

themes have been central to the Virgin Islands since the 1980s. Finally, while Boyer's book contributes to the study of the Virgin Islands, we still await a book that will provide a more rounded and comprehensive view of the islands.

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Humberto García Muñiz

***Sugar and Power in the Caribbean: The South Porto Rico Sugar Company in Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic, 1900–1921***

Kingston, Miami: Ian Randle Publishers, La Editorial de la Universidad de Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras, 2010, vi + 540 pp.

*José L. Bolívar*

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*Sugar and Power in the Caribbean: The South Porto Rico Sugar Company in Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic, 1900–1921* is a toughly researched book that details the history of this New Jersey company dedicated to the growing, manufacturing, and exporting of raw sugar in Puerto Rico in the 1900s, and in the Dominican Republic in the 1910s. *Sugar and Power* is the first book that describes in great detail the intricacies of one of the three most important US sugar corporations that operated in Puerto Rico at the beginning of the 20th century. The South Porto Rico Sugar Company (SPRSC) was the only sugar company in all of the Caribbean, if not the world, that operated in two countries simultaneously, that is, cultivating cane in one country (the Dominican Republic) and producing sugar in another (Guanica Central in Puerto Rico). In *Sugar and Power*, García provides his readers with a unique vision of the US sugar industry seen through the spectrum of multiple economic sectors—industrial, financial, and agricultural. It highlights the investments of German capital both prior to and after World War I, and the lasting affects the war had on their participation. García also illustrates the use of technical expertise provided by personnel imported from Louisiana and Barbados, the decisions that resulted from meetings between the company's executives and the New York based law firms that represented SPRSC, and the decisions made in Puerto Rico by the company's management.

*Sugar and Power* is a history of conflicts and interactions between two distinct cultures and financial goals and objectives, those of the US and those of the Puerto Rican entrepreneurs. It is also a social history of the sugar industry in Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic, particularly as related to land tenure and the exploitation of workers employed by the SPRSC (which was no different from the exploitation by the rest of the

industry). As if this was not sufficient, García treats the readers to research highlighting the significant impact the sugar industry (and in particular the SPRSC) had on the manufactures of machinery, the railroads (required to transport both cane and sugar), the insurance industry (which was also a must for the continuance of this volatile industry), and interesting and unique biographical data on the executives, lawyers, financiers, and Germans, among others, that impacted one of the most important sugar companies of the Caribbean.

García provides an interesting and complex narrative of a company that succeeds well into the latter part of the 20th century due to a combination of capital, human resources, and technology, which it was able to use during the prosperous years of the sugar industry. García discusses how the SPRSC began with German capital familiar with conditions in the US market and in Puerto Rico. However, the author adds an interesting twist to this saga by incorporating the critical elements of the sugar cane industry: those relating to Louisiana and Louisiana State University (LSU). He captures the importance of the specialized management and technicians, trained and educated in sugar processing at LSU to oversee the Puerto Rican operations at Guanica Central and later in the Dominican Republic. Completing this book, which started as a doctoral thesis at Columbia University, required almost three decades. As a result of the complexity surrounding the business relationships of the SPRSC, García travelled extensively in search of unique and never before used documentation, photographs, and oral history. His travels took him to numerous places within and outside the Caribbean area. These include not only a significant number of archives in Puerto Rico, but also those in the Dominican Republic and Barbados; Baton Rouge, Gainesville, New Haven, New Orleans, New York, Poughkeepsie, Philadelphia, and Washington, DC, in the United States; and Glasgow and London, in the United Kingdom.

*Sugar and Power in the Caribbean: The South Porto Rico Sugar Company in Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic, 1900–1921* is a “must read” for any researcher interested in the sugar industry in the Caribbean or in the US, the effect of German capital in this industry, as well as the social and financial impact this company had in Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, and the US. Surprisingly, even though this company is no longer operating in Puerto Rico, its lasting effects are still felt on the island. Though at times the book appears somewhat dense as a result of the numerous facts García presents us with, and the occasional reader might get lost in its maze, it is well worth taking the time to enjoy this magnificently researched and illustrated book.