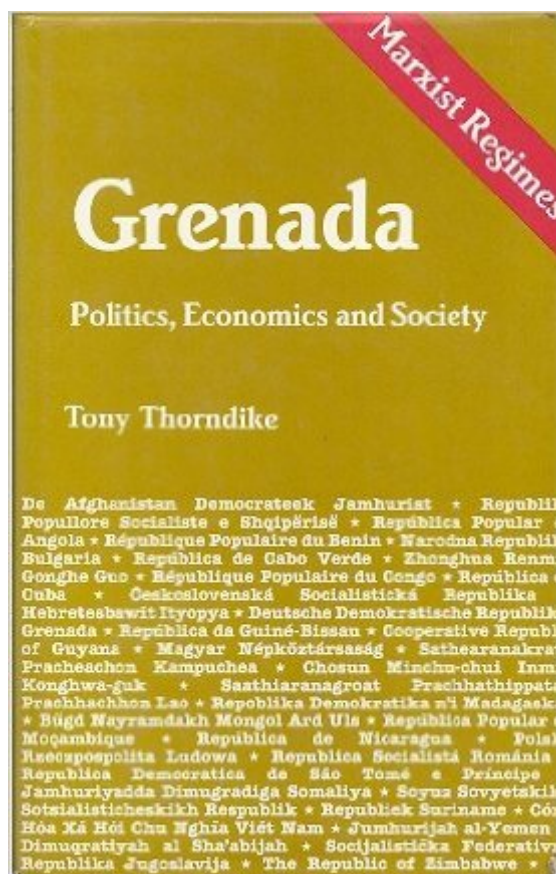


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Grenada: Politics, Economics, And Society (Marxist Regimes Series)



Synopsis

Grenada: Politics, Economics and Society (Marxist Regimes Series) by Tony Thorndike

Book Information

Series: Marxist Regimes Series

Hardcover: 176 pages

Publisher: Pinter Pub Ltd (May 1985)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0861874145

ISBN-13: 978-0861874149

Product Dimensions: 0.8 x 5.8 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (1 customer review)

Best Sellers Rank: #10,254,563 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #92 in [Books > History > Americas > Caribbean & West Indies > Grenada](#) #172521 in [Books > Textbooks > Humanities > History](#) #337016 in [Books > History > World](#)

Customer Reviews

âœMarxist Regimesâœ is a series of books analyzing and/or describing various left-wing regimes (or purported such), most of which were established in the Third World during the Cold War. This volume, published in 1985, deals with the tiny Caribbean island-nation of Grenada. In 1979, a revolution on the island toppled its weird, corrupted and brutal strongman Eric Gairy (most known for his belief in UFOs and his attempts to get the UN to research the matter). Planned and carried out by the leftist and crypto-Communist New Jewel Movement (NJM), the revolution initially had almost universal support among the population. Support soon turned into opposition or mixed feelings, however. Many people liked the social programs of the NJM and its âœPeople's Revolutionary Governmentâœ, but many also resented the new government's refusal to call elections or its anti-religious measures. The NJM, for their part, feared destabilization and possible invasion from Ronald Reagan's United States. While the Grenadian economy remained a mixed one throughout the NJM's short tenure, the revolutionary regime was clearly oriented towards the Soviet Union, Cuba and North Korea. In 1983, the Grenadian revolution beheaded itself as a power struggle between Maurice Bishop and Bernard Coard ended in the arrest and execution of Bishop and a massacre of his supporters. Bishop was the charismatic âœComrade Leaderâœ and still commanded a certain amount of popular support. Grenada's allies abroad, most notably Cuba,

generally also favored Bishop. Coard was a more orthodox Marxist-Leninist and based his power on the bureaucratic apparatus and the military.

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