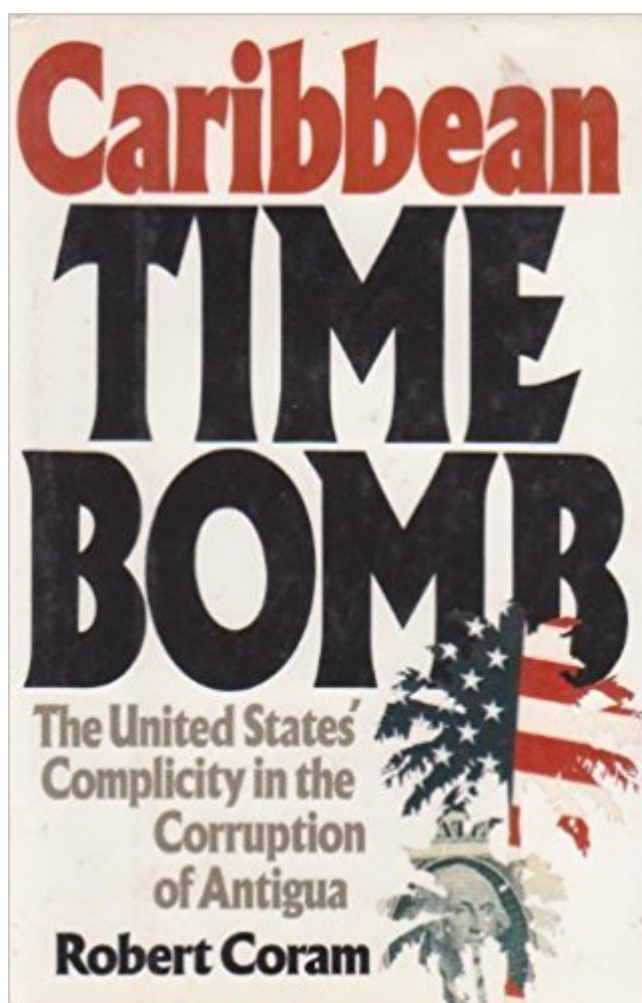


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Caribbean Time Bomb: The United States' Complicity In The Corruption Of Antigua



Synopsis

An investigation into the corrupt government of Antigua discusses the island's blatant violation of environmental laws; its dictator's involvement with crooks, con artists, and drug dealers; and the U.S. role in Antiguan corruption. 20,000 first printing. \$20,000 ad/promo. Tour.

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Customer Reviews

According to Coram, a former reporter for the Atlanta Constitution who has been dubbed "the institutional memory of Antigua," that tiny island nation (nine by 12 miles; population, 62,000) was originally viewed by the U.S. as a potential bulwark against communism in the Caribbean. In his shocking expose, he maintains that the U.S. has spent nearly \$200 million since 1979 to support the corrupt government of Prime Minister V. C. Bird, a leading force in Antiguan politics since the early 1940s. Coram documents arrangements between the U.S. and Antigua that allow for continued U.S. military presence on the island, with little required for the privilege other than a continuing influx of money. Antigua allows U.S. government planes to land at any time without notice or Customs requirements; until 1991, the Navy used the island's undersea reefs as test-bombing sites. Coram charges that the Antiguan government, with the complicity of the U.S., has run guns for South Africa, supported the largest brothel in the Caribbean, harbored Wall Street fugitive Robert Vesco and hugely enriched Bird family members and other politicians at the expense of the island's population. Photos. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Antigua, a former British colony in the Caribbean, has been independent since 1981. Its prime minister, Vere Cornwall Bird, was a union organizer who helped lead the country to independence. Unfortunately, several scandals are now attached to Bird and his family, which journalist Coram is only too pleased to relate in this investigative account. While he provides a great deal of information, he does so in a repetitive fashion, leaping forward in time and then back. Further, his dislike of the Bird family is obvious long before he has gotten to the misdeeds that justify his opinion of them. There are plenty of crimes to leave the readers thoroughly disgusted with the Birds and with U.S. involvement with them, and one wishes that Coram had let the crimes speak for themselves. Still, since the information provided here is not readily found in one place, this book is recommended for Caribbean studies and international affairs collections.- Anita L. Cole, Miami-Dade P.L. System, Fla. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc.

This was a great book.

Let me first say that as a second generation Antiguan and Barbudan I'm slightly ashamed that I had to read a book written by an American journalist in order to be this informed about the rich and in some cases illicit history of my (beloved) country. I found this book to be very informative, it was rich in content without becoming tedious to the reader. The author often time had first hand knowledge as to the goings on, scandals and covering ups that took place in the newly independent country. This work was well researched and well detailed as the author included a thorough bibliography. First rate work by Robert Coram. I hope that other members of the Antiguan public (specifically the voting public) take note of the content of the book and ensure the safety of our economy, our treasury and our name in the international community when it matters.

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