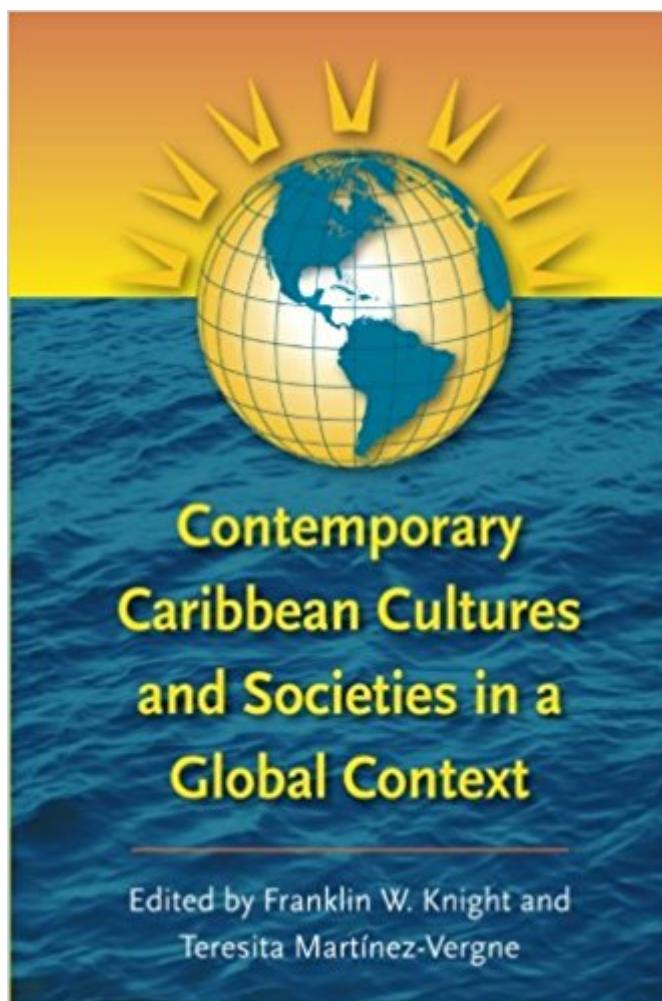


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Contemporary Caribbean Cultures And Societies In A Global Context



Synopsis

The Caribbean ranks among the earliest and most completely globalized regions in the world. From the first moment Europeans set foot on the islands to the present, products, people, and ideas have made their way back and forth between the region and other parts of the globe with unequal but inexorable force. An inventory of some of these unprecedented multidirectional exchanges, this volume provides a measure of, as well as a model for, new scholarship on globalization in the region. Ten essays by leading scholars in the field of Caribbean studies identify and illuminate important social and cultural aspects of the region as it seeks to maintain its own identity against the unrelenting pressures of globalization. These essays examine cultural phenomena in their creolized forms--from sports and religion to music and drink--as well as the Caribbean manifestations of more universal trends--from racial inequality and feminist activism to indebtedness and economic uncertainty. Throughout, the volume points to the contending forces of homogeneity and differentiation that define globalization and highlights the growing agency of the Caribbean peoples in the modern world.

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A wide-ranging overview of the challenges facing the region today. . . . A welcome assessment of the positive action that is being taken by Caribbean people to reassert their place within a globalizing world.--The Round TableThe most rewarding aspect of these volumes is that their divergence in orientation raises important questions about the ways we interpret the Caribbean.--Caribbean StudiesThese original essays . . . offer refreshing new looks into contemporary Caribbean societies regionally, and specifically in the cases of Cuba, Puerto Rico, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, and Jamaica. Highly recommended.--ChoiceOffers many ways to approach contemporary globalization, especially as it is experienced by insular societies with limited natural resources.--New West Indian Guide

This splendidly eclectic collection of essays on the contemporary Caribbean reveals the fascinating diversity of the region's cultures as they respond to--and help to shape--the pressures of globalization. The cultural resilience and dynamic creativity of the Caribbean peoples are evoked in interesting, perceptive, and often surprising ways in this highly original book.--Bridget Brereton, University of the West Indies These essays demonstrate with a great deal of detailed evidence that globalization has not produced cultural and social homogeneity in the Caribbean. Although people of the Caribbean may be developing an increasing consciousness of their region's commonalities--through transnational movement, cultural diffusion, and the centuries-old process of creolization--there remains a vast cultural diversity and a strong sense of identity among the various components. This volume addresses these important and timely issues in ways that are accessible to the layman as well as the scholar.--O. Nigel Bolland, Colgate University, Emeritus The readability of this collection is so outstanding that it will make it quite useful for advanced undergraduate teaching as well as for . . . the library shelf of every scholar of the region.--Lynn Bolles, University of Maryland, College ParkTaking the view that globalization is not a modern phenomenon but rather began when Europeans set sail in the late 1400s, the various authors [in this collection] attempt to show that the Caribbean is shaped by both local and external processes and, particularly, in modern times, dialectical interactions with their diaspora in Europe and North America. . . . A good collection of works.--H-Caribbean

This book offers essays on a cross section of topics that are highly relevant to students of the

Caribbean in a variety of disciplines. The editors are top scholars in the field of Caribbean studies, and contributing authors discuss a range of economic, cultural, and political topics regarding this important and often under-studied region, from structural adjustment and the World Bank to diaspora communities to music to spirituality and religion, in thematically-grouped essays. One criticism is that the Anglophone Caribbean seems under-represented, but this is mild in contrast to the overall strength of the volume

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