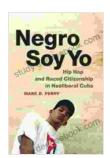
# **Hip Hop and Racialized Citizenship in Neoliberal Cuba: Refiguring American Music**



Negro Soy Yo: Hip Hop and Raced Citizenship in **Neoliberal Cuba (Refiguring American Music)** 

by Marc D. Perry



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Hip hop music has become a global phenomenon, and its influence can be felt in every corner of the world. In Cuba, hip hop has emerged as a powerful force for social and cultural change. It has become a vehicle for young Cubans to express their experiences of racial discrimination and exclusion, and it has contributed to the formation of a new, more inclusive Cuban identity.

This article examines the role of hip hop music in shaping racialized citizenship in neoliberal Cuba. It explores how hip hop has become a site of resistance to racial inequality and how it has helped to create a new space for Cuban youth to express their voices.

#### **Hip Hop and Racialized Citizenship**

Racialized citizenship is a concept that refers to the ways in which race and citizenship are intertwined. In many societies, people of color are denied full citizenship rights and are subjected to discrimination and exclusion. Hip hop music has emerged as a powerful force for challenging racialized citizenship and promoting social justice.

In Cuba, hip hop has become a vehicle for young Cubans to express their experiences of racial discrimination. Many hip hop artists in Cuba come from marginalized communities, and their music reflects the realities of life for people of color in Cuba. They rap about racism, poverty, and police brutality, and they challenge the government's policies that perpetuate inequality.

Hip hop has also become a space for young Cubans to express their Cuban identity. In a country that has been shaped by both African and European influences, hip hop provides a unique platform for Cubans to celebrate their diverse heritage. Hip hop artists in Cuba fuse traditional Cuban rhythms with hip hop beats, and they rap in both Spanish and English. Their music reflects the complex and multifaceted nature of Cuban identity, and it challenges the narrow definitions of Cubanidad that have been imposed by the government.

#### **Hip Hop and Neoliberalism**

Neoliberalism is a political and economic ideology that emphasizes the free market and deregulation. It has been implemented in Cuba since the 1990s, and it has led to significant changes in the country's economy and society.

Neoliberalism has had a profound impact on the lives of young Cubans. It has led to increased unemployment and poverty, and it has made it more difficult for young people to access education and healthcare. Hip hop music has emerged as a response to the challenges that young Cubans face under neoliberalism.

Hip hop artists in Cuba rap about the negative effects of neoliberalism on their lives. They criticize the government's austerity policies, and they call for a more just and equitable society. Hip hop has become a space for young Cubans to express their frustrations and to demand change.

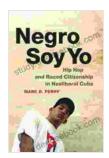
#### **Hip Hop and the Future of Cuba**

Hip hop music is playing a vital role in shaping the future of Cuba. It is a force for social and cultural change, and it is helping to create a new, more inclusive Cuban identity. Hip hop artists in Cuba are challenging racial inequality and neoliberalism, and they are providing a voice for the marginalized.

The future of Cuba is uncertain, but hip hop music offers a glimmer of hope. It is a music of resistance and resilience, and it is a reminder that even in the most difficult of times, people can find ways to express themselves and to fight for their rights.

Hip hop music has become a global phenomenon, and its influence can be felt in every corner of the world. In Cuba, hip hop has emerged as a powerful force for social and cultural change. It has become a vehicle for young Cubans to express their experiences of racial discrimination and exclusion, and it has contributed to the formation of a new, more inclusive Cuban identity.

Hip hop music is a force for good in the world. It is a music of resistance and resilience, and it is a reminder that even in the most difficult of times, people can find ways to express themselves and to fight for their rights.



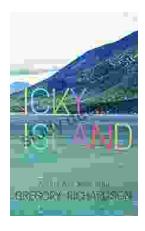
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