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Edited and translated by Payling Layre Alberta, Coorga Raid

Edited and translated by Paulina Laura Alberto , George Reid Andrews , Jesse Hoffnung-Garskof Frontmatter

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Voices of the Race

Voices of the Race offers English translations of more than one hundred articles published in Black newspapers in Argentina, Brazil, Cuba, and Uruguay from 1870 to 1960. Those publications were as important in Black community and intellectual life in Latin America as African American newspapers were in the United States, yet they are almost completely unknown to English-language readers. Expertly curated, the articles are organized into chapters centered on themes that emerged in the Black press: politics and citizenship, racism and anti-racism, family and education, community life, women, Africa and African culture, diaspora and Black internationalism, and arts and literature. Each chapter includes an introduction explaining how discussions on those topics evolved over time, and a list of questions to provoke further reflection. Each article is carefully edited and annotated; footnotes and a glossary explain names, events, and other references that will be unfamiliar to English-language readers. A unique, fascinating insight into the rich body of Black cultural and intellectual production across Latin America.

Paulina Laura Alberto is Professor of History, Spanish, and Portuguese at the University of Michigan. She is the author of Black Legend: The Many Lives of Raúl Grigera and the Power of Racial Storytelling in Argentina.

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Voices of the Race

Black Newspapers in Latin America, 1870-1960

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To the writers and readers of Latin America's Black press – past, present, and future



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Acknowledgments

From 2016 to 2018, the three of us participated in the preparation of an edited volume that included, among others, a seminal essay by Frank Guridy and Juliet Hooker on Black political and social thought in Latin America. As they sketched the broad outlines of that body of writing, Guridy and Hooker also noted, with regret, how little of it was available to English-language readers. That observation struck a very strong chord with each of us. Having spent years doing research on Black newspapers in Argentina, Brazil, Cuba, and Uruguay, we knew what a rich and concentrated lode of cultural and intellectual production they contained. And so the idea arose of introducing North American readers to those newspapers by translating a selection of their articles and features. Much work still remains to be done to make the words of Afro-Latin American thinkers accessible beyond their national languages and contexts, including within Latin America itself.

Little did we know, when we began this project, how many debts we would accrue along the way. Even with the widespread digital availability of most of our sources, this book would never have materialized without the generosity and support of countless individuals. Our absolute dependence on the goodwill of friends, colleagues, acquaintances, and strangers became especially clear as the original project to select, translate, and annotate these articles from Latin America's Black press generated a parallel project to identify and locate the descendants of many of these authors in the search for permissions. Even as the scope of that second project expanded to daunting dimensions (exacerbated by the difficulties

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¹ Guridy and Hooker, "Currents in Afro-Latin American Political and Social Thought."



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of travel and communication in a global pandemic), it afforded us the opportunity to be in touch with many of the descendants of these writers and with scholars and activists. These individuals not only mobilized to lend a hand at an immensely difficult time for their families and societies, but their responses stirred our hope that this book would help further the anti-racist struggles joined by Afro-Latin American authors in decades and centuries past. We would like to express our deepest gratitude to all the people named here, as well as many more who surely collaborated behind the scenes without our knowledge.

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All royalties from *Voices of the Race* will go toward supporting Afrodescendant organizations in those four countries.



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A Note on the Text

Throughout this book, readers will find explanatory footnotes for people, places, concepts, and events that may be unfamiliar. Terms that appear in more than one article are rendered in **boldface** on first appearance within each headnote and article. Full definitions for these terms can be found in the Glossary at the end of this book. Many Spanish and Portuguese racial terms, left untranslated and set in italics throughout the book, are also explained in the Glossary.

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