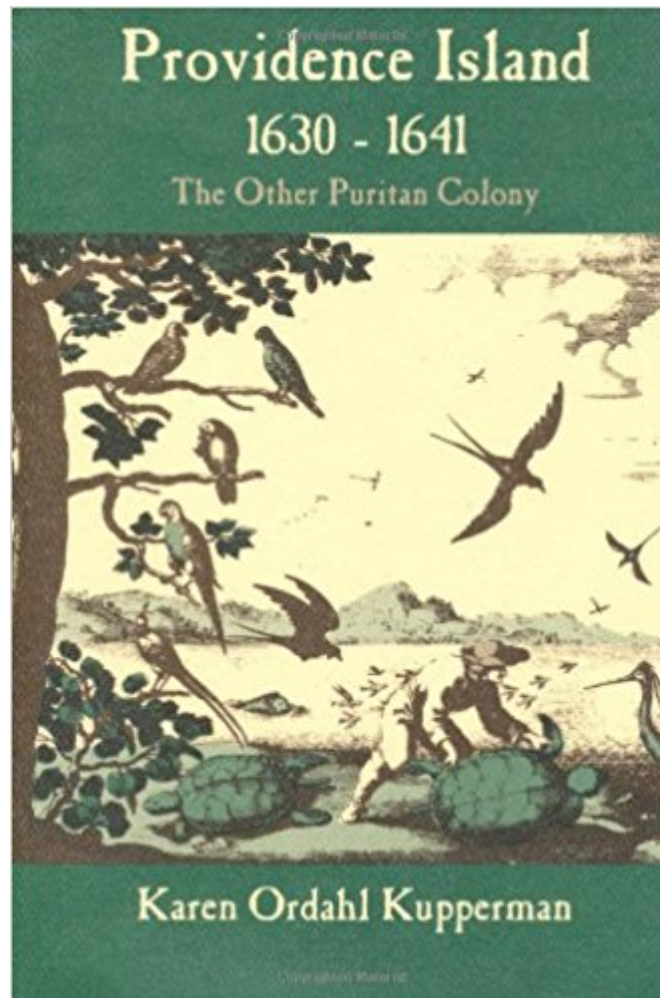




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Providence Island, 1630-1641: The Other Puritan Colony



Synopsis

Providence Island was founded in 1630 at the same time as Massachusetts Bay by English puritans who thought an island off the coast of Nicaragua was far more promising than the cold, rocky shores of New England. Although they expected theirs to become a model godly society, the settlement never succeeded in building the kind of united and orderly community that the New Englanders created. In fact, they began large-scale use of slaves, and plunged into the privateering that invited the colony's extinction by the Spanish in 1641. As a well-planned and well-financed failure, Providence Island offers historians a standard by which to judge other colonies. By examining the failure of Providence Island, the author illuminates the common characteristics in all the successful English settlements, the key institutions without which men and women would not emigrate and a colony's economy could not thrive. This study of Providence Island reveals the remarkable similarities in many basic institutions among the early colonial regions.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This work by Karen Ordahl Kupperman should be required reading for anyone interested in the roots of english "civilization" in the Americas. Kupperman pulls out of the dustbin of the archives the intriguing story of Providence Island, off the coast of central america & in the midst of then-powerful spanish colonies, to elucidate the motives of the puritan founding fathers. By so doing, Kupperman adds greatly to our often stereotyped insights about the differences between the "US" colonies (most notably, Massachusetts & Virginia), and the influence of environment, composition of migrants, & support from the home island. Kupperman also brought to my attention, for the first time

in so bold a way, the hooks between the puritan founding class & the englishman who overthrew Charles I & involved themselves, in one way or another, in the administration of Cromwell.

What can I say? It is a comprehensive coverage of the settlement and loss of Providence Island and of the people involved. Not a pretty history at times but interesting. Any one studying their "Rich" family heritage will be more than amply rewarded for reading the book. For others - it is an interesting and educational read.

I was not happy with the book. I expected more about the Island past during the 1700 and Captain Francis Archbold. Nothing was mention.

Interesting, though a bit disjointed in flow. I purchased the book to find out more about My ancestor, John Adcock, a settler. There was only one reference to him. Was hoping for details on the settlers, origins, their life and jobs on Providence Island, and what became of them.

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