



# Raceball: How the Major Leagues Colonized the Black and Latin Game

By Rob Ruck

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**Raceball: How the Major Leagues Colonized the Black and Latin Game** By Rob Ruck

**From an award-winning writer, the first linked history of African Americans and Latinos in Major League Baseball**

After peaking at 27 percent of all major leaguers in 1975, African Americans now make up less than one-tenth--a decline unimaginable in other men's pro sports. The number of Latin Americans, by contrast, has exploded to over one-quarter of all major leaguers and roughly half of those playing in the minors. Award-winning historian Rob Ruck not only explains the catalyst for this sea change; he also breaks down the consequences that cut across society. Integration cost black and Caribbean societies control over their own sporting lives, changing the meaning of the sport, but not always for the better. While it channeled black and Latino athletes into major league baseball, integration did little for the communities they left behind.

By looking at this history from the vantage point of black America and the Caribbean, a more complex story comes into focus, one largely missing from traditional narratives of baseball's history. *Raceball* unveils a fresh and stunning truth: baseball has never been stronger as a business, never weaker as a game.

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### Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Ruck (*The Tropic of Baseball*) states the cold, hard facts of the Major Leagues' racist history, its vast economic benefits from the demolition of the once-proud Negro Leagues, and the current Latin player influx in his new book. Ruck, a professor at the University of Pittsburgh, explores how baseball fever spread through Cuba, the Dominican Republic, and other Latin countries. He traces the forgotten link between the great Negro baseball stars, including Satchel Paige and Josh Gibson, and their Caribbean counterparts touring outside the U.S. before appreciative fans in the 1940s. Neither the Negro nor Latin player desired playing stateside because of the rigid Jim Crow laws, until the end of WWII, when America broke the color barrier with Jackie Robinson's entry to the big leagues. Ruck's gutsy account of this major sport with a tarnished past is thought provoking, arguing that "the integration of Black America has cost the price of its soul plus a crucial part of its social cohesion." (Mar.)

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### Review

"*Raceball* proves that Ruck remains at the top of his game. Incorporating personal interviews with many former players and personalities, such as Harold Tinker, Ted Page, Mal Goode, and August Wilson, who have since passed away, Ruck relies on their voices from the grave and his deep knowledge of black and Latin baseball to make his narrative truly sing."—Brad Snyder, author of *A Well-Paid Slave*

"One of our greatest historians of sport has given us a gift for the ages: a history of baseball that captures its multicultural dynamics in original and profoundly illuminating ways."—Marcus Rediker, author of *The Slave Ship*

"A profound look at why Latinos have replaced African American baseball players, helping the reader understand the game as a business. Definitely a must-read for those who love the game, regardless of origin, race, or ethnicity."—Juan Marichal, MLB Hall of Famer

"Some are well-versed when it comes to the Negro Leagues. Others are aficionados about the rise of Latinos in baseball. But Rob Ruck is one of the few writers who can be called an expert in both fields. Perceptive and insightful, *Raceball* is a pleasure to read."—Tim Wendel, author of *The New Face of Baseball* and *High Heat*

"One of our greatest historians of sport has given us a gift for the ages: a history of baseball that captures its multicultural dynamics in original and profoundly illuminating ways. Synthesizing a lifetime of pathbreaking research, *Raceball* presents a brilliant new account—in black, white, and brown—of what can no longer be regarded as merely the national game."—Marcus Rediker, author of *The Slave Ship*

### About the Author

**Rob Ruck** teaches at the University of Pittsburgh. Author of *Sandlot Seasons: Sport in Black Pittsburgh* and *The Tropic of Baseball: Baseball in the Dominican Republic*, he made the Emmy Award-winning documentary *Kings on the Hill: Baseball's Forgotten Men*. He lives in Pittsburgh with his wife, Maggie Patterson, his coauthor for *Rooney: A Sporting Life*.

*From the Hardcover edition.*

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Charles Cushman:**

The actual book *Raceball: How the Major Leagues Colonized the Black and Latin Game* will bring that you the new experience of reading some sort of book. The author style to clarify the idea is very unique. When you try to find new book to learn, this book very suitable to you. The book *Raceball: How the Major Leagues Colonized the Black and Latin Game* is much recommended to you to learn. You can also get the e-book from official web site, so you can more readily to read the book.

#### **Amanda Haskin:**

A lot of people always spent their free time to vacation as well as go to the outside with them family members or their friend. Are you aware? Many a lot of people spent they free time just watching TV, or even playing video games all day long. If you want to try to find a new activity that is look different you can read a book. It is really fun to suit your needs. If you enjoy the book that you simply read you can spent all day long to reading a e-book. The book *Raceball: How the Major Leagues Colonized the Black and Latin Game* it is rather good to read. There are a lot of people that recommended this book. We were holding enjoying reading this book. If you did not have enough space to create this book you can buy typically the e-book. You can m0ore simply to read this book from a smart phone. The price is not to cover but this book features high quality.

#### **Rolanda Parker:**

People live in this new time of lifestyle always aim to and must have the extra time or they will get lot of stress from both day to day life and work. So , whenever we ask do people have time, we will say absolutely yes. People is human not really a robot. Then we inquire again, what kind of activity are there when the spare time coming to a person of course your answer will unlimited right. Then ever try this one, reading guides. It can be your alternative throughout spending your spare time, the actual book you have read is usually *Raceball: How the Major Leagues Colonized the Black and Latin Game*.

#### **Patrick Cartwright:**

In this particular era which is the greater particular person or who has ability in doing something more are more valuable than other. Do you want to become one of it? It is just simple solution to have that. What you need to do is just spending your time very little but quite enough to enjoy a look at some books. Among the books in the top list in your reading list will be *Raceball: How the Major Leagues Colonized the Black and Latin Game*. This book which is qualified as *The Hungry Slopes* can get you closer in growing to be precious person. By looking up and review this publication you can get many advantages.

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