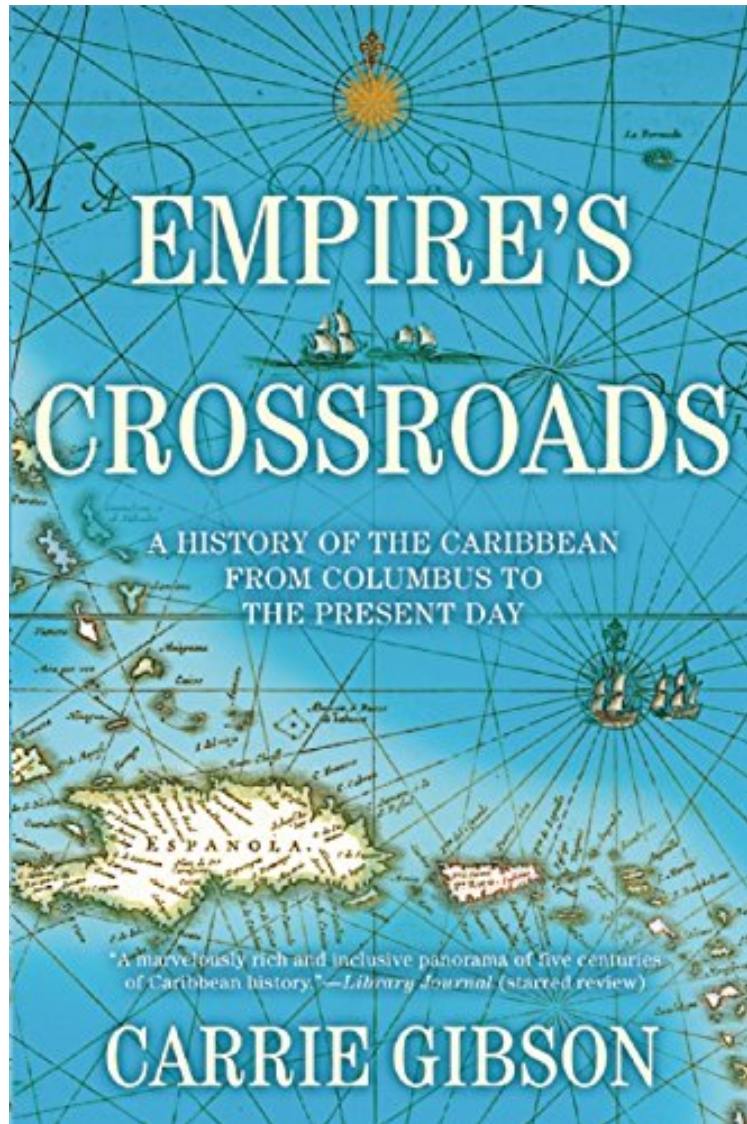


Empire's Crossroads: A History of the Caribbean from Columbus to the Present Day

Carrie Gibson

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#407957 in Books Gibson Carrie 2015-11-10Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.90 x 1.30 x 5.90l, .0 #File Name: 0802124313480 pagesEmpire s Crossroads A History of the Caribbean from Columbus to the Present Day | File size: 18.Mb

Carrie Gibson : Empire's Crossroads: A History of the Caribbean from Columbus to the Present Day before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Empire's Crossroads: A History of the Caribbean from Columbus to the Present Day:

2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Lucid, comprehensive, and engagingBy W. WedenojaThe author has

a PhD in history from Cambridge, focusing on the Spanish Caribbean, and she has also worked as a journalist. This definitely shows in her book, which is not only authoritative and comprehensive in content but also lucid and engaging, indeed a pleasure to read. I don't think there is a more interesting history of the region, and I've read several. In addition, the last two chapters of the book offer a compelling discussion of the contemporary Caribbean, based on her personal travels throughout the region, which sets it apart from other histories. If you want to read something about the Caribbean, then this is a great place to start. And you should learn about the Caribbean. The history of the region is not only dramatic but critical to understanding the formation of the modern world. Although we may think of the Caribbean today largely as a place to holiday on a beach, it was in the sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth centuries at the center of the struggle of European powers (Spanish, French, British and Dutch) for world trade and dominance. The Caribbean is also home to dynamic cultures, producing fascinating religions, world-class athletes, fantastic music, and great literature. I have one complaint about the book, and it is for the publisher. The binding on the paperback version is very tight and the margins small, making it difficult to pull the pages wide enough to read, particularly in the first chapters.

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Fantastic Read
By JH This was a fantastic read. Carrie is able to cover a vast period of history captively and at the appropriate level of detail. Having known nothing about the Caribbean before this I know feel like I know far more than the large majority of people!

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars
By dwight martin so far an awesome read

Ever since Christopher Columbus stepped off the Santa Maria and announced that he had arrived in the Orient, the Caribbean has been a stage for projected fantasies and competition between world powers. In *Empires Crossroads*, historian Carrie Gibson offers a vivid, panoramic view of this complex region and its rich, important history. That fateful landing in 1492 soon launched a savage competition for West Indian territory that would last centuries. Gibson compellingly traces the ups and downs of European imperial expansion including the first cash crops, failed settlements, and pirating on the open seas but she also brilliantly describes daily life on the islands. Creole societies complicated traditional ideas about class and race, and by the end of the eighteenth century, plantation slaves in Saint-Domingue had launched the Haitian Revolution, the world's only successful slave revolt. As European control of the Caribbean loosened over the next 150 years, America was on the rise, ushering in a new era of foreign influence and the birth of the tourism industry that still thrives today. Incredibly multi-faceted and approachably written, *Empires Crossroads* encompasses the narratives of more than twenty islands and reinterprets five centuries of history have been underappreciated for far too long.

An Observer (UK) Best History Book of the Year
A Hudson Booksellers' Best Nonfiction Book of the Year
Gibson knows how to hold a reader's interest with gems of fact and sometimes poetic prose.
New York Times Book Review, Editors' Choice
Carrie Gibson has written a judicious, readable and extremely well-informed account of a part of the world whose history is seldom acknowledged. Too many people know the Caribbean only as a tourist destination; she takes us, instead, into its fascinating, complex and often tragic past. No vacation there will ever feel quite the same again.
Adam Hochschild, author of *To End All Wars* and *King Leopold's Ghost*: Ambitious. . . . With rare narrative verve and a gift for synthesis, Gibson compresses the islands' histories into a wide-ranging, vivid narrative.
Observer (UK), Best History Books of 2014
A rich and thorough history of the Caribbean from colonialism to the present day. . . .
Carrie Gibson's thoughtful and extensively researched *Empires Crossroads* is a revelation. It is both a readable and in-depth study. . . . a valuable work that is required reading for scholars and students. . . . impassioned and anecdotally rich.
Christian Science Monitor
Gibson's social history focuses heavily on the destructive legacy of slavery, the bitter divisiveness of racism, and the brutality and inequalities of the opulent sugar plantations that dominated Caribbean economies for 300 years. . . . Gibson tells [the story] in fluid, colorful prose peppered with telling anecdotes.
Foreign Affairs
Required reading for everyone with a fascination for the Caribbean; recommended for all who wish to acquire one.
Peter Chapman, author of *Bananas: How the United Fruit Company Shaped the World*
A marvelously rich and inclusive panorama of five centuries of Caribbean history. . . . A work that brings fresh energy, assurance and insight to an area that is not often the focus of historians. Gibson's study is sure to gratify academics, history buffs, and anyone intrigued by the Caribbean's colorful, volatile, and multifaceted societies.
Library Journal (starred review)
Gibson synthesizes and integrates some of the most important insights from recent historical scholarship on slavery, capitalism, and empire into an accessible survey of over five centuries of Caribbean history. The Cambridge-educated author combines the careful reflexivity and nuance of a seasoned historian with the verbal dexterity and attention to current events of an accomplished journalist, producing a book that is both readable and thought-provoking, regionally specific and globally aware, historical yet exceedingly relevant to today's most pressing issues. . . . An excellent introduction to Caribbean history for non-specialists.
Choice
Gibson manages to weave 500 years of complex history into a brilliantly coherent and thematic narrative. . . . [A] strikingly assured debut.
Observer (UK)
[An] epic history of the Caribbean. . . . vivid and thought-provoking.
Spectator (UK)
Who knew that King James (the Bible one) was one of history's first anti-smoking activists? Who could have guessed in advance that tourist promoters would turn a desolate isle in Haiti, the hemisphere's poorest nation, into paradise behind a chain-link fence? In *Empires Crossroads*, Carrie

Gibson shows how seemingly isolated anecdotes, in the right hands, can be used to form a mosaic that shows us the meaning of history. T.D. Allman, author of *Finding Florida* Carrie Gibson asks not just how Europe shaped the Caribbean, but how the islands in turn shaped Europe and the rest of the world. Her approach is fresh and important. *Empires Crossroads* skillfully shows the complexity of the Caribbean and its striking ability to adapt to and push back against the forces that have shaped the region. Michele Wucker, author of *Why the Cocks Fight: Dominicans, Haitians, and the Struggle for Hispaniola* A panoramic view of this complex region and its rich history. Publishers Weekly An ambitious work bringing together fragmented histories of more than 20 different islands across an area of 3,000 miles . . . bolstered by her travel experiences in St. Martin, Trinidad, Guyana and other places. Kirkus s With such variegated histories, the islands of the Caribbean would seem to defy a unified treatment, yet Gibson identifies themes common to large ones, such as Hispaniola, and small ones, such as Montserrat. . . . Sympathetically attuned to the hard actualities of life in ostensibly paradisiacal tropics, Gibson delivers a fine, faceted history for general-interest readers. Booklist [A] sharp, gripping new overview of the regions history. . . . *Empires Crossroads* is a great read about some fantastically absorbing and to many people, little-known history. . . . An exceptionally impressive debut. Literary (UK) Carrie Gibson has written a compelling history of the Caribbean, rightly placing it at the heart of European imperialism. This is a gripping account by a gifted scholar and story-teller. Tristram Hunt, British Shadow Secretary of State for Education and author of *Marx's General, The Revolutionary Life of Friedrich Engels* There can never be too many books about the Caribbean, a region whose diversity and cultural richness is unparalleled, and Carrie Gibson's new offering is a welcome addition to the canon. BBC History (UK)