# Contents

List of Maps vii

Preface to the Third Edition ix

1 The Nature of the Caribbean Region 1

   The Caribbean Region 1
      The Greater Antilles 1
      The Lesser Antilles 3
      The Bahamas 3
      The Guianas 3
      Belize 5

   The Caribbean Sea 5
      The trade winds in the Atlantic 5
      Ocean currents 5
      The trade winds in the Caribbean Sea 7

2 The Earliest Inhabitants of the Caribbean Region 8

   The arrival of people in the Americas 8
   The arrival of people in the West Indies 9
   The first Arawaks 9
   The Taino 10
      Appearance and colour 10
      Subsistence living 10
      Arawak communities 11
      Political organisation 12
      Religion 12
      Pleasure and recreation 13

   The Caribs 14
      The Kalinago 14
      Appearance 15
      Diet 15
      Political organisation 15
      Warrior training 17
      Language 18
      Religion 18

   The Amerindians of the Guianas 18

   The Maya 19
      Political organisation 20
      Religion 20

   Architecture 20
   Arts and crafts 20
   Writing, mathematics and the calendar 21
   The Maya today 21

3 The Expansion of Europe 22

   Europe in the age of Columbus 22
      Society 22
      Religion 23
      Trade 23

   Portugal and Prince Henry the Navigator 24
   The application of technology 25
      Ship development 25
      Compass development 25
      New navigational instruments 25
      Maps and charts 26
      Armament development 26

   Christopher Columbus and the race for the East 27
      The first voyage, 1492 27
      The second voyage, 1493–1496 29
      The third voyage, 1498–1500 31
      The fourth voyage, 1502–1504 32
      The rival claims of Spain and Portugal 33

   The legacy of Columbus 33

4 The Spanish Conquest 34

   Official Spanish policy towards the Indians 34
   The Ovando administration 34
      *Encomienda* 35
      The colonisation of Hispaniola 36
      Gold production 37
      The conquest of Puerto Rico 37
      Ovando’s retirement 38

   The administration of Diego Columbus 38
      The conquest of Jamaica 38
      The conquest of Cuba 38
      The conquest of the Yucatan 39

   The genocide of the Taino 39
      Ways in which the Taino were killed 40
The role of the Church  41
The Church and the Indians  42
Montesinos 43
The work of Bartholomew de las Casas 43
Conquest of the Caribbean Region completed 44
Trinidad 44
The Guianas 45

5 Spanish Colonial Administration, Economic Development and the Control of Trade  46
The machinery of colonial government in Spain 46
The conciliar system of government 46
The Council of the Indies 46
Colonial government under Philip II 47
Spanish colonial administration in the New World 48
Local government 48
Economic development 49
The influence of gold 49
Extracting gold 49
Royal control of mining 50
The beginning of the sugar industry 50
Difficulties in starting the industry 51
Control of trade 52
The Casa de Contratación 53
Functions of the Casa de Contratación 53
The Flota and Armada system 54
Routing the treasure fleets 55
Protecting the treasure fleets 57

6 Breaking the Spanish Monopoly in the Caribbean  58
Spain’s claim to control the Caribbean 58
Nationalism and religion in Europe 58
‘No peace beyond the Line’ 59
Pirates and adventurers 59
Illegal traders 59
French privateers 60
English privateers 60
Importance of the privateers 62
The Dutch break the Spanish monopoly 63
The revolt of the Netherlands 63
The Dutch in the West Indies 63
The Dutch West India Company 64
Non-Spanish settlement in the Caribbean 65
Sir Walter Raleigh and the Wild Coast 65
The Dutch in the Guianas 67
The French in the Guianas 68

7 The Foundation of the English, French and Dutch Island Colonies 69
St Kitts – mother colony of the English islands 69
Warner begins the settlement 69
The arrival of the French 70
Economic development of St Kitts 71
The proprietary system 71
Indentured servants 71
Population 71
Crops 72
The survival of the colony 72
The settlement of Nevis, Antigua and Montserrat 72
The settlement of Barbados 73
The charter and other difficulties 73
Economic foundations of Barbados 74
The Revolt of Barbados 74
The arrival of Willoughby 75
The Declaration of Independence 75
The settlement of Bermuda and the Bahamas 76
The English conquest of Jamaica 76
The ‘Western Design’ 76
The capture of Jamaica 78
English settlement in Jamaica 79
The Cayman Islands 79
The French colonies 79
St Kitts 79
The settlement of Martinique and Guadeloupe 80
French expansion 80
Government in the French islands 81
Mercantilism in the French West Indian empire 82
The Dutch and Danish island colonies 82
## 8 Government in the English Colonies and the Old Colonial System

86

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How the English colonies were governed</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The proprietary system</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The governor and council</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Assembly</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Church</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law in the colonies</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military service</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Old Colonial System</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic theories of empire</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How mercantilists viewed the Dutch</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Navigation Acts</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enumerated goods</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Consolidating Act of 1696</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establishment of the Board of Trade</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The advantages and disadvantages of the Navigation Acts</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advantages for England</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advantages for the colonies</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disadvantages for the colonies</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## 9 European Rivalry in the Caribbean in the Age of the Buccaneers

95

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The end of the Spanish monopoly in the Caribbean</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The buccaneers</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Providence Island</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tortuga Island</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Royal</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘Militia of the sea’</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The English buccaneers</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry Morgan</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The importance of the English buccaneers</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The foundation of St Domingue</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Anglo-Dutch Wars and the West Indies, 1652–1678</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Second Dutch War</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Third Dutch War</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The great age of the French buccaneers, 1678–1685</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The end of buccaneering</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The logwood cutters</td>
<td>103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Bahamas – the pirates’ republic</td>
<td>103</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## 10 The Sugar Revolution

104

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Causes of the sugar revolution</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall in West Indian tobacco prices</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part played by the Dutch in the sugar revolution</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Results of the change in land use</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land tenure</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The price of land</td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population changes</td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugar in other parts of the Caribbean Region</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Guianas</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The French islands</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other effects of the sugar revolution</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monoculture</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A stratified society</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Absenteeism</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## 11 African Slavery

113

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The labour problem created by the sugar revolution</td>
<td>113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slavery in the ancient and medieval worlds</td>
<td>114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slavery in West Africa</td>
<td>114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slavery in pre-European times</td>
<td>114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Sudanic empires and the trans-Saharan trade</td>
<td>114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The forest states</td>
<td>116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oyo</td>
<td>116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benin</td>
<td>116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dahomey</td>
<td>116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Asante Kingdom</td>
<td>116</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
West African society in the fifteenth century 118
   Administration 119
   Religion 119
   Art and Industry 120

How African slavery in the West Indies began 120
   The reasons used to justify using West African slaves 120
   The arrival of the Portuguese 121
   Main sources of slaves 122
   Conclusion 123

12 The Conduct and Effects of the Slave Trade 124
   The conduct of the trade 124
      The Companies and free traders 124
      Obtaining the slaves 125
   The triangle of trade 126
      The English and the triangle of trade 129
      Price of slaves and profit in slave-trading 130
   The middle passage 130
      Conditions for slaves on the middle passage 132
      Mortality on the middle passage 133
   Arrival in the West Indies 135
      Slave sales 135
   The volume of the slave trade 136
      The death rate of slaves 136
      Breeding slaves 137
   The effects of the slave trade on West Africa 137
      Conclusion 138

13 The African Slave in the Caribbean 139
   The use of slave labour 139
   The sugar plantation 139
      The organisation of a sugar plantation 141
      Seasonal activities on the plantation 143
      Free labour 144
      Enslaved labour 145
   Social relationships on the plantation 146
   The slaves' lives 147
      Kinship 147
      Religion 148
      Music and dance 148
      Health 148
      Food and clothing 149
      The Sunday Market 150
   Other employers of slave labour 151
      Coffee plantations 151
      Cotton plantations 151
      The logging industry 151
   The growth of a 'free coloured' society 152
      Legislation against coloureds 153
      Conclusion 154

Revision Questions 155

Further Reading 157

Index 159
Preface to the Third Edition

*Amerindians to Africans* is the first of three books aimed at covering the 2000 Caribbean History syllabus of the Caribbean Examinations Council. It is a considerably revised and enlarged version of *Arawaks to Africans*, the book written to meet the needs of earlier editions of the syllabus. As with its predecessor the content follows the thematic approach of the syllabus, and deals with *The Indigenous Peoples and the Europeans* and *Caribbean Economy and Slavery*.

In attempting to meet the needs of the 2000 syllabus, the incorporation of much new and revised material has involved some rearrangement of the contents, and the addition of two new chapters. A determined effort has been made to strike a better balance in the emphasis placed on topics such as the indigenous peoples, the Spanish conquest, European colonisation and slavery, than perhaps was apparent in the first edition. Considerably more attention has been paid to the early history of the Bahamas, Belize, the Guianas and the non-plantation islands in order to meet two of the main aims of the syllabus - the need for students to acquire a knowledge and understanding both of the common experiences of the peoples of the Caribbean and of the creative contributions made by the inhabitants of any territory in the region. The major revision has taken place in the last three chapters, each of which deals with an aspect of African slavery. All three have been largely rewritten in the light of modern scholarship, with proper emphasis on subjects such as the role of women in slave society, the retention of African cultural forms in West Indian life, and the creation of a Creole society.

The policy adopted by the authors of the first edition was to concentrate on a factual approach, and to attempt to treat all topics at the level required by the Caribbean Examination Council, both in factual content and comprehension. The same approach has been followed here, but with the addition of the reviser’s analysis and interpretation of, and insights into, key events.

The revision questions at the end of the book have themselves been revised, and now follow very closely the questions which were set in the history examinations conducted during the seven years which followed the introduction of the new syllabus.

The Further Reading list contains most of the books used both in the writing of the original *Arawaks to Africans*, and in the preparation of this revised edition. It contains the standard general texts for Caribbean history. Not all the books listed were written for school students, or will be found readily in all school libraries, but all will repay the efforts undertaken by students in locating copies.

Brian Dyde
Pembroke 2007