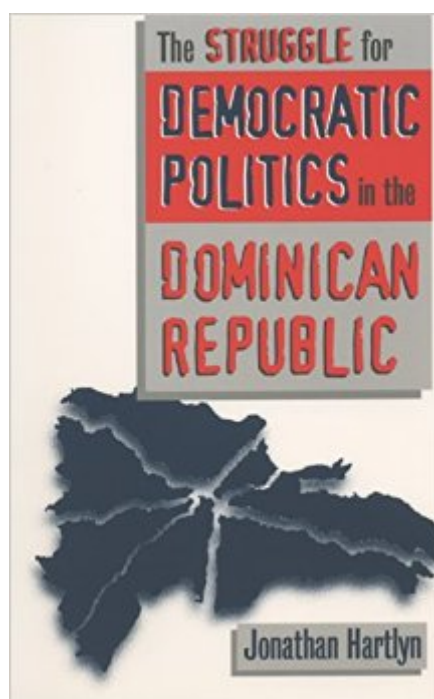


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The Struggle For Democratic Politics In The Dominican Republic (H. Eugene And Lillian Youngs Lehman Series)



Synopsis

Over the past several decades, the Dominican Republic has experienced striking political stagnation in spite of dramatic socioeconomic transformations. In this work, Jonathan Hartlyn offers a new explanation for the country's political evolution, based on a broad comparative perspective. Hartlyn rejects cultural explanations unduly focused on legacies from the Spanish colonial era and structural explanations excessively centered on the lack of national autonomy. Instead, he highlights the independent impact of political and institutional factors and historical legacies, while also considering changes in Dominican society and the influence of the United States and other international forces. In particular, Hartlyn examines how the Dominican Republic's tragic nineteenth-century history established a legacy of neopatrimonialism, a form of rule that found extreme expression in the brutal dictator Rafael Trujillo and has continued to shape politics down to the present. By examining economic policymaking and often conflictual elections, Hartlyn also analyzes the missed opportunity for democracy during the rule of the Dominican Revolutionary Party and the democratic tensions of the administrations of Joaquín Balaguer.

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Para mí- que he seguido con pasiÃ n el desarrollo social y polÃ- tico de la RepÃ blica Dominicana durante la Ã ltima dÃ cada, el libro de Jonathan Hartlyn es como una especie de bÃ lsamo dentro la abundante y desigual historiografÃ- a sobre este tema. Armado de un marco conceptual

novedoso y una excelente investigación de primera mano, la obra de Hartlyn analiza las causas de la continua crisis del sistema democrático en Santo Domingo, después de la muerte de Trujillo en 1961. El autor reta las principales interpretaciones (especialmente la escuela de la dependencia) que explican el surgimiento de caudillos, dictadores y líderes autoritarios en la historia de la Isla, motivado únicamente por la debilidad del estado y el imperialismo norteamericano. El proceso político dominicano, propone Hartlyn, tiene que entenderse como una interacción de los diferentes sectores sociales con las fuerzas de poder interna y externa: sin que una opaque la otra. Durante los últimos 40 años, los electores han tenido, señala el autor, que debatirse entre las prácticas autoritarias (de tipo neopatrimonial), encarnadas en la figura de Joaquín Balaguer, y en los intentos (fallidos) de los dos gobiernos del Partido Revolucionario Dominicano (PRD) por alejarse de esa posición antidemocrática. Los doce años de Balaguer (1966-78), productos del golpe de Estado al gobierno de Juan Bosch en 1963 y la eventual intervención de tropas norteamericanas en 1965, son vistos por Hartlyn como parte de la transición de la dictadura trujillista (calificada de neosultánica) a un régimen de características neopatrimoniales.

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