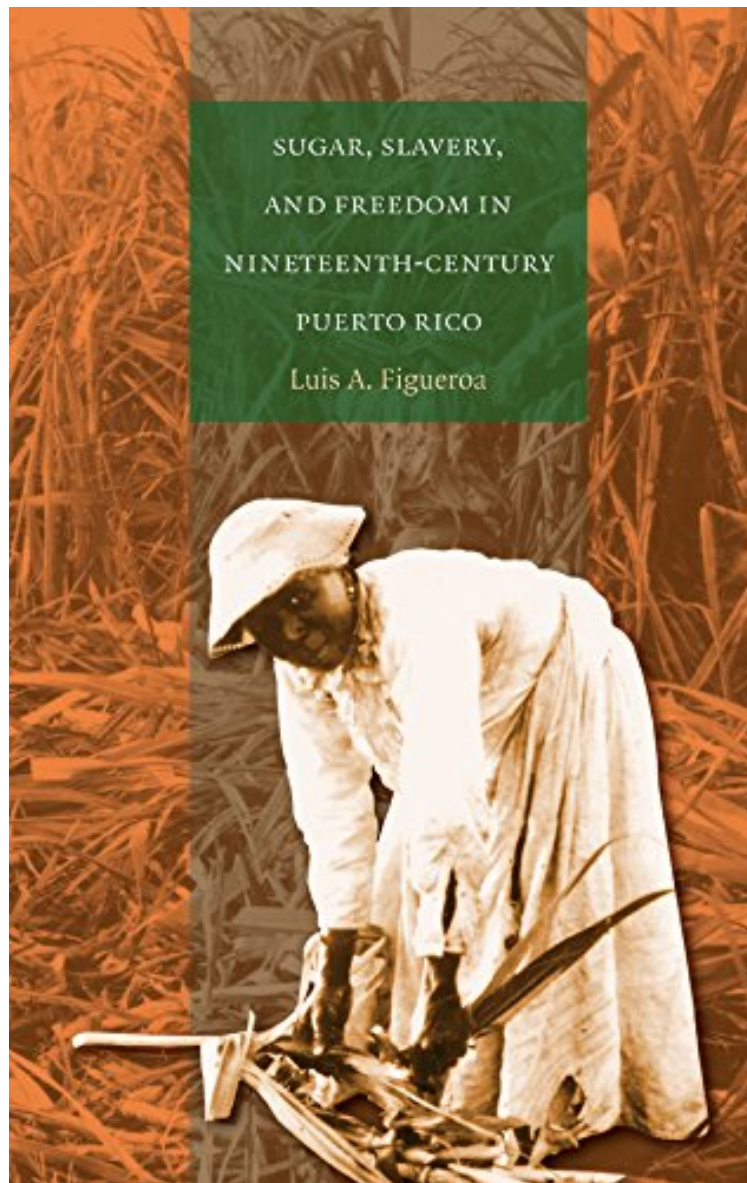


(Free) Sugar, Slavery, and Freedom in Nineteenth-Century Puerto Rico

## Sugar, Slavery, and Freedom in Nineteenth-Century Puerto Rico

*Luis A. Figueroa*

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**Luis A. Figueroa : Sugar, Slavery, and Freedom in Nineteenth-Century Puerto Rico** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Sugar, Slavery, and Freedom in Nineteenth-Century Puerto Rico:

10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Sugar, Slavery, and Freedom in Nineteen Century Puerto Rico By Grace M. Rivera As a student of history I am always interested on "how things started." As a Puerto Rican I wanted to

learn more of life in Puerto Rico during the 19th century and in particular about slavery. This book certainly was beneficial in my search. I am still reading it and learning. Excellent choice!  
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great  
By LunaLady I am doing some geneological research and this book was a must have. Great information  
2 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Don't buy off the title alone  
By Nessadi I recently found out that my ancestors who came from Puerto Rico were former slaves. Most of them including the ones that were not slaves all worked on sugar cane farms/ranches. I was really intrigued by this new info. wanted to learn more about it. For this reason I purchased this book. However, I was misled by the title. Although there is a great deal of information on the sugar cane industry with the connection of slavery in PR. This book is more of a research book on the sugar revolution how it impacted slavery. Loaded with statics related research from other authors. From now on, I will generally avoid books written by academicians because their writing style is usually turgid, wordy devoid of life. This book gave some but little info. on the type of lives slaves lived back then in PR. It really didn't jump into what the life of a slave-holder or a slave back then, which is what I was looking for. I was kind of disappointed.

The contributions of the black population to the history and economic development of Puerto Rico have long been distorted and underplayed, Luis A. Figueroa contends. Focusing on the southeastern coastal region of Guayama, one of Puerto Rico's three leading centers of sugarcane agriculture, Figueroa examines the transition from slavery and slave labor to freedom and free labor after the 1873 abolition of slavery in colonial Puerto Rico. He corrects misconceptions about how ex-slaves went about building their lives and livelihoods after emancipation and debunks standing myths about race relations in Puerto Rico. Historians have assumed that after emancipation in Puerto Rico, as in other parts of the Caribbean and the U.S. South, former slaves acquired some land of their own and became subsistence farmers. Figueroa finds that in Puerto Rico, however, this was not an option because both capital and land available for sale to the Afro-Puerto Rican population were scarce. Paying particular attention to class, gender, and race, his account of how these *libertos* joined the labor market profoundly revises our understanding of the emancipation process and the evolution of the working class in Puerto Rico.

Compelling. . . . Clearly provides important evidence to the hypothesis on racial/class exclusion of black Puerto Ricans.--CENTRO Journal This study enriches our understanding of topics long overlooked within both the island and the region's historiography.--The Americas  
Sugar, Slavery, and Freedom in Nineteenth-Century Puerto Rico has opened a new window from which to peer into the underexplored social, economic, and political world of the enslaved and *libertas/os*.--Colonial Latin American Historical An illuminating microinvestigation of the much wider and diverse phenomenon in the Americas of the transition from slavery and slave labor to freedom and free labor. This thoughtful analysis arrives at finely nuanced, textured, and empirically grounded conclusions by exploring the roles of such societal forces as class, gender, and race in shaping new contexts and environments after emancipation.--David Barry Gaspar, Duke University This well written story of Guayama's slavery and post-emancipation experience fulfills expectations. It not only enhances our understanding of the regional map of sugar and slavery in nineteenth-century Puerto Rico, but is a welcome invitation to overcome the vague depiction of slavery and its aftermath that still prevails in the memory of the people of this island.--New West Indian Guide The reconstruction of the process of emancipation and its aftermath presented in this book simply has no parallel with anything ever published about Puerto Rico in either English or Spanish. It is a landmark work in the scholarship of the Caribbean. The questions Figueroa asks violate a number of taboos existing in Puerto Rican culture about a supposed heritage of racial democracy. The answers provided debunk--permanently, I believe--standing myths about race relations in Puerto Rico.--Cesar J. Ayala, University of California, Los Angeles Provides a richer and more complex portrait of the rural and urban coastal proletariat in Puerto Rico. . . . Should be compulsory reading for anyone interested in the study of slavery, emancipation, race relations, and the relationship between race and national formation in the Americas.--Journal of Colonialism and Colonial History An incredibly well-researched study. . . . Students and scholars of the Atlantic World . . . will benefit.--The Latin Americanist From the Inside Flap Focusing on Puerto Rico's southeastern coastal region of Guayama, a leading center of sugar cane agriculture, Figueroa examines the transition from slave labor to free labor after the 1873 abolition of slavery in colonial Puerto Rico. Arguing that the black population and their contributions to the economic health of Puerto Rico have been distorted and underplayed, he corrects misconceptions about what ex-slaves did after emancipation and debunks standing myths about race relations in Puerto Rico.