Rethinking Baseball in the Dominican Republic

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Beginning of Modern Baseball
• From introduction by Cubans in late 1800s, Dominican baseball marked by sovereignty and lack of outside influence
• 1956–Ozzie Virgil first Dominican player to play in the Major Leagues
• Free agency and academy system in 1980s changed everything

Baseball academy = colonial outpost (Klein 1989)
• American hegemony in the name of capitalism
“locating resources, refining them for consumption abroad” (Klein 1989)
“pieces of exported fruit” (Vargas 2000)
“Would it be tolerated if underprivileged Americans were treated by Major League Baseball the way Latinos are?” (Vargas 2000)

Cultural Resistance
• Superstars like Sammy Sosa, David Ortiz, and Albert Pujols reclaims Dominican identity with their success and passion for the game
National pride is an “antidote” to hegemonic processes (Klein 1995)

Future
• Dominicans fight for equal treatment as MLB attempts to maintain control
• International signing bonus pool and other proposals

References: