "El Negro detrs de la Oreja" (The Black Behind your Ear) joked about how every Dominican, no matter how white the color of his skin, could find a black ancestor in his family. That is a truth that Dominicans do not want to face, and something that Michele has shown in her book. Michele's accounts of the treatment of Haitian workers by the Dominican Sugar Cane Establishment is an accurate portrail of a situation which unfortunately roams over the heads of an otherwise friendly and sometimes naive Dominican population. But, as she well points out, the Haitians keep on crossing the frontier with the Dominican Republic, regardless of the abuses, because the alternative is the shark infested waters of the Atlantic ocean. *Why the Cocks Fight* is a must read for anybody interested in Hispaniola, but also for those interested on the effects of immigration in the United States and the transformation of societies and cultures whose inhabitants have been exposed to the "american way". I can't wait for her next book. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. the single most important book on the subject in recent time Von Ein Kunde I wish my review to stand as a rebuttal to the earlier mean-spirited and mis-informed commentary (all in caps, in true froth-at-the-mouth illiterate style) that is less of a genuine review and more of an ad hominem attack upon the author, her methods and her intentions. First, my prejudice and qualifications. I'm a former professional colleague of the author of *Why The Cocks Fight*. I've known the author Michele Wucker for about 11 or 12 years since we first worked together on a newspaper in the Dominican Republic and then later in New York for a Dominican newspaper. During that entire time I've watched her diligent and careful gathering of information and interviews for this book. The most casual reading of the book will reveal genuine and deep affection for both the Dominican and Haitian people. Her book is clearly intended to illuminate and enrich the dialog between those people and to serve their best interests with the hope they will enjoy a better future. She offers no excuses for the failings of the United States in the past and present that have aggravated the problems of the people of Hispaniola. Likewise, she does not spare those in those two lands who have and continue to fail themselves and betray their own peoples. Most important of all, she does not make the mistake of offering some well-intentioned simplistic solution as a substitute for one that only those who must live with it can develop and employ. The book does all of this in excellent style. One may, if one wishes, quibble about the significance of any single reported event compared to another event not mentioned. One may disagree with her emphasis or analysis. But her facts are solid and complete. Her language is rich and evocative. As someone else has said, if you have any love of the island of Hispaniola and entertain any hopes for its future, this is the single most important book on the subject that has been published in recent times in this country or there.

Kurzbeschreibung Like two roosters in a fighting arena, Haiti and the Dominican Republic are encircled by barriers of geography and poverty. They co-inhabit the Caribbean island of Hispaniola, but their histories are as deeply divided as their cultures: one French-speaking and black, one Spanish-speaking and mulatto. Yet, despite their antagonism, the

two countries share a national symbol in the rooster--and a fundamental activity and favorite sport in the cockfight. In this book, Michele Wucker asks: "If the symbols that dominate a culture accurately express a nation's character, what kind of a country draws so heavily on images of cockfighting and roosters, birds bred to be aggressive? What does it mean when not one but two countries that are neighbors choose these symbols? Why do the cocks fight, and why do humans watch and glorify them?" Wucker studies the cockfight ritual in considerable detail, focusing as much on the customs and histories of these two nations as on their contemporary lifestyles and politics. Her well-cited and comprehensive volume also explores the relations of each nation toward the United States, which twice invaded both Haiti (in 1915 and 1994) and the Dominican Republic (in 1916 and 1965) during the twentieth century. Just as the owners of gamecocks contrive battles between their birds as a way of playing out human conflicts, Wucker argues, Haitian and Dominican leaders often stir up nationalist disputes and exaggerate their cultural and racial differences as a way of deflecting other kinds of turmoil. Thus *Why the Cocks Fight* highlights the factors in Caribbean history that still affect Hispaniola today, including the often contradictory policies of the U.S.

The Caribbean island of Hispaniola is home to historic, ongoing strife between two countries deeply divided by race, language, and history yet forced constantly into confrontation by their shared geography. In her first book, American journalist Michele Wucker reports from both Haiti and the Dominican Republic on the complex relations between these two cultures and sheds light on the sources of their struggles both in their island home and in the United States. This book is charged from the start with the violence and posturing of blood sport, as Wucker observes her first Haitian cockfight: "The air cracks with the impact of stiffened feathers as each bird tries to push the other to the ground. Around the ring, the Haitian men shout to one another and wave dirty wads of gourdes in the air, seeking bets.... Soon, the feathers of both cocks are slick with blood." Popular in both countries, these fights become a totemic image for the author, who finds in them, as in the many clashes between Hispaniola's two cultures, "both division and community, opposite sides of the same coin." This is a fine historical primer, buoyed along by Wucker's graceful, observant prose style. --Maria Dolan

Pressestimmen"A complex exploration of the cultural divide between Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Wucker . . . weaves together five centuries of tragic conflict with a subtle picture of the island today."--Patrick Markee, "The New York Times Book" "A richly textured social history of Hispaniola . . . A powerful cultural analysis."--"Kirkus s" "Impeccably researched history made current and more meaningful by first rate reporting."--Barbara Fischkin, author of "Muddy Cup: A Dominican Family Comes of Age in a New America" "A delightful yet disturbingly relevant book . . . The economic, political and geographical struggles vividly occurring on Hispaniola are a microcosm of what happens all over the world."--Michael Hopkins, "Milwaukee Journal Sentinel" "Wucker peels away layers of history and culture, revealing aspects of Dominican and Haitian culture few have described so clearly. Well crafted, lucidly told, and full of insight."--Rob Ruck, "Pittsburgh Post-Gazette" "A rich cultural history."--Ken Moore, "Naples Daily News" A complex exploration of the cultural divide between Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Wucker . . . weaves together five centuries of tragic conflict with a subtle picture of the island today. "Patrick Markee, The New York Times Book" A richly textured social history of Hispaniola . . . A powerful cultural analysis. "Kirkus s" Impeccably researched history made current and more meaningful by first rate reporting. "Barbara Fischkin, author of Muddy Cup: A Dominican Family Comes of Age in a New America" A delightful yet disturbingly relevant book . . . The economic, political and geographical struggles vividly occurring on Hispaniola are a microcosm of what happens all over the world. "Michael Hopkins, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel" Wucker peels away layers of history and culture, revealing aspects of Dominican and Haitian culture few have described so clearly. Well crafted, lucidly told, and full of insight.. "Rob Ruck, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette" A rich cultural history. "Ken Moore, Naples Daily News""A complex exploration of the cultural divide between Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Wucker . . . weaves together five centuries of tragic conflict with a subtle picture of the island today." --Patrick Markee, The New York Times Book "A richly textured social history of Hispaniola . . . A powerful cultural analysis." --Kirkus s"Impeccably researched history made current and more meaningful by first rate reporting." --Barbara Fischkin, author of Muddy Cup: A Dominican Family Comes of Age in a New America" A delightful yet disturbingly relevant book . . . The economic, political and geographical struggles vividly occurring on Hispaniola are a microcosm of what happens all over the world." --Michael Hopkins, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel" Wucker peels away layers of history and culture, revealing aspects of Dominican and Haitian culture few have described so clearly. Well crafted, lucidly told, and full of insight." --Rob Ruck, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette" A rich cultural history." --Ken Moore, Naples Daily News