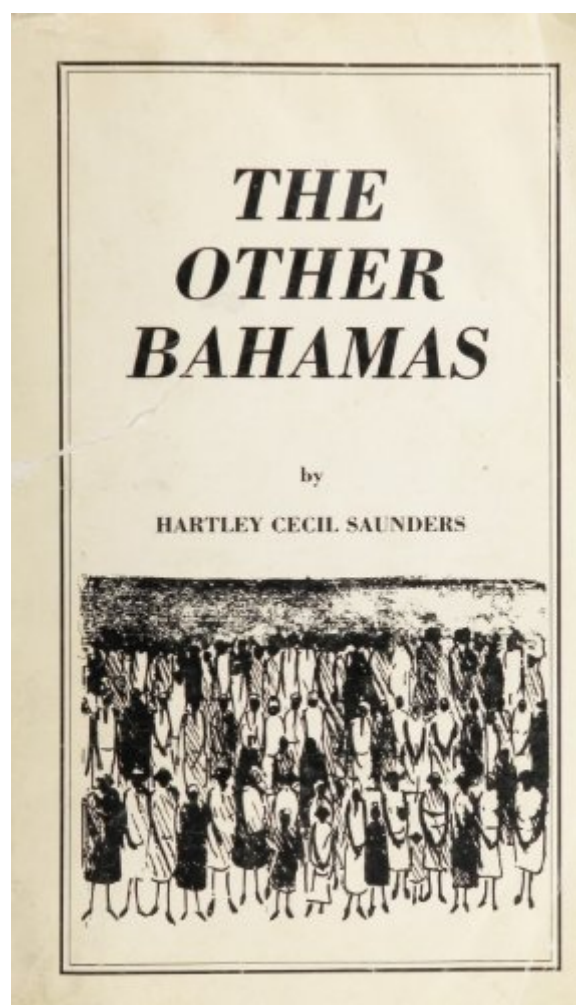


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# The Other Bahamas



## Synopsis

It is only in recent times that Bahamian history has been written in a scholarly way portraying more than an old fashioned narrative account, concentrating on political history, events, and activities of the elite. • Hartley C. Saunders's path-breaking book concentrates on the history of the black majority. Saunders, a former diplomat, Trade Unionist, founder of the Young Liberals and an athlete, developed a sense of racial pride instilled into him by his parents. His appreciation for his African heritage encouraged him to write *The Other Bahamas* published in 1991. The volume gives a detailed history of The Bahamas from an Afro-centric angle. Hartley Saunders sets the scene by describing briefly, the 'blackman' in Egypt, Ethiopia and other parts of Africa, before giving an account of the slave trade, slavery in The Bahamas and its abolition. The chapter concludes with a description of 'Blacks in Politics' in The Bahamas during the early and mid-nineteenth century. The following three chapters address the role of Blacks during the economic boom brought by the American Civil War (1860-1865), and the early twentieth century which saw the emergence of a significant number of blacks in politics, increasing poverty which stimulated the migration of Bahamians to Florida. Chapter four covers the period 1921 to 1939 which the author argues is the period that initiated change. The chapter also discusses Prohibition, the growth of the Labour Movement, economic and social conditions including discrimination. Saunders also gives information about Marcus Garvey and the United Negro Improvement Association (U.N.I.A.) which he founded. A vivid description is given of Garvey's brief visit to Nassau on 19 November, 1928 and the little known Garveyite movement in The Bahamas. Chapter five highlights protest and particularly the riot of 1942 while the following chapter describes in some detail the establishment of the first successful political party, the Progressive Liberal Party (PLP). It also discusses the 1958 General Strike, Black Tuesday in 1965 and the attainment of Majority Rule two years later. The final chapter describes the accomplishments of the PLP during the early years and ends with the achievement of Independence in 1973. *The Other Bahamas* gives a detailed description of Bahamian history up to independence which includes little known information about the social, economic and political development of African- Bahamians. It especially deals with the emergence of protest movements and the founding and development of the PLP which would bring dramatic change in 1967. Well researched, Saunders utilized newspapers, local magazines, and some Colonial Office records; he also interviewed knowledgeable persons. The Bahamas owes a debt of gratitude to the late Hartley Saunders for his meticulous and detailed research. *The Other Bahamas* is filled with important facts about the history of the Bahamas and is essential reading for the serious student of Bahamian history. D.Gail Saunders (Ph.D) Scholar in Residence The College of The

Bahamas

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