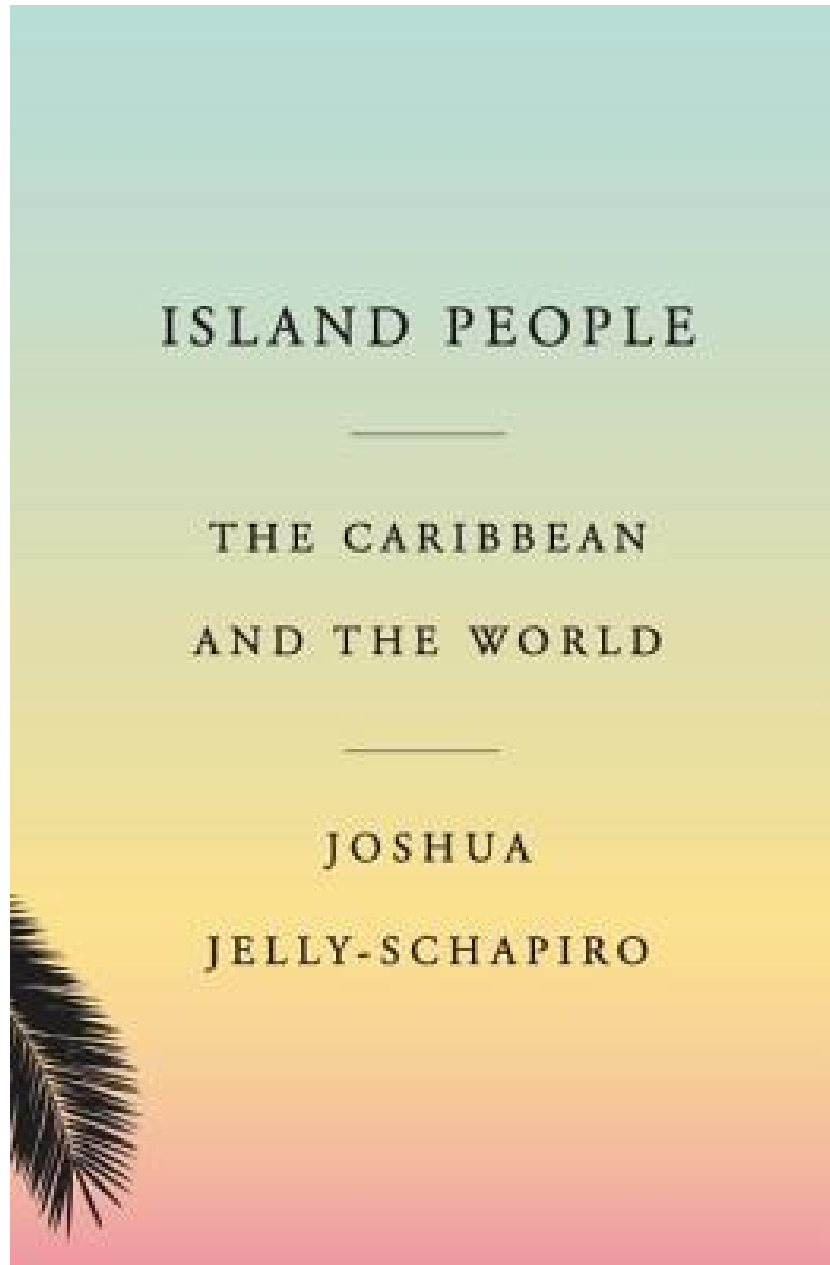


# Island People: The Caribbean and the World Book PDF Download



**By:**  
**Joshua Jelly-Schapiro**

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A comprehensive and intriguing look at the nations of the Caribbean, their shifting identities through the centuries, and their music, politics, religions, cultures, and people. Jelly-Schapiro delves deep into the sometimes ugly history of such beautiful places, as well as thoroughly examining what role the Caribbean has played in shaping the present world. But you don't have to take my word for it — it's also highly recommended by Marlon James! I'll read anything he tells me to read.

Backlist b

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Backlist bump: *The Sex Lives of Cannibals: Adrift in the Equatorial Pacific* by J. Maarten Troost

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### Suzette

There's so much interesting in this book as the author details his travels, and I was excited to read this recommendation from a bookstore. However, within the wonderful details are biases that irritated me so much. There is a reference to the author observing Jamaicans at a chain restaurant and his thoughts that they are perhaps "getting a jump on their dream to dwell in a Florida suburb" ...

I have no idea how one infers/ even gets in the mind that eating a meal from a chain restaurant translates to wanting to live in America. The disdain for the Marley children was too much. Sure he is entitled to his opinions and perspectives in his travel journey but they irritated me too much that it took away the joy from reading the stories of the beautiful Caribbean.

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## Ann Tonks

I rarely give 5 stars to books but this was a stand-out. Partly because I learnt so much about the history and culture of countries in the Caribbean from Jamaica to Dominica, Cuba to Haiti, large islands to small islands. Partly because this is clearly a work of a learned and passionate person. Partly because the story telling is so full of humanity.

I picked it up accidentally because like many people, Cuba is on my travel list but know I'm in a deeply ambivalent situation. Many more Caribbean

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I picked it up accidentally because like many people, Cuba is on my travel list but know I'm in a deeply ambivalent situation. Many more Caribbean places are on my list as a result of reading this brilliant book but I'm fearfully of turning into a cruise tourist who doesn't properly experience the islands.

So regardless of whether you're planning to travel or are simply curious about this extraordinarily multicultural part of the world, you must read this book.

## **Andy White**

This is an interesting and accessible history of some of the Caribbean islands. The author is at his best when he narrates his adventures on the islands. I did skip a couple of offshoots from his history telling. They were a little too lengthy (e.g., history of West Indians in London). An important work on this topic and a fun armchair adventure.

## Anela

Excellent travelogue on Caribbean islands: Jamaica, Cuba, Puerto Rico, DR, Haiti, Cayman, Barbados, Antigua, Barbuda, Trinidad, Dominica, Grenada, Martinique, etc. Travel centers on music (Jamaican reggae, Cuban everything, Trinidadian calypso) and the author's search for the origins of literary figures and intellectuals (V.S. Naipul, C.L.R. James, Jamaica Kincaid, Jean Rhys, Frantz Fanon). But you also learn about politics, history and culture. A fascinating compendium, he ponders each country

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I stumbled upon this book because the very on-trend gradient cover caught my eye at McNally Jackson. Then I noticed the author was my T.A. at Berkeley for a class on Globalization. He mainly graded our reflections on the readings and guided our Berkeley-ite discussions as T.A.s do.

The subject matter was interesting but I think the book needed more editing. What needed work:

- 1) Overlong, oft-repetitive sentences smacking of Academia. Could use the Hemingway app.
- 2) Some sections feel quite academic, lending themselves to skimming
- 3) Bits of condescension that I found distracting (frequent sarcastic quotes, and just plain ol' condescending/dismissive language)