



Taino Revival: Critical Perspectives on Puerto Rican Identity and Cultural Politics

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This stimulating and timely collection examines the Taino revival movement, a grassroots conglomeration of Puerto Ricans and other Latinos who promote or have adopted the culture and pedigree of the pre-Columbian Taino Indian population of Puerto Rico and the western Caribbean. The Tainos became a symbol of Puerto Rican identity in the 19th century, when local governments and intellectuals began to appropriate the Tainos for the conception of a socially and racially balanced Puerto Rican society. Modern critics now claim that the Taino heritage has been canonized through state-sponsored institutions, such as festivals, museums, and textbooks, at the expense of blacks. In the past, officials, alarmed at the black majorities on other the Caribbean Islands, tried to "whiten" Puerto Rican society by calling all people of color Tainos. Others complain that the Taino revival lost its fervor, evolving from an anti-colonialist movement to a mere fashionable trend.

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