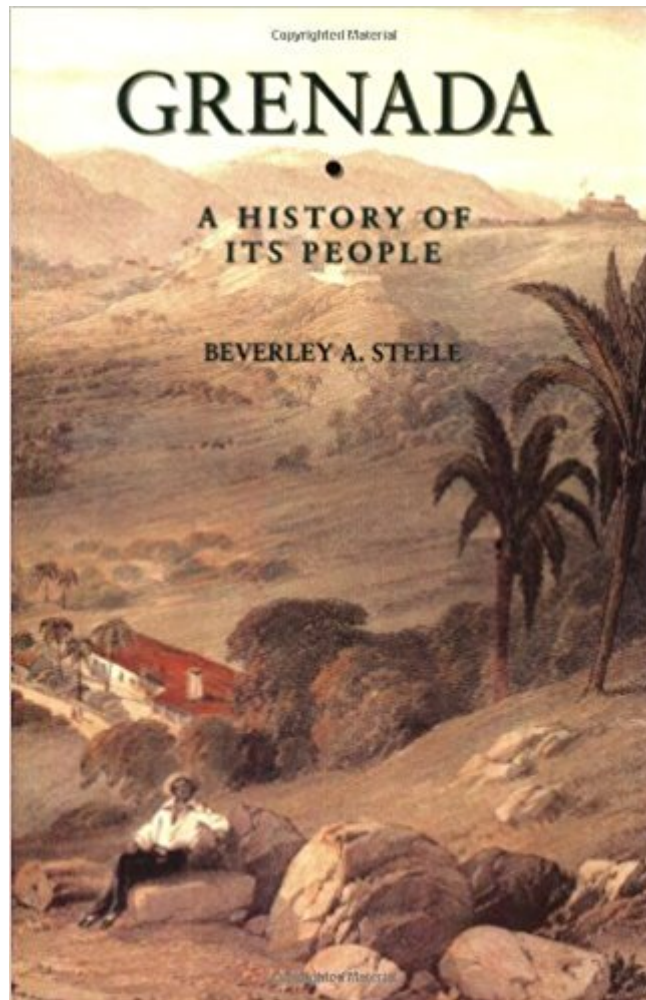




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Grenada: A History Of Its People (Island Histories)



Synopsis

The often turbulent struggle for survival from the earliest Arawak settlement to the 1981 execution of revolutionary Prime Minister, Maurice Bishop, to today.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Beverley A. Steele is a Senior Lecturer at the University of the West Indies. She was born and educated in Jamaica, and holds two degrees from the University of the West Indies. Since 1973 she has been the resident tutor and Head of the University of the West Indies Outreach Center in Grenada. Now fully embraced by the Grenadian Community, Steele identifies as a Jamaican born Grenadian. She is active both in Grenadian life and in the life of the University. She serves the country of her birth as Honorary Consul for Jamaica in Grenada.

Is this book worth reading? If you are from Grenada, the answer is "Of course". It is a well-written book that is a great history of your country. It also is the only history of Grenada written recently - 2003 - and the only one in print, at least as far as I can tell. You are lucky to have such a book available. If you are not from Grenada and want to know something about the history of the Caribbean and maybe Grenada in particular, this book is a superb way to satisfy your curiosity. The story was written with the people of Grenada in mind as readers, and this shows at times. Beverley Steele, as she puts it, is a Jamaican-born Grenadian, one who clearly loves her adopted country. This does not mean that the book is merely a tribute to Grenada though. Beverley Steele has written a careful, thorough and interesting history of the islands making up the country Grenada. A great

deal of careful work and thought went into writing this book. Research in the United Kingdom's archives illuminates parts of the early history. The works referenced include many that are not readily available. Footnotes are available at the back of each chapter, there is a substantial bibliography, and an index is provided. Her judgments appear to be sound and well reasoned. This is not a bloodless history text though. Ms. Steele has informed opinions about many of the developments in Grenada, from the names for Amerindians to the American assistance to Grenada or invasion of it (depending on your point of view) in the 1980s. Some of the discussions are more detailed than you might want to read if you are a casual reader. While I personally don't have any issues about using Caribs as the name for the Amerindians on the Caribbean islands in the 1600s, it is interesting to read about why the names Kalinago and Galibi might be more accurate. The discussion of locations probably is the major way in which the intended audience of Grenadians gets in the way of a foreigner reading this book. At times, Ms. Steele locates things by saying something was near where a particular building or street corner is located today. If you aren't familiar with locations in Grenada, that's not much help. That is a minor issue though. Isaac Dookhan's history of the U.S. Virgin Islands is the other history of Caribbean islands that is closest to this one. They both are careful, thoughtful and informative histories by local people associated with universities. This book is a delight to read partly though because it is an encounter with Ms. Steele, who does not use the first person in the text but reveals much in her discussion of developments and her judgments about the participants' behavior.

Outstanding. The book is compelling and easy to read while still thorough in its facts and figures. This book would be a fascinating read for anyone with a love of history and culture-even if they've never been to or even heard of Grenada. This is the story of an island, geographically twice the size of Washington, DC, with a current population of 100,000, that has witnessed 500 years of tumultuous history. It has been the epicenter of showdowns between the world's super powers, but most of the people in the world couldn't find it on a map. In fairness, the island is small enough that most contemporary Grenadian readers should recognize many of the surnames and virtually all of the place names. Critically, the author does show bias at points, and, while generally well-written, the grammar is occasionally...awkward. Still a thorough, enlightening, moving, gripping and page turning effort. Bravo. Oh...and anyone selling this book for over the cover price should be slapped in the face. Thanks.

Growing up in Grenada I was always intrigued by the story of the Island Queen. I'd heard how my

uncle, greatly disappointed because he flunked an important exam, declined going on that cruise, thus causing others in my family to pull out as well. I understand that a cousin was still bent on going (with her fiancé) until my grandmother intervened. The fiancé was among those who perished on the Island Queen. I was familiar with many of the names mentioned in this book. The author describes at length the activity of the German U boats in the Caribbean in 1942 and the consequences on the economies of the United Kingdom, USA and the Caribbean. However because the Island Queen had a German engine it is more probable that it was hit by "friendly" fire. The story touches on the attack of Pearl Harbour by the Japanese in 1941. I still don't get why JAPAN was an ally of HITLER!!! I learned about the terrible tragedy in which nine persons were killed, that took place in 1945 in Windward, Carriacou from a briquette mine that washed up on the beach. All in all this was a fantastic book, which I think should be recommended reading for history students not only in Grenada but throughout the Caribbean. Many thanks to Beverley Steele!

As a former resident of Grenada I may be biased about the marvels of this small island. This bias undoubtedly affects my enthusiasm for Beverly Steele's superb compilation of all aspects of Grenada's fascinating history and its unique people. Grenada's sometimes difficult history has affected its people in a very positive way. This is a great book which teaches lessons outsiders can profit from: one doesn't have to be rich, have a lot of "stuff", etc. to be very happy, very common sense, and to be very generous. For those interested in visiting Grenada, this is a "must read". For those just interested in a lot of fascinating history, this is a "must read".

I'm very happy I bought this book. I have learned a lot on my family history and their Island where they lived. How the first people arrived there and their history. It even mentions my second Great Grandmother's father's name and who he was and what he did. Thank you so much

Nothing else comes close. You won't understand the island without it. Superbly written, seems quite balanced, an amazing history of this tiny nation.

History of Grenada - quite good.

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