

ABSTRACT

The aim of this thesis is to provide the first full-length history of Grenadian women from the era of slavery to The People's Revolution (1979-1983). Traditional works on Grenada have concentrated on general histories of the island. Accounts of women's history have been limited to a few short studies on well-known women, and on women during the Revolution. In the wake of the movement towards a more gender balanced account of human history, it is necessary to examine the role of Grenadian women in their nation's history. This thesis is a pioneering work. It attempts to begin the process of writing women's history in the Windward Islands.

The thesis explores the situation of women in Grenadian slave society and in post-Emancipation society (1834-1950). It traces the role of women in the pre-Revolutionary era (1951- 1979) and in the revolutionary process (1979-1983). Both primary and secondary sources were employed. However, there was a heavy reliance on primary sources, including plantation records, Stipendiary Magistrates' reports and oral history interviews.

This thesis hopes to contribute to Caribbean historiography in two respects. First, to add to the body of historical works on Grenada, whose history – like that of the other Windward islands – has been under researched in comparison with that of the larger territories of the region. Second, it contributes to the growing literature on women's history in the Caribbean by retrieving

information on the female historical experience in Grenada over the last 200 years and thus supplementing work already done for Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, and Barbados in particular.

Keywords: Nicole Laurine Phillip; Grenada; Women's History.