

# Defining the Caymanian Identity: The Effects of Globalization, Economics, and Xenophobia on Caymanian Culture

Christopher A. Williams

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This book analyzes the factions and schisms surging throughout the multicultural, multi-ethnic, and polarized Cayman Islands to identify who or what is considered a Caymanian. In the modern world where Caymanian traditions have all but been eclipsed, or forgotten, often due to incoming, overpowering cultural sensibilities, it is a challenge to know where traditional Caymanian culture begins and modern Caymanian culture ends. With this idea in mind, Williams investigates the pervasive effects of globalization, multiculturalism, economics, and xenophobia on an authentic, if dying, indigenous Caymanian culture.

Beyond the likely influence of external forces on a diluted local culture nonetheless possessed of its own unique traditions and traditionalist mentalities, Williams sets himself the painstaking task of accounting for the creation, expansion and diversification of the Caymanian identity. This is a necessary task in an age where foreignness is seen as threatening by many indigenous Caymanians, but indispensable by other indigenous Caymanians and naturalized citizens who by now see themselves as authentic Caymanians. Williams introduces and expounds the provocative solution that the continued prosperity of the Cayman Islands and their so-called indigenous people may well depend on a synergistic moral link between Caymanianness and foreignness, between Caymanianness and modernity.



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