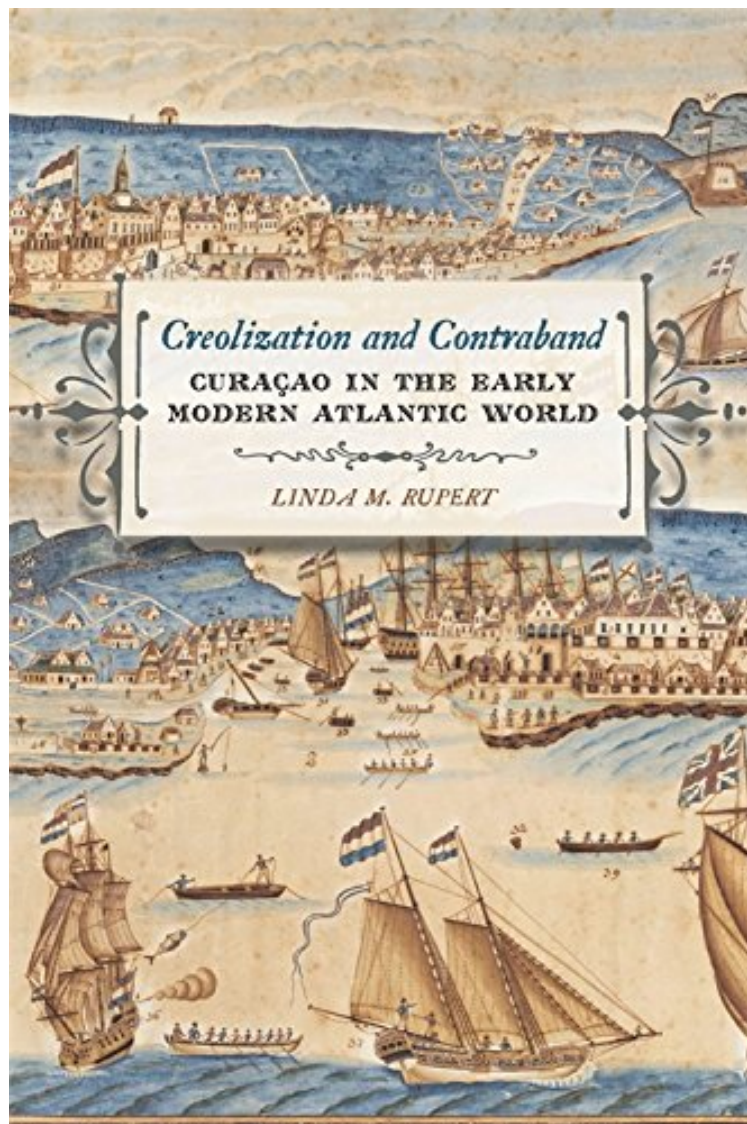


(Free pdf) Creolization and Contraband: Curaao in the Early Modern Atlantic World (Early American Places Ser.)

Creolization and Contraband: Curaao in the Early Modern Atlantic World (Early American Places Ser.)

Linda Rupert

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Linda Rupert : Creolization and Contraband: Curaao in the Early Modern Atlantic World (Early American Places Ser.) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Creolization and Contraband: Curaao in the Early Modern Atlantic World (Early American Places Ser.):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Very well researched, informative, but repetitive. By Bentley S.

Davis I have really enjoyed this book and learned a great deal about Curacao's history and the people who lived there. That being said, I feel like this was a series of academic papers strung together. While the book is very well researched with exhaustive notes, it is repetitive in places. Perhaps when the papers were compiled into a book, the redundancies were missed. But there have been several times where I feel I have read the same paragraph verbatim several pages ago. That being said, I would recommend this book to anyone who wants to learn more about the history of Curacao. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. excellent history of Dutch Curacao By hmf22 This is a terrific book on the Dutch experience of the Caribbean in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Aspects of it that I found particularly interesting include the discussions of the ubiquity of illegal trade and why this was so, the ties between Dutch Curacao and Spanish Venezuela, and the Sephardic Jewish community on Curacao. Curacao was essentially a port with a small agricultural hinterland, rather than a plantation colony, so it forms an interesting contrast to the better-known English and French plantation colonies in the Caribbean.

When Curaao came under Dutch control in 1634, the small island off South America's northern coast was isolated and sleepy. The introduction of increased trade (both legal and illegal) led to a dramatic transformation, and Curaao emerged as a major hub within Caribbean and wider Atlantic networks. It would also become the commercial and administrative seat of the Dutch West India Company in the Americas. The island's main city, Willemstad, had a non-Dutch majority composed largely of free blacks, urban slaves, and Sephardic Jews, who communicated across ethnic divisions in a new creole language called Papiamentu. For Linda M. Rupert, the emergence of this creole language was one of the two defining phenomena that gave shape to early modern Curaao. The other was smuggling. Both developments, she argues, were informal adaptations to life in a place that was at once polyglot and regimented. They were the sort of improvisations that occurred wherever expanding European empires thrust different peoples together. *Creolization and Contraband* uses the history of Curaao to develop the first book-length analysis of the relationship between illicit interimperial trade and processes of social, cultural, and linguistic exchange in the early modern world. Rupert argues that by breaking through multiple barriers, smuggling opened particularly rich opportunities for cross-cultural and interethnic interaction. Far from marginal, these extra-official exchanges were the very building blocks of colonial society.

This exploration of localized sociocultural mixing and extensive, illicit commerce on a Dutch Caribbean island makes for a fascinating study of colonial agency. The Antilles was the most dynamic site of creolization and contraband in the early modern world. Anyone interested in Atlantic history will want to read this excellent book. (Philip D. Morgan author of *Slave Counterpoint: Black Culture in the Eighteenth-Century Chesapeake and Lowcountry*) Rupert's rich analysis of multiethnic Curaao is an original and substantial contribution to Atlantic and Caribbean history. Her book is an excellent case study of creolization and contraband trade phenomena that informed most, if not all, societies in the colonial Americas and scholars of the Atlantic world will turn to it for comparative purposes. (Wim Klooster author of *Revolutions in the Atlantic World: A Comparative History*) With considerable research, Rupert . . . is able to connect the dots between culture formation and smuggling and to trace its development over the course of several centuries to the economic decline of Curaao in the early 19th century. Important reading for Caribbeanists while testing the assumptions of students of broader cultural processes. (R. M. Delson CHOICE) In [*Creolization and Contraband*], Linda M. Rupert offers the most complete history to date of the Dutch colony of Curaao in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. . . . Her tying together of creolization and contraband within which Curaaoans lived means that this book's theme resonates beyond the small island at its center. (Christian Koot *American Historical*) [Rupert's] engaging description of how Willemstad grew from Fort William to a larger conglomeration of neighborhoods mirrors her skill in describing the historical development of Curaao's Creole language. . . . [*Creolization and Contraband*] will be most widely read by students and specialists in Atlantic and Caribbean history, but the author nonetheless writes in a clear enough register to make this book appropriate to assign for upper-division undergraduate courses and to make sure that it will be appreciated by lay and local history aficionados alike. (Kristen Block *History: s of New Books*) [*Creolization and Contraband*] is a fascinating book that makes a valuable contribution to the study of colonial history in Latin America and the Caribbean. (Latin American of Books) The volume is a rich and complex presentation, well-researched and dense with information. . . . Brief summary sentences along with occasional overviews skillfully convey its core points. (Alan F. Benjamin *The Americas*) About the Author Linda M. Rupert is an assistant professor of history at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.