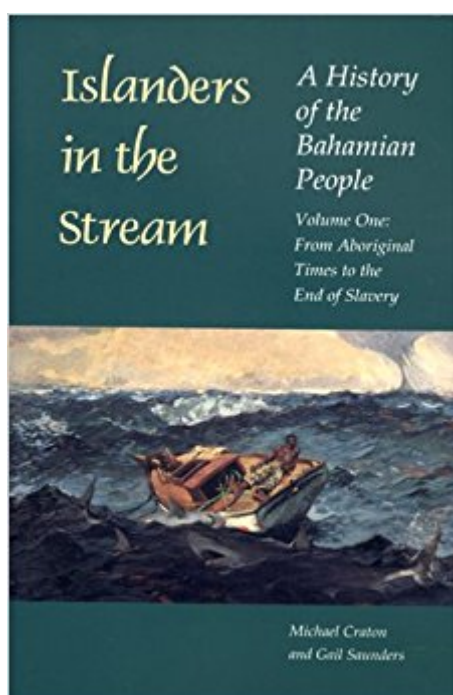


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# Islanders In The Stream: A History Of The Bahamian People: Volume One: From Aboriginal Times To The End Of Slavery



## Synopsis

From two leading historians of Bahamian history comes this groundbreaking work on a unique archipelagic nation. *Islanders in the Stream* is not only the first comprehensive chronicle of the Bahamian people, it is also the first work of its kind and scale for any Caribbean nation. This comprehensive volume details the full, extraordinary history of all the people who have ever inhabited the islands and explains the evolution of a Bahamian national identity within the framework of neighboring territories in similar circumstances. Divided into three sections, this volume covers the period from aboriginal times to the end of formal slavery in 1838. The first part includes authoritative accounts of Columbus's first landfall in the New World on San Salvador island, his voyage through the Bahamas, and the ensuing disastrous collision of European and native Arawak cultures. Covering the islands' initial settlement, the second section ranges from the initial European incursions and the first English settlements through the lawless era of pirate misrule to Britain's official takeover and development of the colony in the eighteenth century. The third, and largest, section offers a full analysis of Bahamian slave society through the great influx of Empire Loyalists and their slaves at the end of the American Revolution to the purported achievement of full freedom for the slaves in 1838. This work is both a pioneering social history and a richly illustrated narrative modifying previous Eurocentric interpretations of the islands' early history. Written to appeal to Bahamians as well as all those interested in Caribbean history, *Islanders in the Stream* looks at the islands and their people in their fullest contexts, constituting not just the most thorough view of Bahamian history to date but a major contribution to Caribbean historiography.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Written by a native archivist and a historian, this social history of the peoples of the Bahamian islands is unique. Non-Eurocentric in focus, it emphasizes the daily lives of the islanders through their own words and artifacts. The authors also depart from the usual approach to Caribbean history, refusing to treat all islands as the same in their characteristics and history. This work sets a standard for other islanders to aspire to in writing their own histories. A worthy addition to academic libraries and Caribbean collections.- Suzanne C. Garrison-Terry, Dowling Coll. Lib., Oakdale, N.Y. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Unique . . . This work sets a standard for other islanders to aspire to in writing their own histories. (Library Journal) In ambition, scope, and generous intent, both this book and its companion volume stand out as a special kind of Caribbean history. (American Historical Review) This is a rich work, with a capacity to illuminate many poorly understood corners of Bahamian history and to tell us much about the wider Caribbean world . . . In achieving their objectives, Craton and Saunders make excellent use of a wide variety of source materials, from archaeology to more traditional documentary materials. (Journal of American History)

Great book for research purposes. Thorough and interesting.

The first volume is heavy on census analysis in later chapters. Otherwise, it's an eminently readable social history of Bahamian islanders to the formal end of slavery. Particularly fascinating and well-done are the opening chapters on Lucayan origins, lifeways, and ultimately fatal convergence with imperial Spain. The second volume of Craton's social history of Bahamians is immensely, intricately detailed--to the point that it's difficult for a casual reader to retain interest. Since it provides a wealth of statistical information and analyses of sociological trends, the book is probably best suited to dedicated scholars of Bahamian or Caribbean history. As a general overview of Bahamian history from the 1830s to the present, this book is likely too academic and detailed for the purpose.

As a veteran of five trips to the Bahamas with my wife, I would recommend this book as an in depth detailed historical work about the Bahamas. Many things in the book explain the modern make up of the Bahamas; such as English names from the American loyalists who arrived after the American

Revolution and the mixed agricultural results which are still a problem today due to the difficulty of growing crops in very inhospitable soil. As mentioned in the book they grow pineapples on Eleuthera brought there by some displaced Germans. (We had some of these pineapples and they are wonderfully sweet)! Unfortunately the authors talk little about the Abacos which have at least as colorful a history as Eleuthera and I feel that is a minor negative. The coverage of the pirate era is very detailed and interesting while the records and descriptions of slavery paint a sad picture of that time.

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