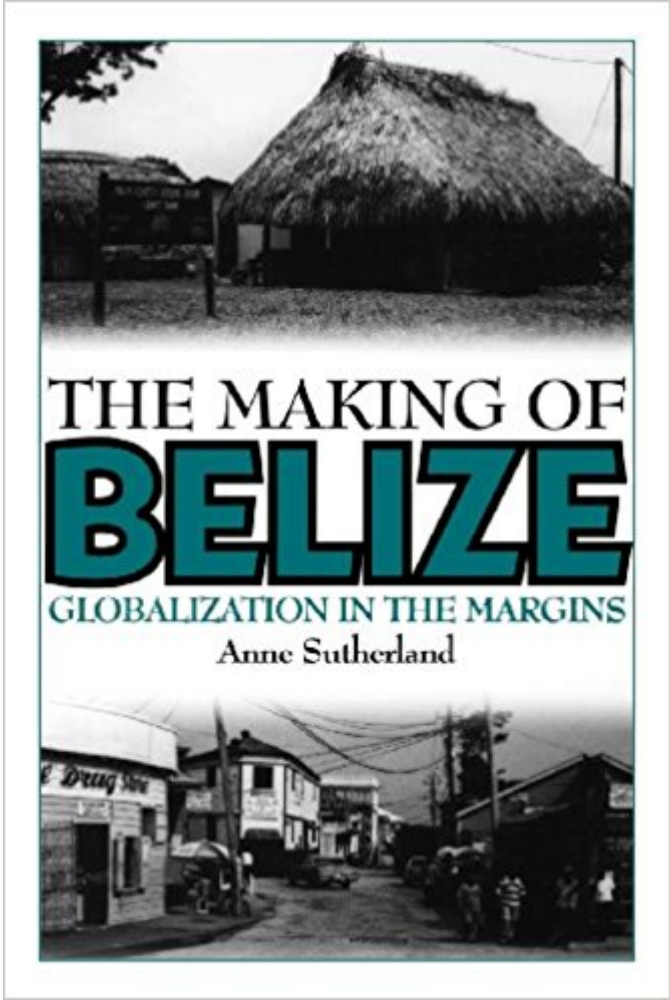
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The Making Of Belize: Globalization In The Margins



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Synopsis

Globalization theorists predict that the forces of globalization will divide the countries of the world into a few winners and many losers. This book challenges that idea and suggests that the very margins of the global world systemÃ¢â ¬â ¢where the construction of local relations and group identities within a deterritorialized, transnational political economy allows for a creative postmodernismÃ¢â ¬â ¢may become the areas of the most creative cultural activity. The difficulties facing those who are globalizing in the margins come from powerful transnational movements such as the environmental movement, the international drug trade, and migrations of people including international tourists. Ironically, instant contact with the rest of the world has created a sense of local identity that transcends the local and is truly multicultural.Belize is a diverse, multicultural society that is both cosmopolitan and deterritorialized, searching for new forms of collective expression, identity, and imagined possibilities, coming into its own as a nation at a time of increasing awareness of global social realities. Perhaps the rreatest challenge faced by Belizeans is the power of the transnational eco-colonialists who have, with missionary zeal, garnered control of land and resources and placed themselves in positions of political power. The present is an end of history for Belize and the beginning of a new era, one that is peculiarly postmodern, globalized, and creative.

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"Sutherland’s perceptive book on Belize combines antropological analysis with a deep knowledge of local culture. Essentially, it is a portrait of a small nation in transition. The central theme of the study is that globalization on the margins carries both opportunities and special risks....A fine study of the

limits of sovereignty and the difficulties and hopes experiences by one small postcolonial society. General readers, upper-division undergradutes, and above."-Choice"[A]n enjoyable mixture of academic research, anecdotal insights and strong - even controversial opinion....This book deserves to be read by any visitor to Belize, whether arriving as a tourist or as a volunteer with one of the many international conservation organisations now operating there."-British Bulletin of Publications"Ãƒ Â•AÃ Â¨n enjoyable mixture of academic research, anecdotal insights and strong - even controversial opinion....This book deserves to be read by any visitor to Belize, whether arriving as a tourist or as a volunteer with one of the many international conservation organisations now operating there."-British Bulletin of Publications?[A]n enjoyable mixture of academic research, anecdotal insights and strong - even controversial opinion....This book deserves to be read by any visitor to Belize, whether arriving as a tourist or as a volunteer with one of the many international conservation organisations now operating there.?-British Bulletin of Publications?Sutherland's perceptive book on Belize combines antropological analysis with a deep knowledge of local culture. Essentially, it is a portrait of a small nation in transition. The central theme of the study is that globalization on the margins carries both opportunities and special risks....A fine study of the limits of sovereignty and the difficulties and hopes experiences by one small postcolonial society. General readers, upper-division undergradutes, and above.?-Choice

ANNE SUTHERLAND is Professor of Anthropology at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota. Her previous books include Caye Caulker: Economic Success in a Belizean Fishing Village (1986) and Gypsies, The Hidden Americans (1986).

A first-hand view of the 'birth' of Belize as its own nation.

Reading this book on Belize is a little like eating a coconut. First you have to get through the hard shell before you can enjoy the sweet nut. In this case, the hard shell is the academic context. Sutherland is a professor of anthropology at Macalester College in Minnesota. To the degree her book is directed to a professional audience, with arguments about the "core/periphery model," "ecocolonialism" and "global cultural flow," Sutherland risks losing the attention of the lay reader.The sweet meats here are Sutherland's endlessly fascinating recollections of her own experiences in Belize, especially on Caye Caulker and on north Ambergris Caye. Sutherland's mother (the redoubtable Lois Peyton Hartley Sutherland Young) and other family members are long-time Belize hands, having first visited the country in 1971. Sutherland came to Caye Caulker in

1972, when the island had no telephone, no television, and no hotels. She has watched it, and all of Belize, change in just a decade or two from an isolated backwater to a place closely connected to the world by the Internet, pirated cable TV and an all-digital, fiber-optic telephone system.This is also a primer on Belizean politics, economics, tourism, media and family life. Her chapter on "Flapping Around" is an eye-opener. Some may have a hard time buying Sutherland's theories that Belize "skipped modernity," jumping from developing country to "postmodern" nation and that some of the most creative cultural activity is going on "in the margins" in countries like Belize. But her delicious anecdotes of Belize since independence are reason enough to grab a copy of this book.

In many ways Belize has fallen into a black hole in academic literature. Who would want to study an English-speaking carribean nation located in the Yucatan? No many people see it as a serious topic, and that is a shame. I read this book before traveling to Caye Caulker several years ago. I found it very interesting, and the best academic book on Belize. Get the book if you ever plan on traveling to Belize...and who wouldn't want to?

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