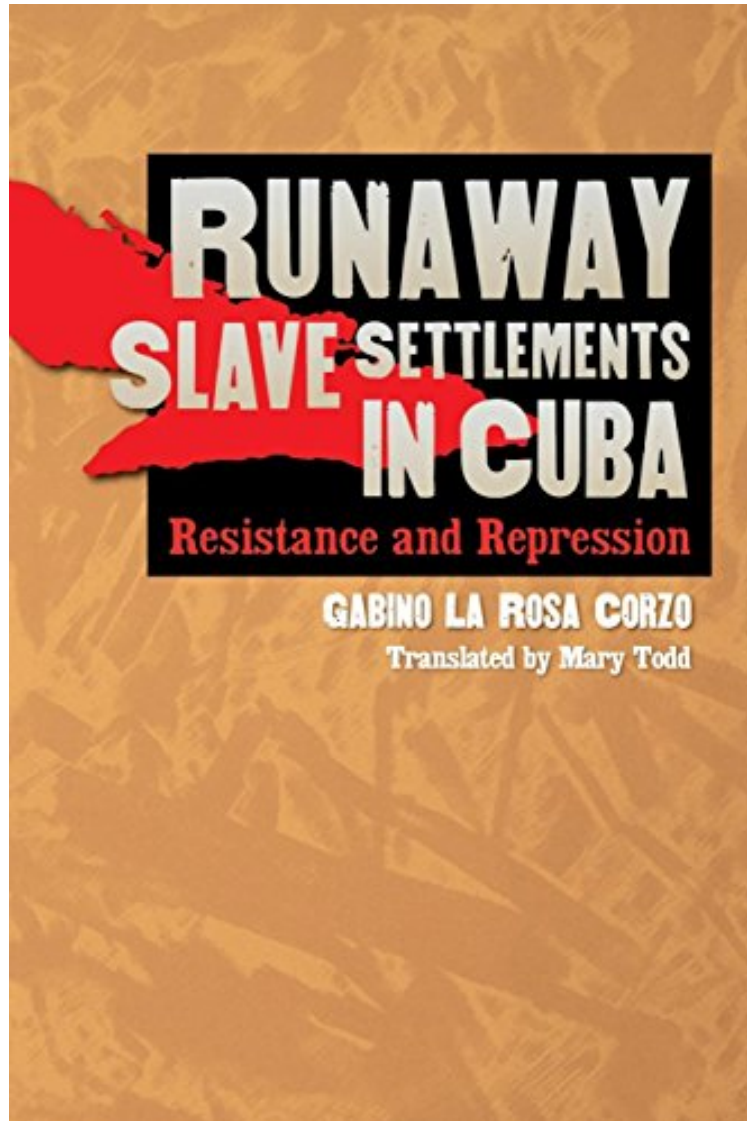


[Free pdf] Runaway Slave Settlements in Cuba: Resistance and Repression

Runaway Slave Settlements in Cuba: Resistance and Repression

Gabino LA Rosa Corzo, Mary Todd
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Gabino LA Rosa Corzo, Mary Todd : Runaway Slave Settlements in Cuba: Resistance and Repression before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Runaway Slave Settlements in Cuba: Resistance and Repression:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Review and additional dataBy Laurence DaleyLa Rosa Corzo, Gabino (translated by Mary Todd) [1988] 2003 Runaway Slave Settlements in Cuba: Resistance and Repression University of North Carolina Press, Chapel HillThis is an excellent book, but not unflawed. One can be a little put off

by the author's acerbic criticism of previous authors' use of oral histories especially since he uses such in his own book. However one must also recognize the need of the author given his location and circumstance to occasionally mouth the official Castro "socialist" line, and take the approved side in the African-Indigenous Cuban Siboney conflict. Such a stance is necessary to allow him access to Cuban government archives, and keep his job. Below I discuss some other minor quibbles of mine. Mary Todd's translations are at times a little inaccurate, e.g. apparently translating "guano" frond palm roofing as fan-palm thatch. However, as in the case of the author Dr. Todd has done an excellent job and as such should be congratulated. Overall this is a very valuable book, and it has taught me much. I did not know about Cuban history. All this aside Figure 15, pp. 94-95 in paper back edition, show a detailed map of Don Benjamin's holdings between the Bayamo and the Guisa Rivers. This figure illustrates the 1848 "escaped slave hunting" raids of Eduardo Busquet and Antonio Lora. One can note, all though I did not see it in this book, that in the Cuban *güajiro* vernacular palenque can also be the enclosure, the arena or cockpit, inside the valla the cockfighting hut, where the gamecocks fight (Lionel Daley, personal communication 2005). This of course relates to the karst rock "cockpit" country in Jamaica where the Maroons, or groups of escaped slaves of Jamaica held corresponding sway. Maroon of course is derived from the Spanish *Cimarrón*. I can interpret this map to show a "palenque" (escaped slave settlements that were to fortified variable extent and are considered African in Origin) indicated as open square on the map and placed in a position corresponding to the height of a cliff of the west side of the Guamá River (the one that flows south the join the Bayamo River) perhaps a few hundred yards from Paso Caimanes; another coming up what is now El Banqueo del Oro as closed triangle supposedly at the height of the Bayamesa. However, since this first site is too close to the house of Don Benjamin, it is very possible that the site of the first camp was a few miles further south, up the Arroyón Valley which has a hidden stream (Tío Mingo Stream). Even so the relatively close location of either of these sites implies a relationship between these *Cimarrón* and Don Benjamín Ramírez. The third camp (closed triangle) is at the origins of the Guamá del Sur Torrent, however this map does not show that the Guamá River also rises further south than the Guamá del Sur Torrent. This location is approximately the place where Great grandfather Mambí Colonel Don Benjamín Ramírez (Rondón) prefect of the zone in the Ten Year War held camp. And if this is so this is place where Great Grandmother Leonela Enamorado Cabrera met about 1873 Mayor General Calixto Ramón García-Iñiguez and conceived grandfather Mambí (War of 1895) Brigadier General to be Calixto (García-Iñiguez) Enamorado [...]. It may also, with less certainty, be the place where Carlos Manuel de Cespedés was deposed as President of the Cuban Independence Movement. Notice with great care the rivers at the head of the Bayamo, El Oro, La Plata y los Diablos. The Bayamito and Guamá Torrents to the South, once marked the south western and so eastern boundaries of Don Benjamín's land. Notice this map also shows Arroyón, the largest tributary of the lower Guamá, not the Tío Mingo Stream) and the Chorrerón or Salto de Guamá (unlabelled) and the Los Horneros (also unlabeled) where Francisco Maceo Osorio died of fever soon after the Céspedes trial. This could be taken to indicate that the *Cimarróns* or escaped slaves had strong connections to the Siboney of the area, and fits the known fact that many members of both ethnicities participated in the Wars of Independence against Spain. The author on the other hand while he does mention some links and allows inference of other, perhaps because of ideological reasons does not tie the *Cimarrón* as close to the Siboney (Taíno, Island Arawak) as is indicated by Jose Barreiro's photographs of modern Taíno might justify. The book also mentions the tradition of dispersion of rural housing in the area, some tactics and the use of what are now known as "punji": sticks in guerrilla defense. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Well done By Ken McCarthy If you're interested in this subject this is an extremely well done scholarly treatment of it. Thorough analysis of the available historical records. Sheds light on the truth about slavery in Cuba and elsewhere. There was resistance and in some cases, it was successful as escapees created - and protected - their own free communities beyond the reach of the slavery industry.

Combining archaeological and historical methods, Gabino La Rosa Corzo provides the most detailed and accurate available account of the runaway slave settlements (palenques) that formed in the inaccessible mountain chains of eastern Cuba from 1737 to 1850, decades before the end of slavery on the island. The traces that remain of these communities provide important clues to historical processes such as slave resistance and emancipation, anticolonial insurgency, and the emergence of a free peasantry. Some of the communities developed into thriving towns that still exist today. La Rosa challenges the claims of previous scholars and demonstrates how romanticized the communities have become in historical memory. In part by using detailed maps drawn on site, La Rosa shows that palenques were smaller and fewer in number than previously thought and they contained mostly local, rather than long-distance, fugitives. In addition, the residents were less aggressive and violent than myth holds, often preferring to flee rather than fight a system of oppression that was even more effective and organized than generally supposed. La Rosa's study illuminates many social and economic issues related to the African diaspora in the Caribbean, with particular focus on slavery, resistance, and independence. This translation makes the book available in English for the first time.

"Comprehensively detailed and solidly substantiated, it is a powerful model of excellent research and clear writing. (Franklin W. Knight, author of "Slave Society in Cuba during the Nineteenth Century")" La Rosa Corzo sketches in a

cogent new overview of the chronology and trajectory of Cuban slave resistance that offers a useful critique of previous writing and carries the subject to a new level. (David Geggus, University of Florida)" This is a solidly researched and original work that makes an important contribution to the study of resistance to slavery. Although focusing on the peculiar features of resistance and repression in Cuba's Oriente province, Gabino La Rosa Corzo sketches in a cogent new overview of the chronology and trajectory of Cuban slave resistance that offers a useful critique of previous writing and carries the subject to a new level. He combines archaeology, oral history, and hitherto unused diaries of slavecatchers to explain the evolution and demise of cimarronaje and its interaction with government repression. It is a dramatic story of the increasingly relentless hunt through difficult terrain of people seeking freedom and surviving by their wits.--David Geggus, University of Florida

Culling a wealth of information from 28 slave hunters' diaries . . . the author . . . offers new insights into escaped slave communities as a form of resistance. . . . The rich analysis and detailed descriptions make this book an invaluable contribution for understanding nineteenth-century Cuba.--Americas

A notable effort. . . . Addresses relatively unknown aspects of slavery with a refined, complete, and interdisciplinary methodology that combines the tools of history, anthropology, archaeology, and contributes new knowledge to all three. . . . An excellent and important study.--H-Atlantic

This book provides uniquely rich information on the social structure, demography, geography, and housing patterns as well as the variety of agricultural activities of the maroon communities of eastern Cuba. Comprehensively detailed and solidly substantiated, it is a powerful model of excellent research and clear writing.--Franklin W. Knight, Johns Hopkins University

Contributes to scholarly understanding of not only the nature of slavery, but the ethnic identity of those slaves who lived in these settlements.--Choice

This is a detailed and well-informed study that helpfully contributes to the understanding of slave resistance and marronage.--American Historical

About the Author Gabino La Rosa Corzo is a researcher at the Center for Anthropological Study at the University of Havana. Translator Mary Todd lives in Havana.