Sanabria, Carlos
Reseña de "The Puerto Rican Diaspora: Historical Perspectives" de Carmen Teresa Whalen y Víctor Vásquez-Hernández
The City University of New York
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consumption takes place, and, particularly concerning a material consumption, whether or not Puerto Ricans engaged in any subversive processes in which they could have bought and used goods in ways unintended by the planned and regulated national culture celebrated during these holidays. I am missing the voice of the Puerto Rican population speaking back to the organizers of the national culture and 25th and 4th of July celebrations. What is more, the inclusion of interviews and/or ethnographic research would prevent Flores Collazo’s choice of resources from privileging the voice of the local elite, U.S. officials, and newspaper editors. It might have also avoided the “consumir” subtitle of the book to come across as an overstatement.

Flowers Collazo’s repeated claims to carry throughout the text an analysis on consumption and citizenship are short interjections that often seem secondary to the larger historical narrative, an issue that is part of a larger problem in which the author's promising insights are often stymied by the narrative’s fragmented structure within broad thematic chapters. Nevertheless, Flowers Collazo’s work is a testament to rigorous archival research. The book succeeds in offering a comprehensive, albeit not exhaustive, account of the ways in which the commemorative days of the 25th and 4th of July helped imagine a nation, and a collective Puerto Rican identity while also trying to attend
Mexicans and other Latinos in Hawaii. She claims that Puerto Ricans in Hawaii will not disappear nor, however, will they witness a complete revitalization of their community either. Instead, Iris López concludes that they are choosing more traditions and customs from several ethnic groups while expanding the meaning of Puerto Rican identity. As in other parts of the country, she sees Puerto Ricans in Hawaii in transition as they create new sociocultural, linguistic, and political definitions of Puerto Rican and Latino identity.

Another matter examined on a local level, but that is important for Puerto Ricans everywhere on the mainland, is the increasingly diverse Latino population in the United States. This situation creates new opportunities and challenges. In their respective research on Puerto Rican communities in Philadelphia and Boston, Félix Matos and Víctor Vásquez consider the impact this phenomenon has had on Puerto Rican politics. In his work, Víctor Vásquez observes how the growing number of Dominicans, Colombians, Mexicans, and other Hispanic groups in Philadelphia provides the framework for political work across national lines that could well serve the interests of all Latinos in the city. Yet the new Latino diversity can also lead to strained intergroup relations. In Boston, Félix Matos notes how, in the context of the Latinization of the city, some Puerto Ricans wish to maintain separate Puerto Rican political organizations out of fear in other communities as well, namely, class divisions within the community. He notes the presence of a large and influential Puerto Rican professional and upper-middle-class population in Boston. While the contributions of this class to the political, economic, and cultural life of the community are acknowledged and appreciated by many, others raise concerns about the momentary presence of members of this class in the community and their “hierarchical and messianic approaches to collaboration.” In her essay, Maura I. Toro-Morn explores gender as well as class relations in the migration and settlement of Puerto Ricans in Chicago. Gender issues, another important topic taken up in this anthology, are of great significance and need to be studied in all Puerto Rican communities in America.

Puerto Rican migration to the United States has a long history. In her contribution to this collection, Carmen Teresa Whalen explains that this migration has taken place within the framework of U.S. colonialism in Puerto Rico. She points out how American policies and economic investments on the island negatively impacted on the Puerto Rican economy and its workers while providing U.S. employers on the mainland with the benefits of low wage workers unrestricted by immigration barriers. Colonialism also framed the second class citizenship status Puerto Ricans in the U.S. have endured. Yet Puerto Ricans migrants in search of a better life did not passively accept