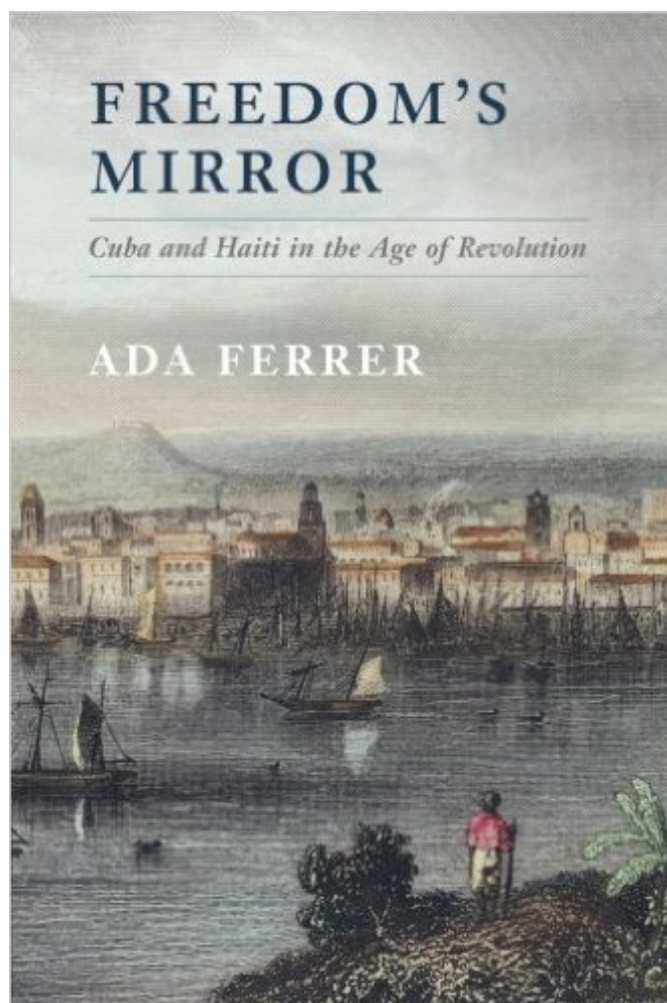


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Freedom's Mirror: Cuba And Haiti In The Age Of Revolution



Synopsis

During the Haitian Revolution of 1791-1804, arguably the most radical revolution of the modern world, slaves and former slaves succeeded in ending slavery and establishing an independent state. Yet on the Spanish island of Cuba barely fifty miles distant, the events in Haiti helped usher in the antithesis of revolutionary emancipation. When Cuban planters and authorities saw the devastation of the neighboring colony, they rushed to fill the void left in the world market for sugar, to buttress the institutions of slavery and colonial rule, and to prevent "another Haiti" from happening in their own territory. *Freedom's Mirror* follows the reverberations of the Haitian Revolution in Cuba, where the violent entrenchment of slavery occurred at the very moment that the Haitian Revolution provided a powerful and proximate example of slaves destroying slavery. By creatively linking two stories - the story of the Haitian Revolution and that of the rise of Cuban slave society - that are usually told separately, Ada Ferrer sheds fresh light on both of these crucial moments in Caribbean and Atlantic history.

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Customer Reviews

This thesis covers the tumultuous ties Cuba had with the Haitian Revolution in the late 18th and early 19th century. As news came in of reports of a black uprising in Saint Domingue, the white plantation class of Cuba were in fear of a similar event taking place on their own colony. This caused them to adjust accordingly by implementing guidelines to prevent the black population of Haiti inciting any uproar for the slave class of Cuba to take root. For the most part, this was a success. However, it didn't mean that some in Cuba didn't look at the Haitian Revolution as an

inspiration. One example was the conspiracy led by a black carpenter named Jose Antonio Aponte. Aponte viewed the republic of Haiti as a model for what he envisioned for Cuba. The author provides more details and other reports of Haitian-inspired incidents, not only in Cuba but other colonies. While none of these dreams came to fruition, it's telling of how Haiti played a pivotal part in the history of the Americas and how blacks of the Americas yearned to escape subjugation. Ferrer did good research for this title. I would recommend this to anybody who's interested in Cuban history or the Haitian Revolution, itself.

Sorry, I haven't finished it yet. However, what I have read provided me with a whole range of new information. The juxtaposition of the divergent histories of the two islands works really well, especially the emphasis on the Cuban planters' fear of similar uprisings in their own backyard and their conflicting delight at the unthought of opportunity of being able to match, and even surpass, the French Dominican success as sugar producing slavery dominated society. This book was exactly what I was looking for as an author of historic fiction. I love it. Many thanks, Ada Ferrer.

Explains how the Haitian revolution influenced the course of Cuban history. Didn't know much about the wider influences of the Haitian revolution in the Caribbean.

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