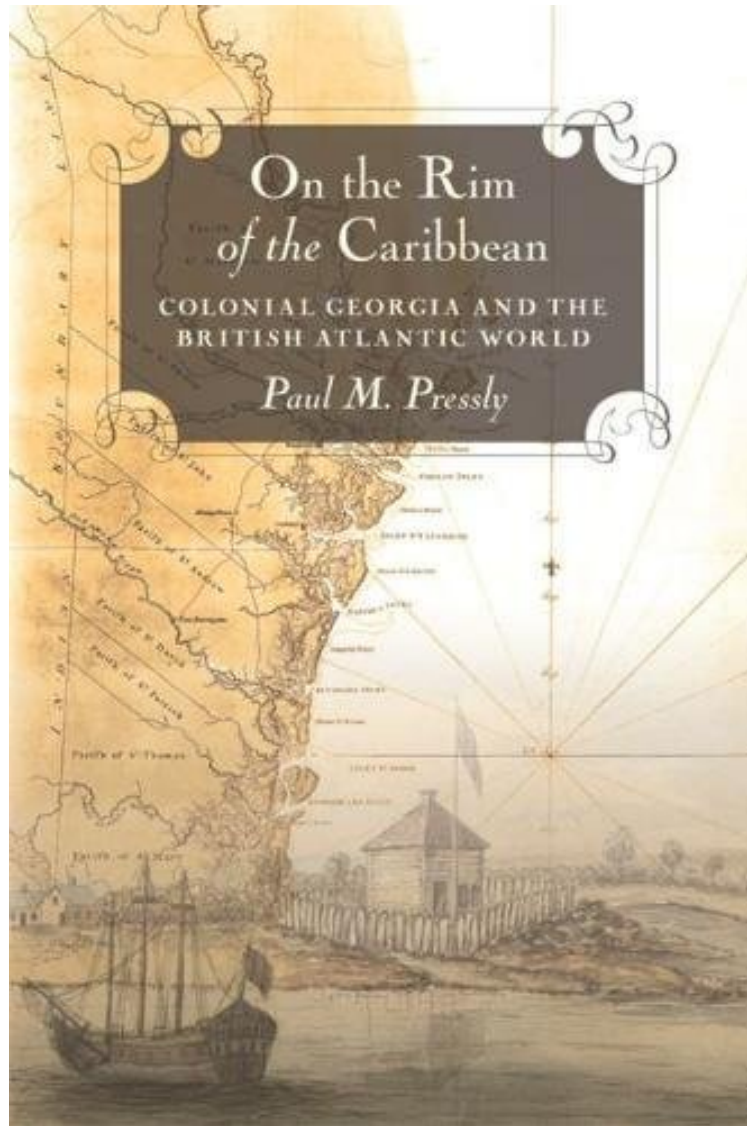


[FREE] On the Rim of the Caribbean: Colonial Georgia and the British Atlantic World

## On the Rim of the Caribbean: Colonial Georgia and the British Atlantic World

*Paul Pressly*

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**Paul Pressly : On the Rim of the Caribbean: Colonial Georgia and the British Atlantic World** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised On the Rim of the Caribbean: Colonial Georgia and the British Atlantic World:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A Refreshingly new look at the early economy and life of Colonial Georgia- highly recommendedBy T. phillipsPressly focuses on the development of the economic life of early Georgia

and gives us many interesting charts, graphs, maps, and images that are very helpful. Pressly gives us what I would call a British viewpoint of Ga looking from the outside in, maybe because he has a doctorate from Oxford. Pressly gives us a clear breakdown of the geography of Ga and how the different regions have a totally different economic flavor. There is a vast difference in the economy and social life of the "Up Country" areas such as Augusta which is dominated by the Indian deerskin traders and dirt farmers and the rice and indigo farming in the coastal areas which is more dominated by large plantations and the planter elite. Pressly shows us how the coastal areas develop their economy with rice and indigo as opposed to the skin trading in Augusta. He develops in detail how the slave trade develops in Ga and he gives us many statistics and charts on all these subjects. He shares the very ugly details of the importation of slaves and the development of the slave trade in Ga. p.132--"It (Slavery) was a dirty business. Death was everywhere--on the ships bringing in the "New Negroes", at the Lazaretto at Tybee, in the holding pens where the sick and weak gave up on life--." He gives us a clear overview of how the ships move back and forth to Africa to England to The Sugar Islands to the American Colonies and especially to Ga and S C, He draws clear contrasts and differences between Ga and the other colonies especially S C. One of the main areas he develops is how Ga becomes a part of the overall Caribbean trading system within the British Empire which gives Savannah a Caribbean flavor. From the introduction page 5 "Beginning its odyssey as a virtually bankrupt colony, Georgia came into its own as a plantation economy at the very moment when the British West Indies reached its golden age of prosperity" He clearly contrasts how different that Ga is from S C, in its economy and social attitudes and his narratives of the shops and wharfs around Charleston and Savannah are very colorful. He shares very intimate knowledge of the cities of Savannah and Charleston and their economic activities and the people involved. He walks us down the streets and wharfs and names most stores, traders, and merchants and brings this to life for us in Charleston and Savannah. He gives us much detail on the development of the rice and indigo plantations. He shows us how all the American Colonies relate economically to the overall British Mercantile System worldwide and how important the "Sugar Islands" are in this overall system and how uniquely Ga fits into this overall scheme. This is a wonderful addition to the body of work we have on trading and economics in Colonial Ga and S C such as Braund's "Deerskins and Duffels" and Gally's "Foundation of a Planter Elite", Cashin's books on the Augusta traders and McGillivray, Betty Wood "Slavery in Colonial Georgia" 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A good history of the development of colonial Georgia By Trey Shipp The title of this book understates its scope. For while Pressly shows how colonial Georgia was tied to the West Indies and Atlantic trade, he also tells how Georgias economy rose from next to nothing during the Trustee period to prosperity by the beginning of the Revolutionary War. The strength of this book is the amount of research Pressly brings to the page. While other accounts might simply state that rice and deerskins were important to the economy, Pressly shows us the map of where they came from, gives us stories about the people who traded them, and lists the statistics of how many pounds were shipped out each year. It is a good combination of individual examples with global statistics. While there are times when the details slow the book down, he gives a good picture of the struggles people faced at the time. How did they make a living? What did they produce? Who were their buyers? Who gave them credit? By answering these questions, Pressly has written a very informative history of the development of colonial Georgia. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. A region thoughtfully brought to life By Steven E. Sanderson This book is a great testament to the importance of regional history and publishing. Setting Coastal Georgia in the orbit of the Caribbean is convincing and valuable. Dr. Pressly writes with authority across the wide range of empire and commerce, from the deerskin trade to indigo and rice. He compares Savannah with Charleston in enlightening ways and brings the struggles of colonial life into perspective. A fine study of historical political economy.

How did colonial Georgia, an economic backwater in its early days, make its way into the burgeoning Caribbean and Atlantic economies where trade spilled over national boundaries, merchants operated in multiple markets, and the transport of enslaved Africans bound together four continents? In *On the Rim of the Caribbean*, Paul M. Pressly interprets Georgia's place in the Atlantic world in light of recent work in transnational and economic history. He considers how a tiny elite of newly arrived merchants, adapting to local culture but loyal to a larger vision of the British empire, led the colony into overseas trade. From this perspective, Pressly examines the ways in which Georgia came to share many of the characteristics of the sugar islands, how Savannah developed as a "Caribbean" town, the dynamics of an emerging slave market, and the role of merchant-planters as leaders in forging a highly adaptive economic culture open to innovation. The colony's rapid growth holds a larger story: how a frontier where Carolinians played so large a role earned its own distinctive character. Georgia's slowness in responding to the revolutionary movement, Pressly maintains, had a larger context. During the colonial era, the lowcountry remained oriented to the West Indies and Atlantic and failed to develop close ties to the North American mainland as had South Carolina. He suggests that the American Revolution initiated the process of bringing the lowcountry into the orbit of the mainland, a process that would extend well beyond the Revolution.

Colonial Georgia was West Indian rather than North American. This startling conclusion becomes less surprising after

reading Paul Pressly's extensively researched, impeccably written, and intellectually adventurous study of how Georgians turned a struggling colony into a dynamic economic success through copying West Indian plantation culture. By orienting Georgia southward rather than northward, Pressly convincingly shows that slavery, plantations, and the pursuit of economic gain by almost any means made Georgia a very different-because West Indian-part of the British Atlantic world. (Trevor Burnard professor of history, University of Melbourne)This bold and highly original study adds immeasurably to our understanding of the imperial crisis in Georgia. Paul Pressly presents a subtle, complex analysis that lays bare the political ramifications of Georgia's mercantile connections with the Anglophone Caribbean. This is a most impressive first book and one that will influence the field for many years to come. (Betty Wood author of *Women's Work, Men's Work: The Informal Slave Economies of Lowcountry Georgia*)[An] extensively researched, impeccably written, and intellectually adventurous study of how Georgians turned a struggling colony into a dynamic economic success through copying West Indian plantation culture. (Bob Edmonds McCormick *Messenger*)*On the Rim of the Caribbean* makes an important contribution to the study of British mainland plantation colonies. . . . Pressly's rich foundation of evidence and thorough research enable a fuller and more detailed history of an often neglected colony. He has both situated colonial Georgia appropriately in the British Atlantic World and described it unusually well. (Bradford J. Wood *New West Indian Guide*)About the AuthorPAUL M. PRESSLY is director of the Ossabaw Island Education Alliance, a partnership between the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, and the Ossabaw Island Foundation.