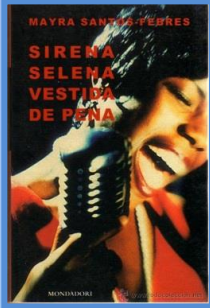


Sirena Selena vestida de pena: Survival in the Hispanic Caribbean Society

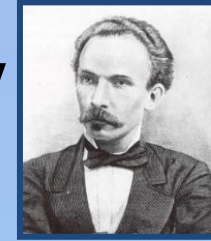


Retrieved from:
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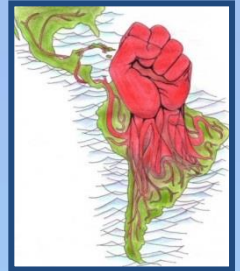


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Retrieved from:
<http://redandgreenalternative2012.blogspot.ca/2012/06/recolonization-a.html>

Abstract

This essay centers around the novel *Sirena Selena vestida de pena* (*Sirena Selena Dressed of Sorrow*, 2000) of Puerto Rican author Mayra Santos-Febres with the objective of shedding light on the transformation of Hispanic Caribbean society under the influence of globalization and the expansion of capitalism.

Thesis

Through the analysis of the characters (appearance and behavior) as well as the prevalent themes such as survival through transvestism and migration, I will attempt to demonstrate the superficial transformation of the Hispanic Caribbean society following the 'First World' model.

Materials & Methods

- *Sirena Selena vestida de pena* → analysis of passages evoking descriptions of the city, Santo Domingo and of the two main characters.
- *Journal of the Center for Puerto Rican Studies*. Vol. 15.2 → Special Issue on *Sirena Selena* providing the social and historical context of the novel.

Results

- By imitating the social and physical structure of 'First World' societies, the Hispanic Caribbean and its inhabitants have internalized the principles of capitalism that facilitate survival in the globalized world.
- Tourism 'imposes' a transvestism not only the environment but also on the Caribbean people suffering alienation.

Conclusion

- Survival in today's globalized setting is measured by the degree of adaptation to the capitalist economic system and that of displacement (migration) in an attempt to exploit all angles of the free market.
- These conditions do not allow for a truly radical transformation on Hispanic Caribbean society, resulting in a superficial change.
- This has led to the creation of an alienating society where principles of solidarity and camaraderie that have historically defined Latin American relationships, are replaced by the individualistic mentality proper to Western societies where only the fittest survive.