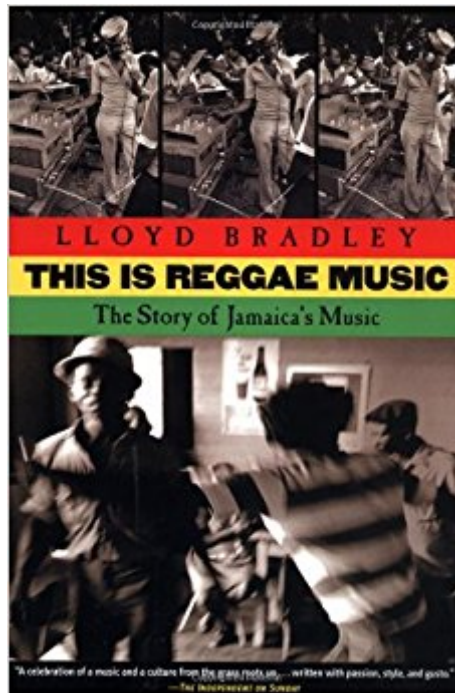




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# This Is Reggae Music: The Story Of Jamaica's Music



## Synopsis

Jamaica is a small country in the Caribbean, 146 miles wide and populated by fewer than three million people. Nevertheless, it has exerted a more powerful hold on international popular music than any nation besides England and America. From Prince Buster to Burning Spear, Lee "Scratch" Perry to Yellowman, Bob Marley to Shabba Ranks, reggae music is one of the most dynamic and powerful musical forms of the twentieth century. And, as Lloyd Bradley shows in his deft, definitive, and always entertaining book, it is and always has been the people's music. Born in the sound systems of the Kingston slums, reggae was the first music poor Jamaicans could call their own, and as it spread throughout the world, it always remained fluid, challenging, and distinctly Jamaican. Based on six years of research -- original interviews with most of reggae's key producers, musicians, and international players -- and a lifelong enthusiasm for one of the most remarkable of the world's musics, *This Is Reggae Music* is the definitive history of reggae.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

With flair, skill, passion and stamina, Bradley (*Reggae on CD*) fluidly traces Jamaican music's odyssey from the pure energy of 1950s Kingston's open-air sound system scene to the eruption of homegrown ska, the "smooove of Rocksteady," reggae's depth; holding his nose for digital/ragga/roughneck, he regains optimism for the emergent new roots genre. But the meat lies in how Jamaica's poverty, societal strife and "politricks," tempered by the creativity, spirituality and upbeatness of its people, yielded the music, which for better and worse reached the U.K., the U.S.

and beyond. Born in London to Jamaican immigrants, Bradley spent six years studying his subject. Avoiding the who/what/ when tedium that encumbers many music histories, he reveals the whys and hows. The legendary Prince Buster whets readers appetites in the foreword, then passes the mike to Bradley. Hardly a ham, Bradley passes it often to the originators and major players (including Lee "Scratch" Perry, Big Youth, Burning Spear) for lengthy, lively quotes and anecdotes. He pays scholarly attention to musical detail and attempts to highlight everyone who has made reggae waves, not just the stars. He writes, "It's a brave publisher that will put out a volume about reggae in general without its jacket artwork conspicuously featuring Bob Marley's face." And a brave writer who forestalls addressing the master's impact until the 17th chapter. "For many, Marley is reggae

For most casual listeners, reggae music can be reduced to one artist Bob Marley. This book, however, proves in exhaustive detail that there is greater breadth and depth to the 40-year-old art form. Bradley, who ran his own sound system for reggae dances in the late 1970s and has written for many British music periodicals, is well qualified to present a history of this scope. In a witty and engaging manner, he traces the development of the genre from mento to sound system dances, ska, rock steady, reggae, dub, toasting, (precursor to American rap), and many other offshoots. He also provides comprehensive and incisive histories of the Jamaican and British cultures and societies (touching on many Rastafarian influences) that acted as catalysts for the development of the music. Readers who want to learn about Marley are still best served by Timothy White's *Catch a Fire: The Life of Bob Marley* (LJ 6/15/83; Owl Bks., 1998. rev. ed.). But for enthusiasts, this book is fabulous, on a par with Kevin O'Brien Chang and Wayne Chen's *Reggae Routes: The Story of Jamaican Music* (Temple Univ., 1998). Highly recommended for large public or academic libraries. Bill Walker, Stockton-San Joaquin Cty. P.L., CA Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc.

This book gripped me from the beginning and it didn't let go. I've always been a reggae and dub man, but the coverage of ska, rocksteady, and the toasters greatly enhanced my music catalog--I had no idea what I was missing.

If you are a reggae fan, this is a must read. I was unaware of the re-titling of the book, but that said, it is still a great book. As a white guitar player who joined a roots type reggae band a few years ago, (sadly the band is no more) I thought I would educate myself about the music and history. I did myself right with this book. I found I knew more about the music and culture than many of my

"Rasta" friends after reading this. I loved the 50's and 60's chapters regarding Buster, Tubby, and the Skatalites with the great Ernest Ranglin. The DJ culture. Thoroughly enjoyed all the 70's stuff too; hearing about Scratch Perry and the stories of the Black Ark was gold. And the British side with Steel Pulse, and all the influence of Jamaica on the Brit rock scene, etc, etc. The Marley info was good as well, as mostly 1 chapter. No disrespect to Bob, but it is certainly true that Jamaica's music and culture was very rich before him. Nice stories of the early days of the Wailers too. My reggae world is definitely more complete after reading this. Buy the book!

TerrÃfÃ-vel a mudanÃfÆ'Ã Â§a de capa e de tÃfÃ-tulo. Como "Bass Culure" tem o mesmo texto comprei essa versÃfÆ'Ã Â£o americana mesmo. O livro ÃfÃ© escrito em inglÃfÆ'Ã Âs britÃfÆ'Ã Âcnico informal, o que torna bem difÃfÃ-cil de ler.NÃfÆ'Ã Â£o se trata de um livro sobre reggae apenas, mas sobre a "histÃfÃ ria social da mÃfÃsica jamaicana". NÃfÆ'Ã Â£o ÃfÃ© um livro didÃfÃtico que te ensina o que ouvir, quem fez, etc... Vc vai aproveitar bem mais se conhece Reggae bem e estÃfÃ querendo se aprofundar na "cultura". Acho que a parte sobre a mÃfÃsica em si nÃfÆ'Ã Â£o ÃfÃ© tÃfÆ'Ã Â£o boa quanto o lado do povo jamaicano, etc...Valeu a pena ler, mas nÃfÆ'Ã Â£o era o que estava procurando.

great

Bradley set out to educate a newbie like me into the all of everything - the way Jamaica's history affected the musical trends, the economics and realities of the music scene, the evolution of the music - he did an awesome job. This was like a college course on Jamaican music, extremely well considered and presented.

### The Bible of Reggae Music

After reading This is Reggae Music: The Story of Jamaica's Music I purchased Bass Culture also by Lloyd Bradley only to find that they are the same text with a different title and publisher. Don't let this sway you...read one of these titles!!! Bradley recounts the rich history of Jamaica's music culture in great detail including aural accounts from crucial purveyors.

Overall a great and detailed read. Made me appreciate reggae music more than I love it. Definitely a read if ur looking for some history on Reggae Music.

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