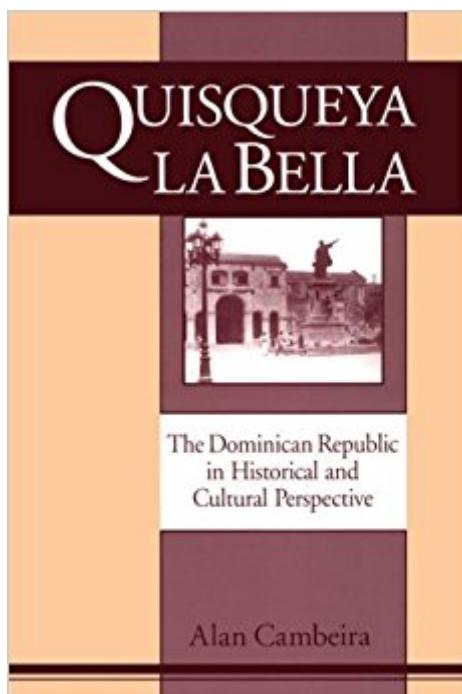


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# Quisqueya La Bella: Dominican Republic In Historical And Cultural Perspective (Perspectives On Latin America And The Caribbean)



## Synopsis

A history of the Dominican Republic from pre-Columbian times to the present. The book focuses on the merger of three cultures across time - the indigenous cultures of the Caribbean, the Iberians of southern Europe and the Africans.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Good

More than a history text, *Quisqueya La Bella* helps you interpret the cultural and ethnic aspects that shaped the Dominican Republic. Read about one of the largest immigrant groups to the U.S.; read how the town of San Pedro de Macoris is home to more major league baseball players than any city in the world; read how the Dictator Rafael Leonidas Trujillo brutally kept his iron-fisted grip on the island for over 31 years; read about the complex and often disturbing relationship with neighboring Haiti and how the Dominican Republic gave birth to the world-famous Merengue. Follow the rise and fall of slavery, sugar, and revolution. This English language book paints the "essential kaleidoscopic ingredients" of a fascinating people."Excellent Book" Very Highly Recommended

"Quisqueya" was the name that the pre-Columbian indigenous Taino people called their island before the Europeans arrived; it meant "Mother of All Lands." Today, the Dominican Republic (with

the Republic of Haiti) occupies that island in the Caribbean. The author Alan Cambeira presents an overview of the historical and cultural development of the Dominican Republic from pre-Columbian times to the present. Cambeira shows how the encounter and merger of the three cultures across time have resulted in a distinctive Dominican Culture. The book also includes abundant geographical coverage and 3 appendixes that describe language differences and other contemporary cultural concerns. For anyone planning a trip to this island or the Caribbean generally will find this book a requirement before going. He does an excellent job in telling this story. A Must Read Book!

Este libro era lo que estabamos esperando hace mucho tiempo. *Quisqueya la Bella*, bello título, describe la historia de un país que ha puesto a sus pobladores a sufrir de ambos lados. Quien desee conocer más sobre esta obra maestra debe leerlo y aprenderá a conocer lo que es el merengue, la cultura y la historia, pero sobre todo acerca de la relación entre Haití-República Dominicana. By the way, one reader stated that this book is boring and predictable. It is never a matter of predictability with history texts. This book is among the list of mandatory reading in Caribbean culture courses in many major universities. Yugoslavia is not a country anymore. I'm teaching this book each semester because this is the only book on the subject that I've read that presents a realistic and inclusive perspective of the country's cultural history. *Quisqueya La Bella* --- Simply the Best. I've waited a long time for a book like this. Thanks Prof. Cambeira. Very Highly Recommended. My next reading will be *AZUCAR! The Story of Sugar* (a novel) by the same writer.

Everybody called Quisqueya the "Athens of the New World". It is a country with beautiful beaches and beautiful people and a complex history. The island's ethnic mix of indigenous, European (mainly Spanish) and African cultures and their merger across time resulted in the distinctive Dominican culture that we know today. Cambeira's passion for his native island is evident on every page. This book gave me a really different and fresh perspective from other books on the subject by other authors that I have read. This is an excellent personal interpretation that I'm recommending to anyone interested in learning about the Atena del Nuevo Mundo. Thanks to the Author. My next reading will certainly be his novel that everybody is talking about: *Azucar! The Story of Sugar*.

This book is a fascinating journey through the history of the Dominican Republic from the time of recorded discovery by Christopher Columbus in 1492 to present day historical events. "Quisqueya la Bella" is an enlightening historical book that vividly describes the history and culture of a

caribbean nation that is usually overshadowed by most historians but whose history, if known and understood, definitely answers the many questions about Dominicans, dominican culture, the Caribbean and caribbean people in general. As a person of caribbean heritage, I consider the study and understanding of any caribbean country of vital importance since all have many elements in common. After my first visit to the DR in 1997 and many thereafter, I realized the immediate need to understand as much as possible about the history and culture of this diverse caribbean nation. Alan Cambeira's book is an eye-opener and definitely answered many questions that I had. It also provided historical and cultural details that were foreign to my knowledge. The book will give you insight to the the mixture of the three cultures that compose the demographic make up of Dominicas- the Indigenous, the African and the European Spanish, racial issues- which still need to be dealt with today by Dominican themselves, the relationship between the Dominican Republic and Haiti-very controversial, the many years of dictatorship under Trujillo and the present day situation of the country. An added feature of this book was explanation of the "dominicnismos", language particular to Dominicans that is heard in everyday speech, written in newspapers and magazines and most commonly heard in songs whose meaning is not always understood if you are not a native or have not previously been exposed to dominican culture. Overall the book was well written and is not laden with irrevelant historical dates and details but rather factual, true and educational. Definitely a must read for anyone who plans to visit the DR or has already visited, is of caribbean heritage, Dominicans themselves or simply anyone who would like to learn more about "Quisqueya la Bella". A wonderful documentation!

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