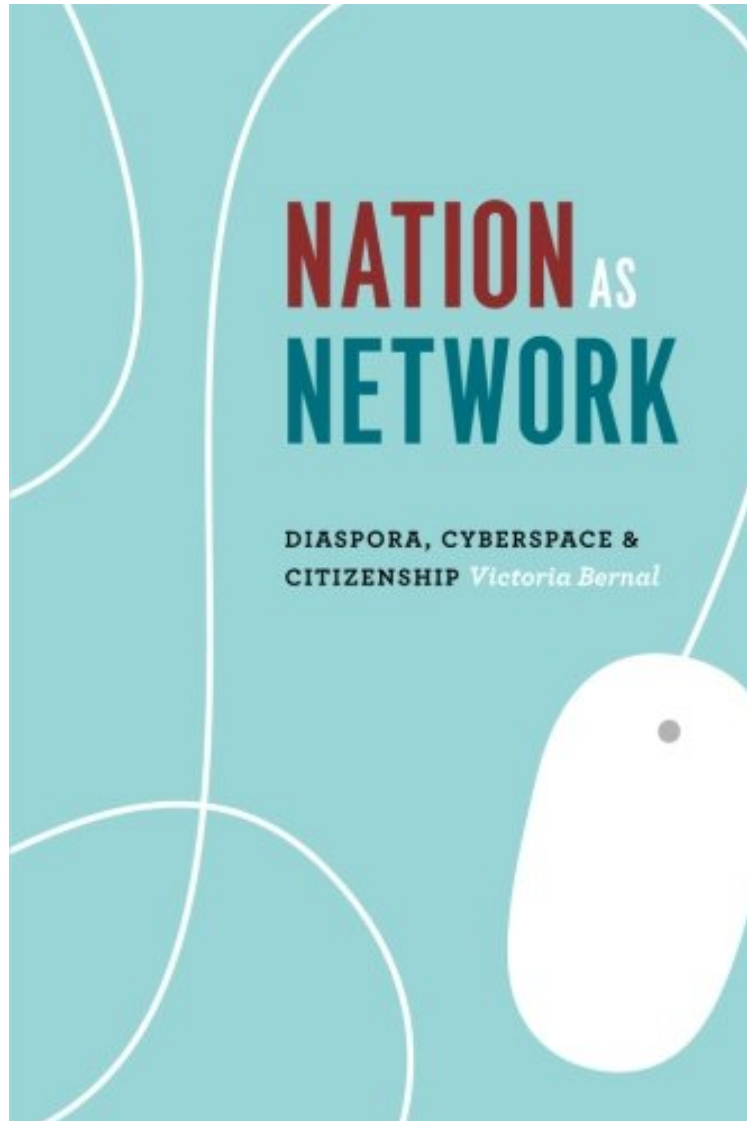


(Mobile pdf) Nation as Network: Diaspora, Cyberspace, and Citizenship

Nation as Network: Diaspora, Cyberspace, and Citizenship

Victoria Bernal

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Victoria Bernal : Nation as Network: Diaspora, Cyberspace, and Citizenship before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Nation as Network: Diaspora, Cyberspace, and Citizenship:

How is the internet transforming the relationships between citizens and states? What happens to politics when international migration is coupled with digital media, making it easy for people to be politically active in a nation from outside its borders? In *Nation as Network*, Victoria Bernal creatively combines media studies, ethnography, and African studies to explore this new political paradigm through a striking analysis of how Eritreans in diaspora have used the internet to shape the course of Eritrean history. Bernal argues that Benedict Anderson's famous concept of nations as imagined communities must now be rethought because diasporas and information technologies have transformed the ways nations are sustained and challenged. She traces the development of Eritrean diaspora websites over two turbulent decades that saw the Eritrean state grow ever more tyrannical. Through Eritreans' own words in posts and debates, she reveals how new subjectivities are formed and political action is galvanized online. She suggests that infopolitics struggles over the management of information make politics in the 21st century distinct, and she analyzes the innovative ways Eritreans deploy the internet to support and subvert state power. *Nation as Network* is a unique and compelling work that advances our understanding of the political significance of digital media.

In the study of nationalism today, Eritrea presents us with an intriguing case, both because of its intensity and because of its grounding in a spatially dispersed but digitally networked diaspora. *Nation as Network* offers an insightful analysis of this case, documenting in fascinating ways both emerging new forms of citizenship and the changing contours of the Eritrean public sphere. This book is an impressive contribution to our understanding of a vitally important contemporary topic.