Becoming Revolutionary: The Grenada Chronicles (Volume 1)

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Synopsis

A timeline of the 1979 revolution from earliest origins to tragic end. The revolutionary period in Grenada grew from the legacy of Eric Gairy to Maurice Bishop, from the 1970s through 19 October 1983. The Grenada Chronicles contain a detailed, day-by-day chronology of the events and people involved in the time of Gairy and the People’s Revolutionary Government reflected from print sources. The Grenada Chronicles aim to be accurate in fact and in context. In order to assure accuracy, the source of information contained in this volume is stated. The limits and biases of the print source are varied. Sources cited favor original documents. The motive for this work is to provide information on the Grenada Revolution with no attempt, either implicit or manipulative, to present a political interest. A key reason to dwell upon the Grenada Revolution is that it needs to be told; to be passed on to the next generation. The story needs telling both for the form it took, but also for the contemporary lessons it can give. The resolution of the lessons taught is that such a tragic outcome might never happen again. The realities of the human condition are that malice and hope are strong forces. The Grenada Chronicles tell the extraordinary struggle of the youthful New Jewel Movement comrades and their evolving struggles with human frailty.

Book Information

Series: Grenada Chronicles
Paperback: 494 pages
Publisher: CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform (January 26, 2016)
Language: English
ISBN-10: 1502335239
Product Dimensions: 6 x 1.1 x 9 inches
Shipping Weight: 1.8 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)
Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars Â See all reviewsÂ (1 customer review)
Best Sellers Rank: #3,849,048 in Books (See Top 100 in Books)  #41 in Â Books > History > Americas > Caribbean & West Indies > Grenada

Customer Reviews

I was pleasantly surprised to find that Becoming Revolutionary: The Grenada Chronicles (Volume 1) is not a chronology of flat facts and dates. To the contrary, this is the full rich fabric of political, social, cultural, and religious experience of the time. It presents the complete spectrum of influences converging on Grenada starting in the 1950s. From the Civil Rights movement in the United States
to the Black Power movement in Trinidad. From Chairman Mao’s Little Red Book to the revolutionary rhythm of Bob Marley. From the rise in African Nationalism, to the Cuban revolution. Out of the international chaos of the 1960’s, ideological blueprints for political change began to take shape everywhere, some more radical than others. Grenada’s experience with foreign conquest, slavery, colonialism, labor uprisings, and homegrown tyranny blended into fertile soil for radical seeds of change. Books, movies, local and international events, religion, the Cold War, all provided nourishment to that soil. One might argue that Grenada leaders like Eric Gairy and Maurice Bishop led the changes of their respective time. But a closer examination of this volume might lead to another conclusion: These leaders were just extraordinary men who recognized the rising tides influencing their specific time and seized advantage of it. But as history shows, their skills in maneuvering the tides unique to their time were no match for the cyclic nature of change. In the end, new tides outmaneuvered them, and they lost their political and physical lives. The Grenada Chronicles (Volume 1) is the first of more than 35 volumes, the result of many years of dedication, research, and laborious writing by Ann Elizabeth Wilder. She donates the royalties to the Grenada National Museum, a testament of her self-less desire to bring the truth. Now I am ready for Volume 2.

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