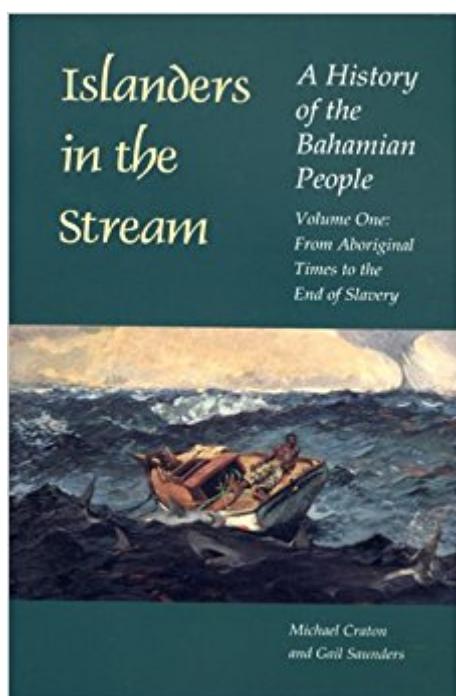


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Islanders In The Stream: A History Of The Bahamian People: Volume One: From Aboriginal Times To The End Of Slavery



Synopsis

From two leading historians of Bahamian history comes this groundbreaking work on a unique archipelagic nation. *Islanders in the Stream* is not only the first comprehensive chronicle of the Bahamian people, it is also the first work of its kind and scale for any Caribbean nation. This comprehensive volume details the full, extraordinary history of all the people who have ever inhabited the islands and explains the evolution of a Bahamian national identity within the framework of neighboring territories in similar circumstances. Divided into three sections, this volume covers the period from aboriginal times to the end of formal slavery in 1838. The first part includes authoritative accounts of Columbus' first landfall in the New World on San Salvador island, his voyage through the Bahamas, and the ensuing disastrous collision of European and native Arawak cultures. Covering the islands' initial settlement, the second section ranges from the initial European incursions and the first English settlements through the lawless era of pirate misrule to Britain's official takeover and development of the colony in the eighteenth century. The third, and largest, section offers a full analysis of Bahamian slave society through the great influx of Empire Loyalists and their slaves at the end of the American Revolution to the purported achievement of full freedom for the slaves in 1838. This work is both a pioneering social history and a richly illustrated narrative modifying previous Eurocentric interpretations of the islands' early history. Written to appeal to Bahamians as well as all those interested in Caribbean history, *Islanders in the Stream* looks at the islands and their people in their fullest contexts, constituting not just the most thorough view of Bahamian history to date but a major contribution to Caribbean historiography.

Book Information

Series: *Islanders in the Stream* (Book 1)

Paperback: 496 pages

Publisher: University of Georgia Press (April 1, 1999)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0820321222

ISBN-13: 978-0820321226

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 1.2 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars See all reviews (3 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,201,012 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #15 in Books > History >

Americas > Caribbean & West Indies > Bahamas

Customer Reviews

As a veteran of five trips to the Bahamas with my wife, I would recommend this book as an in depth detailed historical work about the Bahamas. Many things in the book explain the modern make up of the Bahamas; such as English names from the American loyalists who arrived after the American Revolution and the mixed agricultural results which are still a problem today due to the difficulty of growing crops in very inhospitable soil. As mentioned in the book they grow pineapples on Eluthera brought there by some displaced Germans. (We had some of these pineapples and they are wonderfully sweet)! Unfortunatly the authors talk little about the Abacos which have at least as colorful a history as Eleuthera and I feel that is a minor negative. The coverage of the pirate era is very detailed and interesting while the records and descriptions of slavery paint a sad picture of that time.

The first volume is heavy on census analysis in later chapters. Otherwise, it's an eminently readable social history of Bahamian islanders to the formal end of slavery. Particularly fascinating and well-done are the opening chapters on Lucayan origins, lifeways, and ultimately fatal convergence with imperial Spain. The second volume of Craton's social history of Bahamians is immensely, intricately detailed--to the point that it's difficult for a casual reader to retain interest. Since it provides a wealth of statistical information and analyses of sociological trends, the book is probably best suited to dedicated scholars of Bahamian or Caribbean history. As a general overview of Bahamian history from the 1830s to the present, this book is likely too academic and detailed for the purpose.

Great book for research purposes. Thorough and interesting.

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