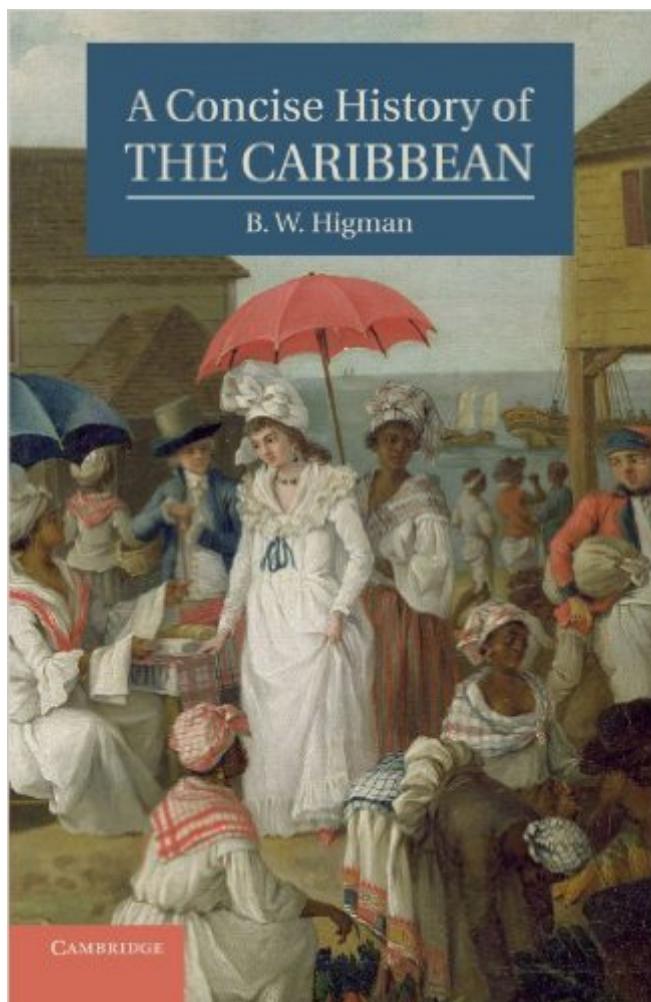


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A Concise History Of The Caribbean (Cambridge Concise Histories)



Synopsis

A Concise History of the Caribbean presents a general history of the Caribbean islands from the beginning of human settlement about seven thousand years ago to the present. It narrates processes of early human migration, the disastrous consequences of European colonization, the development of slavery and the slave trade, the extraordinary profits earned by the plantation economy, the great revolution in Haiti, movements toward political independence, the Cuban Revolution, and the diaspora of Caribbean people. Written in a lively and accessible style yet current with the most recent research, the book provides a compelling narrative of Caribbean history essential for students and visitors.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The Caribbean is a challenging place for which to write a regional history. The author of "A Concise History of the Caribbean", B.W. Higman, puts the reader on notice about this situation at the very beginning of the book: "The history of the Caribbean has its special difficulties, particularly because of the large number of states, polities, and islands in the region, all of them with their own individual as well as shared histories." To complicate matters, there were also several colonial powers involved in the historical dynamics of the region, and events affecting them elsewhere in the world would tend to have direct repercussions on the Caribbean territories, often forcefully. And finally, the peoples who gave rise to that history, and still do, arguably represent the most eclectic mix of cultures ever assembled in any regional epic of humanity, involving numerous languages and ethnicities from each of the following meta-groups: Native Americans, Southern and

Northern Europeans, Western Africans, Euro-Americans, African-Americans, Indians, Far East Asians, Levantine Muslims and Arabs, Sephardic Jews, and their infinitely varied Creole progeny. A cultural mélange at this scale where no one group achieves predominance throughout the region is without parallel in history. The challenge is to cover seven thousand years of history under the conditions described above in a mere 332 pages, and do it well. Can this be done? Well, it can be attempted, as with other risky endeavors in life. Fortunately, Higman's brave quest is reasonably successful. His book is an immensely readable compendium of all things Caribbean ever since man set foot in the place up to and including 2010.

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