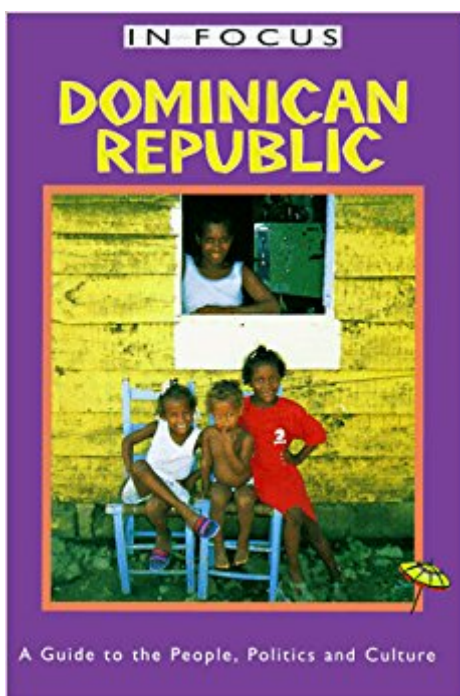


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Dominican Republic In Focus: A Guide To The People, Politics And Culture (In Focus Guides)



Synopsis

This new series of country guides is designed for travellers and students who want to understand the wider picture and build up an overall knowledge of a country. Each In Focus guide is a lively and thought-provoking introduction to the country's people, politics and culture. The In Focus guides will brief you on: The history: Conquest, life as a colony, quest for independence and the building of a modern nation. How history can help explain today's society and politics. The people: Who lives where, how they live. The different worlds of the poor and the rich; blacks, Indians and whites; Arabs and Jews; indigenous, disenfranchised and dispossessed peoples; human rights. The culture: What to read, what to see, what to hear. Who's who in literature, music, dance, theater and cinema. Roots and rites of different religions. Folk traditions and indigenous cultural celebrations. The politics: Who runs the country, who wants to run the country. Power and conflict between political parties, the military, guerillas and grassroots organizations. Historical ties to the U.S. The economy: What the country produces and exports, how the economy has developed, the impact of foreign debt and free market reforms, who gains and who loses, presence and role of U.S. corporations. Where to go, what to see: Must-see landmarks, lists of monuments and historical sites as well as the author's expert tips on what to see and do to get the most out of a short trip to the country. Plus...-- Facts and figures-- Chronology-- Practical advice-- Nontourist travel-- Further reading-- Useful addresses-- Color and b&w photos-- Maps

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Customer Reviews

Brazil, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, and Guatemala are the main focus of these new, brightly

colored travel books. Moving away from the usual tourist spots, these books provide an in-depth look into the heart of the land and people of these Caribbean countries. Uniform in design, the books are divided into chapters describing the history, politics, culture, economy, and society of each country. Coverage of up-to-date topics such as healthcare, racial equality, peace processes, and environmental concerns in the rainforest is informative and well researched. Practical advice, further readings, and useful addresses along with nontourist travel information are listed at the end of each volume. Factual and easy to read, these slim travel books are a great resource for students and scholars of the Caribbean.

Stephanie Papa, Baltimore Cty. Circuit Court Lib., Towson, MD
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I ordered this book because I thought it would provide an introduction to the politics of the Dominican Republic. When I got it, it reminded me more of a mixture between a tacky guidebook and an elementary school social science book. It does present some insight into the historical, economical and political conditions of the country, some of them even differing from the mainstream image, but it is all very limited in scope and not very useful. If you want a guidebook, I'd suggest Lonely Planet a million times before this one. When it comes to a political review of the country, I have unfortunately had difficulties in finding one. But surfing the web for a couple of hours will certainly provide more useful information than a copy of this book.

This book has dealt well with subjects like the economy, politics, and local places to visit. Unfortunately, I found the information on the history and cultural identity of the Dominicans to be lacking information. For example, When Howard spoke too briefly of the Taino Indians or how the Dominicans have a need to be more "Indian". He was totally incorrect. The author does not hold a strong enough argument or facts to support this. He leaves the reader with much confusion about the Dominican identity.

This book is a much needed new insight on Dominican Republic where I travelled a lot a few years ago. It is very interesting situation with haiti and the author addresses cultural issues sensitively but informatively. The book is very easily to read and has a good order.

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