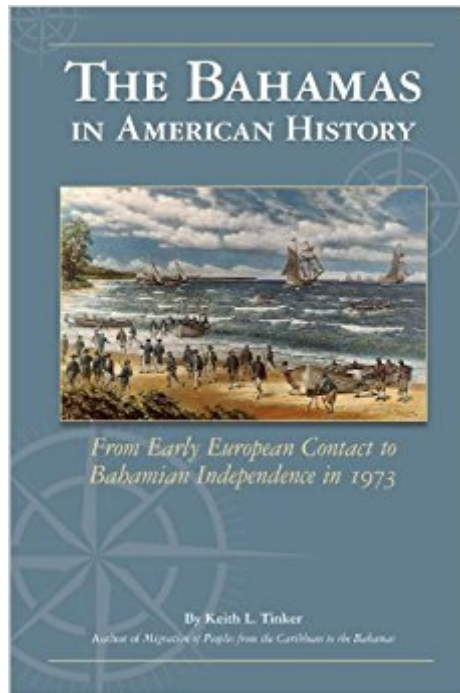




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The Bahamas In American History



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Customer Reviews

Still preparing for the cruise, I am trying to learn about the places I will visit. Having read Peter Barratt's Bahama Saga I chose the Kindle version of this title for some balance. Tinker is well worth the read and more straight forward than the Barratt's fictionalized title. The focus is on the relationship between the United States and the Bahamas. After describing the early colonization of the island Tinker provides a lot of detail on the Revolutionary war. Little did I realize that the first action of our fledgling navy was in the Bahamas. Rather a no brainer that hordes of the Crown loyal Americans would flood to the islands at the end of the conflict. Tinker puts the age of piracy in perspective. There is a repeating theme on how vital "wrecking" and it's nearly moral equivalent of piracy are to the Bahamian economy. The location of the islands, in the middle of (almost in the way of) trade routes is almost too perfect a coincidence to encourage such activity. The intrigue of the American Civil War marries the experience of piracy with blockade running. Although Great Britain outlaws slavery in the 1830's, there is much southern sympathy among locals. If you haven't noticed a recurring theme yet, others wars serve the Bahamian economy well. The sun continues to set quietly on the hammocks until Prohibition once again affords the opportunity for profits to the south. Proximity again provides the opportunity for profit as spirits freely flow but along with unwanted criminal influences. Another recurring theme is the drain of the population by opportunities on the mainland. I found the chapter on migration particularly interesting providing details about New Deal programs I was totally unaware.

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