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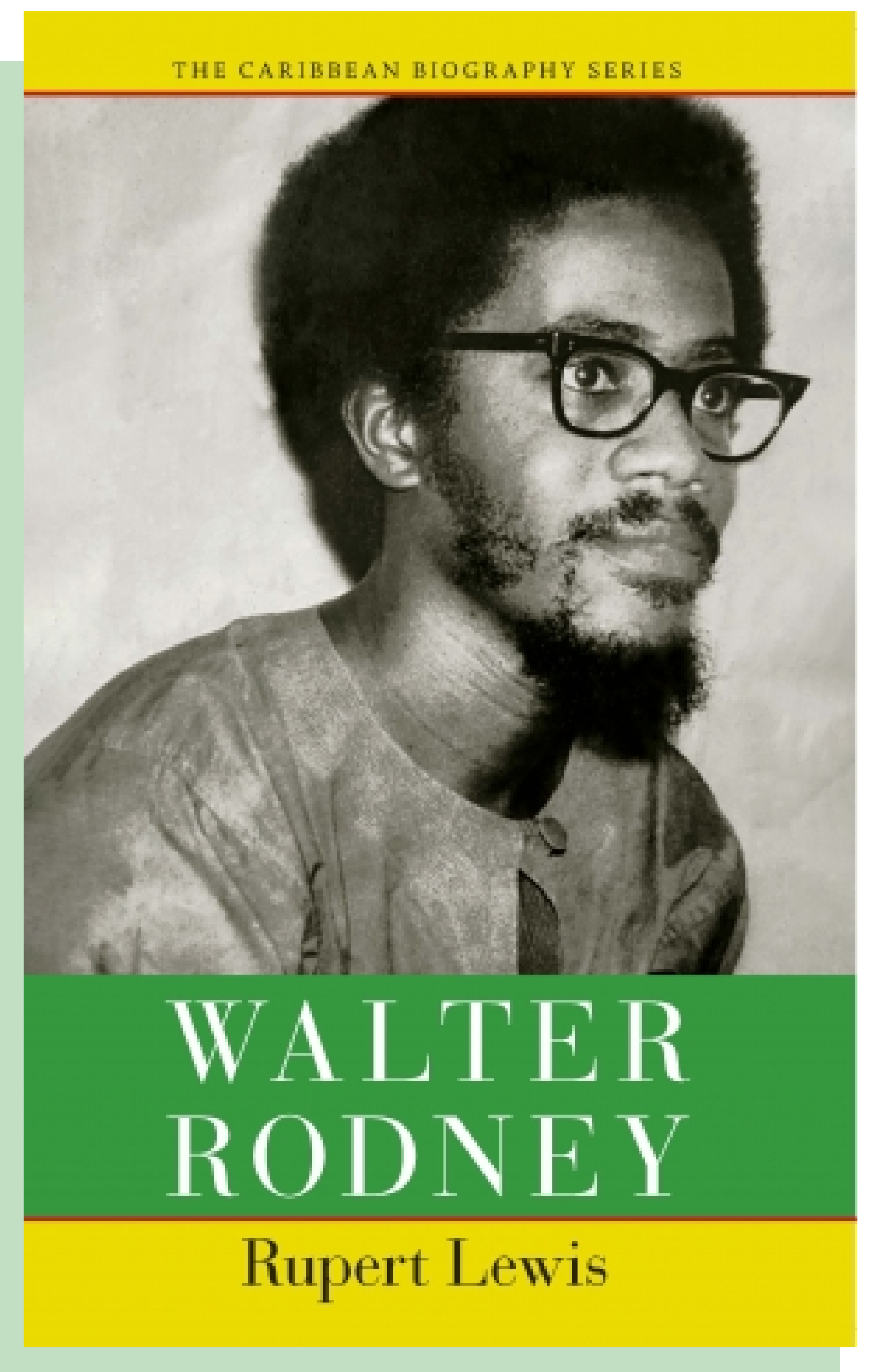
THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES PRESS THE CARIBBEAN BIOGRAPHY SERIES

WALTER RODNEY

RUPERT LEWIS

Walter Rodney was an exceptional scholar-activist who not only interpreted the consequences of centuries of transatlantic slavery, colonialism and neocolonialism but also engaged in the struggles to change their racial, social and economic legacies. As these legacies persist into the twenty-first century, his life and writings remain profoundly relevant.

He contributed to a distinctive intellectual blend of Black Power and Marxism, that had mass support in the movements of the 1960s and 1970s in the Caribbean and Africa. He had a capacity for listening to people which drew Rastafari youth activists and others to his “groundings”. When the Jamaican government banned him from returning to work at the University of the West Indies in October 1968, there was a mass upheaval, and these demonstrations stimulated the Black Power and socialist movements throughout the Caribbean. His most productive years were at the University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania, where he taught development studies and wrote his seminal work, *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa*. A profound scholar of the history of the working people of his native Guyana, he embraced the democratic struggles of Africans and Indians. His radical activism and mass appeal as a leader of the Working People’s Alliance in Guyana led President Forbes Burnham to have him assassinated.



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Rupert Lewis is professor emeritus of political thought, the University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica. He was editor of *Bongo-Man* magazine which published Rodney’s articles and one of the editors of the *Abeng* newspaper published in Kingston in 1969 that signalled the era of the Black Power movement in the Caribbean. For over fifty years, he has been a public educator on Marcus Garvey and has authored key works on Garvey and Rodney, including *Marcus Garvey: Anti-Colonial Champion* and *Walter Rodney's Intellectual and Political Thought*. He is currently working on a volume of Garvey’s Jamaican writings.

THE CARIBBEAN BIOGRAPHY SERIES from the University of the West Indies Press celebrates and memorializes the architects of Caribbean culture. The series aims to introduce general readers to those individuals who have made sterling contributions to the region in their chosen field – literature, the arts, politics, sports – and are the shapers and bearers of Caribbean identity.



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