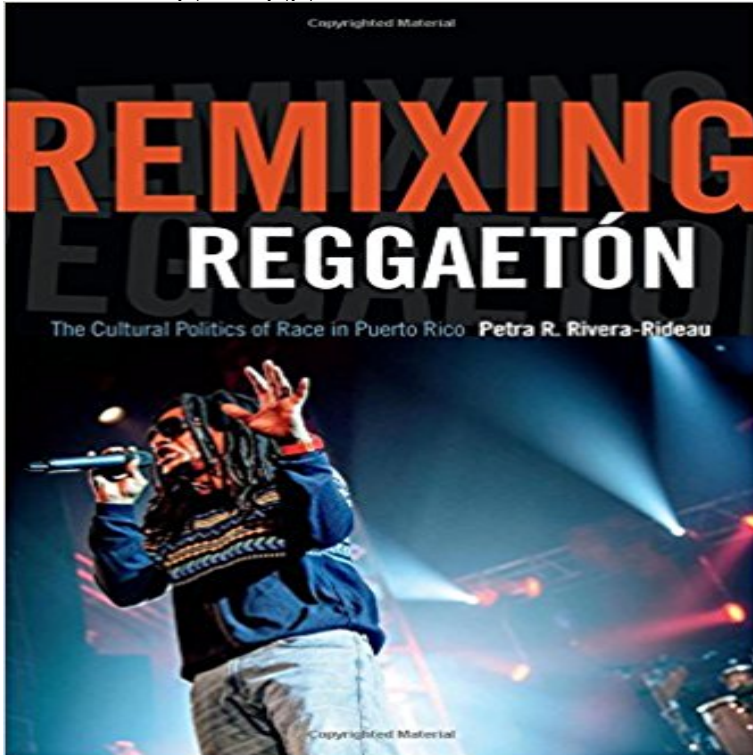


Remixing Reggaeton: The Cultural Politics of Race in Puerto Rico



Puerto Rico is often depicted as a racial democracy in which a history of race mixture has produced a racially harmonious society. In *Remixing Reggaeton*, Petra R. Rivera-Rideau shows how reggaeton musicians critique racial democracies privileging of whiteness and concealment of racism by expressing identities that center blackness and African diasporic belonging. Stars such as Tego Calderon criticize the Puerto Rican mainstreams tendency to praise black culture but neglecting and marginalizing the islands black population, while Ivy Queen, the genres most visible woman, disrupts the associations between whiteness and respectability that support official discourses of racial democracy. From censorship campaigns on the island that sought to devalue reggaeton, to its subsequent mass marketing to U.S. Latino listeners, Rivera-Rideau traces reggaetons origins and its transformation from the music of San Juans slums into a global pop phenomenon. Reggaeton, she demonstrates, provides a language to speak about the black presence in Puerto Rico and a way to build links between the island and the African diaspora.

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