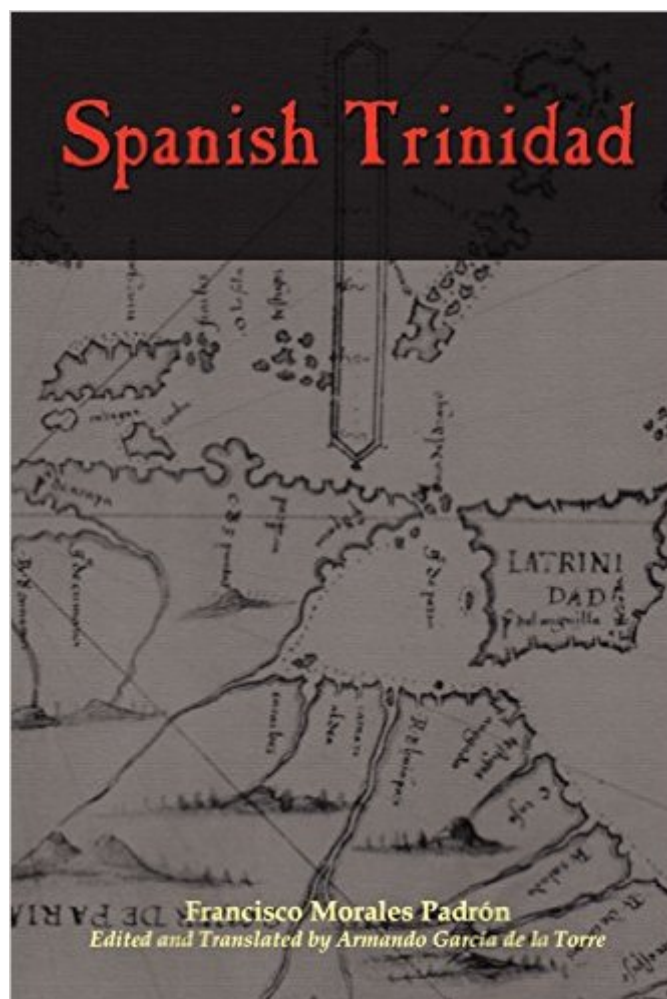


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Spanish Trinidad



Synopsis

Spanish Trinidad is the first ever history of the 300 year span of the Spanish period of Trinidad, written from a strictly Spanish perspective. From the encounter of Christopher Columbus with the first Trinidadian Amerindians during the summer of 1498, to the handover of the island to the British in 1797, Francisco Morales Padron describes the complex process of the Spanish settlement of the island while searching for El Dorado, the progressive social and economic development of "La Trinidad de Barlovento" (as Trinidad was known until the late 18th century), the significance and relevance of the Caribbean Windward Islands in the Spanish geo-political strategy of its American provinces, and the key role played by Trinidad in the outcome of the European disputes in the West Atlantic after the French Revolution. This English translation of Padron's *La Trinidad Espanola*, originally published in 2011, illuminates the oft-forgotten years of the island's life as part of Spain and complements the existing works by scholars and historians from Trinidad and Tobago and the wider English-speaking Caribbean. Padron's extensive research in Spanish archives and the presentation of original source documents shed light on the internal and foreign threats and challenges faced by Trinidad throughout the 16th, 17th, and 18th centuries. It uncovers and examines the policies and efforts that fuelled Trinidad's economic and demographic transformation from a remote Caribbean outpost to a prized, and ultimately seized, possession of Spain. Comprehensive and expansive, Spanish Trinidad is rich study of the three centuries of Spanish presence in Trinidad and an invaluable contribution to the recorded history of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and the Caribbean.

Book Information

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A well researched and written History of the island,with factual information from it's discovery by Columbus in 1498,to the spastic and anaemic early attempts at colonization,...it's virtual abandonment to a backwater existence for close to three hundred years,...with almost nothing being accomplished through thirty eight successive administrators,both Civil and Military,until the appointment of the thirty-ninth and last Spanish Governor,..Don Jose Maria Chacon,..who's Herculean efforts,with the implementation of the "Cedula of Population"...the turmoil taking place in the French islands,...saved many lives,established a new Capital,Port of Spain,new town in the southern end,San Fernando,diverted the East river,imported Turkey vultures as an aid to the major sanitation problem....built an Observatory,(Still standing and utilized as a Police communication centre),from which the first Meridian in the Western Hemisphere was established,by Don Damien Churucca y Alorzo,(Rear Admiral,mathematician and Astronomer),..thus allowing mariners to more accurately fix their location.

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