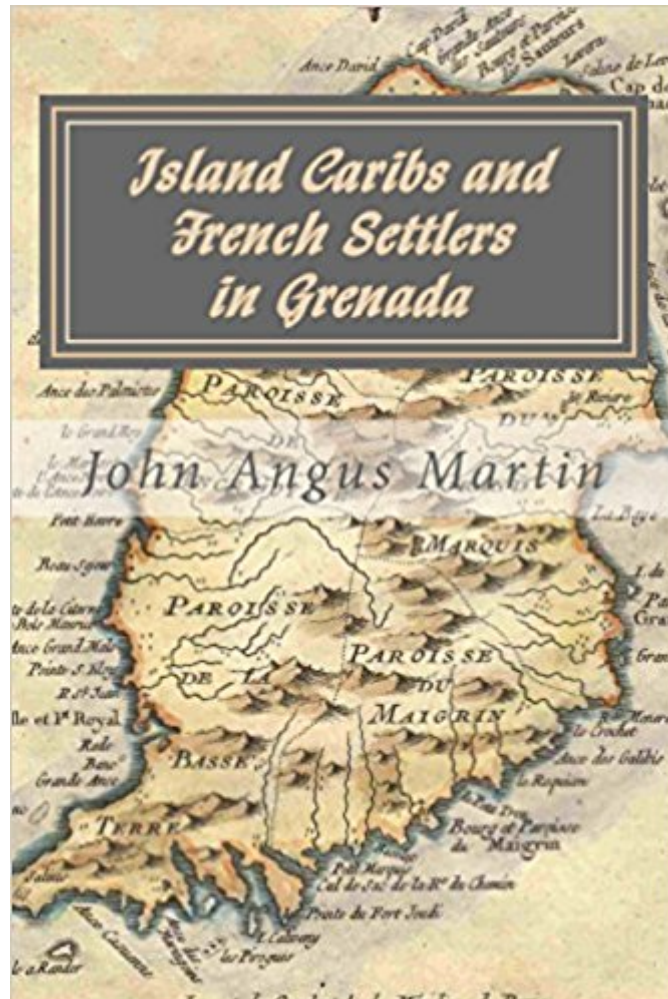


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Island Caribs And French Settlers In Grenada: 1498 - 1763



Synopsis

Island Caribs and French Settlers in Grenada, 1498-1763 is the first detailed look at the early modern history of Grenada and the Grenadines. Like the history after 1763, this period is quite intriguing and offers fascinating insights into many aspects of Caribbean history in general. Island Caribs and French Settlers in Grenada looks at the native Amerindian populations and their reactions to Spanish invasion of the region after 1498, the early European colonization of Grenada with the failed British attempt in 1609 and the successful French settlement in 1649, and the wars of subjugation and ultimately extermination of the native populations. It also chronicles the privateering and colonial wars among the Europeans, the trials of colonial development, the establishment of plantation agriculture, and the creation and growth of African chattel slavery and the impact on economic and social institutions. The 113 years of French colonization is analyzed and discussed in great detail. It is a testament to the French and the foundation that they built between 1649 and 1763 that the British were able to create a prosperous colonial economy in the decades after Grenada's cession in 1763.

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Customer Reviews

John Angus Martin's original research on the early days of the island of Grenada in the West Indies is the first history of its kind in one volume, retold with the Grenadian scholar's thoroughly enjoyable narrative. "Island Caribs and French Settlers in Grenada" takes the reader from the time of the Island Caribs, to the settling by the French, and on to the Treaty of Paris in 1763 when Grenada was ceded to the British. From the early naming of the island, the sighting of Grenada on Columbus' third voyage to the West Indies, and the Spanish conflicts with island Caribs, the history moves from the

1600s through the 1700s when "English and French colonists poured like flies upon the rotting carcass of Spain's empire in the Caribbean."The French were on the island of Grenada for about 117 years with one final census listing 300 plantations and 15,000 slaves. All French landholdings came under British rule in 1763 and despite official restrictions on the French citizenry; the French were permitted to remain. The French who stayed on Grenada brought benefit to the country as parts of French culture merged with the British, resulting in a richly melded heritage. One outstanding feature of the author's knowledge is his background in biological sciences and agricultural studies and experience. The gifts from the lands in Grenada in those early days - annatto, cocoa, coffee, cotton, ginger, indigo, sugar cane, tobacco and subsistence crops from the garden - are explained from their origin, location and conditions, planting with seeds, to the processing of the final product, import-export restrictions, taxes, and marketing. Common practices of everyday life are not ignored - disposal of "night soil" and sanitary conditions are not forgotten, for example.

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