

ways of promoting positive values, and in turn those values led to compromise, peace, and stability. He concludes that modern leaders and their states need to inculcate youths with those positive values. Wiredu is insistent that consensus was a trait of traditional Africa. As such he also builds on a thesis featured in other of his works. He asserts that consensus was a democratic trait, especially in non-centralized states. He reasons that leaders of postcolonial Africa should recognize that it is in their self-interest, as well good policy, to promote it. Menkiti also delves into the issues of political stability and instability. From his perspective instability resulted from the failure to incorporate African values into Western style systems.

Explorations in African Political Thought: Identity, Community, Ethics makes a significant contribution to African philosophy. Although some undergraduates may be challenged by a number of the examples used by authors, the book makes for stimulating and useful reading on the graduate and professional levels. Policymakers and executors of public policy will find the work enlightening and thoroughly absorbing.

Reviewed by: Ashton Wesley Welch
Creighton University

Matibag, Eugenio. *Haitian-Dominican Counterpoint*. (Palgrave Macmillan: New York, 2003) 269 pp. \$55.00 Cloth.

Those unfamiliar with the Dominican Republic and Haiti would probably think that the two countries with their different languages and cultures are distinct and separate historically as they are culturally. The French and African heritage of Haiti is often contrasted with the Spanish heritage of the Dominican Republic. Matibag demonstrates that the two cultures and nations are intertwined at a level that would surprise even the informed scholar.

The book is scholarly and interesting. It covers the history of the Dominican Republic and Haiti in a coherent and wide-ranging fashion. The text not only offers insights into the conflict

between the two nations but also offers an explanation for the various policies, conflicts, and even cooperation between the two nations. It provides the reader with an understanding of how the two countries became so different and yet intertwined in their histories and current situations. Matibag explains how two countries that occupy the same island can be so separate and so unequal. Using theory, concepts, and historical facts, he attempts to explain how the long histories of the two countries have been so intertwined and yet so separate. Anyone not familiar with this history will find the chapter on this of great value in understanding current events in both countries and in their relations with the U.S. Students, educators, and scholars of all sorts will benefit from his tracing the different histories based on European conquest and domination until the Haitian revolution.

The centuries of domination by colonial powers clearly provide the basis for the separatism and yet also for the ties that bind the two cultures. Matibag's analysis follows the development of Haiti after the revolution. Though the French left, their influence did not leave. Haiti became the second Republic in the Americas but did not get support from the U.S. or other democracies as one might have expected. Matibag looks at the relations between Haiti and the Dominican Republic between 1802 and 1844. These years were filled both with good relations and violence between the two countries. The two countries were united under Haitian rule for twenty-two years which ends with the Dominican revolt that led to the formation of the Dominican Republic. The country begins with an anti-Haitian basis. Those not familiar with this history might struggle to understand current conflicts between the countries. Matibag also examines the attempts at nation building and the processes of nationalism that emerge after the 1844 founding of the Dominican Republic. Though probably better known, Matibag examines the increasing intervention of the U.S. on the weak island nations and the U.S. support of dictatorships in both countries. The domination of both countries from 1930-1985 by strong leaders and their exploitation of their own people and those of the other island nation is also examined. Massacres, murders, "death squads" abound. Getting personal money for providing corporations with workers, taking part of those workers pay, getting profits from

nearly every industry and more are discussed as the exploitation rapes both nations. Trujillo and the Duvaliers destroyed their own countries for power and money.

Perhaps more unique is Matibag's analysis of the cultures in an intriguing chapter that uses literature to show the pain and suffering of the people of both nations. Matibag develops a history of Haitian/Dominican relations through a presentation of literature. Using the words of Dominican writers, he presents a vivid picture of the heart of the peoples. He concludes by offering a scholarly interpretation of past events and future collaborations between the peoples of both nations. The border, though short, is a great divide between the two nations.

This is an excellent text that deserves to be read. It is interesting, information and very readable. I highly recommend it.

Gerry R. Cox
University of Wisconsin-La Crosse

Jun Xing and Lane Ryo Hirabayashi, eds. *Reversing the Lens: Ethnicity, Race, Gender, and Sexuality Through Film*. (Boulder: University Press of Colorado, 2003). xv, 270 pp., \$19.95 paper.

The fourteen essays collected in Xing and Hirabayashi's new volume make a strong argument for serious intellectual work involved not only in the college-level study of moving images for their messages about minority groups but also in pedagogical approaches that take film and video as their primary texts. Written by a collection of scholars who work in ethnic and racial studies and various allied fields, the essays share a concern with pedagogy and with showing "how visual media can be used to facilitate cross-cultural understanding and communications, particularly with respect to the thorny topics of ethnicity and race" (3). Indeed, despite the book's title, film/video's treatments of minority races and ethnicities are the collection's main focus; gender and sexuality are broached in their intersection with ethnic and racial categories (Elisa Facio's chapter on "The Queering of Chicana Studies" and Marilyn C. Alquizola and Lane Ryo