



Image: "Hispaniola Saga"
Edouard Duval Carrié

LECTURE

MANUFACTURING PRECARITY IN HISPANIOLA
THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF *LA SENTENCIA* AND HAITIAN
IMMIGRANTS' RIGHTS IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

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La Sentencia, the decision to strip Dominican nationality away from generations of Dominican-born residents of Haitian ancestry, is best understood as related to two intertwined processes: the transformation of the Dominican economy and Haiti's increased dependency on the Dominican Republic and a reassertion of Dominican sovereignty over the country's immigration regime. The talk provides a brief overview of the economic changes that have swept across Hispaniola over the past few decades and will demonstrate how the Dominican Republic, in particular, forcibly made labor a more flexible and vulnerable commodity as the state shifted from agricultural export to export-driven manufacturing and service industries. One way that the Dominican state asserted its control over labor was through immigration reform and by assertions of state sovereignty over its immigration regime. As this paper will show, however, the argument for state sovereignty over immigration was enacted through the politics of precarity, this time, the precarity occasioned by statelessness and the loss of citizenship.