RESEARCH AND IDEAS SERIES
History

The Presence of Africa in the Caribbean, the Antilles and the United States

Celsa Albert Batista - Patrick Bellegarde-Smith - Delia Blanco - Lipe Collado
Franklin Franco - Jean Ghasmann Bissainthe - José Guerrero - Rafael Jarvis Luis
Mateo Morrison - Melina Pappademos - Odalís G. Pérez - Geo Ripley
José Luis Sáez - Avelino Stanley - Dario Solano - Roger Toumson

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Introduction

This publication represents the high-level scholarship presented by national and international experts during the academic conference, "The Presence of Africa in the Caribbean, the Antilles and the United States," organized by Global Foundation for Democracy and Development (GFDD) and Fundacion Global Democracia y Desarrollo (FUNGLODE), in association with the Ministry of Culture of the Dominican Republic, the Dominican National Commission to the United Nations Economic, Social and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and the Universidad Autonoma de Santo Domingo (UASD), during July 18-20, 2011 at FUNGLODE headquarters in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

The objective of the conference and this publication is to elevate discourse on the historical trajectory of persons of African descent throughout the continent, and to further understanding of how this trajectory continues to shape modern-day society.

The ensemble of articles covers a diverse array of subject matter that spans five centuries of history. The authors contextualize and analyze the transformative global consequences and implications of the trans-Atlantic slave trade; processes of acculturation and transculturation; systems of color, "race" and class; black civic activism and political culture; and the emergence of a black literary aesthetic.

GFDD and FUNGLODE would like to extend special thanks to all of the authors who have contributed to this publication.

We believe that the questions and conclusions put forth by the authors will provoke readers to engage with historical, sociological and political polemics in new and profound ways.

We would like to extend special thanks to all the individuals and institutions that coordinated the conference, and made this publication possible, in particular Franklin Franco y Delia Blanco.

We hope that this compilation inspires a new generation of historians, sociologists, anthropologists and literary experts in the Dominican Republic and abroad to expand upon and enhance the existing body of scholarship on African Diaspora Studies.

We look forward to realizing subsequent initiatives aimed at advancing this important field of research.

Yamile Eusebio
Director of the GFDD New York Office
and Director of Educational and
Formative Activities at FUNGLODE

Kerry Stefancyk
Project Coordinator, GFDD