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The Black Diaspora of the Americas: Experiences and Theories of the Caribbean

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New Book

*The Black Diaspora of the Americas:
Experiences and Theories of the Caribbean*

By Christine Chivallon

Ian Randle, Paperback

230 pp., ISBN-13: 978-9766373962, 2011.

Description from the Publisher:

The forced migration of Africans to the Americas through the transatlantic slave trade created primary centres of settlement in the Caribbean, Brazil and the United States the cornerstones of the New World and the black Americas. However, unlike Brazil and the US, the Caribbean did not (and still does not) have the uniformity of a national framework. Instead, the region presents differing situations and social experiences born of the varying colonial systems from which they were developed. Using the Caribbean experience as the focus, Christine Chivallon examines the transatlantic slave trade and slavery as founding events in the identification of a Black diaspora experience. The exploration is extended to include the United States to exemplify contrasting situations in slavery-based systems and identifies the links between the expressions of culture emanating from the black populations of the New World and the diversity of interpretations of the cultural identities of the Black Americas. Divided into three main parts, *The Black Diaspora of the Americas* firstly examines the foundation of the Black experiences of the New World by considering the slave trade. The second part takes a more theoretical examination of Black diaspora using Rastafarianism, Garveyism and Pan-Africanism while referencing the work of a range of thinkers including Stuart Hall, Paul Gilroy, Richard Price, Edouard Glissant, Melville Herskovits and Sidney Mintz. The work is concluded in the third part with the proposition of an a-centred community of persons of African descent a culture devoid of centrality. *The Black Diaspora of the Americas* brings together the key arguments about creolisation and the concept of a Black diaspora and presents an outstanding contribution to understanding the dynamics of diaspora.

