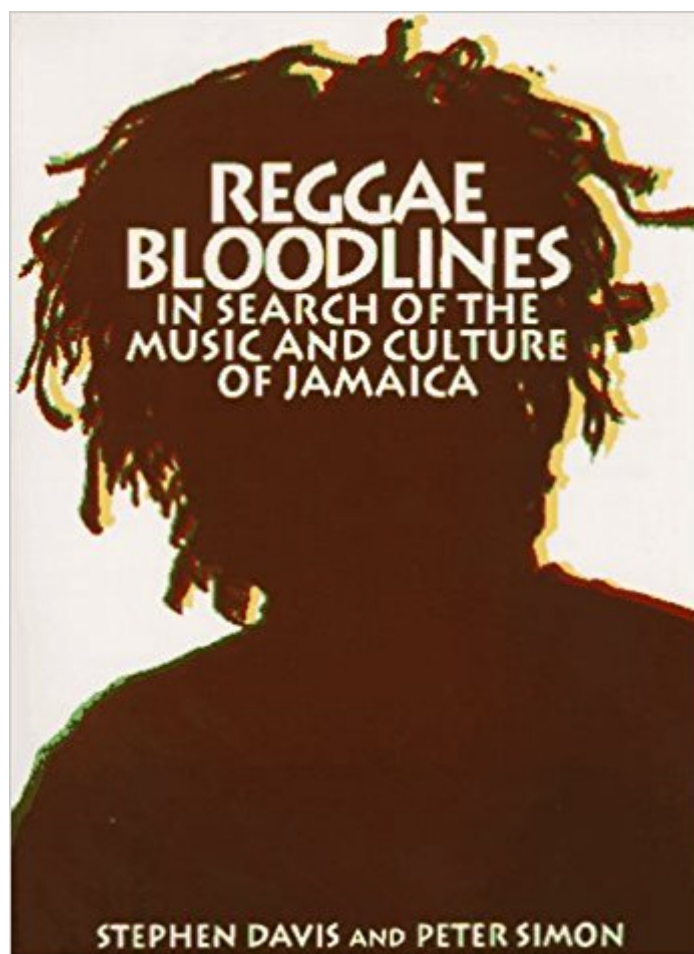


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Reggae Bloodlines: In Search Of The Music And Culture Of Jamaica



Synopsis

Reggae—vulcanizing, restrained, irresistible—is more than the national music of Jamaica: It is a social force that fills the complete cultural needs of the people it serves. Everyone in Jamaica, from the prime minister in his gardens to the Rastafarian elders in Trench Town, listens to the latest reggae songs for an immediate line on the political and spiritual pulse of the island. Reggae Bloodlines, originally published in 1977 and here updated with a new afterword, was the first book to tell the story of the music of the Jamaican people and their spiritual nationality, the Brotherhood of Rastafari. It includes interviews with reggae's master musicians—Bob Marley, Jimmy Cliff, Toots Hibbert, Big Youth, Peter Tosh, Agugstus Pablo, Max Romeo—and Prime Minister Michael Manley; reportage on Jamaican politics; and it sorties into the nation's lush interior in search of the ganja fields of Kali Mountain and the legendary Maroon enclaves, still inhabited by the descendants of slave warriors. Reggae Bloodlines is not an encyclopedia of Jamaican style, nor a critical appraisal of its music—it is a definitive portrait of a struggling nation and its musical heritage at the crucial turning point of decolonization. Packed with hundreds of astonishing photographs, Reggae Bloodlines captures the restless rhythm of reggae culture like no book before or since.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

First - I love this book. It is by no means comprehensive or complete, but it's a fascinating snapshot - almost a travelog - of the writers' experience in Jamaica in the 70s, searching for reggae

music. This book isn't selling anything, it just tells a story, and it has vivid detail, and I find it a great read whenever I return to it. Don't dismiss it because it's not a "do everything" reggae book. Plus, any book that gives this much space to Ras Michael & the Sons of Negus is worth looking into.

For many non-Jamaicans, (myself included) this was the first in-depth look at the music that exploded out of that small Caribbean island in the mid-seventies and took the world by storm. The main strength of the book is its lyrical black and white photography (much clearer in the original edition, by the way.) The narrative is occasionally over-awed, and, in hindsight, sometimes inaccurate. This is a small failing, especially when trying to make sense of a vibrant people and the music which reflects their lives. Facts, as the book points out, are notoriously hard to pin down in Jamaica. Davis and Simon deserve a vote of thanks for the first attempt to go beyond exotica and explain the people, nation and religious experience which shaped the music of Jamaica.

This isn't a bad book, but it's 20 years out of date. It was first published in 1976 and the reprint in 1992 doesn't add anything except a postscript saying all the developments in reggae since it was first written are all rubbish. Reggae Bloodlines gives a good snapshot of reggae in the seventies, but it has been superseded by more up to date and comprehensive books like Reggae, Rasta, Revolution, The Reggae Rough Guide, and Reggae Routes : The Story of Jamaican Music.

This book has it all if you like 70's roots: awesome writing style, quotes, interviews with reggae masters, copious photos, irie vibe. Don't hesitate, buy with confidence. Electronic reggae can be good I say, but organic reggae is better. Tosh and Big Youth rule. Don't miss the movie "The Harder They Come" !

I read this book when I was a child. still my most favorite book! This is the reggae guide which was written by photographer in the real time of 'Roots Rock Reggae'. You will feel like you're traveling Jamaica and talking with Bob Marly. You will learn a lot of things about Reggae history.

Anyone with an interest in the Reggae scene in the 70's will enjoy this book. I liked the photos and interviews.

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(Jamaicas most beautiful place) Reggae Soundsystem 45: The Label Art of Reggae Singles: A Visual History of Jamaican Reggae 1959-1979 Reggae 45 Soundsystem: The Label Art of Reggae Singles, A Visual History of Jamaican Reggae 1959-79 of Steve Barrow, Noel Hawks on 05 November 2012 The Ultimate Guide to Great Reggae: The Complete Story of Reggae Told Through Its Greatest Songs, Famous and Forgotten (Popular Music History) Reggae Soundsystem: Original Reggae Album Cover Art: A Visual History of Jamaican Music From Mento to Dancehall This Is Reggae Music: The Story of Jamaica's Music The Encyclopedia of Reggae: The Golden Age of Roots Reggae Rum & Reggae's Grenadines: Including St. Vincent & Grenada (Rum & Reggae series) Rum & Reggae's Puerto Rico, Including Culebra & Vieques (Rum & Reggae series) Dub: Soundscapes and Shattered Songs in Jamaican Reggae (Music/Culture) Jamaica in Black and White: Photography in Jamaica C.1845-c.1920: the David Boxer Collection The Ultimate Guide to Getting Married in Jamaica Wedding Resouce is Your Exclusive Access to Jamaica Wedding Secrets to Help You Have the Most Exciting Destination Beach Wedding and Honeymoon Ever! Amazing Pictures and Facts About Jamaica: The Most Amazing Fact Book for Kids About Jamaica (Kid's U) THE HISTORY OF JAMAICA FROM 1494 TO 1838 (JAMAICA INSULA) Jamaica Talk: Three Hundred Years of the English Language in Jamaica Jamaica in 1687: The Taylor Manuscript at the National Library of Jamaica The Top 10 Highlights in Jamaica: The Top 10 Highlights in Jamaica (Globetrotter Guide Books) Jamaica Vacation: What You Must Know About Jamaica Jamaica Language: Jamaica Slangs

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